

Frontier Conflict and the Native Mounted Police in Queensland Database User Guide

Introduction

The Frontier Conflict and the Native Mounted Police in Queensland Database holds historical and archaeological information on the people, places and events connected with the activities of the Queensland Native Mounted Police.

This user guide is designed to give you an overview of the data and provide some instructions on how to navigate your way through the system.

If you encounter problems or faults, or have any feedback on the database or its contents, please email us at info@frontierconflict.org

Please note that it may take us a day or two to respond to your request.

Data

Historical data in this database has been collected from publicly available repositories, chiefly the Queensland State Archives and Queensland State Library, but also from other major collections and occasional private sources [See 'Sources > 'Collections' for a complete listing].

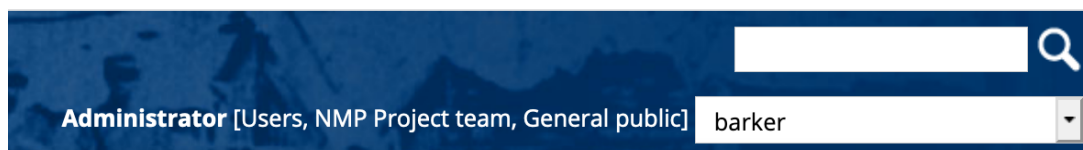
Archaeological data derives from fieldwork conducted as part of the The Archaeology of the Queensland Native Mounted Police Project (ARC DP160100307). Site level and artefact level data is included in this database, but not precise site locations.

Finding information

This is a very complex database that can be searched in many different ways. All records are connected to each other, so you can start anywhere and follow the leads that most interest you. This means that there is no single route into, or through, the database. A flow chart of the structure of the database (Figure 1) will give you an idea of the interconnections between sections.

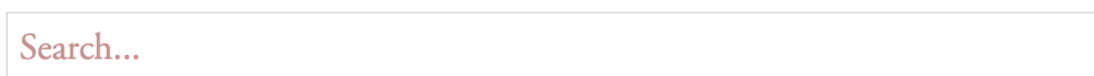
There are two main initial routes to finding information:

1. **BROWSE** through any of the categories [E.g. Click on 'Archaeology' > 'NMP Camps' and explore]
2. **SEARCH** in the overall search boxes, or within each category of information (see below). These search boxes look slightly different in the webpage (front end) of the database and in the database itself.



The screenshot shows a dark blue header bar. On the left, it says "Administrator [Users, NMP Project team, General public]". To the right of this is a search box with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search box is a dropdown menu with the text "barker" and a downward arrow.

Database overall search box



The screenshot shows a simple white search box with the text "Search..." in a light red font.

Front end web page overall search box

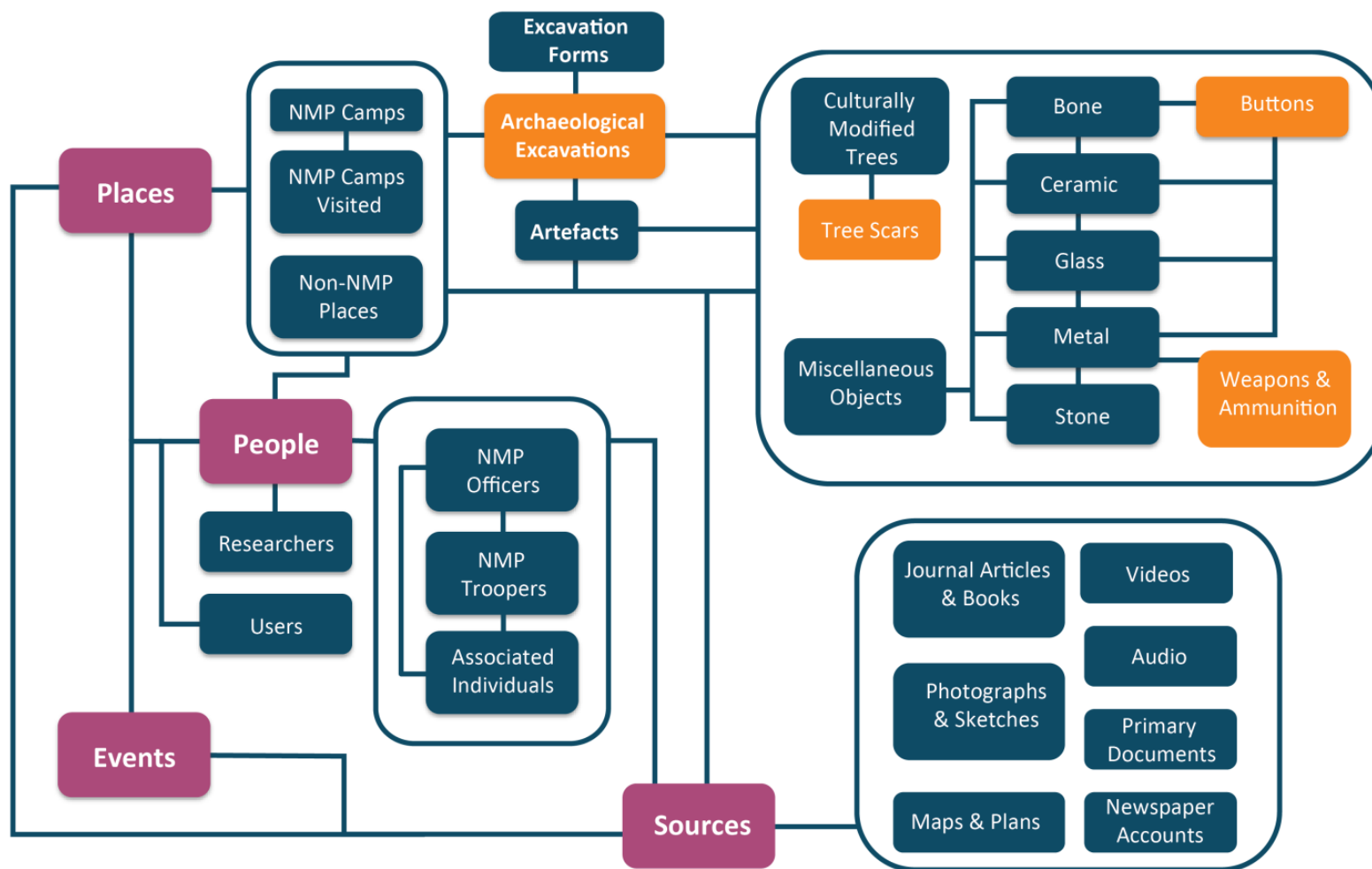


Figure 1: Wireframe of The Frontier Conflict and the Native Mounted Police in Queensland Database showing the relationships between some of the different components of the database.

Searching for a key word through either the web page or database portals will return all items that contain this term. For example, if you type in “Frederick Walker”, the results will return Frederick Walker’s staff page, but also all of the documents that reference him, other people connected to him, events he was associated with, and so on. For this reason it is often better to search within specific categories of information (e.g. only within Documents, or only within Officer listings, see below) if you want more specific information.

Categories of information

We have grouped data into four main categories: Archaeology, People, Events and Sources. These are the tabs visible across the top of the database.



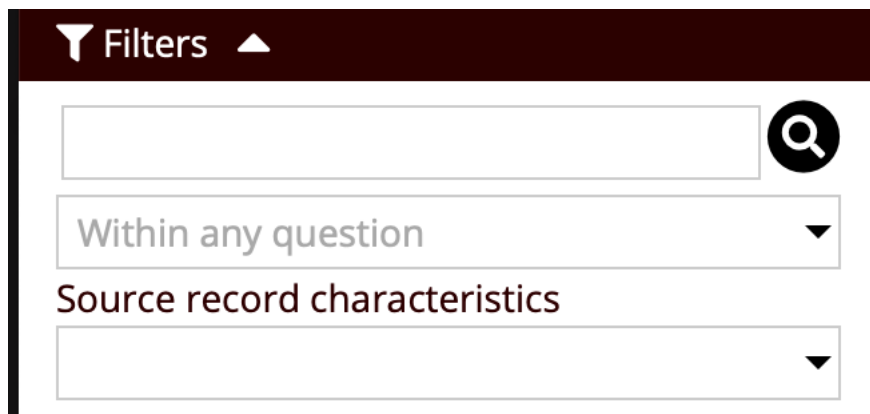
- **Archaeology** contains all data relating to places and objects, including all historically known NMP camps [‘NMP Camps’], the sites actually visited and recorded [‘Recorded Sites’] and the objects retrieved from sites. ‘Places (non NMP Camps)’ are linked locations. Most often these are other places (towns, regions, topographic features) mentioned in documents.
- **People** contains historical information on troopers and officers. For some we know more than others. ‘Associated Individuals’ are people across Queensland who, in one way or another, came into contact with the NMP. ‘Researchers’ are all of the people who contributed to this database.
- **Events** contains historical information about conflict related events.
- **Sources** are all of the primary (archival, including documents, maps and photographs) and secondary (published books or articles) sources drawn on for this research. All primary sources are available for download, but not secondary, published sources unless these are open access.

Other tabs contain outputs from this project that can be used for research or educational purposes.

- **Media** contains some video content and audio snippets from recorded oral history and radio interviews. All oral history data in this database is included with the permission of the interviewee according to the appropriate ethics procedures of Flinders University and the University of Notre Dame Australia.
- **Education** provides teachers and students with some worksheets drawing together material and ideas from this database, as well as other related information. We anticipate adding more of these with time, and if you have any suggestions, please email them to us at info@frontierconflict.org

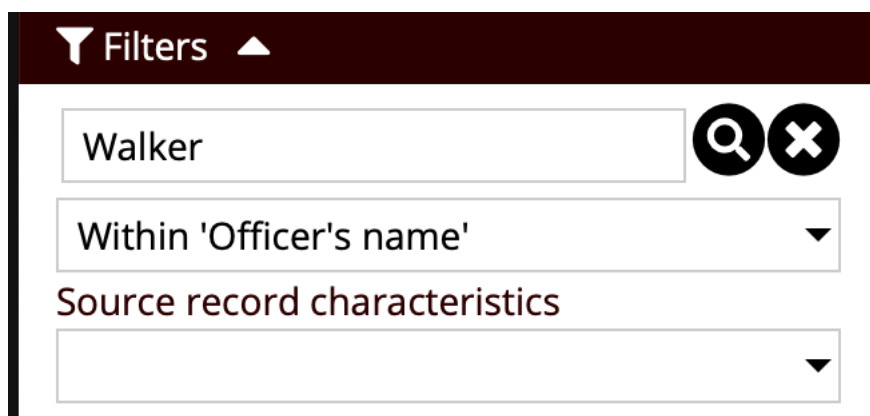
Within each category you can explore various types of information. Simply click on an icon and explore what it contains.

You can search within each category using the search box on the left hand side, and filter your results to narrow down your data.



The screenshot shows a dark red header with a white inverted triangle icon and the text "Filters" followed by a white upward-pointing triangle. Below the header is a white search box with a magnifying glass icon on the right. Underneath the search box is a dropdown menu with the text "Within any question" and a downward-pointing triangle. Below that is the text "Source record characteristics" followed by another dropdown menu with a downward-pointing triangle.

For example, if you searched for “Frederick Walker” within the officer listings you could filter this to within the officer’s name field to only return all officers with the surname Walker. Not filtering it within the officer’s field name would return every mention of ‘Walker’ in any other officer listings.



The screenshot shows the same dark red header with "Filters" and an upward-pointing triangle. The search box now contains the text "Walker" and has a magnifying glass icon and a black circle with a white 'X' icon on the right. The dropdown menu below the search box now displays "Within 'Officer's name'" with a downward-pointing triangle. Below that is the text "Source record characteristics" followed by another dropdown menu with a downward-pointing triangle.

The filters for documents are more exhaustive and allow you to filter by Collection, Officer, Camp, etc.

People

Overview of troopers

Because troopers are often referred to by generic European names it is very difficult to know whether multiple references to a trooper named, for example, “Jemmy” refer to the same or different people. Wherever possible we have cross-referenced information to better identify troopers but this has only been possible in some cases. In general the troopers are poorly documented, being referred to only by a given name and rarely with a surname. Many are not named at all.

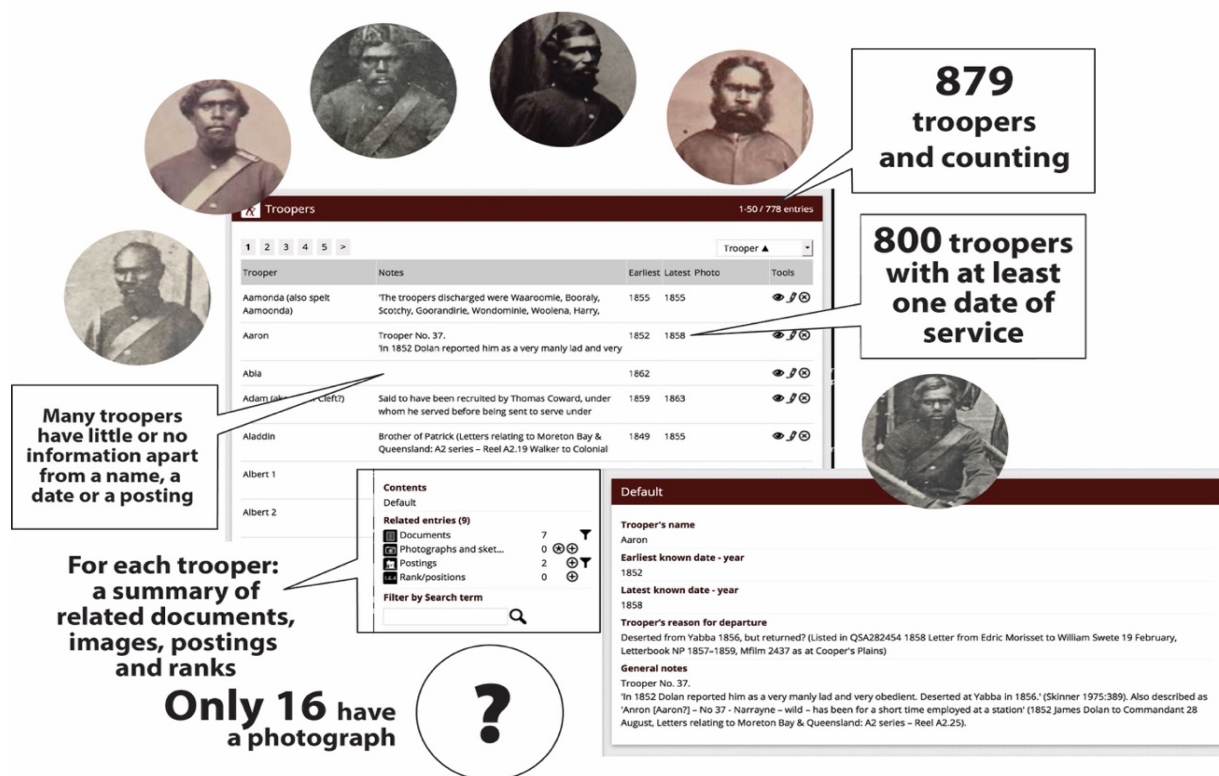


Figure 2: Overview of trooper information collected in this database.

You can click on the name of an individual man to see all the information we have collated and attached to them. This follows the same pattern as the profiles for officers (see below).

Overview of officers

Although the European officers of the Force are far better documented than the Indigenous troopers they commanded, many still have very little information attached to them. Wherever possible we have cross-referenced primary, secondary and genealogical information to create the fullest profile possible of each officer. Some officer profiles will be very long so you will need to scroll down to see the full details. Attached to each officer you will find details of any of his postings, subordinate officers, images and documents (Figure 3).

The window at top left provides a summary of all information attached to this officer. Click on any of the categories to be taken directly to that section

Contents
Default
Related entries (141)
Documents 98
Events 7
Photographs and sketches 3
Postings (Commandin... 14
Postings 10
Rank/positions 4
References 5
Filter by Search term

The profile section contains all of the information collected for each officer, including a precis of their career

Postings are shown on a timeline immediately beneath the officer's profile. Clicking on any of the camps will take you to the entry for that camp

Each man will be linked to the documents that refer to him and to any events that he may have been involved in

Scroll further down to find associated images, posting details, subordinate officers, references and more

Author	Date	Chapter Title/Journal Article Title	Book/Journal Title	Page numbers	Tools
Armit, William E.	1880	Customs of the Australian Aborigines	The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland	459-460	PDF
Follberg, Carl Adolph	1880	The Way we Call it: Black and White: The Native Police. A Series of Articles and Letters Reprinted from the "Queenslander"			PDF
Gilroy, H.J.	1869	William Edington (de Margrat) Armit (1848-1901)	Australian Dictionary of Biography (online)		PDF
Hiller, Alan	1994	The Native Police under scrutiny	Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland	279-293	PDF
Slack, Michael	2002	The 'Plains of Promise' revisited: a reassessment of the frontier in north western Queensland	Journal of Australian Studies	71-83	PDF

Figure 3: Overview of information captured in the officer profiles section of this database

Places

Overview of camps

The entries for each NMP camp include the earliest and latest known dates (note that these might not necessarily be the beginning and end dates for the camp, but rather the only dates we have been able to work out based on the known historical sources), notes on detachment transfers and trooper desertion rates, all documents that reference that camp, details of who was posted there, and any events that the detachments from that camp were involved in.

For some camps there may also be historic images and secondary sources. Only those camps that were visited as part of this project will contain contemporary images associated with the site and objects from that camp.

Camp entries are linked to the officers and troopers who were stationed there, associated people and events and the documents that reference them. Simply click on any of these related entries to be taken directly to that entry.

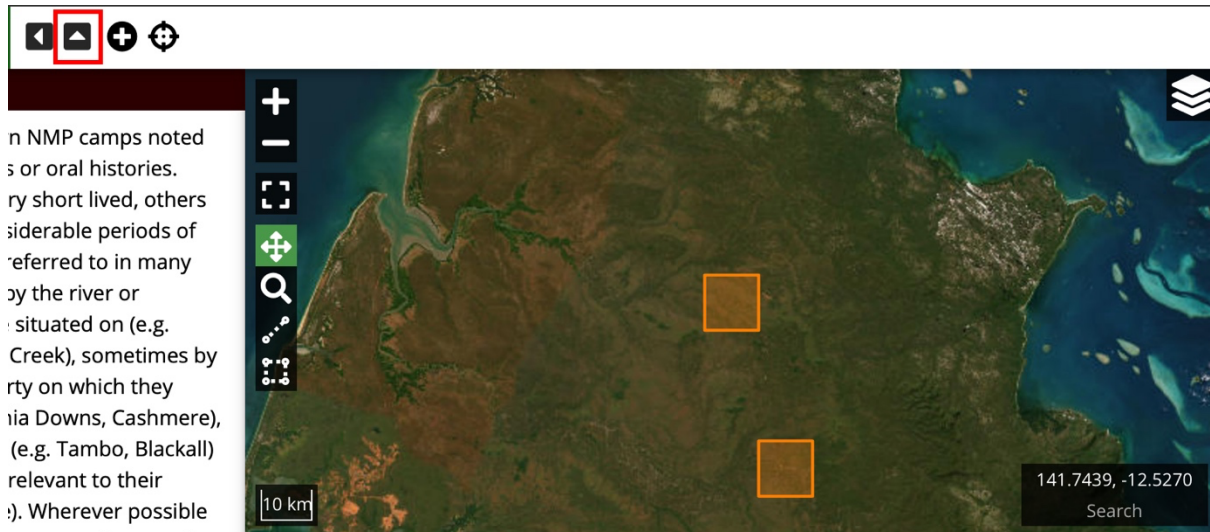
Events

Overview of events

Events are our attempt to map the location of frontier conflict events. Only some events can be mapped with any degree of accuracy, although many can be tied to a specific pastoral run or smaller area. There are many events that could not be mapped at all because the references to where they took place were too generic (e.g. "on the Condamine") or vague. Each event entry contains notes on how their spatial location has been decided.

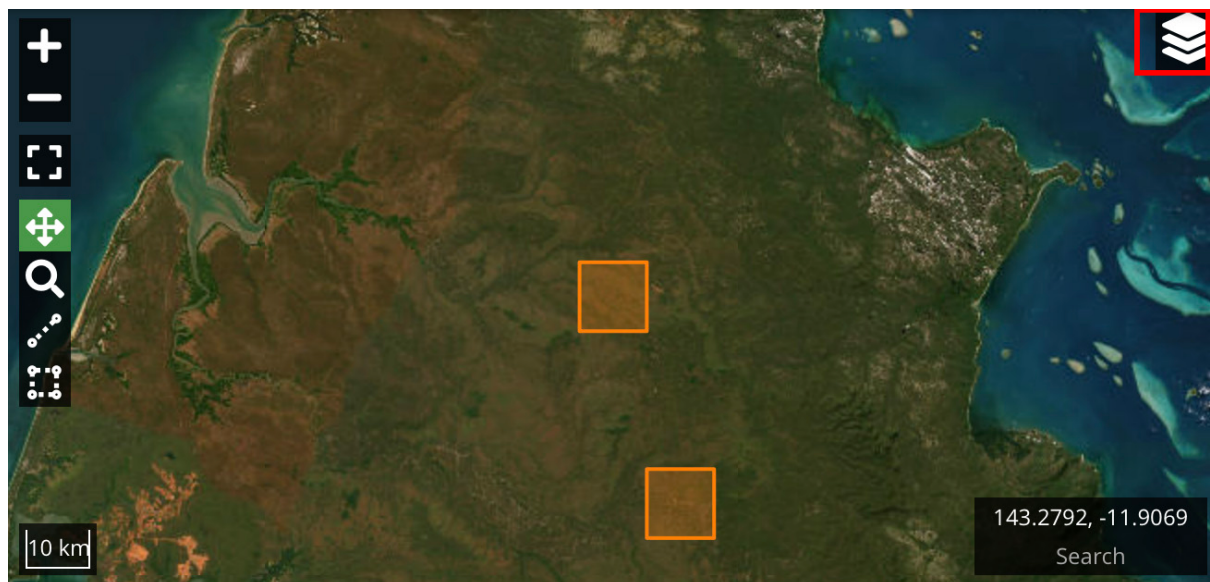
Viewing spatial data

Where data has spatial co-ordinates (e.g. NMP camps and Events) you can see a map of the site or place by clicking the second arrow toggle to either drop down or hide the “Map View”.



The first arrow, beside it, will collapse or open the Information, Filters and other left-hand side panels.

To explore the spatial information included in this database, use the tools provided on the right hand side of the map:



Click this icon to see a dropdown list of information layers that can be turned on or off.

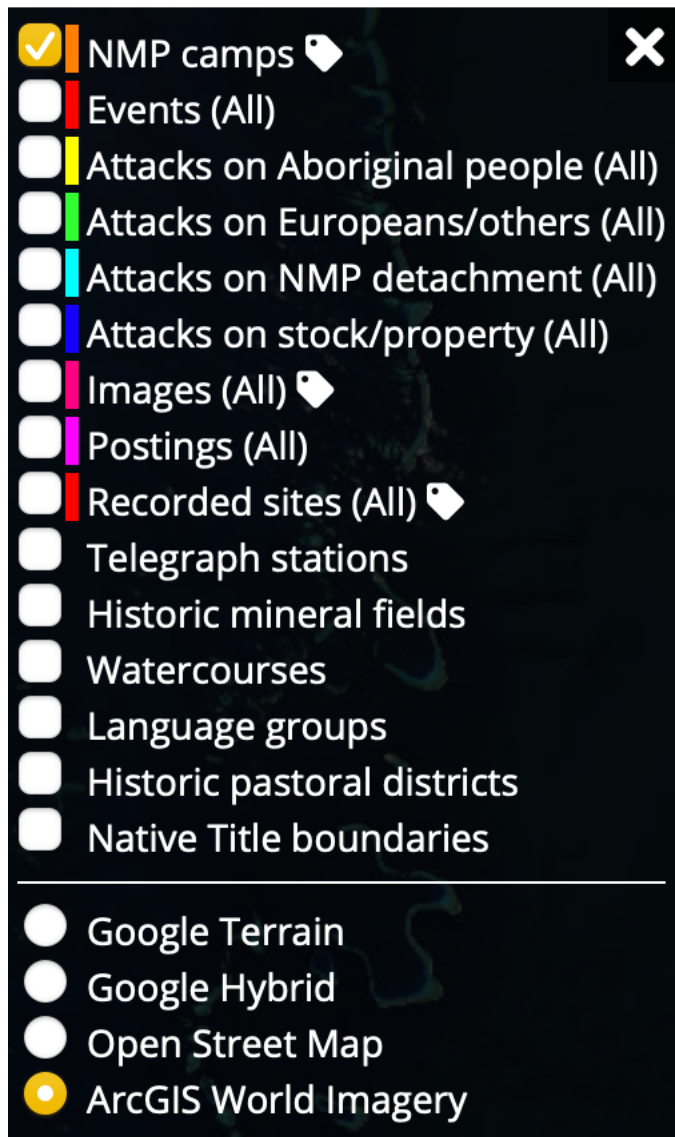
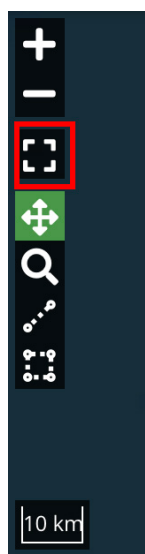


Figure 4: Selecting layers for map viewing

To view the map in fullscreen mode, click on the square on the left hand side:



Media

This section contains oral history interviews, posts from the Archaeologyonthefrontier.com blog site and related video content.

Under Oral History Audio there are two different kinds of audio files under media: short snippets from interviews conducted as part of this project and links to podcasts of interviews with members of the Archaeology of the Native Mounted Police in Queensland team. You will be able to listen to our audio (oral history) files from directly within the database. Clicking on the other media interviews will take you to an external website (e.g. the ABC).

All oral histories made available through this database, whether as audio files or written transcriptions, were collected under ethic approvals from the relevant universities and approved for public release by the interviewee.

Keywords

Keywords will let you search the database via the tags we have attached to documents. These are not exhaustive and will often return large numbers of documents. First time users will find it easier to navigate using the major categories listed on page 1 of this User Guide.

Reports

This section contains online charts that allow you to see summary information on the archaeological objects that have been catalogued as part of this project. Simply click on any chart title to see the summary.

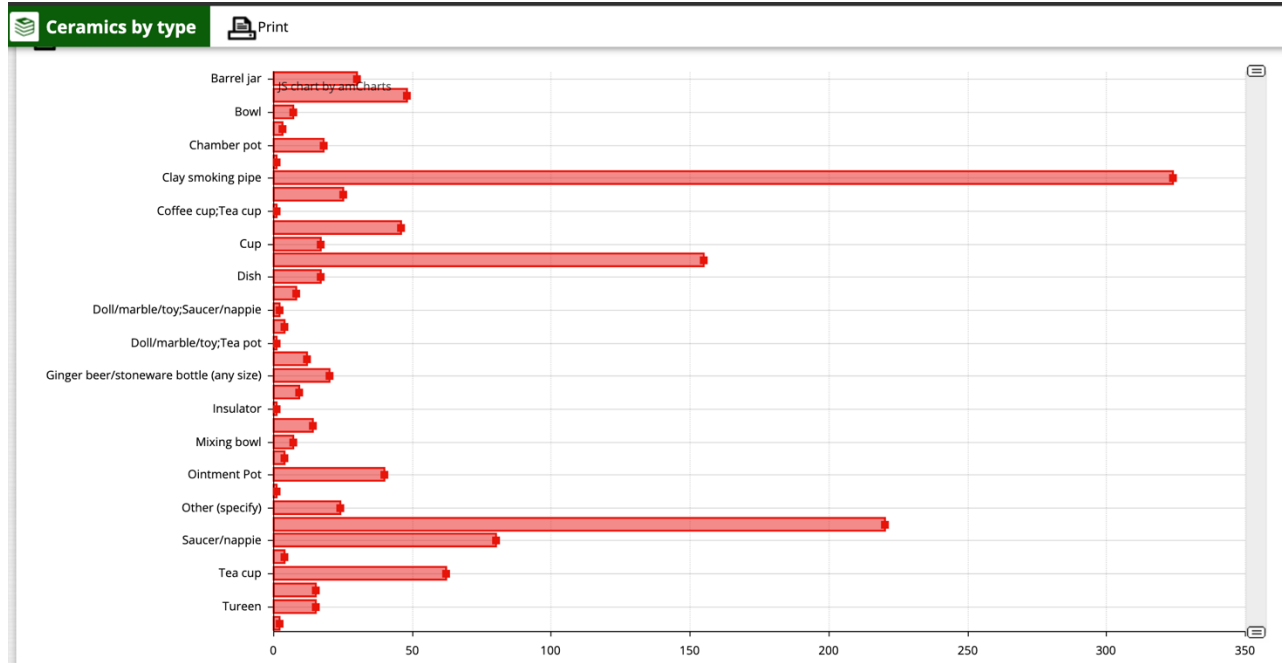


Figure 5: Chart showing summary information for ceramics classified by vessel type. This shows you, for example, how many tea cups, plates or clay smoking pipes were recovered through excavation or surface collection from all sites.

These charts aggregate the data from ALL sites. To see items belonging to only one camp, go to the “Archaeology” section and click on the relevant artefact category (e.g. Buttons). You will be able to filter the entries to show you only the results from a specific camp by using the search and filter boxes on the left hand side of the screen.

Catalogue number	Notes	Photo
BOU-023562	Saucer shaped-button with four circular sew through eyes. Faint rouletting visible on marley. Diameter = 16.94mm.	
BOU-020897	Very shallow dishd metal button with four, circular, sew-through eyes. One eye and the front stamp obscured by heavy corrosion. Diameter = 12.7mm. Collected from surface external to	
BOU-020893	Circular, flat shanked button featuring relief fouled fisherman's anchor motif on a plain background. Mould seam visible on button back. Diameter = 14mm. Same motif found on	

To download artefact data—or any other data contained within this database—click on the Download button on the right hand side:



Wherever you see this icon you will be able to download the data associated with it.