

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

1/5

WHAT'S HAPPENING

18 October 2024

NSW Aboriginal
Archaeology Future
Forum, Murook Cultural
Centre, Williamtown,
NSW

24-28 October 2024

Australia ICOMOS,
Caring for a Sunburnt
Country National
Symposium, Old Boys
School and Technical
School Campus, Perth,
WA

3-6 December 2024

Australian
Archaeological
Association
Annual Conference
2024, Cairns, QLD

4 December 2024

AACAI Annual General
Meeting 2024,
AAA Conference (and
via Zoom)

22-28 June 2025

World Archaeological
Congress (WAC-10),
Darwin, NT

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

Since being elected in April this year, the new NEC have been mostly dealing with legacy administrative issues of the Association and working on improvements where we can (e.g. updating the website, social media interaction). We hope that in 2025, we will have more time to progress new initiatives to further benefit our members. In the meantime, we are happy to report on two important matters: re-establishing our support for and exposure at the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) conference, and the release of an online survey for our members.

AAA 2024 Conference, 3-6 December, Cairns



CAREERS EVENT SPONSOR



The AAA Conference this year is themed 'Sharing Archaeological Narratives' and you can register [here](#). AACAI is a silver sponsor and will be hosting the **Careers Night** on 4 December. This event will aim to connect consulting archaeologists and recent graduates with heritage companies, offering an opportunity to network and discuss employment opportunities. It will be fully catered and will take place directly after the AACAI AGM. Registration for this event will be released prior to the conference. The **AACAI AGM** will be in-person but there will also be a virtual option – further details will be sent through to all members in early November. AACAI are also convening a session of papers scheduled for the 4 December called '**Shared Heritage in the Consulting World.**' This will showcase some of the work being done around Australia by AACAI members and other consulting archaeologists. At the Conference Dinner, the AACAI NEC will present **The Laila Haglund Award**, which is a \$500 prize awarded to a conference paper deemed to have made the best contribution to Australian consulting archaeology in recent times. We hope to see you all at the conference and look forward to a great event!

Online Member Survey

Early in September, we released an online survey (via Survey Planet) for our members so that the NEC could gauge what is valued most about the Association and where improvements can be made. The survey is now closed but we can report that there was a decent response with 49 respondents (~25% of our membership). We have received excellent feedback that will help us establish a new roadmap for the Association starting in 2025. The NEC will now review the results and present a summary for the membership at the AGM in December. Thank you to all who responded.



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
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NEWSLETTER

2/5

AACAI

REMINDERS FOR AACAI MEMBERS

Membership renewals for 2024-25 financial year were sent out in June. Please note that if you allow your membership to lapse for two years, you will be removed from the Register of Members.

Your membership fees allow us to administer the Association and organise events and professional development that benefit you as a member. We appreciate your support by renewing your membership promptly.

Please ensure you provide a current, working email address to our Secretariat [here](#)

If you have been an Associate Member for 5 years, you are encouraged to apply for Full Membership.

If you are retiring/retired or not consulting archaeology for the time being but still want to be connected with AACAI, you could be considered for Honorary Membership. This is a decision made by the NEC, and will take into account your contribution to the Association over the years.

For all membership queries, please contact Kane Ditchfield, our Membership Secretary [here](#)

NEWS FROM THE NSW/ACT CHAPTER



A Dive into Rocks: Artefact Technology and Function

At a recent event organised by AACAI NSW/ACT, **Dr. Nina Kononenko** from the Australian Museum delivered a fascinating presentation on 'Tool Production and Use, Technological and Functional Aspects'. Her work sheds light on how artefacts, crafted from stone, bone, shell, and glass, help us reconstruct past human behaviour. Nina underpinned two main challenges: piecing together incomplete remains of artefacts and interpreting dynamic past behaviours from static artefact assemblages. She highlighted that by examining artefacts through three lenses—the archaeologist's findings, the tool's physical condition, and the original maker's intentions—researchers can gain deeper insights into the past. Nina discussed how different types of stone, including obsidian and quartz, were selected for their particular properties, with each material offering different levels of control during the manufacturing process. Nina concluded that combining both technological and functional analysis by microscopic research is key to understanding the dynamic ways in which ancient peoples made and used their tools, offering a window into the diverse subsistence, domestic, and social activities of the past.

Upcoming Events

The annual **NSW Aboriginal Archaeology Future Forum** will take place on 18 October at the Murrook Culture Centre in Williamstown, Worimi Country. The forum aims to bring together Aboriginal communities, archaeological consultants, heritage managers, and researchers, and this year there will be an emphasis on community involvement, and exploring aspirations for the future of archaeological research and conservation in NSW. Attendees will have the chance to share knowledge, showcase ongoing projects, and engage in discussions on key areas in community archaeology. We are proud to co-host the forum with the Australian Museum and other key partners. For more information, email [here](#) or register [here](#).

We are also excited to announce plans for a **Geoarchaeology Workshop** next year, which will include a practical component for archaeologists to understand the landscape and potential archaeological deposits. Stay tuned for more details!



NEWSLETTER

3/5

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS IN 2024

Full Members

Denis Coutant (WA)
Abby Cooper (Vic)
Wendy Hernandez (Vic)
Elise Nuridin (Vic)
Jaq Anderson (Vic)
Andrew Orr (Vic)
Matt Chamberlain (Vic)

Associate Members

Hamish MacGregor (WA)
Dr Irina Ponomareva (Qld)
Genevieve Kan (WA)
Dr Carly Monks (WA)

Affiliate Member

Dr David Tutchener (Vic)

Upgraded to Full Members

Dr Caroline Bird (WA)
Leah Tepper (Vic)
Edward East (Vic)

Temp Honorary Member

Morgan Wilcox (NSW)
Gretta Logue (NSW)

Important references for
members:

[AACAI Constitution](#)

[AACAI Code of Ethics](#)

[AACAI Policies](#)

[Strategic Plan 2015-2025](#)

NEWS FROM THE WA CHAPTER



The AACAI WA Chapter have been busy on the social and networking front in 2024, as we continue to promote collegiality in consulting and professional archaeology circles here on the west coast. In early March, we hosted a free **Social BBQ** at the South Perth foreshore and it was attended by 20 people including some prospective members. Our members also met up in July at the Belgian Beer Cafe in Perth for a meeting and some informal drinks. Then in late August, we had the 'event of the year' with our **Annual Trivia Night!** A fantastic night out was held at Fremantle Park Club with over 80 attendees and 11 tables – our biggest turn-out yet! Congrats to the 'Stratigraphy Squad' who took home the coveted first prize hamper! This year, we had 14 WA-based heritage companies who generously contributed to making the event yet another success.

AACAI WA have also provided some professional development opportunities for its members this year. We have recently connected with John Bryant of Mammoth Spatial who offers **QGIS training** with a significant discount for AACAI members. Following a successful course last year, John ran a heritage-focused session in May this year, and we are hoping to organise further sessions in 2025. Back in March, we also hosted a seminar by Native Title lawyer, Andrew Gay, on the topical subject of **Cultural Heritage and the Law** – over 70 people attended and a robust discussion was had about the recently failed cultural heritage law changes in WA. Further to this, the WA State Executive has been collaborating with the Anthropological Society of WA in its liaison with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on a proposed **State-funded Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program** – the Government have so far taken on board a lot of what was advocated for by both bodies.



NEWSLETTER

4/5

TELL OTHERS TO JOIN AACAI

Google 'Join AACAI'
or scan this QR Code



Choose the most suitable
membership option
Pay \$50 application fee
Prepare your paperwork

Full Membership

\$200 per year
5 years experience
Hons/Post-grad or field
experience
2 references (AACAI full
member)
CV and reports

Associate Membership

\$110 per year
Hons/Post-grad or field
experience
2 references
CV

Affiliate Membership

\$90 per year
Professional archaeologists
or special interest
Hons/Post-grad
2 references (AACAI full
member)

NEWS FROM THE VICTORIAN CHAPTER

The AACAI Victorian Chapter has been busy over the past few months re-activating meetings, social events and wider industry engagement. This has been spearheaded by the **newly elected State Executive**:

- Jim Wheeler – Chairperson
- Erica Walther – Vice Chairperson
- Leah Tepper – Secretary
- Josara de Lange – Treasurer
- Christopher Clark – State Delegate
- Kym Oatway – Alternate State Delegate.

We've started holding monthly meetings, which has facilitated some very useful conversations regarding the challenges of the industry, and we've also welcomed many new members over the past few months, bolstering the Victorian Chapter to be the largest in the country!

On 23 August, we also held a **social networking event** at Goldy's tavern in Collingwood, attended by approximately 30 members and non-members. It was a great way for everyone to meet (or re-connect) in person and discuss future possibilities for the Victorian Chapter. Moreover, it was a wonderful networking opportunity for non-members and may be one reason why the Victorian Chapter has seen an up-tick in new members!

We were also approached by First People-State Relations (FP-SR) on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to provide input for a **proposed complaints process against Heritage Advisors**. The complaints process is coupled with the new Code of Conduct for Heritage Advisors, soon to be implemented. The Victorian Chapter submitted a **response letter** to FP-SR and DPC, which summarised many of the concerns held by AACAI members about this complaints process, and proposed several options for improvement. We are continuing to have conversations with DPC and FP-SR and providing a channel for feedback from the AACAI membership.

Our **2024 State Chapter AGM** will be held on 26 October. Between then and now, we are exploring **professional development opportunities**, which we can offer our members in Victoria. Options at the moment include workshops on legislation, research, photogrammetry, conflict management, cumulative impacts, stone tool analysis, historical materials, geomorphology and scarred trees. Of course, we can't offer all of these workshops and will be gaining a consensus from the Chapter shortly as to which is preferred. Stay tuned for more firmer news on this front!



NEWSLETTER

5/5

AACAI

A LITTLE BIT OF AACAI HISTORY

Did you know that AACAI is now 45 years old? The Association was formed in late 1979 with Dr Laila Haglund as interim Chair. In March 1980, it had its first AGM at Sydney University where its committees were elected and a Constitution drafted. The first Executive consisted of the following trailblazers: Marjorie Sullivan, Val Attenbrow, Mary Dallas, Len Cubis, Eleanor Crosby, Elizabeth Williams, Jenny van Proctor, Richard Morrison, Mike McIntyre, Annie Bickford, Margrit Koettig, Tigger Wise and Lesley Maynard.



If you are interested in the extensive back catalogue of AACAI Newsletters, you can view or download them [here](#). It is an absolute 'treasure trove' of material. We are very privileged that pro-active AACAI members put so much voluntary effort into these publications in the past.

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

Nearly 30 AACAI members and potential future members residing in Brisbane recently caught up at the Stone and Wood Brewery in Fortitude Valley for a **social networking event** funded by AACAI. Despite a burgeoning CHM industry in the state, many early career consultants are not AACAI members. As such, the event was very informal, designed to help establish professional networks, to softly promote the benefits of membership, and canvas the appetite for the **re-establishment of the local AACAI Queensland Chapter**.

In addition, as a stepping stone to the latter, participants discussed what sort of **professional development workshops** they would be interested in AACAI hosting in the future as an incentive to membership. These included QGIS, policy-legislation-governance-National heritage frameworks, geomorphology for archaeologists, lithic analysis, identification and recording of culturally modified trees, leadership-effective communication-conflict resolution, and landscape archaeology. A further informal get-together is tentatively scheduled for October, with further details to be posted to AACAI social media accounts and through the AACAI email list in due time. If you are interested in becoming involved, get in touch [here](#).

AACAI PLANS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

The NEC hope to discuss with members our future plans for the Association at this year's AGM. Our aim is to re-establish AACAI as a key advocacy and representative body for established and early-career consulting archaeologists in Australia, and this means improving the Association from within as well as presenting ourselves outwardly in the most professional way. There are several matters that we see are in need of addressing and we have already started working on them:

- **Improving the website and its security**
- **Increasing our social media output**
- **Increasing communication with members**
- **Reviewing our policies and procedures**
- **Increasing our engagement with universities**
- **Cross-collaborating with other aligned organisations**
- **Engaging in National Archaeology Week**
- **Supporting our current (and potentially new) local State Chapters**
- **Taking up new initiatives to support consultant archaeologists**
- **Reviewing the Student Support Fund and JAACA**

As a committee made up of less than 10 people, we could do with more help. We will send out formal EoIs to form sub-committees in the near future, but if you are interested in helping out, just get in touch [here](#).

