

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

# NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**21 May 2025**

[AACAI WA - Sundowner  
Talk on Culturally Modified  
Shell by Fiona Hook,  
Cottesloe, WA](#)

**6 June 2025**

[AACAI Victoria - Conflict  
Resolution Workshop,  
Melbourne, VIC](#)

**22-28 June 2025**

[World Archaeological  
Congress \(WAC-10\),  
Darwin, NT](#)

**24-26 Sept 2025**

[Australasian Society for  
Historical Archaeology,  
\(ASHA\) 2025 Conference,  
Devonport, TAS](#)

**17-19 Nov 2025**

[AICOMOS 2025 National  
Conference: \*Our Shared  
Heritage\*, Ballarat, VIC](#)

**25-29 Nov 2025**

[Council for the Humanities,  
Arts and Social Sciences  
\(CHASS\) Congress 2025,  
Perth, WA](#)

**2-5 Dec 2025**

[AAA/AIMA 2025 Joint  
Conference, Fremantle, WA](#)

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AACAI welcomes you to our second newsletter of 2025. In this issue, we feature profiles from a random selection of AACAI members in honour of National Archaeology Week (see below), and we also report on news of recent events from around the country. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and if you would like to include anything in future issues, please get in touch.



# NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

## *National Archaeology Week - 18-24 May 2025*

Australia's National Archaeology Week runs from 8-24 May this year!! It aims to increase public awareness of Australian archaeology and the work of Australian archaeologists at home and abroad. It also promotes the importance of protecting Australia's unique archaeological heritage.

AACAI is a proud supporter of National Archaeology Week and promotes it amongst our members and on our social media pages. We encourage everyone to take part in the events that will be occurring throughout the country that week. Head to the [official website](#) to find an event near you, contribute or browse profiles of Australian archaeologists, or find out more about the Annual Bake It! Make It! competition!!



The Tenth World  
Archaeological  
Congress  
**WAC-10**  
Darwin, Australia  
June 22-28, 2025



## *WAC-10 (World Archaeological Congress) - 22-28 June 2025*

Excitement is building for the 10th World Archaeological Congress (WAC-10), held in Darwin from 22-28 June and hosted by Flinders University in partnership with the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University. AACAI is a bronze sponsor and will be present with a promotional booth - please pop over to say hi if you are attending. We thank the organisers for offering our members a generous discount on registration (which can be availed of [here](#)). For details about the conference, including sessions, tours, the cultural festival, and to sign up to the newsletter, go to the [WAC-10 website](#).



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## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### All year

2025 Archaeology Seminar Series at University of Western Australia (UWA)  
Every Thursday 3-4pm  
More info [here](#)

#### All year

2025 Centre for Archaeological Research Seminar Series at Australian National University (ANU)  
Every Friday 2.30-4.30pm  
More info [here](#)

#### All year

2025 Archaeology Seminar Series at Flinders University  
Every Thursday 3-4pm  
More info [here](#)

#### All year

2025 Archaeology Working Papers Seminar Series at University of Queensland  
Every Friday 3.30-4.30pm  
More info [here](#)

### AACAI Student Support Fund

AACAI is delighted to announce the re-launch of the Student Support Fund. The Fund was established in 2010 to provide financial assistance to Honours and coursework Masters students engaged in research that directly contributes to consulting archaeological practice. AACAI has distributed \$66,198 to 37 recipients through this Fund, most of which has come from generous donations by archaeological consultants around Australia, with AACAI also contributing. The Fund is managed by an AACAI subcommittee with applications assessed and awarded in a regulated process. More details on the fund can be found [here](#). We are currently calling on AACAI members who run consultancies to consider donating to the Fund for 2025 (see poster, right). Please contact [aacai.student.fund@gmail.com](mailto:aacai.student.fund@gmail.com) by **Fri 30 May** if you are interested. After this, the call for applications will go out to archaeology students across Australia.



**SUPPORT  
FUTURE  
ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

Call for donations to the AACAI student support fund

#### Benefits to your organisation:

- **INCREASED WEB PRESENCE** your details (logo & contact) and support statement added to AACAI website
- **SOCIAL MEDIA BOOST** your details (logo and company name) on AACAI student support fund social media posts
- **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE** of consulting archaeology in Australia!

**EMAIL US: AACAI.STUDENT.FUND@GMAIL.COM**



### AAA/AIMA Joint Conference - 2 – 5 December 2025

The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) are teaming up with the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) to host their annual conference at Walyalup/Fremantle, Western Australia from 2-5 December. The conference theme is "It's About Time!". AACAI will be running a session entitled "Embedding Ethical Practice and Indigenous Voice in Consulting Archaeology" and we encourage members to submit papers when the Call for Abstracts opens on **26 May**. The [conference website](#) is live now, so please keep your eyes peeled for updates - AACAI will again be running a "Meet the Graduates and Colleagues" event at the conference!



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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS IN 2025

### Full Members

Gareth Holes (NSW)  
Sarah Keiller (VIC)

### Associate Members

Monique Corbett (VIC)  
Tom Lally (VIC)  
Ilaria Yakimov (VIC)  
Jonathan Bennett (NSW)  
Emily Simons (VIC)

### Affiliate Members

Georgia Stannard (VIC)  
Prof. Alistair Paterson (WA)  
Victoria Wade (WA)

Important references for  
members:

[AACAI Constitution](#)

[AACAI Code of Ethics](#)

[AACAI Policies](#)

[Strategic Plan 2015-2025](#)

[JAACA](#)

[Awards and Funds](#)

[Resources](#)

[Media Releases](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Archives](#)

You can purchase  
Monographs previously  
written for AACAI [here](#)

If you want to upgrade your  
membership to Full, please  
follow the process as for new  
members (see below)

## NEWS FROM THE STATE CHAPTERS

### Western Australia

The WA chapter have been very busy in the past few months diligently organising social events and professional development opportunities. First up was a social gathering of AACAI members and prospective members at the Balmoral in Victoria Park in early April. Then a week later, at the Albion in Cottesloe, there was a sundowner talk by Nathan Jankowski on optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating and the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, which was very well-attended (see pic below) - the chapter thanks the [Desert People](#) Project at the University of Western Australia for supporting this event. Coming up is another sundowner talk at the Albion, this time with AACAI member, Dr Fiona Hook, who will present on 'methods for identifying cultural modification of shell in Western Australian archaeological sites' - this is on Weds 21 May during National Archaeology Week, and you can book [here](#) (AACAI members and students are discounted). To keep informed about future events, sign up to the [mailing list](#).



### Victoria

The Victorian Chapter have organised a workshop on conflict resolution for heritage practitioners, and this will take place at GHD offices in Melbourne on 6 June (12-4 pm, afternoon tea included). The workshop is limited to 30 people but if there is sufficient interest, another session can be organised. You will need to book [here](#), and remember, AACAI members get a significant discount! Also keep an eye out for details of a 'cultural values mapping' workshop currently being planned for later in the year.



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## 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 (one 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  
One reference (AACAI full  
member)

## NEWS FROM THE STATE CHAPTERS

### *New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory*

The NSW/ACT Chapter are delighted to announce that recent AACAI Life Member, Jillian Comber, has joined the NEC as the Chapter's new State Delegate! The Chapter are also continuing to plan for a number of professional development events later in the year, principally a workshop on geoarchaeology, which should be advertised on AACAI's social media soon. Keep your eyes out for details!

### *Queensland*

Queensland do not have an AACAI State Chapter but thanks to Lynley Wallis for once again organising a social event, this time at the Charming Squire in Southbank in early May, where several members and prospective members caught up for a casual drink (happy pic below!) We also hear that the QGIS training workshop for heritage practitioners run by Mammoth Geospatial in Brisbane in March was a success with many AACAI members attending - we thank John Bryant at Mammoth Geospatial for continuing to offer AACAI members a significant discount for this invaluable training.



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## REMINDERS FOR AACAI MEMBERS

Membership renewals for the forthcoming 2025-26 financial year are currently being sent out. For those who have not yet paid for 2024-25, please do so now - check your junk mail if you have not received an invoice from Angela or get in touch with us immediately.

Please note that if you do not pay your membership fees (or have not offered your resignation), we will send quarterly reminders for up to two years. If you allow your membership to lapse for two years, you will be removed from the Register of Members. If you wish to be reinstated after that, you can choose to (a) reapply for membership, (including the application fee), or (b) pay the membership fees for all years that were missed e.g. if you missed two years of full membership fees, you must pay \$400.

Remember, our 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.

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

## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### **Fiona Leslie - AACAI Full Member - NSW**

#### **Where are you usually based?**

I'm based in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, NSW. We have a small office in Springwood.

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I'm currently preparing for a weekend of monitoring at Central Railway Station. We will be investigating several brick footings identified under the ballast, near the Grand Concourse. The remains may relate to a former isolation cell block and stables of the c1820 Carter's Barracks or the later Belmore Police Barracks (1854 - 1901). We will know more after the weekend.

I'm also writing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Muogamurra Nature Reserve. The Reserve is located north of Sydney and conserves several heritage items, including the remains of Peats Ferry Road, which was mapped in 1829 and later built by convict road gangs in 1844. We recently completed an archaeological survey of the Reserve and recorded 104 heritage elements, including retaining walls, bridges, stone culverts, domestic occupation sites, evidence of hand excavation (pick marks) for cuttings and drains and maritime structures, including jetties, landings, sea walls and the remains of Peats Bight Wharf. It was an incredible landscape, and we feel so lucky to be working with NPWS to conserve heritage in the Reserve.

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

I think membership with AACAI is important because it helps consultants feel like we are part of a broader community of working professionals. AACAI promotes our discipline, has established an important Code of Ethics and cares about its members. It also provides training in various areas, including Aboriginal stone artefact identification, geomorphology and the identification of human skeletal remains.

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

After completing my undergraduate degrees (Science and Arts) I had to choose whether I wanted to be a botanist or an archaeologist. It was only after spending a month on a Greek island with University of Sydney archaeologists that I realised that I was hooked on fieldwork. I love the scope of what we do and the physical nature of digging and survey work. I also love working on construction sites and helping archaeology students learn to excavate. We have so much variety in the work that we do. It's never boring!



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# AACAI

## AACAI MEMBER DIRECTORY

AACAI maintains a public directory of its members [here](#)

In this directory, you can search for consulting and professional archaeologists across Australia.

Each AACAI member has been assessed on their professional qualifications, experience and expertise as it relates to the archaeology discipline, and members adhere to a Code of Ethics and follow policies which relate to consulting archaeology work in Australia.

New Applicant assessments are made by the Membership Committee, which consists of seven Full or Affiliate AACAI members elected at every second Annual General Meeting.

**AACAI cautions against the use of 'independent' directories listing Australian archaeologists, as these cannot offer the same level of scrutiny or oversight that a professional organisation like AACAI can.**

## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### Wendy Hernandez - AACAI Full Member - Victoria

#### Where are you usually based?

I'm based in Melbourne, Victoria. My office is in Heidelberg, though I'm often out in the field carrying out surveys and archaeological excavations, attending meetings, or participating in cultural heritage site inductions.



#### What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently wrapping up several Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), conducting an archaeological survey in Lower Plenty, and managing a historical archaeological investigation in Footscray.



I also contribute to the next generation of professionals by mentoring emerging archaeologists through La Trobe University's Industry Mentoring Program, and I'm currently working with a mentee.

#### Why do you think AACAI membership is important?

AACAI membership is important because it helps me stay connected with peers across the industry, fosters professional standards, and provides opportunities for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and ongoing professional development.

#### Tell us more about your interest in archaeology

I grew up in El Salvador, where my family is from, and we often visited Las Ruinas de San Andrés—a beautiful pre-Columbian site with pyramids and sweeping views. My parents would take us there for family outings, and we'd play baseball in the open fields. I loved climbing the pyramids and running around the site pretending to be an explorer. Even as a six-year-old, I felt there was something ancient and almost mystical about the place, and I often imagined what it would have been like to live there, as my ancestors once did. That experience left me with a deep curiosity and a desire to understand the past more fully—which eventually led me to archaeology.





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## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### **Dr Alice Gorman - AACAI Full Member - South Australia**

#### **Where are you usually based?**

Adelaide

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I have a few projects on the go! My main project is writing my second book, which will be an exploration of how concepts of species, colonialism, and environment have shaped current human engagements with outer space.

A few years ago I was a mentor in the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs Space4Women program. My collaboration with an amazing group of women as part of that program led to the idea of making a women's space heritage list. You take some well-known place or object and look at what significance it might have for the history of women in space. For example, the artist CeCe Bibby was commissioned to paint logos on the Mercury capsules used for experimental spaceflights in the US from 1958 to 1963. Her artwork is part of the material culture of these spacecraft. The capsules returned to Earth with the astronauts inside, and at least one is in a museum.

Another example is the famous boot prints on the Moon. I argue that because women were the people who actually made the boots, these first steps on another celestial body were made by the foot of a man and the hand of a woman. If we take the focus away from the male astronauts, we find that women were actively participating in the US space programme even though they were excluded from the astronaut corps. Constructing this list gives a completely different perspective on the material culture of space exploration.

Another project is how to characterise natural heritage values on the Moon, which hasn't been addressed adequately by planetary scientists. As the Vice Chair of the Global Expert Group for Sustainable Lunar Activity (GEGSLA), I was able to highlight heritage in our Recommended Framework and Key Elements for Peaceful and Sustainable Lunar Activities, which was presented to the UN in 2023. I also wrote a separate heritage reference document to accompany it. These documents set out what I believe are some of the fundamental principles needed to manage heritage values on the Moon but there is a long way to go yet.

I've also been working with the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Aerospace Heritage, which was established at the end of 2023. We achieved a big win in 2025 when we successfully nominated the Moon to be put on the World Monuments Fund danger list.

Finally I want to mention that 2025 is the 25th anniversary of space archaeology. In this time I think we have established it as a field with credibility and relevance. Space heritage is too important to be left to the engineers and lawyers!

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

At a professional level, being a member of AACAI reduces risk for the client, because ideally it guarantees a base level of skills and knowledge as well as a commitment to ethical working principles. Members can contribute to official AACAI responses to heritage issues, which I think is really important. Members can also contribute to setting standards for the industry. As much as anything else, it's a great community to be part of!

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

My background was originally in lithics and Indigenous heritage (I still teach an intensive in lithics at Flinders University). I became a space archaeologist as a result of beer and stargazing. One evening after a hard day of fieldwork I was sitting on the verandah with a cold beer, looking up at the stars. I realised I was also looking at space junk. It made me wonder if the Burra Charter applied in space. So I became a space archaeologist to find out.



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## HELPFUL FORUMS & RESOURCES

### **Ozarch** **Australian Archaeology Forum**

An email list for people interested in prehistoric and historical archaeology in Australia. Sign up [here](#)

### **Australian Archaeology Forum - Facebook Group**

A discussion and information group about Australian archaeology - for students, academics, consultants and anyone else interested in archaeology

### **Australian Archaeology Jobs - Facebook Group**

This group shares Australian and overseas archaeology job opportunities

### **Heritage Victoria Resources for Archaeologists**

Policy and guidance documents on archaeological processes for professional archaeologists working in Victoria

### **Australian Museum - Archaeology Resources**

Provides a guide for people interested in the archaeological investigation of Aboriginal Sydney and New South Wales

## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### **Ryan Desic - AACAI Full Member - NSW**

#### **Where are you usually based?**

I am based in Lake Macquarie, NSW, which is a stone's throw away from Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

Great question. A bit of everything really, which is consulting archaeology in a nutshell. At the top end of the scale, in terms of size and complexity, are some of the major renewable energy projects in NSW such as the New England Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure Project. This extends from the Hunter Valley into the New England region and involves a vast number of landscapes, archaeological sites and Aboriginal communities. Most of our other regional projects are for pumped hydro, solar and wind across NSW. It is great to be a part of our country's transition into renewables.

Apart from the more regional renewable energy projects we are working on, I also like to stay involved in local projects in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley which are showing some very interesting results, especially where they intersect with ancient sand deposits that are ideal for retaining cultural materials. These are providing us with some great opportunities to apply chronological dating techniques.

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

I think AACAI is a great space for recognising the massive contribution consulting archaeology provides to our understanding of Australian archaeology. I think it also bolsters our credibility as archaeologists in an industry that doesn't really set strict qualifications to be able to work in cultural resource management. AACAI also provides a space for consultants to network and share information with their peers.

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

I was very into ancient history during school, but when I got to university, I realised that studying ancient history meant poring over countless books and sources (which I wasn't very into at 18 years old!). I realised that archaeology was a way to study history with less reading and more doing, i.e. getting outside and finding history yourself. To this day, being able to explore new places and find new things always keeps archaeology fresh for me.





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## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### **Dr Richard Fullagar - AACAI Life Member - Victoria**

#### **Where are you usually based?**

Although I live in Melbourne, my academic affiliations are tied (as a CI) to Australian Research Council Projects and see me based at two interstate universities. At Flinders University, I have been doing fieldwork with Amy Roberts and her team including the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation. We have excavated at a rockshelter and a silcrete quarry on the River Murray. At University of Western Australia, I have been working with Jo McDonald and her large team including key Aboriginal groups across the Pilbara, from the desert (Birriliburu and Martu) to the sea (Murujuga).



A key role of mine has been to investigate the function of ground stone implements with Judith Field and others. I am also affiliated with archaeology at La Trobe University, where I was working with Nikki Stern on grinding stones. Although I don't run an archaeological consulting company any more, I still do some small consulting projects with MicroTrace Archaeology (run by Elspeth "Ebbe" Hayes)—but only when they overlap with current interests and my expertise in usewear and residues, to determine the function of archaeological tools.

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I am writing a book about Australian grindstones and other ground stone implements with Colin Pardoe and Ebbe Hayes. This has turned out to be more complex than first imagined about 10 years ago! Fred McCarthy, over 50 years ago, had documented about 50 classes of ground stone implement across the continent; and Colin Pardoe, in the Murray Darling Basin, has identified about 30 types including several new types that we are trying to publish in journal articles. But as far as the book is going, there is never enough time to discuss, revise and look at them all under various microscopes... but we will get there!

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

I think of AACAI as a professional body with the same kind of form and function as other professional bodies in science, humanities, engineering, medicine and law. Such bodies have enforceable codes of ethics, and promote professional development for members. AACAI also provides advice about heritage and archaeology to government and other agencies. Heritage consultancies employ many more archaeologists than the academy. One of the great things about the early history of AACAI has been its close connection with the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA), which is not a professional body—anyone can join AAA—although it has nearly always been dominated by academics. The profound connection between AACAI and AAA is fundamental to archaeology in Australia.

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

I started out in Law, Economics and Classics, and made the crazy decision to switch to medicine. On a whim, I picked an extra subject on offer for the first time at Melbourne University: Australian Archaeology (History 1F). Loved it! At the end of the year, the Melbourne Uni course was cancelled, I got a job at the Victoria Archaeological Survey, and History 1F students were offered a place at La Trobe Uni. A few of us (including Wendy Beck) moved on to PhDs at La Trobe. No regrets!



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## REMINDER WHAT AACAI IS...

AACAI is the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated.

AACAI is Australia's peak professional representative body for consulting archaeologists in Australia.

AACAI is a member-benefit, volunteer-run professional organisation.

AACAI develops and promotes best practice and ethics in archaeology.

AACAI promotes professional development, training and communication, and provides support for our members.

AACAI influences policy and decision makers to protect and manage cultural and historical heritage across Australia.

AACAI is a national organisation with members in every state and territory. It has active State Chapters in New South Wales (combined with the ACT), Victoria and Western Australia.

## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### Jacqueline Matthews - AACAI Associate Member - Queensland



#### **Where are you usually based?**

I am based in Brisbane and am almost 100% office based these days.

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I'm lucky enough to be working on a wide variety of projects, and am especially drawn to those focused on mine closure planning, renewable energy developments, and water infrastructure.

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

I think AACAI membership is important because it connects you into a collective of professional archaeologists who are like-minded in their commitment to enhance standards and credibility in consultancy.

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

Like a lot of noughties archaeologists, I grew up with *Time Team* and those three-day excavation programs basically sealed my future career path as a teenager.



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## AACAI PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

### Australian Archaeological Association (AAA)

Incorporated organisation with open membership to anyone interested in archaeology in Australia

### Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS)

Australia's peak body that represents and advocates for the interests of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences sector

### Australasian Society of Historical Archaeology (ASHA)

Incorporated society with open membership to anyone interested in historical archaeology

### Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association (AIAA)

Organisation focused on advancing indigenous voices and perspectives within the field of archaeology

### Australia ICOMOS

Australia's peak cultural heritage conservation body, and a national committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites

## AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

### **Marcel Teschendorff - AACAI Associate Member - Western Australia**

#### **Where are you usually based?**

I live and work in Fremantle in Western Australia. I work for Archae-aus and am lucky that our wide range of projects mean I get to travel around Western Australia for fieldwork.

#### **What are you working on at the moment?**

Archae-aus has a variety of different clients and projects, so the jobs I work on are often changing. Recently, I have been involved in archaeological surveys in the Pilbara and a cultural heritage desktop assessment for parts of Cockburn Sound.

#### **Why do you think AACAI membership is important?**

I think membership to AACAI provides a way for professional archaeologists working in Australia to have their experience and expertise in consulting archaeology recognised by their peers and be easily identifiable. It also provides a good opportunity for members to attend workshops for professional development and meet other people working in cultural heritage management.

#### **Tell us more about your interest in archaeology**

I recently returned home from a holiday in the Americas. My favourite archaeological site we visited was Tikal! I'd highly recommend a visit to anyone interested in Mayan archaeology.



### **Want to contribute to the next AACAI newsletter?**

We have started publishing a new AACAI newsletter every quarter. The next issue will be out in July or August 2025. If you would like anything to be added (e.g. a short article, a profile, pictures of a recent archaeology event), please get in touch with us at [aacai.nec@gmail.com](mailto:aacai.nec@gmail.com)

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue, and we wish you all a very enjoyable National Archaeology Week!!

