

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

# NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### 17-18 Sept 2025

[Introduction to QGIS for Heritage by Mammoth Geospatial Training](#), State Library, Perth, WA

### 24-26 Sept 2025

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

### 24 Oct 2025

NSW Aboriginal Archaeology Future Forum 2025, University of Wollongong, NSW

### 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

### 13 Feb 2026

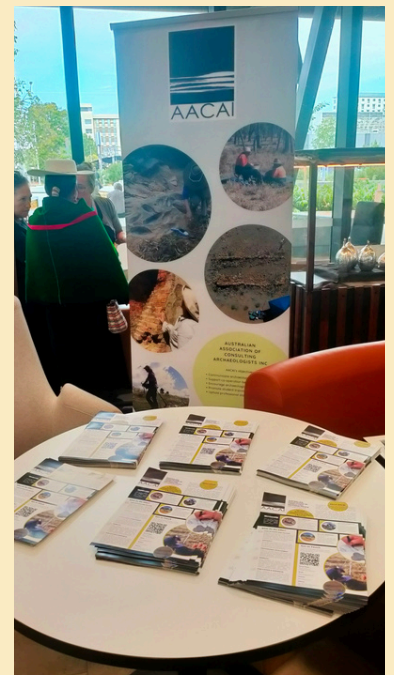
Western Australia Archaeology and Heritage Assembly (WAAHA) 2026, Maritime Museum, Fremantle, WA

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AACAI welcomes you to our third newsletter of 2025. In this issue, we provide reviews of recent conferences and updates about upcoming conferences, and we also share exciting news about our journal and website re-vamp as well as recent events and activities from the AACAI State Chapters. Enjoy!

### WAC-10 (World Archaeological Congress) in Darwin - Review

The 10th World Archaeological Congress (WAC-10) was held on the traditional lands of the Larrakia people in Darwin, NT between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. Hosted by Flinders University in partnership with the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University, it brought together over 2,000 delegates from across the world, in-person and online. The conference offered a rich and diverse program of academic sessions, keynotes, panels, documentary screenings, tours, workshops and exhibitions. It was literally jam-packed! 175 sessions and about 50 special events were hosted across 6 days (the book of abstracts was over 550 pages long, and I roughly estimate the number of papers to be at 1200). The main venue was the new Danala Education and Community Precinct at Charles Darwin University in the Darwin CBD, which seemed to be a building not yet fully equipped for a conference of these proportions. But this did not detract from a generally positive vibe experienced by delegates throughout the week. People from around the world mingled, networked and exchanged views and ideas on archaeology and cultural heritage, while basking in the beautiful and balmy surrounds of the Top End, with many taking part in the mid-congress tours to Kakadu National Park where they witnessed the extraordinary rock art at Ubirr and Burrungkuy.



Unsurprisingly, Australian archaeologists were present in great numbers, taking advantage of the quite possibly 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to experience a WAC at their doorstep (as much as that makes sense in a country of Australia's size!). Many Australian consulting archaeology companies who sponsored the conference took up space in the lobby with their information desks and promotional posters. Indeed, AACAI was one of those sponsors and we had a single banner placed on the floor as well (see photo) - AACAI was a sponsor of the conference because we support WAC's ethos and commitment to social justice and global equity as well as to the future of meaningful archaeology and heritage management.

Thanks must go to the WAC organising committee, and to all those who contributed to a successful week in Darwin (including the volunteers!) - it was a colossal effort to make it all work. Congratulations also to AACAI WA Member, Jordan Ralph, who was voted in as the new WAC President at the conference.



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## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### SEMINARS & TALKS

#### 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](#)



### **AAA/AIMA Joint Conference - 2 - 5 Dec 2025**

The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) is teaming up with the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) to host their annual conference on Whadjuk Noongar Country at Walyalup/Fremantle, Western Australia from 2-5 December. The conference theme is "It's About Time!" and there is a bumper program of sessions, workshops and social events. AACAI are heavily involved in the conference and are convening a full-day session of papers entitled "Embedding Ethical Practice and Indigenous Voice in Consulting Archaeology" on Wed 3 December. Our AGM will be hosted nearby at the University of Notre Dame on Tues 2 December (details to follow). You can register for the conference [here](#).

### **AACAI Meet the Graduates & Colleagues Event - 3 Dec 2025**

AACAI will once again host the annual Meet the Graduates & Colleagues Event at the AAA/AIMA 2025 Conference in Walyalup/Fremantle. The event will take place at the Esplanade Hotel, after the first full day of sessions on Wed 3 December.

The event is a great opportunity for students heading towards submission and recent graduates seeking employment to engage with archaeology and cultural heritage companies and organisations in a relaxed and catered environment. There will even be a chance to snag an awesome door prize!

We encourage all AACAI members, students, graduates and early career consultants to attend. Access to the event is free but you must register via the conference registration portal [here](#).



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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

### Full Members

Christine Williamson (VIC)  
Michelle Smyth (WA)

### Associate Members

Amber Wesley (WA)  
Lily Nash (VIC)

### Associate to Full Upgrade

Annabelle Davis (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 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Journal of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists (JAACA)

Welcome to the landing page for the Journal of the  
Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists  
(JAACA) - ISSN 2202-7890.

[About JAACA](#)



### **JAACA Re-Launch**

AACAI are delighted to announce the relaunch of the Journal of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists (JAACA) - some flyers were handed around at WAC-10 with the announcement. The [JAACA landing page](#) on the AACAI website has also had a re-vamp in anticipation of the first new volume, expected at the end of 2025.

The new JAACA Editorial Team has been assembled with Lynley Wallis as Editor-in-Chief and Jacqueline Matthews, Heather Burke and Darran Jordan as co-editors.

JAACA will be a fully online, peer-reviewed journal accessible through the website, and while access to all JAACA volumes (published at the end of each year) is free, AACAI members will enjoy the benefit of receiving immediate access to articles as they are published (via the member profile portal).

The JAACA Editorial Team encourages AACAI members, consulting and academic archaeologists to contribute to the journal in the form of articles (generally 1,000-8,000 words), short executive summary consulting reports (generally up to 3,000 words), posters (recently presented at conferences or forums) or extended thesis abstracts.

All you need to do is download the new JAACA Style Guide and follow the instructions for contributions [here](#).

### **AACAI Website Re-vamp**

AACAI has recently re-vamped its [website](#) with a new vibrant home page, a new History of AACAI page, a new JAACA landing page and a more streamlined design to assist in navigating through the various pages. Further updates are forthcoming for the member profiles and a new page for AACAI-registered companies. Thanks to the website sub-committee of JJ McDermott, Lynley Wallis, Sarah de Koning and Emma Beckett for driving these much-needed changes.



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## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **AACAI Statement on Minimum Qualifications for Consultant Archaeologists**

In May, AACAI released a statement concerning minimum qualifications for those employed and engaged as consultant archaeologists in Australia, and it aligns to our Constitution, Code of Ethics, policies and procedures. The statement can be found [here](#), but is reproduced in full below and on the following page.

#### AACAI Statement on Minimum Qualifications for Consultant Archaeologists

Archaeologists study the human past through material remains. Archaeologists in Australia often identify, record, and assess historical and First Nations cultural heritage places and objects. Consultant archaeologists are generally engaged in commercial settings to advise on the presence and nature of actual or potential archaeological features, deposits, or landscapes, and to provide advice on how to manage such cultural heritage in accordance with laws, regulations, and agreements.

When engaging a consultant archaeologist, it is important to check that they are appropriately qualified, experienced, and have the knowledge and skills to undertake a reliable and quality assessment to the required standards.

**If an archaeologist is to be commercially engaged, the quickest way to ensure they are appropriately qualified to undertake the task is to confirm they are a member of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated (AACAI).<sup>1</sup>**

#### What is AACAI?

AACAI is the peak professional body representing consulting archaeologists in Australia. Our [Constitution](#) sets out the fundamental principles and key objects of our organisation, which includes maintaining and encouraging professional standards. Our members are bound by a [Code of Ethics](#) that outlines principles to govern professional standards in line with international best practice. We have a series of [Policies and Procedures](#) which help guide professionals working in the industry, as well as a mechanism for [complaints](#) against members.

AACAI has two membership levels relevant to consulting archaeology; the criteria for each are summarised below.

Membership Level	Criteria
<b>Full</b> (Typically full-time, qualified and experienced consultant archaeologists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree or postgraduate degree in archaeology.</li> <li>• The equivalent of 5 years' full-time experience in consulting archaeology in Australia.</li> <li>• References from two archaeologists (one must be an AACAI Full member)</li> <li>• Have demonstrated competence in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ survey, identification and recording of sites;</li> <li>○ site assessment and evaluation;</li> <li>○ recommendations concerning the management of sites;</li> <li>○ report preparation and production;</li> <li>○ client-consultant relations;</li> <li>○ consultant-determining authority relations; and,</li> <li>○ where relevant, community liaison and consultation, and documentary and oral research.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Associate</b> (Typically full-time, casual or early career consultant archaeologists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree or postgraduate degree in archaeology.</li> <li>• References from two professional archaeologists.</li> <li>• Be able to work as a supervised or unsupervised field or research assistant and may undertake sub-consultancies or consultancies where he or she has appropriate level skill and training.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> In Victoria, the Minister's Guidelines on Heritage Advisor Qualifications and Experience lists Full Membership of AACAI as an option for meeting the 'appropriate qualifications' requirements to be engaged as a Heritage Advisor.

### TELL OTHERS TO JOIN AACAI

Google 'Join AACAI'  
or scan this QR Code



Choose the most suitable membership option  
Pay the \$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)



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## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Membership renewals for the 2025-26 financial year have now been sent out to all members. If you have not received an invoice from Angela, please check your spam or contact her [here](#).

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](#).

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### *AACAI Statement on Minimum Qualifications for Consultant Archaeologists*

Before being accepted as a member of AACAI, applicants are formally assessed by a [Membership Committee](#) to whom they must prove they can meet the criteria for the relevant level of membership they are seeking. Any variations to these criteria (e.g. equivalent experience or aligned degrees) are assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Committee. AACAI's Membership Committee comprises seven members who are elected at the conclusion of every second Annual General Meeting.

#### **What about non-AACAI archaeologists?**

There are many consulting archaeologists working across Australia who are not members of AACAI. We continue to promote membership to prospective members and encourage all consulting and professional archaeologists to apply for AACAI membership.

**AACAI recommends that all consultants who are engaged as [lead archaeologists](#) on consulting projects should meet the above criteria for [AACAI Full Membership](#).**

Furthermore, archaeologists who are in an early career phase and in the process of gaining experience on consulting projects should only be engaged for roles relevant to their knowledge, training, and experience.

**AACAI recommends that all consultants who are engaged as [non-lead archaeologists](#) on consulting projects should, at a minimum, meet the above criteria for [AACAI Associate Membership](#).**

Individuals who are unable to meet the criteria for AACAI Full or Associate Membership should not be charged out as archaeologists. However, AACAI considers it is sometimes appropriate that such individuals could be employed in trainee, support, or administrative roles, until such time that they gain appropriate qualifications or experience to qualify for AACAI Full or Associate membership.

AACAI also has a [Policy on Volunteers](#) to assist archaeology students in understanding what they should expect, and to assist employers in understanding their own responsibilities, when it comes to gaining experience in consulting archaeology. If a consulting company engages a volunteer (or employs a trainee archaeologist) to participate on a project this should always be made clear to the client and the First Nations group ahead of any work.

**AACAI encourages all those working and employing archaeologists to adhere to these minimum qualifications to ensure high standards in consulting archaeological work across Australia and for the protection of clients.**

Date: 13 May 2025

Contact: AACAI National Executive Committee at [aacai.nec@gmail.com](mailto:aacai.nec@gmail.com)

We would appreciate if AACAI members share the statement with colleagues, academics, students, professionals, Aboriginal corporations, industrial bodies, government departments or agencies, and to any company who employs and engages archaeologists.

The NEC thanks everyone who contributed in putting this together, in particular the WA State Executive Committee who drafted it, but also to the NSW/ACT and VIC State Executive Committees who worked together in reviewing it.



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## NEWS FROM THE STATE CHAPTERS

### UPDATE YOUR AACAI MEMBER PROFILE

Full, Associate, Affiliate and non-temporary Honorary AACAI members have a profile published on the AACAI website. Members are encouraged to regularly update their profiles by logging in [here](#)

Full Members' profiles show academic qualifications, consulting experience, general expertise and special skills, and links to their affiliated websites, social profiles and contact details.

Associate, Affiliate and non-temporary Honorary Members' profiles show contact details, professional details and social profiles.

These profiles form AACAI's **public directory** of its members. The public can search this directory for consulting and professional archaeologists across Australia.

It is the most comprehensive list of archaeologists working in Australia today, and we encourage our members to keep it updated.

### Western Australia

The WA Chapter of AACAI has recently hosted a series of successful and well-attended events. As part of National Archaeology Week in May, Dr Fiona Hook delivered an engaging talk at the Albion Hotel in Cottesloe, presenting her research on identifying culturally modified shell from Boodie Cave in northwest WA. Her insights and experimental studies sparked lively questions among attendees from across the heritage sector, which was followed by further discussions over pizzas.



AACAI WA has also submitted a response to the WA Government's Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage Process review, highlighting our members' expertise and commitment to ethical and collaborative heritage practice. Our **submission** emphasised the importance of consultation with AACAI as a key stakeholder and cautioned against narratives that undermine the professional standards upheld by AACAI and its members.

Upcoming events organised by AACAI WA include our **Annual Trivia Night** at the Fremantle Park Club on Mon 15 September, and we have once again collaborated with Mammoth Geospatial for Introduction to QGIS for Heritage training taking place at the State Library in Perth on 17-18 September. You will need to register [here](#) and, as always, AACAI Members are discounted.

AACAI WA are also heavily involved in the planning for the first Western Australia Archaeology and Heritage Assembly (WAAHA) to be held on Friday 13 February 2026 at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle. Stay tuned for further updates!



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## HELPFUL FORUMS & RESOURCES

### **Ozarch Australian Archaeology Forum**

An email list for people interested in all matters relating to 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

## NEWS FROM THE STATE CHAPTERS

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

AACAI NSW/ACT are proud to announce the fifth NSW Aboriginal Archaeology Future Forum at the University of Wollongong on Dharawal Country on Friday 24 October 2025.

This will be a one-day symposium on First Nations archaeology in NSW for Aboriginal community, archaeological consultants, heritage managers and researchers.

The forum has a focus on community and country, with a key aim to bring community aspirations regarding archaeological research to the fore. It provides an opportunity to share knowledge; showcase current projects and achievements; and discuss aspirations for the future of archaeological conservation, research and heritage management. The event includes presentations from individuals and panel discussions on a range of areas important to community archaeology.

Proposals for papers and panel discussions are invited now, and registration will open shortly. To propose a paper, or for more information, please email [here](#).

**SAVE**  
*& call for papers*  
**THE DATE**

NSW ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
FUTURE FORUM

University of Wollongong, Dharawal Country

Contact: [NSWArchaeologyForum@gmail.com](mailto:NSWArchaeologyForum@gmail.com)

**FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2025**

Photo: Dharawal Country by  
Renee Regal



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## MOVIE REVIEW

### ***La Chimera (2023, Italy/France/Switzerland, available to stream on Stan or rent on Apple TV or Amazon)***

We first meet Arthur (played by Josh O'Connor), a British man in a scuffed-white suit, on a train to Tuscany after being released from prison. His curious character draws attention from the other passengers, and indeed the viewer. Turns out he is an archaeologist, but lately he has taken to tomb raiding (or *tombarolo* in Italian), given his mysterious ability to have visions when he is close to buried treasure (the *La Chimera* of the title).

Director Alice Rohrwacher has created a marvelous film that will no doubt tickle the fancy of both arthouse film-lovers and archaeologists. This is no Indiana Jones or Tomb Raider, but I found it equally as entertaining. The film is imbued with much realism, and Tuscany in the early 1980s provides a wonderful backdrop (and cultural context) to proceedings. The subtlety and mystique of Arthur's background (and the impressive acting by O'Connor) draws you in at every moment, and the raft of fully realised supporting characters such as Flora, Arthur's mother-in-law (played by the legendary Isabella Rossellini), and Italia, Flora's impoverished maid (Carol Duarte), is exceptional.

For cinephiles, the film provides homages to Italian Neorealism and the movies of Pier Paolo Pasolini, and for archaeologists, the film provides intellectual musings on the role of ethics in the profession and the socio-economic factors that can impact it. But really, at the end of the day for me, it is a neat little romantic story that brings you on a meandering, yet very assured, journey set in the not-too-distant past.

**Reviewed by JJ McDermott**



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

We are now publishing a new AACAI newsletter every quarter. The next issue will be out at the end of 2025. If you would like to contribute (e.g. a short article, a profile, pictures of a recent archaeology event or even a movie review!), please get in touch with us at [aacai.nec@gmail.com](mailto:aacai.nec@gmail.com)

