



NEWSLETTER

1/7

AAA/AIMA 2025 CONFERENCE REVIEW

AACAI once again featured prominently at the annual Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) Conference in December last year. The conference was co-hosted with the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, WA.

As always, AACAI ran the 'Meet the Graduates and Colleagues' event, which was supported by consulting companies from around the country and was very well-attended by students and recent graduates. Congratulations to the winner of the door prize on the night: Lex Glendenning (photo, right, shows Lex receiving his new Garmin GPS from AACAI President Ian Ryan)

AACAI also ran a full day session at the conference entitled 'Embedding ethical practice and Indigenous voice in consulting archaeology.' This was one of the largest sessions AACAI has ever run at AAA, with 16 papers presented. Thanks to all the presenters and contributors, and to Lynley Wallis and JJ McDermott for running the session.

The 2025 Laila Haglund Prize for Excellence in Consultancy was presented by AACAI President Ian Ryan at the conference dinner to Renee McAlister and Jake Ferguson for their paper 'Putting the culture back into cultural heritage management,' which was featured at the AACAI session. The paper brilliantly embodied the intent of the session with its call for more Aboriginal perspectives in consulting practice. Well done to Renee and Jake (blurry photo, right, shows Ian presenting Jake with the award).

We must also mention the AACAI 2025 Annual General Meeting, which was kindly hosted by the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle just prior to the AAA/AIMA Conference. It was a great turn-out with almost 40 people attending in-person and online (photo, right, shows the AGM in action). Well done to Ian and JJ for managing the Audio-Visual for those online! Lots of good discussions and it certainly sets the AACAI National Executive Committee, State Chapters, and sub-committees up well for the busy year ahead.

Finally, many thanks to the organisers of the AAA/AIMA Conference, especially Julie Jerbic for assisting with our session. We would also like to thank outgoing AAA President Rebekah Kurpiel, who has maintained a close working relationship with AACAI over the past few years. We look forward to continuing that with their new executive committee.



NEWSLETTER

2/7

WHAT'S HAPPENING

18 Apr 2026

[Canberra Archaeological Society – Australian Society of Historical Archaeology Annual Symposium](#), National Museum of Australia, Canberra

24-25 Apr 2026

[AACAI WA Lithics Workshop](#), University of Western Australia

1 May 2026

[AICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment Training](#), Burra, South Australia

17-23 May 2026

[National Archaeology Week](#), events across Australia

19 May 2026

[Queensland Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Colloquium](#), University of Queensland, Brisbane

22 May 2026

[Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners Workshop](#), Museum of Sydney

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the 2025 AGM in Fremantle in December, it was confirmed that no new nominations for new-term National Executive Committee (NEC) office-bearers or Membership Committee (MC) members were received. Given that the current NEC office-bearers and MC members were voted in on the 24th of April 2024, technically they do not need to step down until their two-year term is up. As such, all current NEC office-bearers or MC members were willing to continue in their roles casually until the 2026 AGM. As a reminder, the current teams are as follows:

National Executive Committee

- Ian Ryan (President)
- Lynley Wallis (Vice-President)
- JJ McDermott (Secretary)
- Sarah de Koning (Treasurer)
- Matthew Barber (Returning/Public Officer)
- Kane Ditchfield (Membership Secretary)

Membership Committee

- Kane Ditchfield (WA)
- Robyn Jenkins (QLD)
- JJ McDermott (WA)
- David Nutley (NSW)
- Bec Parkes (NSW)
- Jo Thomson (WA)
- Lynley Wallis (QLD)
- Alan Williams (NSW)

Since the 2025 AGM, various AACAI sub-committees have kicked into action for 2026. Below is a list of all the subcommittees on the go:

Policies Updates Committee

- Jim Stedman (WA)
- Robin Jenkins (QLD)
- Josara de Lange (VIC)
- Neale Draper (SA)
- Wayne Beck (TAS)
- Bec Parkes (NSW)

Social Media Committee

- Oscar Beighton (WA)
- Leah Tepper (VIC)
- Fenella Atkinson (NSW)
- Lynley Wallis (QLD)
- JJ McDermott (WA)

Student Support Fund Committee

- Tessa Boer-Mah (NSW)
- JJ McDermott (WA)
- Jim Stedman (WA)
- Lynley Wallis (QLD)
- Chris Clark (VIC)
- Alice Gorman (SA)

Strategic Plan Committee

- Ian Ryan (WA)
- Jo Thomson (WA)
- JJ McDermott (WA)

Corporate Registration Committee

- Ian Ryan (WA)
- Jim Wheeler (VIC)
- Emma Beckett (WA)

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

3/7

AACAI

AACAI STUDENT SUPPORT FUND 2026

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS IN 2026

Full Member

Andrew Cooper (WA)

Associate Members

Niamh Quinn (WA)

Jarrold Paul (VIC)

Chae Byrne (WA)

Affiliate Member

Sally Burgess (WA)

Honorary Member

Annie Bickford (NSW)

References for Members

[AACAI Constitution](#)

[AACAI Code of Ethics](#)

[AACAI Policies](#)

[Strategic Plan 2015-2025](#)

[Complaints Procedure](#)

[JAACA](#)

[Awards and Funds](#)

[Member Directory](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Standards](#)

[Media Releases](#)

[Newsletters](#)

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



STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

FOR HONOURS AND COURSEWORK
MASTERS STUDENTS



After last year's successful re-launch, AACAI is happy to announce the continuation of our Student Support Fund for 2026. The AACAI Student Support 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. Since then, we have distributed \$74,200 to 41 recipients. Most of the funds come from generous donations by archaeological consultants around Australia, with AACAI also contributing.

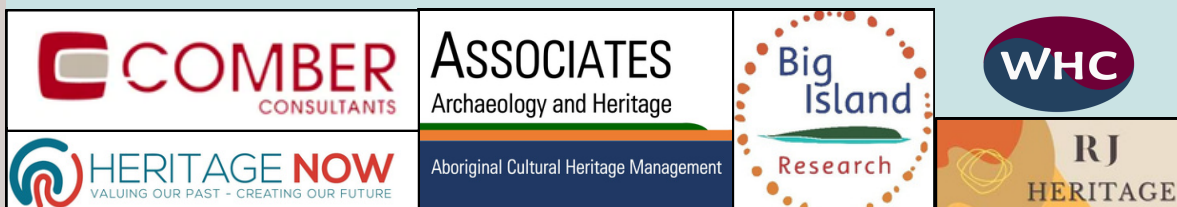
Thank you to this year's donors: [Comber Consultants](#), [Associates Archaeology & Heritage](#), [Wallis Heritage Consulting](#), [Big Island Research](#), [Heritage Now](#), and [RJ Heritage](#).

The Fund is managed by a subcommittee of the Association with applications assessed and awarded in a regulated process.

Students are able to spend the money in the way that they decide is appropriate, either to support research costs or to assist with living expenses. No receipting of expenses is required; however, the recipient is requested to acknowledge AACAI in their thesis and any published material resulting from the research. Publication of at least an abstract (though we would prefer a full paper) in the [Journal of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists \(JAACA\)](#), is also requested, as well as a post in the [AACAI Newsletter](#).

Information for the AACAI Student Support Fund 2026 can be accessed here: <https://www.aacai.com.au/services/prizes-awards/aacai-student-support-fund/>

The deadline for this year's fund is 30 April 2026.



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

4/7

TELL OTHERS TO JOIN AACAI

Google 'Join AACAI'
or scan this QR Code



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

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 WA CHAPTER

The inaugural Western Australia Archaeology and Heritage Assembly (WAAHA!!!) was hosted at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle on 13 February 2026.

AACAI was proud to be a supporter of this event along with the Western Australian Museum, the University of Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame.

We commend the organising committee (led by AACAI members Emma Beckett and Alistair Paterson) for bringing together over 100 people working in WA archaeology and cultural heritage management for a day of important sector updates, exciting talks from early career archaeologists, discussions on recent discoveries and future directions, and an informative panel on legislation. Thank you to all who took part. Already looking forward to WAAHA 2027!



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

5/7

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.

NEWS FROM THE WA CHAPTER

The AACAI WA Chapter made some changes to their State Executive at the 2025 AGM:

- Chair: Emma Beckett
- Vice-Chair: Jo Thomson
- Secretary: Lucia Clayton
- Treasurer: Wendy Reynen
- State Delegate: Oscar Beighton
- Alternate Delegate: Hamish McGregor



Thanks to John Marrell for his many years of service as the State Treasurer, and to Wendy Reynen and Annabelle Davis for serving as State Delegates to the NEC for the past two years. Well done to Oscar and Hamish for stepping up!

The Events Committee will continue in 2026 with JJ McDermott, Annabelle Davis, Lucia Clayton, Emma Beckett, Oscar Beighton and Sarah de Koning working together to organise seminars, training and social gatherings to benefit our members as well as prospective members.

The Safety Committee is all set up for 2026 with Annabelle Davis and Joe Dortch leading things there. The Mentoring, Education, Training and Professional Development committee is also set up with Emma Beckett, Jo Thomson, Caroline Bird and Annabelle Davis.

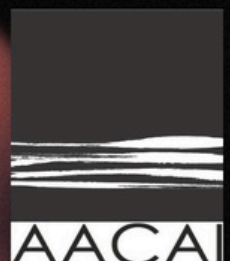
We are delighted to welcome four new AACAI WA members since the start of 2026, and WE look forward to seeing them at our upcoming events...

After the successful WAAHA event in February, AACAI WA now focus their attention on organising a two-day workshop on lithics by renowned Australian archaeologist Peter Hiscock. This will be run at UWA and is supported by the [Desert People Project](#) - details below (click the image for the link).

AACAI WA INVITES YOU TO A TWO-DAY

LITHICS WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION
\$300 AACAI MEMBERS
& STUDENTS
\$400 GENERAL
SPACES LIMITED



PROFESSOR
PETER HISCOCK



SUPPORTED BY THE DESERT
PEOPLE PROJECT, UWA

24-25 APRIL 2026

ALL DAY FRIDAY & SATURDAY

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CRAWLEY, WA

CATERING PROVIDED



WWW.AACAI.COM



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

6/7

AACAI

NEWS FROM THE NSW/ACT CHAPTER

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Membership renewals for the 2025-26 financial year have been sent out to all members.

However, some members have not yet paid their fees for the year and as such, remain non-financial, which means they cannot serve on committees or vote at meetings.

If you have not received an invoice from Angela, please check your spam or contact her [here](#).

Please note that 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.

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](#).

The AACAI NSW/ACT Chapter made some changes to their State Executive at the 2025 AGM:

- Chair: Gary Marriner
- Vice-Chair: Bec Parkes
- Secretary: Michael Lever (casual)
- Treasurer: Fenella Atkinson (casual)
- State Delegate: Jillian Comber
- Alternate Delegate: Matthew Barber



Michael Lever and Fenella Atkinson stepped down from their respective State Secretary and Treasurer roles at the AGM, but in the absence of new nominations, both Michael and Fenella agreed to continue in the roles in an interim capacity. The NSW/ACT Chapter are calling on members to step up, so please get in touch with the State Executive at AACAINSWACTChapter@gmail.com if you are interested.

Building on successful workshops held in late 2025, a stone tool and artefact identification workshop was run with the support of the AACAI NSW/ACT Chapter in March. The workshop was presented by Dr Trudy Doelman and organised by Heritage Now. Based on feedback from last year, the format was modified slightly to allow more time and more hands-on experience. The workshop booked out and was a great success, with comments including:

- 'Trudy's enthusiasm and complete knowledge of stone tools especially in NSW was so valuable.'
- 'The practical, hands-on aspect, involving touching artefacts and rocks, complimented the theoretical aspect very well!'
- 'Being able to feel and see real examples helps to consolidate knowledge and relates to real world experience.'
- 'Hands-on, seeing artefacts, and being able to ask Trudy questions was great.'



Stone Tools Workshop

Wed 18th March, 2026
Leichhardt, NSW



Stone Tool and Artefact
identification

Presented by Dr Trudy Doelman

9:30am - 1:30pm



WWW.AACAI.COM



NEWSLETTER

7/7

AACAI

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 VIC CHAPTER

2026 Victorian Archaeology Colloquium

The annual Victorian Archaeology Colloquium was held in February 2026. The Colloquium is a key annual forum, which provides an opportunity to share the results of recent research on the archaeology and cultural heritage of Victoria, including archaeological, historical, and Traditional Owner perspectives, and is held annually at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Due to the popularity of the event, the 2026 Victorian Archaeology Colloquium was held in a larger venue at La Trobe University to accommodate all the face-to-face attendees.

The program explored a broad range of topics such as discussions on self-determination, relationships between deep knowledge of Country and artefacts, emerging scientific dating techniques, historical archaeology assemblage interpretations, shipwrecks with mistaken identities, and the history of archaeological fieldwork methodologies in Australia.

All presentations involving Aboriginal cultural heritage were co-presented and approved by the appropriate Traditional Owners, highlighting the importance of self-determination within our industry.

We look forward to seeing the proceedings and additional papers within the 2027 edition of the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium publication: *Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria*.

(photo, top right, shows the Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri Woiwurrung man Thane Garvey to kick off the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium)

Upcoming Cultural Values Recording Workshop

The Victorian Chapter is currently in the process of planning a Cultural Values Recording Workshop on Gunditjmara Country.

The Cultural Values Recording workshop will be a two-day intensive, held in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and with the involvement of experts such as historians, anthropologists and archaeologists.

The workshop is set to held in the latter half of 2026.

Stay tuned for more information!



Want to contribute to the next AACAI newsletter? Please get in touch with us at aacai.nec@gmail.com

