

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

AACAI welcomes you to our second newsletter of 2026. In this issue, we celebrate Australia's **National Archaeology Week** (17-23 May 2026), which 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. [#2026NAW](#).

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 this week.

On Thursday 21 May at the Chau Chak Wing Museum in Camperdown, NSW, a **panel and Q&A** celebrating women working in archaeology, cultural and environmental heritage management took place, and it included AACAI members Bec Parkes, Felicity Barry and Jillian Comber.

On Friday 22 May, Georgia Stannard (AACAI member) and Georgia Williams presented an online webinar entitled **Digging Deeper: Using Simulated Excavations to Transform Learning** on behalf of the Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL).

AACAI also partnered with the Inner West Council Library and History in NSW and the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) to present a session entitled **Discover Archaeology** at the Ashfield Library on Saturday 23 May. AACAI members Fenella Atkinson, Paul Irish and Bengi Selvi-Lamb joined a line-up of distinguished NSW archaeologists at this free event.

You can browse profiles of **Australian archaeologists here**, and we are delighted to see AACAI members Ebbe Hayes, Jo Thomson, Erica Walther and Michael Lever featured this year. Also, don't forget about the **Annual Bake It! Make It!** competition with lots of prizes on offer for the best archaeology-themed creation.

AACAI would like to commend this year's National Archaeology Week committee of Fenella Atkinson, Caroline Spry, Jacqueline Matthews, Bianca Vecchio, Ngaire Richards, Samantha Stephens, Nadine Stirling, Marcel Teschendorff and Bronwyn Woff for pulling this exciting and substantial program of events together - it is great to see this initiative go from strength to strength since it first began over twenty years ago (a review of the first NAW in 2003 can be found [here](#)).



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AACAI

WHAT'S HAPPENING

17-23 May 2026

National Archaeology
Week, events across
Australia

22 May 2026

Sydney Historical
Archaeology Practitioners
Workshop, Museum of
Sydney

22 May 2026

Cultural Heritage
Practitioners Tasmania
Symposium, Hobart

21-22 Aug 2026

Australasian Society for
Historical Archaeology
(ASHA) Conference 2026,
Brisbane

30 Sep-2 Oct 2026

Australian National
Archaeology Student
Conference (NASC) 2026,
University of Queensland

30 Oct 2026

NSW Aboriginal
Archaeology Forum 2026,
University of Sydney

1-4 Dec 2026

Australian Archaeological
Association (AAA)
Conference 2026, Adelaide

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) Conference 2026

AACAI is pleased to again be hosting a session at the [AAA annual conference](#) to be held on the traditional lands of the Kurna People in Tarntanya/Adelaide between 1 and 4 December 2026.

AACAI invites papers to our session entitled ***Remembering in practice: Consulting archaeology and the future of cultural stories***, which aims to examine the role of consulting archaeologists in shaping how stories of the past are documented, interpreted and shared. This session considers consulting archaeology as a key interface where cultural knowledge, ethics, community and science intersect.

We welcome papers that engage with the following themes:

- Storying the past: Interpreting archaeology as narrative.
- Decolonising practice: Embedding Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural authority in heritage assessments.
- Ethical storytelling: Ensuring accountable representation of cultural narratives.
- Community voice and authority: Collaborative approaches that prioritise community leadership.
- Policy: The role of legislation in enabling—or constraining—community-centred heritage outcomes.

AACAI's commitment to ethical, community-engaged practice positions this session as a platform for examining how consulting archaeology can contribute to an archaeology that not only remembers but responsibly carries stories forward.

Abstracts are to be submitted via the [Abstract Submission Portal here](#) - follow the instructions and please ensure you nominate the AACAI session, which is listed under the theme, *Remembering in practice: Consulting archaeology and the future of cultural stories*, when completing your submission. Deadline is **Friday 3 July**.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

All year

2026 Archaeology Seminar
Series at University of
Western Australia
Every Thursday 3-4pm
More info [here](#)

All year

2026 Centre for
Archaeological Research
Seminar Series at
Australian National
University
Every Friday 3.30-4.30pm
More info [here](#)

All year

2026 Archaeology Seminar
Series at Flinders University
Every Thursday 3-4pm
More info [here](#)

All year

2026 Archaeology Working
Papers Seminar Series at
University of Queensland
Every Friday 3.30-4.30pm
More info [here](#)

All year

Various Archaeology and
Anthropology events at the
University of Southern
Queensland
More info [here](#)

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Australian National Archaeology Student Conference (NASC)

The [National Archaeology Student Conference](#) will be proudly hosted by the University of Queensland (UQ) between 30 September and 2 October 2026. This three-day, student-led gathering will be held both in person on UQ's St Lucia campus in Brisbane and online, bringing together undergraduates, honours candidates, postgraduates, and early-career researchers from across Australia. AACAI is delighted to be a Gold Sponsor of this event, and we hope to have a stand there with information on our membership.

Since 1998, the National Archaeology Student Conference has grown into Australia's largest student-run archaeology event. Each year, NASC relies on a dedicated team of student organisers to curate a diverse program, which has attracted research on both a national and international level.

The almost thirty-year tradition will continue in 2026 with an expanded national committee representing six universities from five Australian states and territories. Comprised entirely of dedicated undergraduate and honours students, the new committee is already gearing up to deliver another outstanding event.

The committee aim to create a welcoming forum where students and early-career researchers can present their latest findings and demonstrate the practical applications of their research. By uniting students with university scholars, museum curators, heritage specialists, and industry leaders, NASC fosters the collaborations and networks that will drive both individual careers and the future of Australian archaeology.

This year, there is a special focus on careers in archaeology. Attendees will connect with industry experts and discover professional pathways at an in-person careers expo – all within a friendly, collaborative atmosphere.

Registration has yet to be announced but please keep updated by checking on the [NASC website](#) or by emailing the NASC team [here](#).



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NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND



Queensland Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Colloquium 2026

After watching somewhat enviously from the sidelines while colleagues in Victoria, NSW and Western Australia met annually, Queensland-based practitioners joined the fray, with the inaugural Queensland Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Colloquium held on 19 May 2026. Approximately 120 people from Traditional Owner organisations, government, cultural heritage consulting companies and academia gathered at the University of Queensland's Atrium venue in Brisbane during National Archaeology Week for a day-long feast of archaeology and cultural heritage knowledge (attendees pictured above, right). The event kicked off with a Welcome to Country provided by Refiti Tovi (pictured above, left), a proud Turrbal custodian and song woman who ended her address with a moving traditional song. 10-minute presentations were then grouped into four sessions:

1. Cultural Heritage Practice, Landscapes and Fieldwork;
2. AI, Data and Emerging Practice;
3. Scientific Methods in Practice; and
4. Policy, Reform and Industry.

There isn't room to go through all the great papers presented, but a few things stood out to me.

A plaintive message was delivered by Andrew Donges, an Iman custodian from Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation: it is unfortunately still the case in Qld that custodians are only invited to participate in consultation after project permits have been issued. As such, Traditional Owners are disadvantaged from the outset in their efforts protecting and managing cultural heritage, and government must lead the way in changing that. It was thus disappointing that there were no representatives from the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism (the agency under which responsibility for cultural heritage in Queensland sits) present at the Colloquium, though there was a strong turn-out from other government agencies including Seqwater and Transport and Main Roads.

Given the recent death of Queensland's first professional archaeologist and AACAI's inaugural President Laila Haglund (whom Michael Westaway eulogised in his opening address), it was great to see another member of the 'old guard' in the form of Mike Rowland reflect on cultural heritage management in the State. Those who know him will not be surprised to hear that Luke Kirkwood – fired up a long time ago by hearing Mike speak (and his constant refrain to the audience to 'remember, I'm old') – gave another rousing presentation on the state of cultural heritage legislation in Qld, entreating us all to respond to the Cultural Heritage Online Portal survey, warning silence or a lackadaisical response will be taken by government as support for the status quo. Luke remained stridently outspoken about the inadequacies in the implementation of Qld's cultural heritage regime (rather than the legislation per se), and made vocal his envy of the Victorian system; in that I strongly suspect he is not alone. (continued on next page...)

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NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

Queensland Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Colloquium 2026 (continued)

I also found the paper offered by native title anthropologist Richard Martin carefully considered. Richard ruminated thoughtfully on the concept of affective inference (White et al. 2026) as sometimes (oftentimes?) appears in archaeological discourse. In an academic setting the inclusion of such notions is usually seen as respectful of Traditional Owner knowledge, and might seem relatively innocuous; however, in different contexts, particularly native title, the practice of uncritically retrojecting feelings and emotion into the past (especially when discussing significance) might prove unintentionally detrimental to custodian interests. In the wake of the 'Barossa decision' handed down in January 2024 by Federal Court Justice Natalie Charlesworth and the scathing indictment therein of the evidence of some purported 'experts', Richard's paper challenges archaeologists to take stock of the broader context in which their findings might be utilised and the possibility of unintended consequences.

Particularly encouraging for AACAI and the future of the industry, there were a great many new faces to be seen at the event, clearly engaged and keen to lead change and strive for improvement. Many thanks to organisers Shoshanna Grounds, Michael Westaway and Luke Kirkwood, as well as the many others working behind the scenes to support this great event. We hope it becomes an annual event moving forward.

Reference: White, D., E.E. Cook and A. De Antoni (eds), 2026. *Affect as Cultural Critique: Methods for Ethnographic Uncovering*. University of Toronto Press.

Review and photos above provided by Lynley Wallis.

Also, a big thank you to Robyn Jenkins for presenting on the benefits of becoming a member of AACAI at the Queensland Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Colloquium. The presentation gave an overview of the association, the role of state chapters and the current work being done by the policies review sub-committee. As Robyn commented afterwards, 'there were some excellent conversations had with potential future members - exciting times ahead!' - photos below provided by Lynley Wallis and Robyn Jenkins.



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NEWS FROM TASMANIA



Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania Symposium 2026

The Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania Symposium 2026 was held on Friday 22 May in Nipaluna/Hobart on the traditional lands of the Muwinina people. Organised by Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania, the event brought together industry practitioners, government representatives, and members of the Aboriginal community to share current research, practice insights, and community perspectives on Lutruwita/Tasmania's cultural heritage. This year's symposium also marked two significant milestones: 50 years since the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and 30 years since the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* (both Tasmania state legislation).

Across both Aboriginal and historical heritage, the program explored a wide range of themes. Presentations traced the evolution of Lutruwita/Tasmania's heritage legislation from the 1970s to the present, with guest speakers including Caleb Pedder and AACAI life member Professor Richard Mackay reflecting on their experiences within the Tasmanian heritage management landscape over the past five decades.

A major focus of the day was discussion of the newly proposed draft *Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026*. Speakers from industry, the Palawa/Pakana Aboriginal community, and the Tasmanian Government (Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania) offered feedback and perspectives on the draft bill. This part of the symposium commenced with Michael Mansell, highlighting the importance of Aboriginal consultation during legislative reform and the ownership of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Lutruwita/Tasmania, which currently lies with the State, rather than Traditional Owners. Jamin Moon (First Peoples–State Relations, VIC) provided a valuable reflection on 20 years of Victoria's *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, highlighting challenges and legislative shortcomings that may offer lessons for Tasmania's reform process. AACAI is currently preparing a formal response to the draft legislation, aligning with many of the concerns raised during the symposium.

The symposium also examined the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, with contributions from state and local government, heritage architects, and archaeologists. Speakers identified key gaps in the current legislation and proposed pathways to strengthen the protection and management of Tasmania's historical heritage. Notably, Dr Jennifer Jones-Travers highlighted the concerning absence of any legislated framework for historical archaeology within the Act. Drawing comparisons with New South Wales and Victoria, she outlined more effective models for managing, protecting, and conserving historical archaeology and suggested how similar approaches could be adopted in Tasmania. AACAI shares these concerns and supports the management improvements proposed.

AACAI acknowledges the significant efforts of Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania in convening this event and recognises the symposium as an important forum for professional exchange and forward-looking discussion. We look forward to seeing how these conversations inform future legislation and shape heritage practice in Lutruwita/Tasmania.

Review and photos above provided by Christopher Clark.



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VALE DR LAILA B. HAGLUND (1934-2026)

AACAI are deeply saddened by the recent news of the passing of Laila Haglund at her home in Sydney. Laila was the founding President of our Association and served in that position from 1980 to 1983.

Born in Sweden, north of the Arctic Circle, Laila studied Latin, Greek, and Classical Archaeology at the University of Lund. She visited Australia in 1956-57, where she worked on Cypriot pottery with Professor Jim Stewart and his wife Eve. Her interest in Australian archaeology grew during this time, when she also met V. Gordon Childe. She moved to England to study archaeology at the University of London, and participated in excavations of Roman and medieval sites but also spent summers in northern Sweden, surveying and excavating archaeological sites there. When she completed her studies, she moved to Queensland in 1965.

Laila directed excavations at the Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground on the Gold Coast, a site uncovered by local contractors who were removing soil for sale as lawn top-dressing. There was no legislation in place to protect the remains at the time, and the site was at considerable risk. Laila went on to receive a MA from the University of Queensland and a PhD from Stockholm University based on her work at Broadbeach. Through Laila's advocacy, the remains from the Broadbeach site were returned and reburied by the local Aboriginal community (the Kombumerri people), and this work is seen a key event in the history of Queensland's cultural heritage. Indeed, Laila would go on to influence the recognition of archaeology and Aboriginal heritage in legislation, both in Queensland and NSW.

Along with other key archaeologists consulting in New South Wales at the time, Laila was a great advocate for the professionalisation of archaeology in Australia, and the formation of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists (later to be known as AACAI) in 1979 grew out of this advocacy. As she explained in a 1992 interview with Alice Gorman (featured in [AACAI Newsletter Number 50](#)):

'It seemed to me that there was absolutely no point just going out and getting archaeological information and then not really dealing with it. Obviously, that was not either what the clients or National Parks expected. We had to work out where we stood and how we could deal with these things well. Doing that was not going to be any kind of amateur business—if we were going to do it properly we had to do it as professionals.'

Laila was the first to be granted life membership of AACAI in 2009, and her immense contribution to professional archaeology in Australia is celebrated annually with the [Laila Haglund Prize for Excellence in Consulting](#), presented by AACAI at the Australian Archaeological Association conference.

She will be greatly missed but her influence and impact will live on in our Association, as well as our profession as a whole. We all owe an huge debt to the foundational work of people like Laila. We pass on our condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

Words provided by JJ McDermott with help from an article written by Lynley Wallis, Alice Gorman and Jacq Matthews [here](#). AACAI are hoping to organise a memorial for Laila in Sydney in September - details to follow.



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VALE DR VALERIE (VAL) ATTENBROW (1942-2026)

AACAI would like to acknowledge and celebrate the life of Valerie (Val) Attenbrow, who passed away peacefully in Sydney on 5 May 2026. Val was a veteran of cultural heritage management, having served on the inaugural National Executive of AACAI in 1980 and as its President in 1984.

Many archaeologists were lucky enough to know Val personally, but even those who did not still knew her through her work. Her book *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, now over 20 years old, remains an archaeological and historical bible for those working in Sydney, and her extensive work at Mangrove Creek, on backed and ground-edged artefacts, along with a host of other publications shows the impressive breadth and innovation of her diligent research.



Her legacy, particularly for those working in Sydney, is everywhere. You know that when you come across something Val has written – from her university honours thesis, to subsequent early consulting projects, to her research work at Mangrove Creek and then around Sydney Harbour, it will be thorough, well-referenced and reliable.

She was prolific over five decades, most notably during her time as Principal Research Scientist in the Anthropology Research Section of the Australian Museum from 1989, winning a number of well-deserved awards including the coveted Rhys Jones Medal in 2019 and the 2021 Australian Museum Research Institute Lifetime Achievement Award. She also worked ethically with Aboriginal communities around Sydney and elsewhere, gaining respect for her collaborative approach, as well as her strong desire to give the public a better understanding of the presence, the deep connections, the resilience and the adaptability of Aboriginal people and culture.

Val was attuned to contemporary Aboriginal issues through regular chats with Aboriginal community members in the course of her work and down the road from her house at Café Abercrombie. She championed the use of Aboriginal place names and could be a staunch advocate, such as her methodical, reasoned and convincing expert report five years ago on the state government's proposal to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam. When common sense subsequently prevailed and the project was abandoned, it was in no small part due to the gravitas that such a respected scholar as Val brought to bear in her submission.

Val was a huge influence on the lives and careers of many archaeologists, not least my own. She seemed to be unstoppable. I clearly remember at the end of her retirement function at the Museum someone saying 'see you on Monday!' But time catches up with us all and while we mourn Val's passing, I am confident that she will live on through her work and through the influence her friendship, mentoring, collaboration and wise counsel has had on so many people, whose own work will reflect this for many decades to come. She was a shining example of something we tend to overlook in chaotic times – the quiet achievers who make our lives better and richer for having known them, and the enduring legacies of their work.

Those who wish to learn more about Val's remarkable career can view an interview with her after she received the Australian Museum Research Institute Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 [here](#).

Words provided by Dr Paul Irish. Image is copyright of Australian Museum and Peter White.





NEWSLETTER

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AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

Dr Colin Pardoe - AACAI Life Member - ACT

Where are you usually based?

Canberra. I concentrate on the Murray Darling Basin.

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm retired, but you will learn that archaeologists never stop until we become part of the archaeological record. I have two main paths: Archaeology in the service of Conservation, mainly on the Murray River floodplain, working with local colleagues and a loose collective of Aboriginal organisations [Barapa, Yorta, Wemba mainly]; and Ground Stone Tools (GSTs) - I am writing a book with Richard Fullagar and Ebbe Hayes on GSTs in Australia.



Why do you think AACAI membership is important?

Being a member of a group gives you a sense of not being alone. Trite, but I found it important where many of us were sole traders, trying to figure out how this all worked.

Some of the practicalities that we encountered were important for everyone. reminding membership that driving huge distances, often late into the evening, was not in anyone's interest. The heritage and the next job could wait. Trying to ensure that everyone had access to proper insurances.

If we could push somewhat harder, it would be very useful to be recognised as the only accrediting body for commercial archaeology. And it would be very useful for AACAI to give direction on writing for our audiences. It is important for us to write and interpret archaeological findings for our main audiences, Aboriginal groups and local communities. We focus on writing for the regulator and the developer, yet these audiences have no need of that.

Tell us more about your interest in archaeology

I was one of those kids who came to awareness already obsessed with archaeology and bones. My archaeological worldview is mainly spatial, and reflects a training at the time that processual archaeology was developing. It coincided with my interests in biology, leading to studies in Australia that were about the links between groups based on biology - marriage within and between groups. My material based archaeology was and is similar; cultural links between people, in this case based on trade of ground stone tools across the Murray Darling Basin.

'Archaeology in the service of Conservation' has become an overpowering focus for me. Who would have thought that the archaeology of settlement patterns on the Murray River would find great use in helping to keep some small-bodied fish species from going extinct? And in doing so, has proven to be immensely informative about the nature of those settlements.

I still help with skeletal remains [identification and provenancing] where warranted.





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AACAI MEMBER PROFILES

Michael Williams - AACAI Associate Member - NSW/Queensland

Where are you usually based?

For 10 years I was based in Central West QLD, servicing LGAs and other clients with CH/Native Title/Environmental compliance on engineering projects.

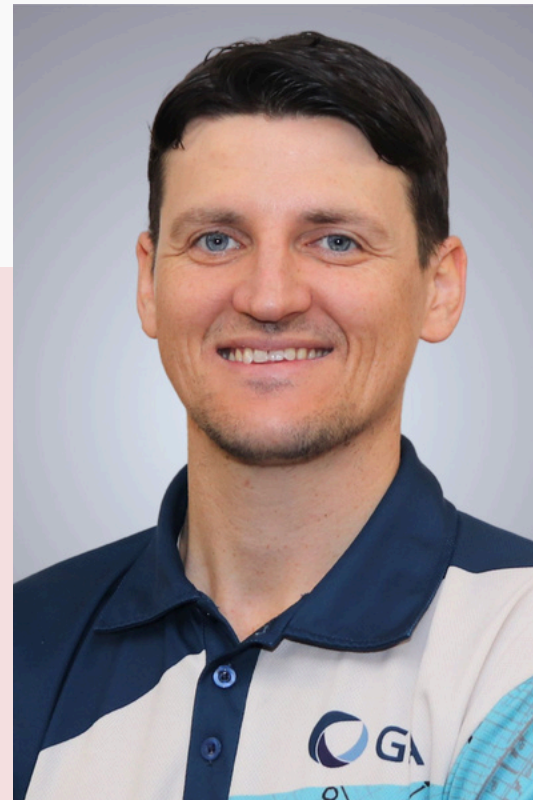
I'm now based in the Southern Highlands NSW, near where I grew up, went to uni, and did my first consulting archaeology jobs around regional and metropolitan NSW.

What are you working on at the moment?

I've mainly been conducting/managing/facilitating CH desktop assessments, First Nations engagement and CH field assessments, CH management agreements/plans and ILUA negotiations on behalf of LGAs, and occasionally for private clients.

Due to the remoteness of regional QLD, most CH sites that require protection are Indigenous, which is my main passion. However, we also conduct historical heritage assessments, and on occasion manage heritage conservation plans.

The rest of my work is filled with the management of regulatory compliance, consultation with state agencies, environmental management plans, and the management of a small but fantastic team of CH, Environmental, and Project Officers.



Why do you think AACAI membership is important?

AACAI provides a forum for remote/new workers, to connect with archaeological professionals and uphold contemporary standards of commercial/academic archaeological practice in Australia.

I'm now looking to network throughout NSW, so please reach out if you need assistance, or can provide some advice on finding NSW-based clients.

Tell us more about your interest in archaeology

My interest sparked from ancient history, developed into maritime and Indigenous Australian archaeology, took me across Australia and overseas to study/volunteer on terrestrial and maritime archaeological sites/programs, and eventually towards settling down in a steady job to raise a family.

I feel compelled to do what I can to learn, record, and preserve cultural heritage, to a capacity that helps First Nations People attain agency and ownership of their country.

My company, GBA Consulting Engineers, aims to "engineer the outback" and provide compliant, fit-for-purpose professional services to regional Australia, which I endeavour to incorporate into our CH/NT/ENV compliance processes/services.





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STUDENT SUPPORT FUND AWARD WINNER 2025 - THESIS SUMMARY

Mythological vs Material?

A Critical Comparison of Management Outcomes and Processes for Mythological and Artefact Scatter Sites in the West Kimberley, Western Australia (1972–2024)

Sayed Zabiullah Nezam

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Candidate, University of Western Australia

The research questions for this thesis are (a) To what extent does the terminology used to classify Indigenous Dreaming Sacred heritage sites, specifically 'mythological', correlate with differences in management outcomes (Disturbance or Conservation) compared to 'artefact scatter' sites in the West Kimberley between 1972 and 2024? (b) Does the language or terminology used in DPLH Site ID files reflect, justify, or reinforce the management outcomes associated with 'mythological' sites? and (c) What are the management practices or strategies of 'mythological' sites in the West Kimberley?

These research questions are analysed through three synthesised theories: Foucault's Genealogy, which analyses the non-discursive formation of concepts such as 'sacred' and 'mythological'; Latour's An Inquiry into the Modes of Existence (AIME) theory describes how these concepts move across historical and institutional contexts or domains; and Quijano's decolonial theory of Coloniality/Decoloniality which situates the data ascertained through this thesis in current systems of domination.

This thesis has two methods to address the research questions: a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA), also known as a desktop survey, addresses whether 'mythological' sites are disturbed more than 'artefact scatter' sites by examining site ID files from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), QGIS mapping, mining tenement reports and Geoscience Australia maps. The Reflexive Thematic Analysis (RTA) analyses patterns in management processes in 'mythological' sites in the West Kimberley, following the usage of the term 'mythological' in DPLH site ID files.

The findings of the DBA show that 'mythological' sites (n = 57) were disturbed 16 times (28.07%), conserved 24 times (42.11%), and it was undetermined whether they were disturbed or conserved 17 times (29.82%). Whereas 'artefact scatter' sites (n = 53) were disturbed 10 times (18.87%), conserved 40 times (75.47%) and undetermined 3 times (5.66%).

The three themes that the RTA produced were (1) The Discursive Function of AHD, which outlines the first step of heritage strategies to undermine the epistemic legitimacy of Dreaming narratives; (2) Institutional Strategies in Dreaming Heritage Management, outlining the institutional strategy of bureaucracy, colonial authority, procedures and authorities of delimitation, or expert validation, which collectively determine the boundaries, significance and management of Indigenous Dreaming heritage sites; and (3) Bureaucratic 'Common-sense', the strategy of normalising and stabilising the association of Dreaming narratives with 'myths'

Therefore, this thesis advocates for further research into disturbance rates across different site types in Western Australia, and in different regions besides the West Kimberley, to find if there is a correlation between certain site types (like 'mythological') and higher rates of protection, or disturbance. It also advocates for more critical reflection on the terms we use to denote Indigenous ways of life and beliefs, to develop better alternatives for collaborative and inclusive approaches to interpreting and classifying heritage sites in Western Australia.



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AACAI

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



Lithics Workshop with Peter Hiscock

On 24 and 25 April, AACAI WA hosted a lithics workshop by renowned Australian archaeologist Peter Hiscock. This engaging workshop was run at the Ocean's Institute at UWA and was kindly supported by the [Desert People Project](#). The first day provided an overview of the basics in lithic technology, while the second day examined in more depth the reasons why we do lithic analysis and explored what kinds of questions we can answer with detailed analyses. The workshop was attended by 30 people, a mix of consultants, students, post-graduates and heritage advisors. It was nice to see a few veterans of the WA consultancy scene attend, but who wouldn't want to see the legendary Peter Hiscock in action?! Peter provided lots of fun anecdotes over the two days and we received much positive feedback from attendees. Thanks to Emma Beckett, Fiona Hu, JJ McDermott, Lohrinn Foley and Peter Veth for helping with the organisation of this fantastic professional development experience.



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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Membership renewals for the 2026-27 financial year have been sent out to all members. Please renew membership by **30 June 2026** to remain financial within the Association.

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

NEWS FROM THE WA CHAPTER



Health and Safety Resources: Fatigue Management

The AACAI WA safety and wellbeing sub-committee recently compiled some useful resources on fatigue management to assist our members and professionals working in consulting archaeology. The resources include information on recognising the signs of fatigue, critical risks, practical tips for employers and employees, and links to online resources and legislation. Thanks to Annabelle Davis, Joe Dortch and Emma Beckett from the AACAI WA safety and wellbeing sub-committee for putting this together.

Also, just a reminder to all AACAI members that when you log-in to your member profile, you have access to this and other helpful resources that have been compiled by the AACAI WA safety and wellbeing sub-committee or previous national executive committees over the past few years. Links below:

- [Initial WA Safety Survey](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Heat Stress Resources](#)
- [Fatigue Management Resources](#)
- [Bullying & Harassment Resources](#)

WA Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage Processes Review

Following an initial [request](#) sent to Glen Kelly of the National Native Title Tribunal last year, AACAI WA provided detailed feedback to the WA Government's review of Native Title and Aboriginal heritage processes. AACAI had previously put out a [media release](#) responding to accusations by the lead Australian mining lobby (and prominent misinformation peddlers), AMEC, of price gouging by heritage consultants. The so-called 'Glen Kelly Review' was handed to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Don Punch, on 9 February 2026, but so far, the Government are resisting calls for it to be publicly released. Of course, in a recent [West Australian article](#) AMEC has once again taken the opportunity to target heritage practitioners' costs as the problem instead of addressing the real issue around the lack of proper guidelines, regulations and processes. AACAI WA will be keeping a close eye on what may happen next with the Glen Kelly Review, and we will continue to advocate for better protections and management of cultural heritage directly with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

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or special interest
Hons/Post-grad
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NEWS FROM THE NSW/ACT CHAPTER



Recent Workshops

AACAI NSW/ACT in collaboration with Heritage Now continued their series of workshops with an Animal Bone Workshop presented by Dr Sofia Samper Carro on 7 May 2026. The workshop was booked out, including four AACAI members who took advantage of the professional development opportunity (and generous discount for members!). Feedback included:

- "Well rounded, best is the bone comparisons for species & ID of bones from the two collections. Handy ID hints will be very useful."
- "I enjoyed the whole workshop. It was a great day and I would recommend this to others."
- "The hands-on time with the bones was invaluable, and Sofia's knowledge was incredible. She was so open to answering questions."

NSW Heritage Strategy

The NSW Minister for Heritage, the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, recently launched the NSW Heritage Strategy, which is a 5-year plan that sets out a long-term direction to create a stronger, more inclusive heritage system in NSW.

For more information and contact details about the strategy, visit the [NSW Government Heritage and Environment webpage](#).

It should be noted that the following clarification is provided on the webpage:

The strategy is designed to complement, but is separate to, the forthcoming reforms to Aboriginal cultural heritage laws in New South Wales (including Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974). The strategy therefore does not include Aboriginal cultural heritage protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 except where it is also listed on the State Heritage Register.



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NEWS FROM THE VIC CHAPTER

Victorian Archaeology Colloquium Publication

Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria is the peer-reviewed proceedings of the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium. This edited volume has been published annually by La Trobe University since 2012. The current editorial team includes Deb Kelly, Elizabeth Foley, David Frankel, Caroline Spry and Susan Lawrence, with the assistance of Ilya Berelov, Shaun Canning and Mark Eccleston. Each volume is made freely available online via La Trobe University's online repositories.

The most recent 14th issue of ***Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria*** has just been published. Each of the articles are based on presentations from the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium held at La Trobe University on 7 February 2025. Below is a list and link of each individual article:

Analytical methods in shell midden analysis: discussing best-practice in modern archaeological methodology - Emmy Frost, Adam Magennis, Jillian Garvey, Amy Prendergast, Matthew Meredith-Williams, Chloe Stringer and Rebekah Kurpiel

Breaking barriers in zooarchaeology. A simplified approach to faunal skeletal analysis - Zachary Carter

Archaeology from Above: Applications of LiDAR in Australian archaeology and cultural heritage - Bradley Young, Greg Hil, Jamie Rachcoff, Paul Penzo-Kajewski, Martin Tomko and Rebekah Kurpiel

Capped Country: Assessing the presence and implications of historical gold mining and sludge for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management—with an example from Wadawurrung Country - Greg Hil, Rebekah Kurpiel, Susan Lawrence, Kristen Ellis, Billy-Jay O'Toole, Kyle O'Toole, Kaelan Morrison, Alexandra Fagan, Josephine Verducci, Ashleigh Murszewski, David Collard and Ilya Berelov

An archaeological signature for ceramic dealers in nineteenth century Melbourne - Natalie Paynter

The archaeology of marginal communities in the Literature Lane Archaeological precinct - Cornelia de Rochefort, Sharon Lane, Megan Goulding and Jennifer Porter

Heritage Victoria's Maritime Heritage at Risk Program: 10 Years On - Dario De Bortoli

REFERENCES FOR AACAI MEMBERS

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