

President's Foreword

It is one of the signs of a maturing discipline that we now have the opportunity to look back over a span of several decades and appreciate the efforts of those who lay the foundations for what we do. It is therefore with great pleasure that ASHA dedicates this volume to Prof. Graham Connah and celebrates his outstanding contributions to the establishment and continuing development of historical archaeology in Australasia. As others will document in detail, Graham's roles have been manifold, as founder and editor of our journal *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, as committee member, Vice President and President of the society, as teacher and supervisor for hundreds of students, as a researcher in his own right and as an advocate for historical archaeology in general.

I think one of the things that we need to keep firmly in mind with Graham Connah and indeed so many of the founding members and contributors is that they were not obliged to do any of this hard work to establish a new sub-field that was sometimes far from their own interests. Graham is an eminent international scholar of African archaeology and a prolific author, and throughout his career had a full portfolio

of teaching and administration to fill his days. Despite this he saw the value in developing historical archaeology in Australasia as a serious and rigorous academic discipline, bringing the full force of his international reputation, wisdom and energies to the task. The standards he set for the journal were high, and his erudition and exacting eye for detail has remained on call for later generations of editors. Those of us who have been on the receiving end of his incisive reviews and critiques sometimes quailed at the sight of his red pen, but have also appreciated and benefited from the clarity of his comments. On a broader scale, for over 30 years he has been a stalwart supporter of the journal and our conferences, attending and contributing even through his retirement, when many others have fallen by the wayside.

ASHA sends its thanks to Graham and hopes that this volume serves in part as recognition of our high regard for him.

MARTIN GIBBS