

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

To the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Inc

July 2010 to June 2011

The past 14 months have been busy and at times quite frustrating. ASHA has been active politically over this time by making representation:

- To the Tasmanian Minister for Parks, Environment and Heritage advocating the appointment of a historical archaeologist to the new Heritage Council. The Minister acted to cancel the terms of all the Heritage Council members effective 31 December 2010. To date ASHA member Brad Williams has been doing a sterling job representing historical archaeology on the Tasmanian Heritage Council but there is no guarantee that historical archaeology will be represented on the new Council. New members will begin their term on 1 January 2012 and are to be appointed as the result of an Expression of Interest process with the final Council members to be selected by the Minister. Brad has renominated and we all hope that he can serve another term;
- To the Director of Heritage Tasmania over the lack of staff within Heritage Tasmania with any significant historical archaeological experience despite its statutory role in providing the professional advice required to guide the Tasmanian Heritage Council in its decision making about historical archaeological places;
- To the Queensland Minister for Environment regarding the imminent retirement of ASHA member Gordon Grimwade from the Queensland Heritage Council. ASHA does not have a representative on the Queensland Heritage Council and there is no statutory requirement for an archaeologist on the Council. Gordon is currently the National Trust representative and with his retirement from the Council at the end of 2011 there will be no archaeological representation on the Council. This is of concern since the Queensland Heritage Register lists 176 places with historical archaeological values, a number that exceeds any other Australian state. Approximately 17% of the new entries to the Register each year include archaeological values as part of their criteria for entry and since the 2008 amendments the category of Archaeological Place has been added to the Register;
- Submission to the ERA regarding the ranking of the ASHA Journal *Australasian Historical Archaeology*. Although this ranking approach has now been scrapped, there will certainly be quality measures instituted for the journal and other undertakings such as our listing on JStor which will hopefully enhance our journal's ranking when this kind of exercise recommences.

ASHA supported the NeCTAR grant application entitled *eResearch Tools: Archaeological Information Management Systems* submitted by the University of New South Wales in collaboration with La Trobe University, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, Flinders University, The University of Western Australia, James Cook University, Australian National University and many other organisations. Should this proposal be funded ASHA will make an in-kind contribution by providing access to its archive of journal back-issues, occasional papers and some monographs. We will also send a representative to the project workshops, broadcast project updates to our members and evaluate project milestones at executive meetings.

I also represented ASHA an Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities workshop entitled 'Challenges presented by heritage-listed dilapidated structures and ruins' held in Melbourne on 6 April 2011. This workshop brought together heritage professional and advocates from around the country to discuss issues fundamental to the management of historical archaeological places.

ASHA provided support for the bid for Perth and Fremantle to host the 6th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology (IKUWA 6) in 2016.

In addition I have met regularly with Lynley Wallis, the President of the Australian Archaeological Association, to discuss issues of relevance to both associations and have had some discussions with AIMA over a joint conference in Western Australia in 2012.

When I took over the Presidency at the September 2010 Annual General Meeting I said that that there were two things that I wanted to achieve during the next year: one was to get the journal back to being published on time in December each year; and the second was to grow the membership base of the Society. As you will be aware neither of these things has been achieved because of a series of confounding issues that have occurred. Karen Murphy, in her Treasurer's Report details the complex issues we have had in dealing with PayPal and I want to thank Karen, Geraldine and Brad for the hard work they have put into rectifying that long-standing issue. As of late October the PayPal problems seem to have been resolved and now members can renew their membership through the website and new members can join in the same way. Regarding the journal, we finally managed to get the December 2010 volume out in July 2011 and we are working hard on volume 29 to have it out as soon as possible. I want to thank Tracy Ireland and Linda Terry for all their efforts to achieve this outcome. Linda in particular took on the unpaid and heavy role of editorial assistant on volumes 28 and 29 to ensure that the association met its commitments to its members. One way we can all work towards getting the journal out on time is by supporting it through submitting high quality articles to it. I am sure the Editor's report will go into more detail about this.

But now these structural problems have been, or are close to being, resolved I remain committed to increasing the membership base and therefore the significance of ASHA. This is particularly important given the advocacy role that we undertake for historical archaeology.

