



ASHA

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ASHA Inc.
PO Box 2497
North Parramatta
NSW 1750

secretary@asha.org.au
www.asha.org.au

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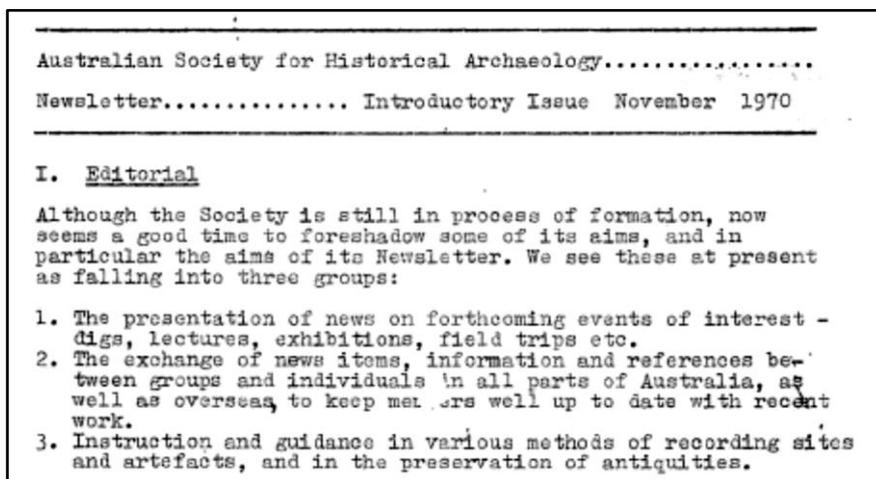
EDITORIAL

Aleisha Buckler

As part of the Society's recent rebranding and new website development, ASHA is planning to transition to a new digital format for its quarterly newsletter. Preparations are still underway, but we are hoping to move to the new digital format before the next issue is released. The Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) is also shifting to a digital newsletter format, and in its final printed newsletter, editor Alasdair Brooks looked back at what was making headlines in the newsletter's earliest available (digitised) issue, published in March 1972. As this issue of the ASHA newsletter marks my very first as editor and possibly the last in its traditional format, I thought it would be fitting to undertake a similar exercise and hark back to the beginnings of the ASHA newsletter. Fortunately, ASHA has an archive of all past newsletters available for download on our website (<http://www.asha.org.au/newsletters/>).

An introductory issue of the newsletter was released in late 1970, during the early stages of the Society's establishment (at that time the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology), with the first official volume being issued the following year, in April 1971. Bottle collecting, museum collections, early Australian pottery, and excavations at Irrawang and Wybalenna feature in these early issues. The newly established Society was also pleased to report that over 100 people had purchased memberships, with many more expressing interest.

The introductory issue also laid out the main aim of the newsletter: namely the presentation of news on forthcoming events and other items of interest. The issue called for submissions reporting on relevant activities, and information about local publications and museum collections. It noted too that contributions from members form an essential part of the newsletter, which remains true today – 45 years on. The past few newsletters (including this one) have been rather light in terms of content, so I'd like to take this opportunity to remind members that we welcome contributions about historical archaeological news and activities in your area and ask that you send these to your State Representative for publication here.



Excerpt taken from the front page of the introductory issue of the ASHA Newsletter published November 1970.

STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CWTH)

City of Broken Hill

On 20 January 2015 the City of Broken Hill was entered into the National Heritage List (NHL) – the 103rd entry. This is the first whole city – not just a city plan, as in the case of Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout – to be placed on the NHL. The entire local government area of 16, 770 hectares has been included. The place was judged to be above the threshold for eight of the nine NHL criteria.

To quote, in part, from the summary statement of significance:

The City of Broken Hill has outstanding significance to the nation for its role in creating enormous wealth, for its long, enduring and continuing mining operations, and the community's deep and shared connection with Broken Hill as the isolated city in the desert, its outback landscape, the planned design and landscaping of the town, the regeneration areas and particularly the physical reminders of its mining origins such as the Line of Lode, the barren mullock heaps, tailings, skimps and slagheap escarpment and relict structures. It exhibits historic qualities in its ongoing mining operations since 1883, the current and relict mining infrastructure and its landscape setting. It is significant for its industrial past and the adoption of vanguard industrial relations and management policies, together with its role as a pioneer in setting occupational health and safety standards.

The full place record can be viewed at: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105861

Australian Heritage Week 2015

Australian Heritage Week is an annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage. In 2015 Australian Heritage Week will be held from Saturday 12 April until Sunday 19 April. This covers two weekends and includes World Heritage Day (officially the International Day for Monuments and Sites, endorsed by UNESCO in 1983), which is held each year on 18 April. This special day offers an opportunity to raise public awareness about the diversity of the world's heritage, its vulnerability, and protection and conservation efforts.

The Department encourages all communities to get involved with planning and hosting a range of exciting activities during Australian Heritage Week that show-case their unique local heritage to the rest of the country.

Events that occur between **12 March and 14 May 2015** can be registered for Australian Heritage Week 2015 now at: <http://heritage-week.govspace.gov.au/>

Communities are also encouraged to register heritage events that occur outside this period as Upcoming Events and Announcements on *Australia's Community Heritage* website: <http://www.communityheritage.net.au/>

Material supplied by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE, ACT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

World War I Trenches in Canberra

The use of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve as a trench and warfare bombing school is a little-known story in Canberra's history, and one that is particularly relevant with the 100 year anniversary of World War I.

It started in 2014 when consultant and writer Mark Butz began preparing a history of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve in Canberra. This revealed that during World War I, the northern part of the Reserve was used by the Duntroon AIF Officer Training School as a trench and warfare bombing school. Between 1916 and 1917, seven schools used the Reserve to learn about trench and dugout design, saps and listening posts, explosives, and weapons such as trench catapults and mortars. For training purposes, a trench system covering 15 acres was constructed on the Molonglo river bank, which was still visible on aerial photographs in the 1940s. After 1917, the trenches were largely unattended and fell into disrepair, but drew the interest of young adventurers and posed an ongoing hazard to agisted cattle, until they were filled in during 1936 by a lessee to secure the paddock for grazing stock and weed control.

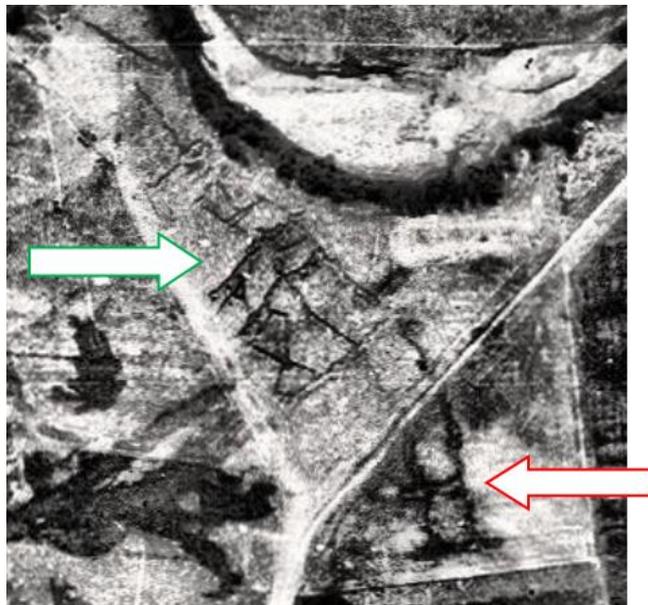
Collaborations between the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, the Jerrabomberra Wetlands management Committee and the Australian National University in 2014 has identified opportunities for the archaeological investigation of the former trench and warfare bombing school. In November 2014, a geophysics survey was undertaken within the Reserve by a team from the ANU using ground penetrating radar, magnetometer survey and resistivity survey. Results are currently being processed, but anomalies have been detected which could point to the location of former trenches. To further investigate the site, ANU archaeology Tim Denham is planning initial excavations in 2015, using controlled mechanical excavation to remove overlying fill and hopefully detect the former trench system. This process was initiated and is supported through the work of the Manager of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, John Freeman.

It is hoped the ongoing historical and archaeological investigation of the area may reveal further significant information the area, and form the basis of future interpretation opportunities within the Reserve.

The outcomes of the research will be made available to the public, and Mark Butz will deliver a presentation titled 'The Intriguing History of Jerrabomberra Wetlands' at the National Archives of Australia on 20 May 2015, with tickets able to be purchased through the National Trust ACT.



Catapult for bomb throwing, Trench Warfare and Bombing School Duntroon, 20 April 1916 (NLA: PIC/11209/7 LOC).



Duntroon trench system in detail of air photo (enhanced contrast) in 1940, four years after the road was constructed through the system (NLA: Aerial photo Queanbeyan, Run 1, 29 March 1940).

Material supplied by Meaghan Russell

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (CAS) AND ANU

Springbank Archaeology Project

(See also previous newsletter Volume 44 No.4)

Springbank Island in Canberra is the site for early European settlement. Now in the middle of Lake Burley Griffin, Sullivans homestead once sat atop of a hill overlooking the Molonglo River. A Canberra Archaeology Society (CAS) and ANU initiative, funded by ACT Heritage, involves survey and excavation of this site to uncover European and pre-European stories.

A Ground Penetrating Radar survey was completed on Springbank in December 2014 (<https://www.facebook.com/Springbankdig/>). This revealed two intriguing, subsurface anomalies which we plan to test during excavations scheduled during the ACT Heritage Festival (11-26 April 2015). During the later phase the site will be opened up to the Canberra public with a community day. Anyone wanting to be part of this adventure should contact the Canberra Archaeology Society email: contact@cas.asn.au

You can also keep an eye on progress at the below websites:

www.cas.asn.au

<https://www.facebook.com/Springbankdig/timeline>

Participants in the project and further historical information on the area are also sought.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Jillian Barteaux

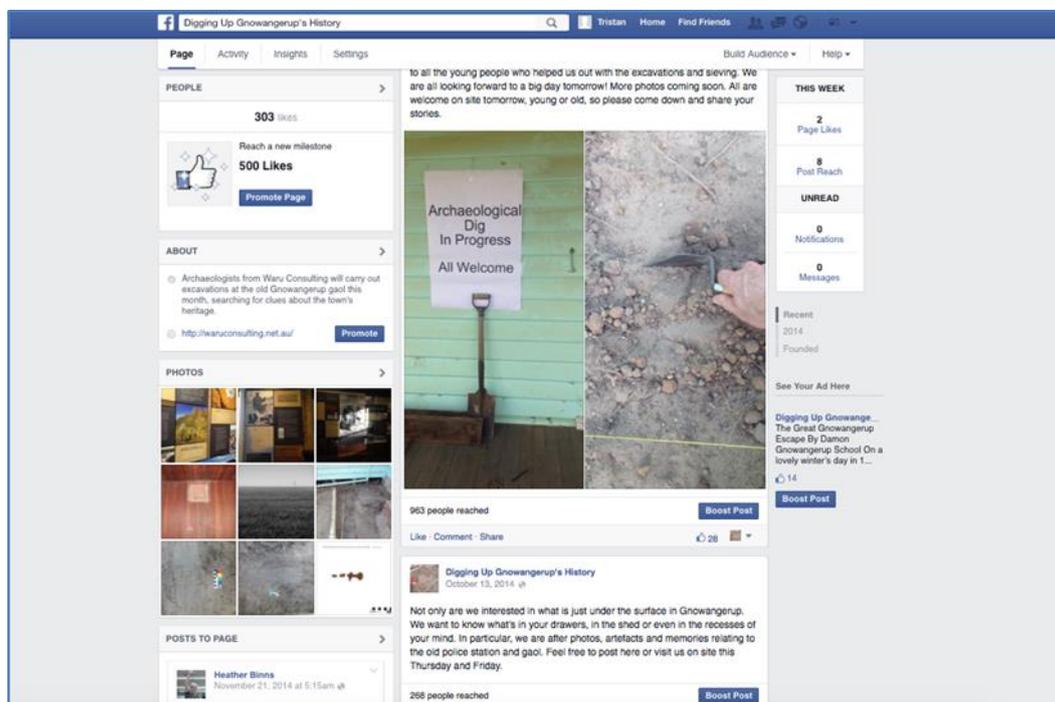
WARU CONSULTING

Gnowangerup Old Police Station

In mid-2014, Waru Consulting volunteered to undertake a heritage assessment of Gnowangerup's old police station. Gnowangerup is a quiet rural town situated approximately 300km southeast of Perth and 50km north of the Stirling Ranges.

The century old police station is a problem for the local Shire. Recently, vandals broke some of the asbestos fibre walls creating a public health concern and, without a listing on the WA State Heritage Register, public funding for conservation works is hard to obtain. Understandably, demolition of the old police station looms as a potential solution for the Shire, with only the few members of Gnowangerup's historical society to oppose the idea.

The heritage value of a place can be determined in many ways. It seems, however, that technical attributes often outweigh other qualities such as individual stories, both historical and contemporary. It is other people's stories that help us make sense of our community and our lives, and surely that is one of the main roles of heritage. Our proposal was to involve the community by undertaking test excavations that would be open to the public as well as ran an engagement campaign on Facebook.



Gnowangerup Archaeological Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Digging-Up-Gnowangerups-History/346522485521653>

The Facebook page was set up several weeks prior to the excavation and generated a significant amount of interest from the Gnowangerup community as well as national and international interest. We were able to use the collective knowledge of the people who had engaged us on social media as a research tool. For example, it was a hotel manager from Perth who helped us decipher one of the oldest examples of graffiti on the jarrah lined gaol cells. Others provided opinions on the provenance of a railway sleeper found at the bottom of one of the test pits. We also found that someone has used the page as a forum to vent frustration at the previous demolition of another heritage building in Gnowangerup. The population of the Facebook page also allowed us to promote Gnowangerup's newly opened and brilliant Noongar museum. As a result we saw an increased number of visits to the page, including many from the Indigenous community.

The response to the public invitation to participate in the excavations was overwhelming. Over the course of three days, more than 150 primary and secondary students from three local schools visited the site in addition to numerous visits from members of the wider community. The students were given a brief introduction to the history of the police station while checking out the gaol cells and exercise yard. From primary historical documents they learnt about how in 1911 Inspector Lappin visited Gnowangerup and reported to the Commissioner on the need for an immediate and permanent police presence at Gnowangerup because of the construction workers building the rail line between Tambellup and Ongerup. Lappin reported that there are, "Complaints of fighting, bad language and two-up schools" and that "the residents are unanimous in requesting police protection".

The students also heard about Constable Jeremiah John Jones who was stationed at Gnowangerup between 1915 and 1924. He was the son of Ann Jones, and Jeremiah was seven years old in 1880 when the Kelly Gang laid siege to his mother's establishment, the Glenrowan Inn.



Students listening attentively to a historical introduction to the site.

After the historical introduction the students participated in numerous activities including excavating a disused garden bed seeded with 'artefacts' and undertaking a transect survey. After some training the luckier students also joined the Waru archaeologists in excavating the three 1m x 1m test puts situated in close proximity to the existing buildings and areas likely to yield subsurface archaeological material. The kids were all remarkably enthusiastic and did everything from checking the spit levels on the dumpy to digging, running buckets and helping sieve the material.

Over the course of three days, hundreds of pieces of cultural material were retrieved from the 3 test pits. In many ways, however, what was actually found is less important in assessing the significance of the old police station than the incredible interaction the public had with the project. We heard from one of the teachers who said that the majority of the kids who had participated in the excavations went home to their parents and proudly proclaimed their desire to become archaeologists. In an attempt to bolster that enthusiasm we ran a creative writing competition and received many great entries from a number of students who were clearly inspired, not only by the archaeology, but also by the numerous historical sources we had collated including sources that had been provided by the local community.



Students getting involved in the excavation process.

The reaction that the students had when touring the site also reminded us that part of the heritage significance of the police station comes from its decrepitude. The flaking paint and rusting tin of the exercise yard, the cobwebs, rotting timbers and the gloomy jarrah lined cells covered in prisoners' graffiti all contribute to an eerie and grungy atmosphere. It is an alien environment that gets the imagination firing and builds a certain level of empathy with those unknown people who were locked up there. This empathy was reflected in many of the short stories, with most students taking on the first person perspective of a prisoner.

Our project at Gnowangerup's old police station shows that a high level of community engagement is not only helpful in resourcing information, but also allows people of all ages to learn and engage with their own local heritage. It also shows that in assessing the heritage significance of a place we should consider what impact it has on people on an emotional and creative level. Furthermore, we should also think carefully about what we lose when restoration works are undertaken on old buildings in the process of deterioration.



Examples of the graffiti on site.

Special thanks go to all the staff at Waru Consulting, as well as staff from the Shire of Gnowangerup who were vital in organising the school groups and allowing the project to proceed in the first place.

See the web pages below for further information:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Digging-Up-Gnowangerups-History/346522485521653>

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/10/07/4102069.htm>

Material supplied by Tristan Bergin, WARU Consulting
Tristan@waruconsulting.net.au

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Paddy Waterson

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

The EHP Archaeology Team

The team of two archaeologists has been supplemented with the employment of a senior project officer and the appointment of an industry placement student from The University of Queensland. The student focused upon delivering a discrete project over the course of one semester and details are discussed below under the Relics Project. The Senior Project Officer position has been filled by Toni Massey, formerly of the Victorian Heritage Branch. Her duties are split between specific maritime archaeological issues and broader departmental heritage initiatives.

Relics Project

At the start of 2014, Queensland had only six relics entered into the Australian National Shipwreck Database (ANSDB) and no separate database of relics. To address this issue and facilitate the collection of information about relics from smaller institutions and individuals, EHP engaged an industry placement student, Ashley Parker, to develop a data entry program and user guide. Ashley is an archaeology student at The University of Queensland and also an experienced information technology, data base and project management specialist.

The data entry program developed by Ashley mimics the field names and restrictions of the ANSDB, which facilitates the harvesting of data. Testing of the system was conducted with three maritime collections: a small private collection in the custody of Bruce McCulloch (a long term recreational diver), and the collections of both the Queensland Maritime Museum and the Gold Coast Historical Society Museum. Artefacts from the wrecks of the S.S. *Marloo* (1914) and *Changchow* (1884) were surrendered by Bruce McCulloch as part of the project. The *Changchow* artefacts were officially handed over to Fraser Coast Regional Council in September 2014 and will be presented in a new display at the Maryborough Bond Store Museum. The survivors of the *Changchow* landed in Maryborough and the wreck is located nearby.



Banners and marquee at the official handover of the *Changchow* artefacts to the Fraser Coast Council.

Reported Discoveries

A cast iron wheel possibly from the wreck of the paddle steamer Pioneer (1869) was exposed due to heavy erosion on a beach on Sweers Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The wheel was assessed to be in a highly vulnerable position and approval was granted for it to be recovered and conserved with remote support from Dr Ian McLeod of the Western Australian Museum.



An iron wheel undergoing conservation treatment on Sweers Island (image courtesy of Lyn Battle).

A large concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century artefacts were located in Moreton Bay during commercial sand dredging. It was initially reported as a suspected shipwreck but has since been determined to be an off-shore rubbish dumping deposit – most probably associated with sanitation measures put in place during the bubonic plague outbreak of the early 1900s. The collected material has been donated to The University of Queensland for further teaching, learning and research.



Amelia Lacey of EHP sorting artefacts from the dredge spoil.

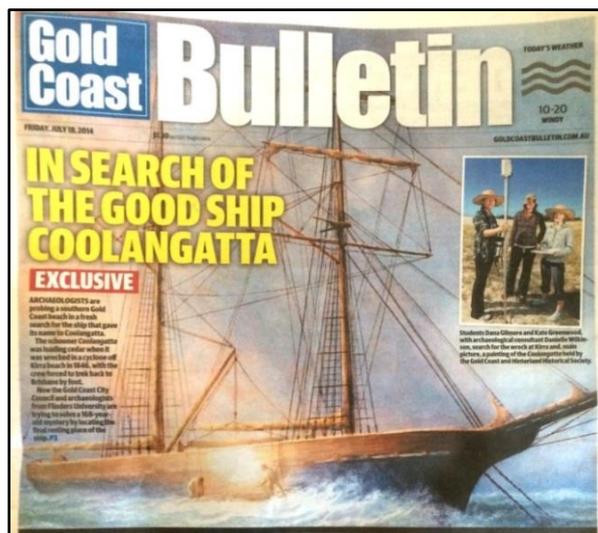
Gold Coast Collaborative Research

A collaborative research project with the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) and Flinders University was undertaken in July 2014. The project included the investigation of timbers held by GCCC that had been recovered in 1974 from an exposed historic shipwreck. The timbers were believed to be from the wreck of the *Coolangatta* (1846) but may be from another vessel, most probably the *Heroine* (1897).

Students and staff recorded sections of the wreck held at three different locations; timber samples were taken and a number of Muntz metal stamps were identified. Research was conducted on artefacts and documents held at local institutions. A preliminary magnetometer and metal detector survey was also conducted over an area of interest based on rectified aerial images taken when the wreck was last exposed in 1974. Results will be released soon.



Muntz mark on hull sheathing and EHP archaeologists inspecting metal detector signals in Coolangatta Creek.



Local newspaper coverage of the Coolangatta research conducted in collaboration with Gold Coast City Council and Flinders University.



Staff and students recording section of wreck on display in a public park, Coolangatta.

Policy and Planning

EHP has developed a new guideline under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* regarding Archaeological Investigations; which apply to both marine and terrestrial sites on the Heritage page of the Queensland government website: www.qld.gov.au

Amendments to the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* are now close to completion and due to commence at the end of August 2015. ASHA made a submission to EHP about the review of the Act during consultation in May 2014. Amendments to strengthen the Queensland Heritage Act's provisions regarding underwater heritage include the protection of historic aircraft wrecks within Queensland waters (that are at least 75 years old). The amendments are consistent with the state's commitments under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Other key amendments include a change to the categories of place on the Queensland Heritage Register. The separate 'archaeological place' category has been removed and those already entered will become State heritage places when the amendments commence. In making this change the cultural heritage criteria by which places are assessed for State heritage significance and eligibility for entry in the register are strengthened to clarify that sites with only State-level archaeological potential are eligible for entry. These changes also ensure that members of the public can nominate archaeological sites for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register and that complex sites with multiple values are managed in a consistent manner. It also confirms that archaeological sites are integrated as aspects of historic heritage and not somehow atypical.

Information about the amendments to the Heritage Act and ongoing implementation initiatives to support the new changes is available on the Heritage page of the Queensland government website: www.qld.gov.au

Material supplied by Fiona Gardiner, Director Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection T: (07) 3330 5873 F: (07) 3330 5996 Email: Fiona.Gardiner@ehp.qld.gov.au

NSW NEWS

Compiled by David Marcus

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Malcolm Connolly

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Hartnell

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Andrea Murphy

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

No announcements or notices submitted for this newsletter [Ed.]

SOCIETY CONTACTS

2014–2015 COMMITTEE

President	Mary Casey	President@asha.org.au
Vice Presidents	Penny Crook Iain Stuart	
Treasurer	Helen Nicholson	Treasurer@asha.org.au
Secretary	Anita Yousef	Secretary@asha.org.au
Committee	Aleisha Buckler Angela Middleton Nicholas Pitt Corinne Softley Catherine Tucker Geraldine Mate	

PUBLICATIONS

AHA Editors	Jon Prangnell Peter Davies Linda Terry	editor@asha.org.au
AHA Reviews Editor	Sarah Hayes	reviews@asha.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Aleisha Buckler	newsletter@asha.org.au
Web Managers	Nicholas Pitt Corrine Softley	webmanager@asha.org.au
Publications / Monographs Officers	Angela Middleton Peter Davies Martin Gibbs	publications@asha.org.au
Publicity Officer	<i>vacant</i>	

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ACT Richard Morrison PO Box 6060 O'Connor ACT 2602 act@asha.org.au	SA Cameron Hartnell sa@asha.org.au	WA Jillian Barteaux wa@asha.org.au
NSW David Marcus nsw@asha.org.au	QLD Paddy Waterson qld@asha.org.au	VIC Andrea Murphy PO Box 776 Beaconsfield VIC 3807 vic@asha.org.au
NT Malcolm Connolly PO Box 2130 Alice Springs NT 0871 nt@asha.org.au	TAS Annita Waghorn Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority Port Arthur TAS 7182 tas@asha.org.au	NZ Rick McGovern-Wilson 37 Rangoon St, Khandallah Wellington 6135 NZ nz@asha.org.au

FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of the State Reps. In order to facilitate efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to your State Rep (refer to table above for email addresses) by the below dates:

March issue:	15 February
June issue:	15 May
September issue:	15 August
December issue:	15 November

This is your newsletter and your contributions are vital. Please check deadlines diligently. Your efficiency will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your forthcoming news of events.

Aleisha Buckler
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au