

CAA Australia Annual Report 2016

The Australian chapter continued its dormant state until close to the end of the year, but big changes are now underfoot.

Having completed editing and production of the 2013 conference volume, and having left Australia in 2015, Arianna Traviglia has stepped down as Secretary and Public Officer. Ian Johnson (Chair) has taken over the role of Public Officer, while the position of Secretary currently remains vacant. Gail Higginbottom remains Treasurer. Both Gail and Ian intend to step down in 2018 once the chapter is fully operational.

At the Australian Archaeological Association conference in December 2016, we recruited a new cohort of early career digital archaeologists who are enthusiastic about reinvigorating the chapter, as well as extending it to include New Zealand. Specific new co-opted roles include:

Lorna Cooper, University of Western Australia: Social Media coordinator

Ben Davies, University of Auckland: Membership secretary

The major activity for 2017, for which planning is well underway, is a 'Spring Institute' on digital methods in Archaeology, to be held at the Kioloa Coastal Campus of the Australian National University, about 4 hours south of Sydney. We plan on a maximum of 30 participants. The institute is organised by Ian Johnson on behalf of CAA Australia and James Flexner on behalf of the co-sponsor, the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sydney. It is modeled on similar meetings in the Digital Humanities and elsewhere, as a forum to get together young scholars for a 5 day residential workshop which will focus on training and the development of networks and collaboration. As a footnote to this, the Australian Archaeological Association annual conference, which has run continuously since 1979, was kicked off by a similar workshop (on methods of excavation and field recording) organised by Ian Johnson in 1978 at what was then the ANU's Kioloa Field Station - we hope for a similar impact!

The Institute will have four themes: Databases, knowledge management and sustainability; Field data collection and community data; Terrestrial remote sensing; Simulation and agent based modeling. Each day will be a mix of training and discussion, anchored by one or two mentors who will introduce the theme and provide training where appropriate. One of the outcomes of the Institute is expected to be a rich, web-based information portal which will be freely accessible.