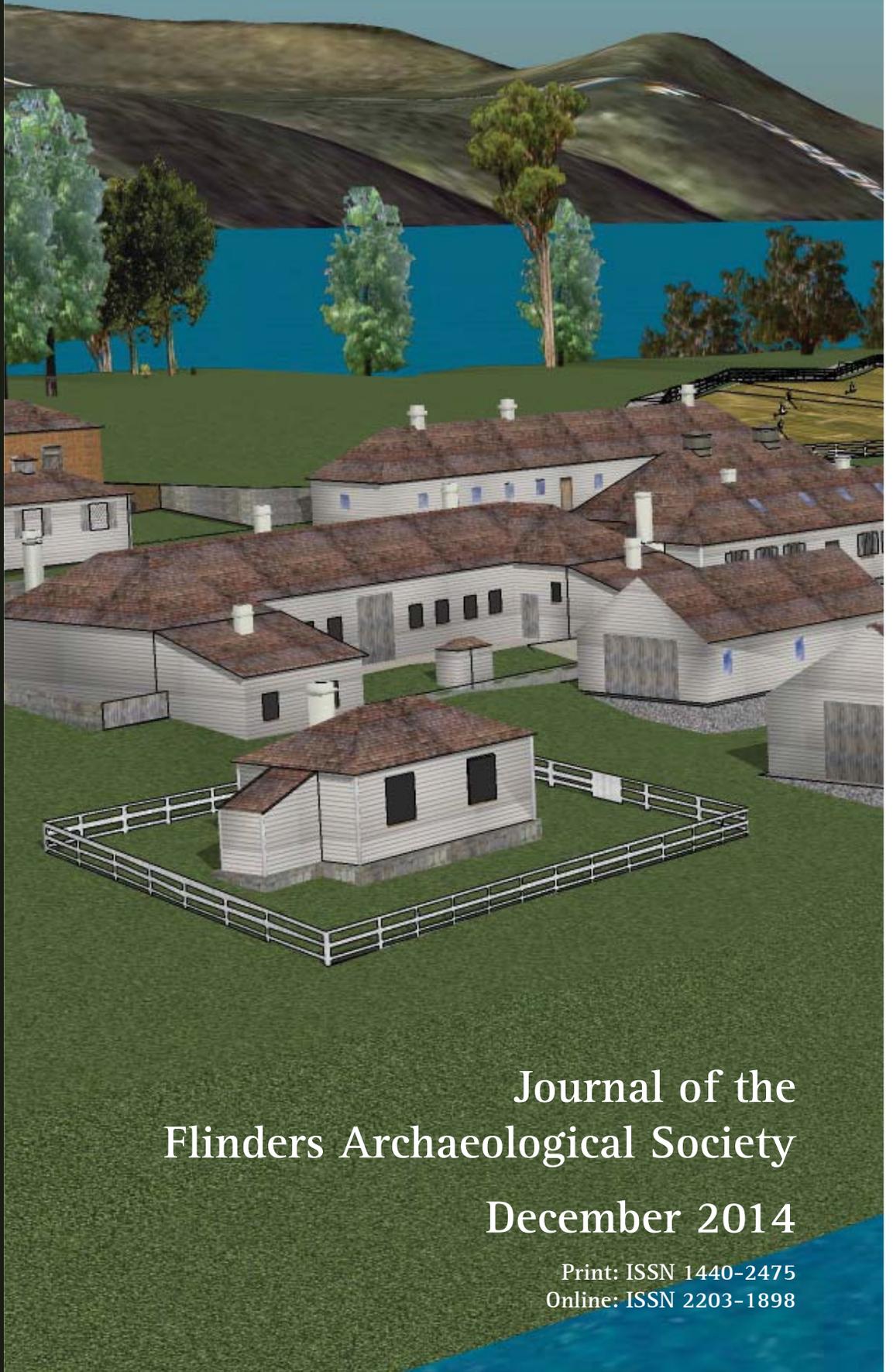




# DigIt

Volume 2, Issue 2



Journal of the  
Flinders Archaeological Society

December 2014

Print: ISSN 1440-2475  
Online: ISSN 2203-1898

# Contents

## Original research articles

- A review of the palaeo-environment of Kangaroo Island, South Australia, through the Late Pleistocene and Holocene with notes on a recent study  
Shaun Adams, Matthew McDowell and Gavin Prideaux 79
- Moonta Āgas Dynnergh? The implications of Cornish language signage in the Moonta Mines State Heritage Area  
Ella Stewart-Peters 84
- Virtual Archaeology and New Possibilities for Historic Site Interpretation: A case study from Point Puer, Tasmania  
John Stephenson 89

## Research essay

- Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA): What is it and how is it useful for archaeological investigation?  
Catherine Bland 96

## Field reports

- From Village Mounds to Monuments: New survey in the Upper Mun River Valley, northeast Thailand  
Caitlin Evans 101
- An Education in Italy  
Sarah Hutchinson 104
- Using Old Maps to Create New Data  
Andrew Frost 105

## *Dig It* dialogue

- Cross Boundaries and Remain Questioning: An interview with Ian Hodder  
Jana Rogasch 108

## Book reviews

- Archaeology, Anthropology and Interstellar Communication* edited by Douglas A. Vakoch  
Kathleen Gorey 110
- Iron Age Hillforts in Britain and Beyond* by D.W. Harding  
Catriona Santilli 111

## ArchSoc news 112

## Journal profile: *Anthropology: Bachelors to Doctorates (ABD)* 115

Cover image: Digital recreation of what the Point Puer Boys' Prison may have looked like in 1845, when the population of the prison peaked at approximately 800 juvenile inmates (created by John Stephenson, May 2013; see pages 89-94)

Email: [dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)  
Web: [flindersarchsoc.org](http://flindersarchsoc.org)  
Twitter: [@FlindersArchSoc](https://twitter.com/FlindersArchSoc)  
Facebook: [/archsocdigit](https://www.facebook.com/archsocdigit)  
Join our free mailing list: [archsoc@flinders.edu.au](mailto:archsoc@flinders.edu.au)

# DigIt

# Editorial

*Dig It* is a community product. The total number of people involved in writing, editing, formatting, reviewing, laying out and printing this issue were 39 from 24 different institutions – and that does not even include the greater number of people who provide helpful comments and ideas along the way, or write and talk to us to let us know they appreciate our work – all of which are very important things to keep us going. Special thanks goes out to ArchSoc, who are always there in the background offering practical help at the most critical times.

Compared to the 2014-1 issue, this second issue of 2014 has a more local touch, but still includes reports about archaeological work being done in places as far away as Thailand, Italy, the UK, and South America. We are proud to have encouraged a number of undergraduate and Masters students to publish their thoughts and research. We want to particularly develop this part of the journal by encouraging fresh new authors to share their ideas. One step towards this goal was a book review Master Class, held in November together with Dr Alice Gorman, book review editor of *Australian Archaeology*, that encouraged 16 students to write reviews for *AA* and *Dig It* – two of which readers can find in this issue.

And since *Dig It* is a community product many editors and review panel members will stay on in 2015 when Jordan Ralph will take over editor-in-chief with new ideas and enthusiasm. During the last weeks, we have been preparing ideas for making *Dig It* even more successful in the future. The 2014 *Dig It* team would like to thank ArchSoc for giving us the opportunity to be part of a rewarding and creative experience. I personally would like to thank all authors, editors, and reviewers for the hard work and dedication that is needed to create one of only three peer-reviewed archaeology student journals in the world: *Dig It!*

## Jana Rogasch

Editor, *Dig It: The Journal of the Flinders Archaeological Society*

<jana.rogasch@flinders.edu.au>



ArchSoc members during Total Station and GPS workshops (photographs by Dianne Riley, 2014)

# President's Address

The second half of 2014 was a busy one for the Flinders Archaeological Society. During this period not only did the Society support University events such as O'week in late July and the Open Day in early August, it undertook a new direction. Under the guidance of a new look Executive Committee, ArchSoc organised a series of workshops in order to allow members the opportunity to further develop their professional skills. Participants came together in a relaxed atmosphere and in total three workshops have been held since July; two Total Station workshops (August and September), and a GPS workshop (October). Thanks is especially given to the two professionals, Rob Koch and Jordan Ralph, who gave their time pro bono to ArchSoc, and who also committed to undertaking further workshops in 2015. ArchSoc continued to support the Flinders University Department of Archaeology's Thursday Seminars in 2014 and looks forward to continuing to do so in 2015. In November, ArchSoc also supported the Book Review Master Class with Dr. Alice Gorman.

In October, ArchSoc was asked to take part in the Highercombe Museum Vintage Fair. This was a direct result of the involvement of ArchSoc members in the public archaeology event carried out during *About Time: South Australia's History Festival* in May. As a result of its connection with Highercombe, ArchSoc went on to present a brief overview of the value of potential relationships with branches of the National Trust, at the State Conference of the National Trust of South Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> November. This presentation was undertaken with a view to setting up future opportunities of field work and research for ArchSoc members.

Overall, however, membership was down for 2014 and this is something that needs to be addressed in 2015. Membership fees will, however, remain at \$15, with no concessions, for the coming year. The ArchSoc 5-year-plan (a product of the Forum held in November) is exciting and offers future committees the benefit of an in-place strategy for the future direction of ArchSoc.

In review, 2014 has been an innovative and productive year. To ensure that the vision for the future direction of ArchSoc materialises, continued energy and commitment from all ArchSoc members will be needed in 2015.

## Dianne Riley

President, Flinders Archaeological Society 2014

<rile0066@flinders.edu.au>



Dianne Riley, Adeena Fowke and Aletta Fowke at the ArchSoc stall, Flinders University O'week (photograph by Susan Arthure, July 2014)

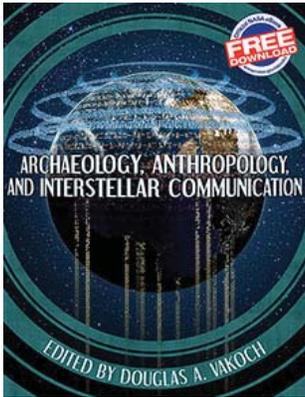
# Book Reviews

## *Archaeology, Anthropology and Interstellar Communication* edited by Douglas A. Vakoch

2014. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Washington, xi+300 pp.  
ISBN 978-1-62683-013-4.

### Reviewed by Kathleen Gorey

Department of Archaeology, Flinders University,  
<gore0036@flinders.edu.au>



This volume consists of 15 chapters, plus an introduction and an epilogue, which explore the themes of technology, culture, and intelligence as they apply to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). While ‘astronomers, physicists, engineers, and computer scientists’ have historically dominated this field (p.xxx), the contributors of this volume explore it from the social sciences:

as suggested by the title, they examine the interplay between archaeology, anthropology, and interstellar communication. As part of NASA’s history series, the volume is freely downloadable as an e-book at <<http://www.nasa.gov/ebooks>>.

Douglas Vakoch, the Director of Interstellar Message Composition at the SETI Institute, introduces the themes and purposes of the book in a comprehensive introductory chapter. He suggests that understanding the lessons learned by those who face similar challenges on Earth can breach the line between the detection and comprehension of extraterrestrial intelligence. By this, Vakoch is referring to core similarity between archaeology, anthropology, and SETI research: the idea of reconstructing past civilisations using potentially fragmented evidence. This volume seeks to explore this similarity, among others, to demonstrate the interdisciplinary approach of current SETI research.

In Part 2 there are three chapters that examine the historical and political perspectives on SETI. The first two chapters focus on the story of SETI at NASA (1969 - 1994), detailing the scientific reasons for the development of the program and the political reasons for its termination. These chapters are by no means comprehensive accounts of these events—their focus is on providing historical context—but both of the authors direct readers to other sources should they require more information. The third chapter introduces the engagement of the social sciences with SETI projects and explores the historical role of anthropology accordingly. In this chapter, Steven Dick notes that the relationship between SETI and the social sciences has evolved from sporadic contributions to systematic involvement (p.55). This facilitated the notion that understanding the cultural aspects of SETI is necessary for its success, a theme that is revisited constantly throughout this volume.

Part 3 consists of four papers that focus on archaeological analogues. As summarised by Kathryn Denning (p.98):

SETI discussions rely heavily on Earth analogues for prediction of the effects of contact and the challenges of understanding radically different kinds of communication. Specialists in Earth cultures, past and present, can contribute meaningfully to these discussions by unpacking those analogies and considering how best to use them.

It is therefore about using archaeological analogues appropriately to strengthen our thinking about extraterrestrial intelligence. The common theme used by the authors to demonstrate this is that of deciphering ancient texts (e.g. Egyptian hieroglyphs). This discussion benefits refreshingly from the diverse nature of its contributors, with anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, and a literary theorist exploring the challenges faced and applying them to the context of extraterrestrial intelligence. Accordingly, the primary argument throughout Part 3 is the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to SETI research. As Paul Wason notes, we are limited in our understanding by our intellectual context, something that needs to be overcome for SETI research to be successful.

In Part 4, John Traphagan provides the first chapter on ‘Anthropology, Culture, and Communication’, focussing on the practice of anthropology at a distance—that is, the reliance on data gathered by others—to explore its limitations and associated cultural inventions. By analysing Western efforts to understand Japanese culture, he argues that we need to be cautious about our initial evaluations of extraterrestrials based on the intelligence we receive. Douglas Raybeck continues this section by offering a cross-cultural perspective governed by a colonial contact analogue. He demonstrates the commonality of inaccurate cultural interpretations throughout colonial history and considers how this may translate to extraterrestrial contact. Albert Harrison concludes this section with a consideration of ‘Active SETI’, or the attempt to make extraterrestrial civilisations aware of our own. Whether or not our messages are received, Harrison argues, ‘we can learn much about human interests and values by examining what we hope to convey across the depths about time and space’ (p.xxvi). Perhaps the greatest contribution that SETI can make to archaeology, therefore, is a greater understanding of *us*.

‘The Evolution and Embodiment of Extraterrestrials’ constitutes the final part of this volume’s body. By taking into account the themes examined previously, this section focuses on human perceptions of extraterrestrials by considering intelligence, culture, and technology. The authors make speculations about the intelligence necessary for advanced technology (Garry Chick), communicating with biologically different organisms (Dominique Lestel), and the limits of symbolic communication (William Edmondson) in an attempt to understand the impact that receiving extraterrestrial intelligence would have on Earth. Personally, Lestel’s prediction of an existential crisis seems the most likely.

In the final paper of this volume, Vakoch warns against ‘imposing our own presuppositions on extraterrestrial intelligence’, a problem that early anthropologists faced in their reconstructions of Neanderthals (p.252). Should this occur, it would ‘[make] our images of extraterrestrials not so much reflections of *their* true

nature but rather mirrors of *our* assumptions (p.252, emphasis in original). For SETI research to be beneficial to all interested parties, therefore, it cannot limit itself to one understanding or research pathway, and that is what this volume demonstrates in its exploration of the interplay between archaeology, anthropology, and interstellar communication.

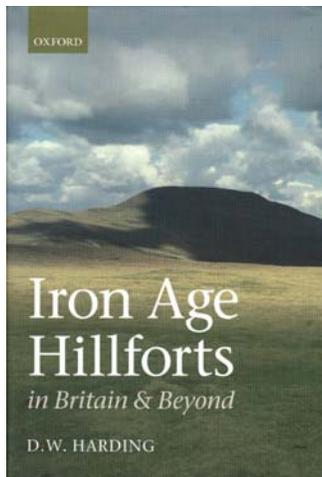
Overall, this volume is a good introductory text to the work of SETI and the role of the social sciences accordingly. One of its major strengths is its accessibility: the e-book is freely available, the contents page is conveniently linked, and the chapters are easy to read while all contributing to the overall purpose of the volume. Similarly, the cross-referencing between the chapters demonstrates the commitment of the authors, all of who provided guides to further reading throughout their papers. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the diverse applications of archaeological research, how humans may react to the detection of extraterrestrial life, or the work and implications of SETI research more specifically.

## *Iron Age Hillforts in Britain and Beyond* by D.W. Harding

2012. Oxford University Press, Oxford, x+334 pp.  
ISBN 987-0-19-969524-9

### Reviewed by Catriona Santilli

Department of Archaeology, Flinders University,  
<sant0038@flinders.edu.au>



As an undergraduate student on exchange to the University of Leicester over a decade ago, I remember touring around the southern English countryside. Some of the most memorable and fascinating aspects of the landscape of ancient Britain were the mysterious Iron Age hillforts, such as the impressive Maiden Castle in Dorset. Having climbed to the top of Maiden Castle and fancying myself looking down upon the ages, I asked my companion, “So what

exactly is a hillfort”? Much to my chagrin, the local guide had about as much idea of what a hillfort really was as I did.

Yet because hillforts are highly visible monuments in the landscape, they have been the subject of investigation by some of the great names of early archaeological study; one in particular was Sir Mortimer Wheeler’s excavations at Maiden Castle. Former Abercromby Professor Emeritus of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, D. W. Harding, in his book *Iron Age Hillforts in Britain and Beyond*, has produced a critical and thorough review of British archaeology and the role hillfort research had in developing the discipline. Harding systematically examines the state of hillfort study in Britain and Ireland, from its earliest days to the latest modern available research, and

interrogates the archaeological evidence and interpretation of a multitude of hillforts within prehistoric landscapes – from the wider Bronze Age of Europe to the presence of hillforts in the post-Roman Iron Age of Britain and Ireland.

Much of what we know about Iron Age Britain and Ireland is what Harding notes as *text lead* or *aided* archaeology in which historical records and textual sources span the same periods as Iron Age hillforts were in use (p.227-228). As I continued my tour of southern England, I was to visit a museum that housed the famous ‘Amesbury Archer’, a man who had lived in Bronze Age Britain and had derived his nickname from the many arrowheads that were found among his burial goods in his grave, close to Stonehenge.

Classical sources such as Caesar (during his campaign of Britain), Suetonius and later Tacitus wrote of ancient Britain and Ireland as the ‘barbarian west’, presenting British prehistory as brutal with inter-tribal violence and the age of the warrior, as the Amesbury archer was (inaccurately) explained to me by eager local historians. The seemingly natural explanation for hillforts in the landscape was that they were primarily defensive in nature or as regional centres, controlled by the elite.

As a foreigner looking across the English landscape from a hillfort, it was easy to imagine stories of Boudicca and the Iceni, warring with the Romans, and the Irish medieval legends. Harding has a chapter that is devoted to examining the documentary sources against the archaeological record, and while it strips the romance of hillfort mythology such as the search for Camelot and the Celts away, the archaeological evidence Harding presents in his succinct and concise style is far more interesting.

Harding is not content, in his own words, to leave it at that, saying ‘archaeology may have been the handmaiden of history, but archaeology as a discipline has moved on a long way since then’ (p.228). Harding challenges the long held convention of hillforts as being *terrain oppida* in the ‘Celtic paradigm’ and in the opening chapters of the book defines the reality of what we actually mean when we say ‘hillfort’. ‘Fort’ implies purely a defensive function and that may not have been the case at all (p.18-20).

Harding explains that ‘hillfort is actually a term of convenience’ that describes various different enclosed spaces in the landscape and time, rather than a specific monument type (p.1). He devotes several chapters to considering the technical aspects of hillfort archaeology including the anatomy of hillfort enclosures, the inside and outside features of hillforts, their place in the landscape and chronology. However, Harding goes one step further than that and he also considers the archaeological record alongside what he terms the ‘empathy approach’ of archaeology, the theoretical movement that has seen a cognitive element become popular in recent research and considers other interpretations of prehistoric monuments and enclosed spaces in the landscape.

While Harding discusses hillforts as possible defensive monuments and considers in depth the archaeological evidence of enclosures appearing to be the sites of violence, additionally he also explores the enclosed areas as spaces that had social, economic and ritual functions which follows a theoretic trend in British prehistoric archaeology that ascribe significant meaning to places like hillforts. Harding, however, constantly warns against imposing our cultural sensitivities on prehistoric enclosed spaces and prioritises Iron Age necessity in his interpretations in the archaeological context of hillforts. Harding also looks at the

meaning of the enclosed space itself, comparing the Iron Age hillforts to ethnographic models found in New Zealand, North American indigenous settlements and West African fortified towns as he notes the diversity of Iron Age hillforts in ancient Britain and Ireland. He emphasises an even and evidenced based approach to prehistoric archaeology that is balanced by the theoretical considerations of the past and present archaeologists.

Harding's book does not only answer my question "what is a hillfort"? It does so much more. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand British archaeology and how archaeological theory evolves as new evidence is uncovered in the archaeological record. Several highlights of the text include the high quality illustrations and wide variety of photographs that accompany the clear and precise text. The writing clearly articulates the issues of hillfort archaeology and presents the problems faced by archaeologists in a balanced way. Harding does not assume his readers have prior knowledge of British archaeology or prehistory, making this book great reading for anyone, from undergraduate student to professor. The story of the Iron Age hillfort is also the story of British archaeology itself.

## Want to write for *Dig It*?

We are always looking for new contributors. Regardless of where you are in the world, the level of study you have attained, and your specific research focus, we want you to publish in *Dig It*!

*Dig It* is published twice a year and considers a range of contributions, including:

- research articles;
- personal accounts/opinion pieces on recent field work or current issues; and
- news and reviews.

If you are interested in being a part of *Dig It*, please take a look at our 'guidelines for contributors' by scanning the QR code then send us an email!

Email: [dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)



# ArchSoc News

## Outcomes of the Annual General Meeting

*Submitted by Jordan Ralph*

Thanks to those members who attended the Flinders ArchSoc AGM on November 27, 2014. It was a succinct, productive meeting and fortunately we were able to achieve quorum this year. During the meeting, we elected the 2015 committee, elected two new Honorary Life Members and made very minor changes to the constitution (including renaming the 'risk adviser' position to 'field work coordinator').

Congratulations to those members who were elected to the ArchSoc committee in 2015 (see table below). We hope that your term is successful and effective. Please be aware that we are yet to elect a vice-president. We will be looking for someone who is energetic, passionate, dedicated and organised to become the new vice-president early in 2015 and help Dianne and the rest of the committee during the year.

President	Dianne Riley
Vice-president	Unelected; to be elected in 2015
Treasurer	Chelsea Wiseman
Secretary	Marie Amyot
Publications editor	Jordan Ralph
Field work coordinator	Jana Rogasch
Social coordinator	Drew Jackson
Public relations officer	Emma Davey
Membership officer	Owen Hems
General representatives	Adeena Fowke Virginia Ward Rhiannon Agutter Matthew Hornsby Celeste Jordan

## Honorary Life Members

*Submitted by Jordan Ralph*

During the Annual General Meeting, the Society elected two Honorary Life Members. Congratulations to Andrew Wilkinson and Professor Claire Smith. We thank Andrew and Claire for their commitment to ArchSoc in the past and look forward to working with them in the future.

*Andrew Wilkinson*

Andrew became a member of ArchSoc when he commenced the Bachelor of Archaeology in 2007, and has been among the most active members of the Society during that period. He has played an active role in running the Society by going above and beyond the responsibilities of his role as both a member of the committee and as a member of the Society.

During the last eight years, Andrew has held various positions on the ArchSoc committee, including President (2013), Vice-President (2008-2010), webmaster (2007), risk adviser (2012) and general representative (2012). Through these roles, Andrew was able to create and provide opportunities for other ArchSoc members, which helped them in their personal and professional development. Some of these opportunities include field trips to Lake Mungo World Heritage Site, Burra, and the Flinders Ranges. Each of these field trips gave several ArchSoc members the opportunity to visit a number of archaeological sites they would not normally have been able to visit. Andrew also took a group of students to Port Arthur World Heritage Site in Tasmania where ArchSoc members were involved in a salvage excavation and artefact cleaning and cataloguing.

Andrew has represented ArchSoc at national and international levels as a volunteer at different conferences, including the AAA (2009), WAC (2013) and NASC (2014), which boosted the profile of the Society. He has also represented the Society at public lectures and Flinders University open days, where he

*Dig It* is a student-run journal and the official newsletter of the Flinders Archaeological Society. The publication began in 1997 and after a hiatus of at least five years, it was relaunched in 2012. The new series began in 2013. The purpose of *Dig It* is to provide students, from undergrad through to postgrad and recent graduates, with the opportunity to practise and familiarise themselves with writing, publishing, editing and the reviewing process involved in professional publications. It aims to offer emerging young academics with an avenue to engage with archaeological dialogues and discourse. In addition, it aims to keep aspiring archaeologists connected and informed about what is happening in the archaeological community.

*Dig It* is published twice a year and is printed at Flinders Press. *Dig It* considers a range of contributions, including research articles, essays, personal accounts/opinion pieces, book reviews and thesis abstracts for publication. We welcome contributions from local, interstate and international undergrad and postgrad students and recent graduates.

The guidelines for contributors can be found here:

<http://flindersarchsoc.org/digit/guidelinesforcontributors/>.

*Dig It* is an open access journal. The journal and the individual articles can be freely distributed; however, individual authors and *Dig It* must always be cited and acknowledged correctly. The intellectual ownership remains with the individual authors. Articles, figures and other content cannot be altered without the prior permission of the author.

Correspondence to the Editor should be addressed to:

The Editor, *Dig It* c/o ArchSoc  
Department of Archaeology  
Flinders University  
GPO Box 2100  
Adelaide, 5001

or email <[dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)>

Editor: Jana Rogasch

Co-editors: Matthew Ebbs (academic reviews), Antoinette Hennessy (field reports) and Jordan Ralph (layout and ArchSoc news)

Permanent review panel: Rhiannon Agutter, Amy Batchelor, Robert DeWet-Jones, Anna Foroozani, Simon Munt, Dianne Riley, Ada Dinckal, Fiona Shanahan, Rhiannon Stammers and Isabel Wheeler

# DigIt

Email: [dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)

Web: [flindersarchsoc.org](http://flindersarchsoc.org)

Twitter: [@FlindersArchSoc](https://twitter.com/FlindersArchSoc)

Facebook: [/archsocdigit](https://www.facebook.com/archsocdigit)

Join our free mailing list: [archsoc@flinders.edu.au](mailto:archsoc@flinders.edu.au)