

Andamooka Opal Field, South Australia

by John Collier

Recently, my wife and I travelled to Roxby Downs, South Australia, located 600 km north-north-west of Adelaide to visit my son and his fiancée. They are employed in the Olympic Dam (BHP-Billiton) copper-uranium-gold mine there.

During the visit we inspected the nearby Andamooka opal field, which is quite extensive and widespread, taking in also the nearby White Dam opal field.

Discovered in 1930 by two drovers from Andamooka Station who saw gemstones on the hillsides there, Andamooka became one of the producers of the finest opals in the world. The opal-matrix was unique. First production was recorded in 1933.

Andamooka in the 1940s to the 1960s was the most important producer of fine opals in Australia. It had a population of 3,000 people then, which has currently declined to about 500.

The composition of opal is silicon dioxide (SiO_2)-like quartz, but with water to 10 per cent, thus $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$. It has a distinctive structure consisting of regularly packed tiny spheres that are responsible for the light refractions, thereby creating the colour plays.

Andamooka is a treasure-trove of dry stone walling. Extensive use of dry stone has been made from the early 1930s to the present day. Dry stone walling is preserved in early miners' cottages and surrounds, fences, buttresses, retaining walls, entrances, building foundations, etc.

The dry stone walling style is primitive but robust, in keeping with the small scale of economy type operations used at this mining field. The miners' cottages are so unusual that they have been placed on the South Australia State Heritage Register. They are unique.

Now, having seen another splendid example of dry stone walling in an old Australian mining camp, and reading Penny O'Connor and Sara Giudici's interesting article on Cue, I am strongly of the opinion that most Australian, New Zealand, etc., mining camps will have similar surprises.

Study of the walling should yield rich results and would be the subject matter of a very interesting research project.

John Collier, Garfield North, Victoria

Some websites you may like to visit

www.astoneuponastone.com; www.dswa.org.uk
www.rbgysd.gov.au; www.pierreseche.net
www.jboyweb.com/drystonewall/index.html



Remnant of dry stone wall (miner's cottage).



Early miner's cottage with internal dry stone wall – stones flattish.



A recent dry stone wall – note slabbed stones, a unique feature of Andamooka walling.

President's Message



DSWAA President Jim Holdsworth.

A maturing Association

Last year saw your Association move into a mode that reflects that of a more established entity, and while I'd like to propose some possible reasons for this, I admit that I don't know the answer. Maybe you have a view.

Is this growing sense of maturity because the Association has filled a void that existed; the 'right time and the right place' scenario? Is it because of the years of quiet work and advocacy by a few far-sighted and committed enthusiasts that preceded the Association's establishment? Is it because there is a growing community interest in those things that dry stone walls encompass? Is it because of the fascination and knowledge that can be experienced through visits to places with Walls? Is it because of the diverse backgrounds, skills and passions of the people who drive the Association and its goals? Or is it simply because there is a lot of work that the Association could undertake or be the catalyst for, and we're busting to get on with it?

The fact that we drew more than 80 people to the field visits to three properties around Camperdown in April, and more than 50 to an only quietly publicised visit to 'Turkeith' in October, is evidence that walls, their heritage and their beauty have wide appeal.

This broad appeal to the various communities of interest that are touched by dry stone walls is the impetus that will focus our activities over the coming months.

Committee news

The November Committee meeting, held at Meekri, Robert and Louise Manifold's property near Camperdown, covered a wide range of topics. Even after a three-hour meeting, a lively discussion ensued over dinner at the local pub. Here are a few highlights of the Committee's deliberations.

The Strategy and Business Plan was adopted. The Vision is the keystone of that Plan: 'The Association's vision is for dry stone walls to be widely recognised for their unique place in the history, culture and economy of Australia and for the legacy they represent. That this recognition is manifested by appropriate statutory protection and landowner and community respect and celebration, and that the craft of dry stone walling grows as a modern reinforcement of the contribution that dry stone walls have made to the heritage of early settlement in Australia.'

The Business Plan is a dynamic document; one that can adapt to changing circumstances, but always guided by this Vision. The Committee and several Working Group members are currently reviewing the many potential Actions listed in the Plan to identify those of highest priority. Because of this capacity for refinement, I welcome comments from members about its content and priorities. Please contact me and I would be very pleased to send you a copy.

John Collier announced a substantial financial donation to the Association from gold mining company Oxiana. The Association is

most grateful to Oxiana's Managing Director Owen Hegarty for his company's generosity and support, and to John Collier for his determination in capitalising on the strong historic links between dry stone walls and the mining industry throughout Australia, a connection that was very evident during our field visit to Walhalla last August.

The Committee has resolved that our main activities this year will be:

- the 'Launch Function' – a major event to put the Association and its goals 'on the map' in the minds of key government and business stakeholders across Australia. A list of relevant influential people and advocates is being prepared and planning of the event is at the preliminary stages. It is to be held at Werribee Park Mansion and at the old homestead at Werribee Park, alongside one of Victoria's best examples of a dry stone ha-ha wall, on the evening of Saturday 27 May. All members will be invited to attend this significant event in the Association's life
- publication of a booklet, whose working title is: *An Introduction to Dry Stone Walls in Australia*. Committee member Rob Wuchatsch and an editorial committee are busy getting the booklet ready for its launch at the Werribee Park function
- establishment of a website, also to be launched at Werribee Park.

Of course, we will continue the popular program of field visits, enhance the role of *The Flag Stone* and pursue the many enquiries and other day-to-day matters that crop up.

There has been a vacancy on the Committee since the AGM last June. By unanimous vote, Charmian Brent was elected to fill that vacancy. Charmian brings valuable new skills and enthusiasm to the Committee, particularly in terms of her vast experience in editing heritage-based publications. She will be actively involved in our forthcoming booklet and in *The Flag Stone*. Welcome, Charmian!

I received an enthusiastic call from John Collier, advising that he has made contact with other senior people in the mining industry and that further financial support for the Association is in the pipeline, in addition to the funds from Oxiana. This is marvellous news as it gives us the capacity to undertake the Launch Function and the publication with solid sponsorship in place. Many thanks, John!

A sign of maturity

Your Committee and other active members continue to devote much time to getting the Association established and setting its vision, goals and priorities.

But these important foundations will be worthless unless we progressively transfer our efforts to implementing our goals. These goals boil down to four objectives which Cindy Ferguson, our marketing adviser, has identified and which seem to sum up what we're all about:

- to raise the awareness of the need to preserve dry stone walls
- to increase stakeholder commitment to the preservation of dry stone walls and structures
- to raise the community's awareness of the Association
- to increase the level of active membership in the Association.

No small task, but one well worth tackling!

Best wishes

Jim

Maintaining a future for our past: four exciting news items from south-west Victoria

by Josie Black OAM

Lake Condah and environs on National Heritage List

In Issue No. 4, May 2005 of this newsletter you may have read the carefully researched article, 'The Remarkable Serpentine and Blacks' Wall at Lake Condah,' by Dr Carlotta Kellaway in which she describes the part that Aborigines played in building dry stone walls in the Condah district over a century ago.

However the skill and technology of dry stone construction was not new to them as it had been utilised by the local Indigenous people for thousands of years.

The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape at Lake Condah in south-west Victoria was one of the first three places placed on the National Heritage List in July 2004. This one landscape contains two separate areas that are on the National Heritage List: the Tyrendarra Area and Mount Eccles/Lake Condah Area. And in late November 2005, it was announced that newly claimed Aboriginal land, Kurtonitj at Homerton, north of Tyrendarra and south of Condah, will be added to the other two heritage-listed sites.

Australia's National Heritage List has been established to list places of outstanding heritage significance and includes natural, historic and indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation. There are only 22 places listed so far, 12 of them in Victoria with the MCG the most recent addition.

The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its importance in the course of Australia's natural and cultural history, demonstrating a high degree of creative and technical achievement, at a particular period.

The land, on the Mt Eccles (Budj Bim) lava flow, is part of a traditional aquaculture system and village settlements built by the Gunditjmarra people more than 8,000 years ago.

As the lava flowed from Mt Eccles (Budj Bim) to the sea it changed the drainage pattern of creeks and rivers creating large wetlands. Using the technology of dry stone construction, the Gunditjmarra people built stone dams to hold water in these areas, creating ponds and wetlands in which grew short-fin eels and other fish. They also created channels linking these wetlands. These channels contained weirs with large woven baskets made by women to harvest the mature eels.

The modified and engineered wetlands and eel traps provided an economic base for the development of a settled society with villages. Gunditjmarra people used stones from the lava flow to create the walls of their circular huts. Groups of between two and 16 huts are common along the Tyrendarra lava flow and there are the remnants of virtually hundreds of such stone dwellings scattered across the listed area.

Archeological investigations have demonstrated that the stone houses were circular to U-shaped in plan, about 2–12 square metres in area, and in general oriented so that their entrances were sited away from the west and south-westerly winds.

The low walls, about a metre high were constructed of basalt boulders and rubble and probably roofed with timber and bark.



Stonyrises at Lake Condah. Western Victoria. Shows floodwater passing through a channel, which probably formed part of a fish trap system. Several fish traps and stone houses have been recorded among the basalt rises in this area.

Photo courtesy Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

The houses had small stone hearths, some inside and some outside the entrances.

The landscape of the Tyrendarra lava flow in the Mt Eccles/Lake Condah area is of outstanding heritage value because it provides a clear example of the way Aboriginal people manipulated the landscape and used their environment as a base for protecting and defending their land, launching attacks on European immigrants and escaping reprisal raids during numerous frontier conflicts which have been well documented (Clark 1990, Critchett 1990).

In partnership with governments and other key stakeholders, the Wind Mara Aboriginal Co-operative in Heywood, the traditional custodian responsible for the area, including the former Mission at Condah, has developed a master plan for the Lake Condah Sustainability Development Project. The implementation of the plan will see the restoration of the buildings at the Mission as well as the reflooding of the Lake and restoration of the wetlands. The outcome will realise greater tourism and education opportunities and thus economic prosperity for the local people.

The next step is World Heritage Listing for the area.

I have spoken to Damein Bell chairman of the Winda Mara Aborigine Co-operative about the proposed visit by the DSWAA to Lake Condah. He extends a warm welcome and advises that April or May would be a suitable time, that is, after the snakes and before the leeches.

Australia's first Global Geopark for the region

The Volcanoes Discovery Trail Committee of which I'm a founding member, has recently hosted a visit to south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia by Dr Sue Turner, Geoscience Consultant and representative for Australia to the United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Advisory Board for Global Geoparks.

The purpose of the visit was for Dr Turner to tour the region's volcanic assets and to speak to interested stakeholders about UNESCO GeoParks and the proposed application from the region for the great volcanic plain in south-western Victoria and south-eastern South Australia to be declared a Geopark.

Established in 1998, the Volcanoes Discovery Trail stretches from Red Rock near Colac in the east to Mt Gambier in the west. The Volcanoes Discovery Trail comprises six sites of international significance (Mount Noorat, Mt Eccles, Mt Gambier, Red Rock, Tower Hill and Lake Bullen Merri), 14 of national significance and eight of state significance .

The Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Trail is a local trail within the larger Volcanoes Discovery Trail.

A Global Geopark is a defined area comprising a number of geological sites of particular importance in terms of their quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal or educational value. The majority of sites within a Geopark are of geological heritage but their interest may also be archaeological, ecological, historical or cultural.

Therefore, the proposed local Geopark, the first proposed for Australia, would include not only volcanoes but also grasslands, lakes, wetlands, indigenous heritage, homesteads, gardens and dry stone walls, all of which illustrate the diversity and, at the same time, the harmony of the landscape of the region.

Dr Turner was particularly interested in the extent and quality of dry stone walling in the region, its function in illustrating the relationship between people and landscape and in linking the geology and culture of the region. Dr Turner, who visited Mt Gambier, Hamilton and Camperdown, has taken a copy of: *If These Walls Could Talk: the Report of the Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Conservation Study* as well the brochure for the Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail.

The next step is to bring the key stakeholders together, including all three tiers of government, landowners, tourism operators, indigenous custodians and others to begin the collaborative process of making application for nomination as a Global Geopark. If successful, the dry stone walls of south-west Victoria will receive greater national and international attention and appreciation.

National Trust of Victoria Classification

The Mount Leura complex, Lake Bullen Merri and the Stony Rises have been classified by the National Trust of Victoria in recent years. They are part of the highly significant volcanic landscape of the Corangamite Shire of which the dry stone walls are in integral part. The Trust has announced its intention to nominate these landscapes for National Heritage Listing.

Corangamite Dry Stone Walls

As a result of the implementation of Camperdown Heritage Study by Allan Willingham and the revised Corangamite Shire Planning Scheme, the sections of walls on the Corangamite Arts-installed Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail have been mapped on the Shire Planning Scheme for the first time. Since none of the significant walls are within the Camperdown town boundary, they were not part of the Study. However, the Shire has announced that in two years it will begin a Heritage Study of other locations in the Shire and this will include the dry stone walls.

After a birthday

I drew a line
through yesterday

on one side, now
and on the other, childhood

the line was not
quite straight

at such closing off
of innocence

partly because I doubted
that one could demarcate so easily
good from bad, past from present
I from me

in the high country
men built drystone walls

for miles, or planted hedges,
bordering against neighbour and nature
not seeing that beneath,
it is one earth

or one cannot simply
wall out what does not please one

all the king's horses

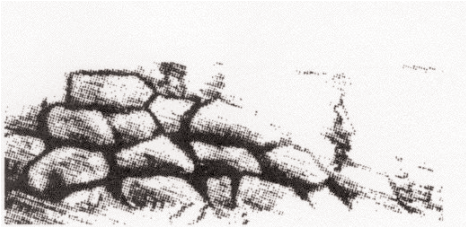
Michael Dransfield

Dry Stone Wall Workshops in Melton

DSWAA Members Alistair Tune and David Long are to conduct Dry Stone Wall Workshops in the Shire of Melton as part of a Dry Stone Walls Study currently being undertaken by a consultancy team of Jim Holdsworth, David Moloney and Raelene Marshall. The workshops will be open to anyone interested in learning how to build, repair or maintain dry stone walls and will be facilitated jointly by the consultants, Melton Shire Council and Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE. Exact dates and costs are not yet confirmed but the Workshops are proposed for sometime in April or May. Registrations of interest can be made by contacting Wendy Vine at Melton Shire Council wendyv@melton.vic.gov.au 9747 7279.

2006 Field Trips and Meetings *Calendar of Dates for your Diary*

Month	Date	Location
February	11	Eltham
April	8	Pirron Yallock
June	17	Scienceworks (AGM)
August	12	t.b.a.
October	14	t.b.a.



Gathering Stones...

Congratulations are due to the following members:

John Collier

The Board of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy, on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, awarded John Collier the President's Award. The citation reads:

'For his success as a leader of exploration in the CRA/Rio Tinto Group and as a pioneer of new commodities in new geological settings. His recognition, discovery and championing of the potential of the WiM mineral sands deposits in the Murray Basin was the initiating step, leading to development of a new and world-class Australian mineral province and operations.'

Jim Holdsworth

Jim Holdsworth received the Mayor's Award at the City of Port Phillip 8th Design Development Awards for his contribution to Urban Planning and Design Excellence, which he initiated in his previous role as Manager of Urban Design and Architecture and which other councils, such as the City of Stonnington, are now emulating.

Andrew Miller and Josie Black

Andrew Miller submitted a photo, 'The Rabbit Wall with Blue Wren' in the open category of the Corangamite Volcanic Landscape Postcard project. It was chosen to be one of a set of eight postcards created in a community arts project highlighting the aesthetic, scientific and social significance of the Volcanic Plains. The project was conceived and managed by Josie Black, Hon. Sec. of Corangamite Arts with assistance from Camperdown College, Corangamite Shire and the Norm Wettenhall Foundation.

Rob and Gaye Wuchatsch

Rob and Gaye Wuchatsch were the successful bidders at the auction in November for the old Stony Rises Homestead at 2020 Princes Highway, Pirron Yallock (halfway between Colac and Camperdown), and took possession in January. The homestead stands on 11 acres and they are now the proud owners of about 750 metres of dry stone walls that surround the house (thought to have been built 1840s/50s), grounds and paddocks. A few hundred metres away, but now on an adjoining property, is the former rabbit factory, converted from a woolshed in the 1880s to combat the rabbit plague, when hundreds of thousands of rabbits were trapped, processed and canned for the European market. Many of the dry stone walls in the Stony Rises were built during the 1880s in an attempt to control the rabbit menace.



John Collier at the historic Purrrumbete homestead, near Camperdown.



Andrew's photo shows the rabbit wall that runs between Lake Corangamite and Lake Purrrumbete, some sections of which have the fabulous huge overhanging copingstones to impede the westerly progress of the rabbits in the mid to late 1800s. The adjacent environment is a haven for blue wrens. Andrew's postcard has already proven to be the most popular of the series.



At the Stony Rises Homestead there is a dry stone wall five feet wide that is believed to have been part of an old bull paddock.

8 April committee meeting and field trip

The April committee meeting is to be held on 8 April 2006 at the Wuchatsch house at 2020 Princes Highway, Pirron Yallock, at 11.00 am–12.00 noon, prior to a field trip, organised by Kathy Woodward and June Barling, to explore the dry stone walls in the area. The tour will begin at 1.00 pm at the

Wuchatsch property and will include a look at the old rabbit factory. Plenty of room for parking and picnic lunch. Between 2.00–5.00 pm visits will be made to Koallah (rock crushing and dry stone walls); O'Callaghan's Cave, Pomborneit; and the quarry at Mt Porndon (volcanic bombs and great views of lava flows), where owner Sue Seabright will speak to the group.

The DSWAA October field trip to Turkeith

by Andrew Miller

The DSWAA October 2005 field trip was held at Turkeith, nestled near the foot of Mt Gellibrand, the distinctive volcanic cone just north of the Princes Highway, between Winchelsea and Colac, in Victoria's Western District.

Turkeith's owners, Janet and Lachlan Gordon have lived on the property since 1986 and have not only focused on the farm business, but also on returning the homestead garden to its former glory. Their work has included special attention and care of the original dry stone walls and also the construction of some new walls.

Turkeith is best summed up in an excerpt from the 5th edition of, *Historic and Country Gardens of the Geelong Region*:

Turkeith is home to a magnificent range of original and contemporary dry stone walls. The garden was designed for the Ramsay family in 1903–4 by William Guilfoyle, who designed the



The 'marvellous flowing' garden at Turkeith was designed for the Ramsay family in 1903–4 by William Guilfoyle, designer of the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

and a splendid range of bulbs all year round. The major attraction of the garden however is Guilfoyle's flowing design.

The first construction of the walls dates back to the late 1850s and extended through to as late as the 1920s. The property changed hands in 1900 (Felix Armitage to Urquhart Ramsay) and documents prepared for the sale show the extent of the walls at that time. Urquhart Ramsay's diary provides an excellent record of wallers and their associated activities.

Most of the walls on Turkeith have been built for stock management purposes. These include general fencing, sheep folds, sheep dips, walling in the woolshed precinct and structures in the vicinity of farm dams.



Turkeith, a 2000 hectare working sheep station on the basalt plains, has many kilometres of wonderful dry stone walls.

Melbourne Botanic Gardens. It reached maturity in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s then it endured a gradual decline in maintenance which extended until 1986 when the Gordon family took over. A restoration program, which had been in place since then, is gradually restoring this fascinating garden to its former glory. Part of the charm of the Turkeith garden is its isolated situation at the centre of a 2,000 hectare working sheep station on the basalt plains. Magnificent oaks elms pines palms cypress and gums are the major trees dating from the earliest plantings, and many different species have been added since 1986, including magnolias, oaks, sycamores, elms, hawthorns and fruit trees. Under these trees are a wide range of shrubs, hardy perennials and drought-tolerant plants



Part of the new entrance wall at 'Turkeith' built by waller David Long.

A major feature of the William Guilfoyle design is the use of dry stone walling, with a significant part of the garden perimeter being of dry stone walling Janet and Lach. have added to the garden landscape with some wall extensions.

A wonderful addition to the walling assets at Turkeith is the farm entrance. The curvilinear design and construction offered special challenges as the structure is located in an area of softer basaltic clays. In keeping with traditional walling methods care was taken to select foundation stones that adequately distributed the loading over the underlying clays (no reinforced concrete supports this wall). The property name has been worked into a specially sawn bluestone slab, interestingly (and unknowingly) the slab was procured from a Kyneton stonemason who is a distant relative of Lach! Dry stone waller, David Long, has played a key role in the recent additions. Many thanks to Janet and Lach. for making the DSWAA so welcome.



Lachlan and Janet Gordon, owners of Turkeith, with a renewed section of their garden wall where they have established a stile.

11 February field trip

The **11 February field trip** to Eltham will be preceded by a **committee meeting** at Brad Purvis' house: **Braeside, 10 Kent-Hughes Road, Eltham South (Melway Ref. 22 A10)**. This meeting will be from **11.00 am to 12.00 noon**. Please bring your own lunch; beverages will be provided.

DSWAA field trip and walling demonstration at the Gordon Ford property in Eltham

By the 1950s dry stone walls were no longer an important form of fencing for agricultural purposes. However, as early as the 1920s their slow decline and fall in favour for farming use, was paralleled by an increase in popularity in public and private garden settings.

In the period after the Second World War the craft of dry stone walling experienced a revival through the influence and work of a small group of innovative landscape designers. One among these was Gordon Ford.

At that time people were beginning to surround themselves with things of beauty. They became creative. In their gardens they used recycled materials to create a sense of place. Nature and the natural form suddenly became important. The garden designs of Edna Walling and Paul Sorenson followed closely by Ellis Stones and Gordon Ford captured this new and exciting mood. Their talent lay in blending the stonework and the plantings to create gardens of exquisite beauty. Each of these designers enjoyed the form, shape and placement of local stone. They understood and appreciated the value of dry stone walls for their aesthetic value as well as their practical application.

The event will begin at 1.15 pm at the property of Gwen Ford **141 Pitt Street, Eltham 3095 (Melway Ref. 22 A7)** where Russell Yeoman, Secretary of the Eltham and District Historical Society will give a short talk entitled, 'Artists in the Landscape: a brief history of the character of Eltham'. Gwen will then speak about Gordon Ford and his landscape design. This will be followed by a wall-building demonstration by Alistair Tune, well-known for his wall at Scienceworks and Gerhard Steiniger from South Australia, both DSWAA members. Gerhard was introduced to the craft of dry stone walling on the Isle of Skye in Scotland.

Cost \$10 non-members \$5.00 members. Visitors are encouraged to indicate their attendance by registering on dswaa@optusnet.com.au Mobile 0418 523 900 Raelene Marshall, Secretary.

Ghoulish fact follows arresting fiction

In the previous issue, this excerpt from a book was quoted: 'He noticed the local police searching a field marked off by drystone walls. By the side of the north-south wall, lay the body'. The question was posed. 'Do you know the title of this book?'. The book is: *A Dedicated Man*, by Peter Robinson, one of a series of murder mysteries by that author and, as in all of Robinson's novels, Inspector Alan Banks leads an investigation that unravels the crime, this one set on the Yorkshire moors. The *Age*, 17 January 2006: 'The dead man was spotted by a passing motorist slumped against a stone wall on Middle Road, Truganina, about 8.30 am yesterday. Property owner Wendy Bitans (a founding member of DSWAA), who lives nearby, said her family had been keeping an eye on the property in recent months after thieves had stolen stones from along the fence-line on several occasions.' Perhaps Victoria Police should contact Inspector Banks.

Mending Wall

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
He is all pine and I am apple-orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down!' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there,
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'

Robert Frost

Contributions for Newsletter invited

Pictures of unusual walls/damaged walls
Dry stone wall-related literature
Any item of interest to members of DSWAA
News from overseas

Deadline for the May issue is 12 April 2006

All material to: chabrent@bigpond.net.au

Saving Our Stone workshop, Oatlands, Tasmania, November 2005

by Eleanor Bjorksten



This free, practical workshop was run to provide advice on common stone problems associated with the sandstone buildings in Tasmania and including the dry stone walls in the gardens. Advice included how to identify problems, what causes them and how to fix them. Power-point displays and talks were complemented with walks and hands-on demonstrations.

The final items on the program were optional visits to either local quarries or dry stone walls. The dry stone wall component included visits to old walls and new ones recently built in the area (mostly by women) with their adventurous adaptations, such as a stone stile, sculptures and Andy Goldsworthy-like creations.



The stile above is at Weedington, Oatlands, Tasmania.

Issues concerning local dry stone walls included access to stone, recycling old bulldozed walls, retaining and protecting remnant walls, individual styles and variations on construction techniques, capping stones/flat tops, selection of stones, height of finished article, integration with immediate landscape and historical landscape considerations. For Oatlands, the dry stone wall revival has been noticeable and now dry stone walls are the new garden 'fashion', some replacing pre-existing walls, some offering disturbing changes in the streetscape.

Workshop feedback forms have identified historic gardens and dry stone walls as preferred topics to be delved into in more detail in future.

For further information about the SOS workshop, go to www.savingourstone.org where most of the material presented on the day will be on display. This site is under construction so please be patient. A DVD of the workshop will be available for purchase soon. As further SOS workshops are planned for April and November 2006, stay tuned!

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New members

Please complete (or photocopy) and **either** email to OR post to DSWAA Membership c/o Rob Wuchatsch, 2020 Princes Highway, Pirron Yallock, Vic. 3249 Tel. 5235 4220

Payment: monies can be deposited in the Association's bank account 013 274 4997 47356 at any ANZ Bank **or** send a cheque payable to: The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc. at the above address.

(*Please indicate payment method below.)

The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc.
No. A004473S. ABN 31 721 856 687

Application for Membership

Professional (voting rights)	\$40.00
Individual (voting rights)	\$25.00
Corporate (voting rights)	\$80.00
Family (voting rights)	\$40.00

* Paying by: Cheque enc. • Bank deposit •

Name

Address

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Area of interest, for example, farmer, heritage, etc.

Contributors: photographs and illustrations

page 1	John Collier
page 2	John Collier
page 3	from Raelene Marshall's 'A Stone upon a Stone' exhibition
page 5	Andrew Miller, Rob Wuchatsch
page 6	Andrew Miller, Charmian Brent
page 8	Eleanor Bjorksten