

the **Dry**
Stoney
association
of Australia inc. **Walls**

THE DRY STONE WALLS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Victorian Registration No A0044737S ARBN 641 358 581 ABN 31 721 856 687

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Highland Valley Station SA

Photo: Raelene Marshall

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DSWAA Vision

The Association's vision is that dry stone walls and dry stone structures are widely appreciated for their unique place in the history and culture of the nation and for the legacy they represent.

DSWAA Statement of Purposes

To inform and educate the nation about the cultural significance of dry stone walls and dry stone structures in Australia and their associations and meanings for past, present and future generations.

To document dry stone walls and dry stone structures and draw on historical records in order to encourage appreciation, conservation, maintenance, repair and interpretation of those of cultural significance.

To establish disciplines and accreditation systems that can contribute to the care and construction of dry stone walls and dry stone structures.

To assist in ensuring that new construction, demolition, intrusions and other changes do not adversely affect the cultural significance of dry stone walls and dry stone structures and that modern uses of them are compatible.

To respect Indigenous heritage places and cultural values, and, in particular, to assist in the conservation of those associated with dry stone walls and dry stone structures.

1 THE ASSOCIATION

1.1 Incorporation

The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia was formed at a public meeting held in Ballarat in Victoria on 27 July 2002. The Association was established in response to an articulated need to ensure the survival and protection of this significant part of Australia's cultural landscape for future generations.

The DSWAA became incorporated in Victoria on 5 September 2003 (No. A0044737S) under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 which is regulated by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

On 6 June 2020 the Association was registered by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission as a Registered Australian Body (ARBN 641 358 581). This registration extends recognition of the Association's incorporated status in Victoria to all states and territories.

1.2 Rules of Association

The Association operates under its Own Rules in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian legislation. The Rules specify a range of rights and obligations of members, that the Association is not-for-profit, is administered by a Committee of Management, and is guided by its stated Vision and Purposes.

The DSWAA Rules of Association were last revised at the Annual General Meeting in June 2019. The Vision and Purposes, shown on the preceding page, are taken from the Rules.

1.3 Committee of Management 2020-2021

President:	Laurie Atkins (resigned 16/03/2021) Jim Holdsworth (acting 17/03/2021)
Vice President:	Raelene Marshall
Secretary:	Stuart Read
Treasurer:	Bruce Munday
Committee Members:	Lyn Allison Jane Boot Geoff Duggan (resigned December 2020) Andrew Garner Josh Henderson Jim Holdsworth Stuart Read

2. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

2.1 PRESIDENT

I held the Presidency of the DSWAA from the June 2020 AGM to March 2021. Running up to the 2020 AGM nominees for the Presidency were found to be either ineligible or decided to withdraw their nomination leaving the Association at the eleventh hour without nominees. This is an extremely bad situation for the Association to find itself facing an AGM. Reluctantly I nominated for the position and as the sole nominee, was duly elected. However, over the period in office, notwithstanding that everyone on the Committee was acting in good faith, I increasingly felt that I held different views on a number of important matters and that I couldn't intuitively speak with confidence on behalf of the Association. Having reached that conclusion, I felt I could not continue as President or indeed on the Committee. With some regret, I announced my resignation as President and stepped down from the Committee at the March Committee meeting.

I'd like to comment on two initiatives in which I was significantly involved.

On the 2 June 2020 the DSWAA was registered as a 'Registerable Australian Body' with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. This registration enables the Association, which was originally incorporated in Victoria, to be recognised as an incorporated body throughout the Commonwealth of Australia. Such a registration is a very important protection for all members when the Association operates outside of Victoria.

I am passionate about the potential of a dry stone structures geospatial information system. For background refer to The Flagstone Issue No. 47, January 2020. I had promoted this to a number of Committee members from 2016 and at the end of 2019 was invited to join the Committee with this project in mind. A significant amount of work has gone into firming the design, functionality, and implementation pathways. However, I ultimately felt that the development as I was proposing was not fully supported.

It is the rightful role of the incoming Committee to set the future direction of the Association.

Laurie Atkins

DSWAA Inc. President (27/06/20 - 16/03/21)

Acting President's Report

Upon the resignation of President Laurie Atkins in March, I accepted the Committee's request that I assume the role of Acting President until the elections at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

During this brief period I have endeavoured to continue to implement the agenda of the Committee and to chair its monthly meetings. One very satisfying moment was to chair the April meeting of the Committee in a face-to-face environment rather than by on-line

meeting, with all but two of the Committee in attendance at the home of Bruce Munday on the Friday evening of the April field trip.

The work that the Committee does is summarised in this Annual Report and the breadth of experience, skills and interests that is represented on the Committee enables that work to be undertaken with efficiency and a valuable sense of camaraderie.

I take this opportunity to thank Geoff Duggan, who resigned from the Committee during the year, for his counsel, views and unique contribution to the Association since 2005. As the country's only Master Craftsman his commitment to the highest standards of the craft has guided the Committee's deliberations on many occasions.

Looking ahead, I hope that the new Committee continues its valuable agenda, particularly in expanding community appreciation of dry stone walls and in reinforcing the Association's stature as the peak body for dry stone walling in Australia.

Jim Holdsworth

DSWAA Inc. Acting President (17/03/21 - 10/07/21)

2.2 VICE PRESIDENT

The role of Vice President has always been a bit of a mystery to me, however according to a question I recently put to a Google search asking: What is the role of a vice president in a volunteer organisation? It tells me that "The role of the Vice President is to work closely and collaboratively with the President, ensuring they have a working knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the Executive and Portfolios and to support the Office Bearers and all Portfolio holders to deliver their component of the strategic plan."

During this year I have enjoyed working with Laurie Atkins. Laurie came to the position of President with strong credentials and knowledge of the regulatory requirements and procedures of an organisation such as ours. In the early days I initiated, and together with Josie Black (dec) and Andrew Miller we became founding members of the DSWAA. To that end the background history and documentation I could bring to the role was helpful in briefing him on the history, culture, community and professional values of the organisation.

Initially the DSWAA formed and was only registered with Consumer Affairs in Victoria and remained that way until recently. Among the benefits of Laurie's experience was that he initiated and implemented our registration now as a National organisation. Fortuitously that also meant that our Insurance Policy was able to cover the use of the Community building in the Aldinga Eco Village during our recent Field Trip to South Australia

Laurie's technological expertise is in gathering, managing and analysing data. For quite some time, he has been researching both here and internationally how and if others are undertaking this work in relation to dry stone walls. Whilst working on a dry stone walls enclosures research project with member historian David Moloney, I was privileged to experience first-hand the depth of his skills and knowledge and began to understand the

innovative implications and breadth of his vision to integrate these with his passion for the long term benefit of the DSWAA.

More recently Jim Holdsworth our long-time past President generously stepped in to the gap left by Laurie, so my supportive role took on a new dimension. Thankfully I had worked closely with Jim in the past during my years as Secretary. Surprisingly and despite the years in between, it has been a bit like putting on an old pair of shoes. So, fortunately for my role, Jim's experience with the tasks at hand came with him and he has been able to seamlessly fill the transition in particular with regards the planning and preparations for the Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Laurie and Jim.

Raelene Marshall
DSWAA Inc. Vice President

2.3 SECRETARY

2020/21 has been a weird year, as no doubt all know. COVID 19 has meant no public gatherings, for much of the year, in one or all states. The Committee has met monthly, by 'Go To Meeting' an electronic method getting neatly around the considerable constraints of virus outbreaks, border closures and travel restrictions. This has proved economical and effective, and we have continued to meet thus.

We surveyed members in February, seeking to find out what you like and would like improved, or provided, by DSWAA and what skills members might contribute. We welcome feedback and ideas from members at any time.

The Flag Stone has had three ripper issues and is a credit to Bruce Munday's work, profiling wallers, walls and much more, here and overseas. It remains a major member benefit.

Bruce also hosted and organised our sole "actual" gathering (before the AGM meeting), a fieldtrip in Willunga, Aldinga and Strathalbyn, South Australia in April. Well done, Bruce!

Thanks to Communications and Membership Officer, Lyn Allison, the Association's website continues to generate regular enquiries – some for memberships, others information. Many of the latter are discussed under section 3.2 – Outreach, Support and Advice. Some are more in the vein of advocacy or reflect research and an interest in the history of a wall or structure. Increasingly these getting more "national" in reach, with perhaps Queensland being a bit quieter than the other states. We would welcome contacts and queries from that large state.

Stuart Read
DSWAA Inc. Secretary

2.4 TREASURER

The following is a summary of the DSWAA financial accounts for 2020-21.

DSWAA Balance as at 1 June 2020

Cash – Operating Account	\$7,198.00
Cash – Term Deposit	\$6,707.46
PayPal	\$ 57.84
Total Membership Funds	<u>\$13,963.30</u>

Activity for year 20/21	Debit	Credit	Balance
General	\$1934.40	\$ 47.32	(\$1897.08)
Insurance	\$1016.40		
ASIC registration	\$ 408.00		
Website	\$ 510.00		
Interest		\$ 37.32	
Misc		\$ 10.00	
Membership	\$ 0.00	\$3128.74	\$3128.74
Field Trip	\$5272.08	\$ 430.00	(\$4842.08)
Buses	\$2134.08		
Catering	\$2383.00		
Refunds	\$ 355.00		
Reimburse B Munday	\$ 400.00		
Bookings		\$ 430.00	
SA workshops	\$4391.00	\$5880.00	\$1489.00
Participants Fees		\$5880.00	
Instructor	\$4000.00		
Printing	\$ 141.00		
Refund	\$ 250.00		
Totals	\$11,597.48	\$9486.06	(\$2121.42)

Closing Balance at 31 May 2021

Cash – Operating Account	\$3440.40
Cash – Term Deposit	\$6744.78
Cash – PayPal	\$1724.42
Debtors – (Trybooking Field Trip Receipts)	\$5289.23
Total Membership Funds	<u>\$17,198.83</u>
Closing minus Opening	<u>\$3235.53</u>

Bruce Munday
DSWAA Inc. Treasurer

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Training and Accreditation

The Association places great importance on the value and importance of training of skilled practitioners and the maintenance of high standards among professional wallers.

We are establishing a Register of Certified Wallers as an enduring record of professional wallers with appropriate qualifications. As a benchmark and as the most common measure of qualification we have come to an agreement with the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain (DSWA UK) to use their four levels of Certification, namely:

Level 1 (Initial) Certificate in Dry Stone Walling

Level Two (Intermediate) Certificate in Dry Stone Walling

Level Three (Advanced) Certificate in Dry Stone Walling

Level Four (Master Craftsman) Certificate in Dry Stone Walling.

Certified professional wallers will be invited to appear in the Directory of Certified Wallers on our website, with an annual fee payable to be listed. Non-Certified people who undertake dry stone walling as a business may apply to appear in a List of Non-accredited dry stone Practitioners, a separate part of the Directory, with an annual fee payable.

Jim Holdsworth

3.1.1 South Australian Workshops

The DSWAA supported two hands-on dry stone walling workshops, one in November 2020 and the other in April 2021. Both weekend workshops were held at Corromandel Valley in the Adelaide Hills. All up 23 participants learned how to safely build a free-standing wall from scratch. The workshops were coordinated by Bruce Munday, SA representative of the DSWAA, and instructed by certified Level-2 waller Jon Moore of JRM Stonework. All workshop participants received a manual *Building Dry Stone Walls – a guide for beginners*. This is a substantially revised and improved version of the earlier manual. DSWAA provided insurance cover.

There have now been twenty-one weekend workshops in this series training approximately 230 learner-wallers. There is still demand for workshops but not to the extent of earlier years. This year there were no participants from interstate, presumably on account of Covid. The training model is to build a wall at Jon Moore's property where he provides the stone, much of it from the wall built at the previous workshop. Stripping out the original wall continues to be a useful teaching tool as students see the basic principles of walling



as the old wall is 'opened up'. All participants are encouraged to complete an exit survey, results of which have been very encouraging and helpful. The safety record has been good, with three minor reportable incidents (over the 21 workshops), none resulting in insurance claims.

Participants now pay \$250 for a workshop and the instructor receives \$2000. DSWAA benefits financially when there are nine or more participants (allowing for the free manual) but underwrites the event if numbers are less. The two workshops this year returned almost \$1500 to DSWAA.

Bruce Munday

3.2 Outreach Support and Advice

The Association provided advice to help identify and conserve walls in response to approaches over the year. One was from Sydney's Balgowlah, where a former rural wall near Sydney Road, now runs across suburban lots. It was at risk with purchase by a developer. We helped date it and wrote in support of local heritage listing by Northern Beaches Council. Another was from Cooma in SW NSW, where an owner sought advice on walls on his land, outside town and others of Chinese origin at Dairyman's Plains. A visit and advice were organised.

Several approaches came for advice about local wallers able to help repair or rebuild damaged walls, most from Victoria, but some from New South Wales and South Australia. Some enquirers sought wallers in Queensland and dry stone wall training in Western Australia, two states for which we have struggled to find any contacts, as yet. One chap who has built walls overseas is now living in Queensland, seeking our advice on sources of stone!

Others sought opportunities for workshops, training in dry stone wall building or repairs, in WA, SA, Vic., Tasmania and NSW, including from the Australian Association for Consulting Archaeologists (Vic. Chapter), who run their own professional development courses.

An archaeologist researching Aboriginal stone features in SW Victoria got in touch, seeking examples of European dry stone walls. As did a University of Melbourne Honours student wanting to meet wall owners in western Victoria to undertake filming of walls and interviews.

Overseas enquiries came from England, seeking an interview to inform an article for the UK Dry Stone Wall Association on Australian walls. And from Rajasthan, India about hill forts and dry stone wall research. Another came from a USA waller seeking to organise an online meeting with like bodies around the world. Whilst an admirable idea, this is yet to happen.

Stuart Read

3.3 Gunditjmara Indigenous Community

Like everything this past year, the Portfolio liaison with the Indigenous communities was significantly affected by the Covid19 outbreak. Whilst there are likely other areas of

indigenous significance yet to be investigated, currently there are two dry stone Aquaculture systems of particular interest to the DSWAA. This Report provides a short insight into the ancient fish trap systems of the Ngemba people in Brewarrina in New South Wales and the Gunditjmirring people of the Budj Bim landscape in southwest Victoria. Links to suggested follow up reading and or viewing are included below.

For thousands of years the Ngemba people of Brewarrina in New South Wales used their advanced knowledge of river hydrology and fish ecology to trap and catch large numbers of fresh water fish. Media coverage this year provided a strong and rich visual imagery of higher water flows such that the unusual and innovative fish traps system known as Ngunnhu not only provided the viewer with connections to the area but an insight into the past when the Ngemba people were actively living off the plentiful food sources that the trapping system could offer.

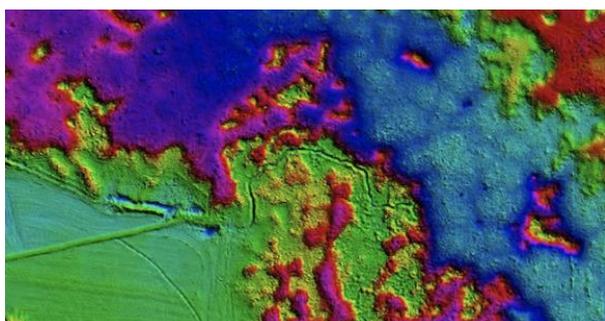
<https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/brewarrina>

<https://www.visitnsw.com/things-to-do/tours/brewarrina-aboriginal-cultural-museum-tour>

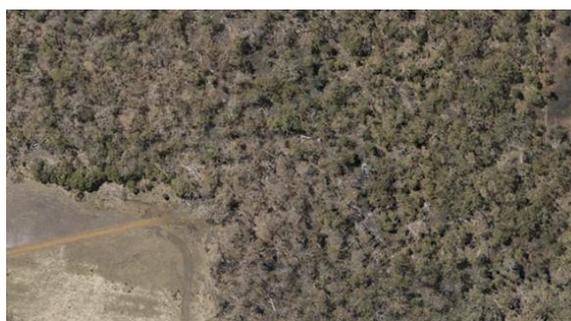
However, despite the limitations the Gunditjmirring people of South West Victoria are excited about working with the Lidar technology that has led to the discovery of extensive sections of the Aquaculture system hitherto unknown. Lidar, a light detection and ranging system is a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the Earth. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.

Gunditjmirring Elder Denis Rose has provided the DSWAA the following comments for inclusion in this Report:

- “Partnership with the Gunditjmirring Traditional Owner Corporation and the Victorian Government. Attached and below is some recent information, articles etc re the use of LiDAR technology on the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape. We are still in the very early days of interpreting the data but recent results are very positive.”
- “and LiDAR [here’s the link to the long video on our website.](#)”



System in the bud Bom National Park that has been previously recorded but we never understood the length of this system (approx. 160 metres)



Normal aerial photo of that same 160 metre system, which is extremely difficult to ID the system.

An article from my favourite Age Journalist who lives in, and often writes about the area: Tony Wright Associate editor and special writer The Age April 10 2021

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/ancient-stones-still-stand-on-the-volcanic-plains-of-western-victoria-20210408-p57hjp.html>

Raelene Marshall

3.4 Events

Our regular program of events, especially of conducting our ever-popular three field trips per year, has not been possible this year.

Getting out and about in rural Australia is our main means of actively engaging our membership and of opening our eyes and minds to the wealth of places where dry stone walls and structures are found and appreciated.

Since our field trip to the Daylesford area of central Victoria in November 2019 we had to postpone the weekend in South Australia planned for April 2020, as well as other trips or events. That enforced delay was put behind us in April and about sixty people including many friends and non-members, attended one or both days and revelled in the rich stories of mining, grazing and settlement that are told in the dry stone walls and structures, old and recent, in the rolling slopes of the southern Adelaide Hills and around Strathalbyn. On behalf of all those who attended, thanks are due to Bruce Munday who master-minded and hosted a busy program of tours, talks and meals which were enjoyed by all.



Drystone folly built by Bruce Munday and the community at the Aldinga Arts Eco-Village

Jim Holdsworth

3.5 Dry Stone Walling Foundation Project

A preliminary meeting of a sub-committee sought to progress establishment of a Dry Stone Walling Foundation, which might seek tax-deductible gift status, i.e. be able to receive donations from interested members or people, for which they could claim and receive tax deductions. Such a foundation would enable the Association to budget for longer-term,

larger projects such as grants to farmers or owners for wall restoration works, repairs in regional areas, where assistance can be scarce.

Donations might include bequests, public or corporate donations, sponsors, in-kind donations, government or heritage grants.

I pointed out that tax deductible donations status is hard to achieve in Australia in the not-for-profit sector. The Federal Department of Finance is unwilling to grant another 'heritage sector' recipient (than the existing sole recipient, the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT)). That body has tax deductible status and it may be possible for DSWAA to use this vehicle to filter our donations through. This is the set-up that happens for the Australian Garden History Society, working with the ACNT to receive donations via them.

Further investigation is needed as to whether the DSWAA is permitted to raise funds to put towards the Society's objectives.

We will seek to set up a section of the DSWAA website explaining the Fund and its rules and being interactive, seeking input from members and interested people, for ideas for restoration projects and for indications of priority: which? where?

Stuart Read

3.6 Communications, Marketing and Publications

3.6.1 Website

The website analytics show steady use with 725 sessions and 1,400 pageviews in the last month. Top pages viewed, other than the home page, were DSWAA in Victoria and SA, wallers, history and Bruce Munday's "A guide for beginners".

The Flag Stone was published three times this year and emailed to members using Mail Chimp. The editor, Bruce Munday does a great job sourcing interesting articles and beautiful photos for this very well-read publication. 'A guide for beginners' was updated during the year and is freely available on the website.

Lyn Allison

3.6.2 eNews

eNews is published as required for membership renewals, notices of upcoming events, the AGM and general news but in the absence of events, fewer than usual have been published this year. We have 485 subscribers.

Lyn Allison

3.6.3 The Flag Stone



The Flag Stone was published three times this year and emailed to members using Mail Chimp. Bruce Munday continues as editor, sourcing interesting articles and photos for this very well-read publication. Copies are sent to DSWAI, DSWA(GB) and The Stone Trust as part of an exchange.

Issues 49, 50 and 51 of *The Flag Stone* were published with contributions from committee members and some general members, maintaining the overall style established by Charmian Brent and now running to between 20 and 24 pages. Issue 49 had three major articles from UK and USA and unfortunately only one from Australia. Whilst the overseas contributions were original pieces it was disappointing that so little local material

emerged. Issue 50 was significant for its milestone and featured three strong local pieces along with technical articles on foundations and through-stones. Issue 51 covered the SA field trip and three local stories including an introduction to Jane Boot's initiative to assist farmers with maintenance of extensive rural walls. All field trip hosts were sent a copy of #51 as a gesture of gratitude.

Copies of The Flag Stone are archived at the National Library of Australia.

Bruce Munday

3.7 Membership

We have 122 members, 16 of them in the professional category. Membership renewals are now due and we may see a drop in numbers thanks to Covid restrictions limiting events.

We do need to build membership in states other than Victoria so that events can be organized and well patronised elsewhere. That said, the one field trip held in South Australia in April was well attended and attracted several new members.

Lyn Allison

3.8 Member Special Interest Working Group

The DSWAA has recently started up a new working group which I am convening.

The group will build on the wealth of valuable expertise and enthusiasm amongst our members and those who would like to be involved in a hands-on way and to harness these skills and assist landowners with both useful information and physical help.

The group is open to any members, including landowners, professional and amateur members whose walling experience may be considerable or none and people with

experience in heritage organisations, funding, grants, etc. The group's activities would add to and complement the Association's other activities.

The group's work may extend to improving practical walling skills, restoring walls, mapping and recording dry stone walls/structures, and be an information exchange on such topics as custodianship (including indigenous), heritage controls and formal protection, funding for restoration and preservation, insurance, etc.

Already, the issue of insurance of dry stone walls used as paddock fences is a topic that the group is researching.

The group will be very member-driven, practical, relevant and enjoyable.

Members are encouraged to join the group by contacting me or the Secretary.

Jane Boot