

Annual Report 2021-2022

Issue no. 17

June 2022



Kevin Hart dry stone paving the lookout over Wineglass Bay, Freycinet National Park

Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc.



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

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DSWAA VISION and STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

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

Our Statement of Purposes is:

- To inform and educate the nation about the cultural significance of dry stone walls and structures in Australia and their associations and meanings for past, present and future generations;
- To document DSW and DSS 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 DSW and DSS;
- To assist in ensuring that new construction, demolition, intrusions and other changes do not adversely affect the cultural significance of DSW and DSS 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 DSA and DSS.

In the process, the DSWAA can play a critical role in educating dry stone wall owners and the community of the significance of dry stone walls and allied structures in the landscape and encouraging their retention, as well as assisting in promotion of the waller's craft and practical conservation of Australia's extensive, only part-documented dry stone wall legacy.



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 2021-22

President	vacant
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Stuart Read
Treasurer	Bruce Munday
Committee members	Lyn Allison Jane Boot (resigned in October 2021) Andrew Garner Joshua Henderson Jim Holdsworth Raelene Marshall Stuart Read



Ngunghu or Brewarrina Fish Traps, in the Barwon River – an ancient NSW state-heritage-listed dry stone structure still in use. And state heritage register-listed (Jim Holdsworth)

SECTION 2: REPORTS

2.1 The Committee – an overview

Jim Holdsworth

The last two years have seen, of necessity, the Committee operating on a different basis to what has been usual. At the 2021 AGM, no member nominated for the positions of either President or vice-President. The fact that of the seven members of the current committee, one is in each of New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, and four in Melbourne. Like so many organisations, COVID has required meetings to be conducted online. This has played into our hands as we have been able to engage all members in online meetings, with the seven members of the Committee sharing the role of chairperson.

Committee meetings have been vibrant, collegiate, and productive, despite the challenges of meeting remotely. In fact, this means of attending to agenda items reinforces the importance of the national identity of the Association as it allows all members to attend without the need for travel or being part of a telephone link during a face-to-face meeting. Not being together in the same room does have some downsides with the social and informal dimensions of physical meetings missing, and without the benefits of chatting over a meal.

Again, this year it has been evident that there is a widening agenda for the Association and the small leadership group has not been able to do as much as hoped in implementing that. The appointment of an Administrative Assistant earlier in the year has taken much of the day-to-day workload off the committee and the attendance of several active members at our May meeting bodes well for more faces and fresh ideas on the new Committee.



South Australian workshop – dry stone walling in action (Bruce Munday)

Current and Future Projects

Jim Holdsworth

As the 2021 – 2022 year draws to a close, it is worth reflecting on some of the achievements of the committee.

One area that has been missing this year is that of field trips and other opportunities for members to meet and get out and about. This void is about to be closed, as two events are in preparation for the latter part of 2022: one in Victoria and one in South Australia.

A major advance was made with the appointment of Christine Cholewa, an artist and passionate DSW owner who lives near Adelaide, as part-time administration assistant. Your committee sees

this practical move as being a logical and positive use of our healthy bank balance and a responsible use of members' fees.

Of the many topics discussed at committee meetings, a few are worth summarising.

The Waller Directory and Waller Registry have been finalised and are being implemented. Bringing professionally qualified wallers in touch directly with people wanting their services is a major achievement, and the Directory will continue to grow.

Circulation of 'The Flag Stone' continues to be a much-awaited moment three times a year, with readership extending well beyond our members. The variety of articles from home and abroad alert us to the diversity of the heritage, the craft, and the quirks of dry stone walling.

Our website, E-news and Facebook pages add to the exposure of the Association in the wider context and generate varied feedback and enquiries from members of the public.

The large task of identifying, protecting, and maintaining the most representative examples of the nation's dry stone walls and structures is moving ahead with a mobile phone App for field data collection being developed.

The committee is committed to getting more of our members to take active roles in the work of the Association and this is a focus for the next year. This work includes outreach to wall owners with offers of advice and assistance, more direct contact with local governments where dry stone walls is prevalent, working to protect DSWs under threat from urban expansion, and broadening our membership base.



Old shepherd's hut, Tarlee, South Australia (Bruce Munday)



2.2 A Summary of the year's activities

Stuart Read

The Committee has met monthly by Zoom to get around COVID lock-downs and one benefit has been in achieving better national representation.

Thanks to lock-downs, 2021-2022 was a quiet year. COVID restrictions and other constraints limited our ability to get together for workshops, tours and visits - something we enjoy most.

One key action this year was acting on previous registration of the Association with the Victorian government-based regulator of not-for-profit / charitable groups, Community Affairs Victoria (CAV). Providing digital annual statements to CAV is part of the requirement to monitor NGO activity. Another statement is required after this AGM, by 30 November 2022.

Appointment of an Administrative Assistant

Lyn Allison

Christine Cholewa was appointed in March 2022 as Administrative Assistant for DSWAA – our first very part time employee who is already proving to be a great asset in organising membership and communications for us.

Membership

Lyn Allison

We introduced a new system for membership this year, dropping the professional membership category so that all members are now 'ordinary' members, and we introduced a new paid Waller Directory.

Membership numbers have increased from 122 to 138 and it is encouraging that many of the new members are certified wallers on our new Register of Wallers.

DSWAA Website

Lyn Allison

There has been a drop in visits to the website, primarily because we have not been able to run events but we will be back with interesting field trips and workshops in the coming year now that virtually all restrictions have been lifted.



DSWAA Facebook Page

Andrew Garner

Since the last Annual General Meeting, one action decided by the committee was to improve interactions with members and the general public.

One measure was to have a Facebook page for the association.

Bruce Munday already had a private Facebook page set up, but as this was largely inactive, it was decided to adopt and modify the work he had begun. Thus, the DSWAA page was born.

Since then, I have been added along with Bruce as co-administrators and together we have been posting a mix of photos, upcoming events, dry stone wall and structure news items, and some educational DIY pieces.

There are now some 1800+ followers of our Facebook page, which is a significant audience. More content will be added into the future to keep the page active and the DSWAA on the social media "radar".

E News

Lyn Allison

DSWAA's E-News 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 over 600 subscribers.



Doug March creation, with slate (Bruce Munday)

South Australian Workshops

Bruce Munday

The DSWAA again supported two hands-on dry stone walling workshops, one in November 2021 and the other in April 2022. Both weekend workshops were held at Coromandel 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-three weekend workshops in this series training approximately 250 learner-wallers. There is still demand for workshops, interest almost entirely driven by word-of-mouth advertising. 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'.



Dry stone walling for beginners – the job done (Bruce Munday)

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 23 workshops), none resulting in insurance claims.

Participants now pay \$250 for a workshop and the instructor receives \$2000 + GST. DSWAA benefits financially when there are 9 or more participants (allowing for the free manual) but underwrites the event if numbers are less. The two workshops this year returned almost \$1550 to DSWAA. We have a policy of totally refunding even last-minute withdrawals.

The Flag Stone
Issue No. 51, May 2021 | ISSN 2204-8514 | Editor: Bruce Munday

SA Field Trip 2021 *Jim Holdsworth (DSWAA Acting President)*

This issue
Out of the fog
Mud mortar
On farm, outcrop, bush
After the storm
"The fence"
Dry stone steps
Insurance
Certification
Choose your price

It's not often one spends a Saturday morning scrambling up a steep, rocky slope to follow the quarrymen's path in the fine details of how to erect which particular wall to erect next. The view of the valley and all the craggy outcrops of granite is a story of the past of the flag stone. It's some farmland and the quarrymen, by 1850, 20,000 stone blocks were shipped out of Port Williams per week, much of this was bound for Melbourne. However, the quality proved inferior to what could be imported from Wales, along with carriage charges, this led to the ultimate collapse of the stone industry at Williams.

Just over the hill, a large dry creek runs through a stream. Down, and then along a rural road, we see many old stone walls, some as tall as four people, built in the 1800s. These are the stone walls that were built. Our first "resting" point was a walling site, we came to Red Dawke's station (1954-60), where extensive dry stone walling remains in the grounds of his restored 1840s miner's cottage.

Under some stone, in the well-used grounds of the former Williams quarry and the Stone Museum, we'll see a brief history of the place and a light touch before we come into the farm's walls and the back and learning more about the role that stone has played in the local history for over 120 years.

Local heritage area, built and designed by Bruce Munday. Words well chosen, as he has been and his way, made the choice for the nearby Delahouliery, in its heyday the busiest

THE FLAG STONE, ISSUE NUMBER 51 <1>

The Flag Stone

Bruce Munday and Lyn Allison

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. These organisations have been very obliging in response to our requests to use their material.

Issues 52, 53 and 54 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 approximately 20 pages.

We continue to publish a mix of local and international stories. We are probably overdue to survey readers about what they enjoy from *The Flag Stone* and what they would like to see more of. In response to a suggestion at the 2021 AGM we have introduced a Letters page – fortunately each edition has prompted a letter!

Copies of the newsletter are archived at the National Library of Australia.

The committee decided to make *The Flag Stone* available, on publication, to subscribers as well as members. Our aim is to have it read by as many people as possible and we expect this to lead to more readership and encourage subscribers to join.

2.3 Secretary's report

Stuart Read

The Society has an average of one or two contacts a month usually via the website. Over the past year, the majority of these have been regional enquiries for a dry stone waller in parts of Australia. Or for dry stone workshops and events in various regions. The website directory has been useful, as have committee member knowledge of practising wallers. Some enquiries are heritage issues, with crumbling or damaged walls needing expertise to repair, grant or other assistance, preliminary advice. Yet others are seeking filming or photography locations for projects, academic or other course.

2.4 Treasurer's Report

Bruce Munday

DSWAA Balance as of 1 June 2021

Cash – Operating Account
\$3440.40

Cash – Term Deposit
\$6744.78

PayPal
\$1724.42

Total Membership Funds

\$11,909.60



Activity for year 21/22	Debit	Credit
Balance		
<u>Insurance/Cons. Affairs</u>	<u>\$1136.60</u>	
<u>\$1136.60/</u>		
<u>Admin/website</u>	<u>\$1092.69</u>	
<u>\$1092.69/</u>		
<u>Membership</u>		<u>\$2921.36</u> <u>\$2921.36</u>
<u>SA Field Trip</u>		<u>\$5289.23</u>
<u>\$5289.23</u>		
<u>SA workshops</u>	<u>\$4351</u>	<u>\$5750</u>
<u>\$1399</u>		
<u>AGM</u>	<u>\$2055.50</u>	<u>\$1010</u>
<u>\$1045.50/</u>		
<u>Whittlesea</u>		<u>\$2750</u> <u>\$2750</u>
<u>Interest</u>		<u>\$3.96</u>
<u>\$3.96</u>		
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$8,635.79</u>	<u>\$17,724.55</u>
<u>\$9088.76</u>		

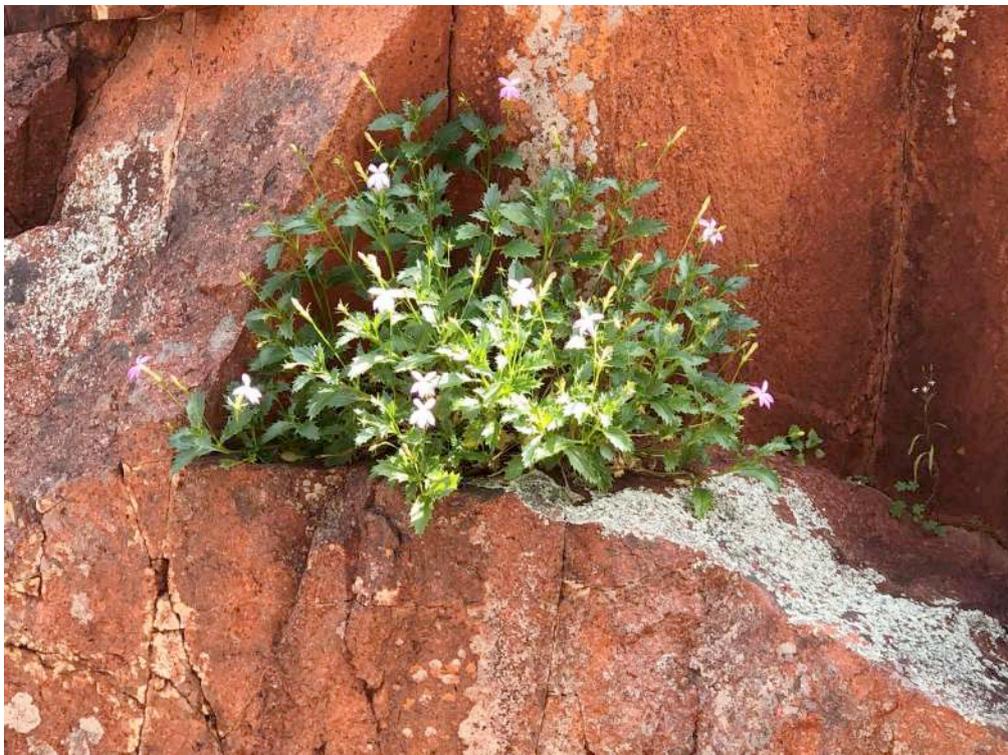
Closing Balance on 31 May 2022

Cash – Operating Account	\$14,249.62
Cash – Term Deposit	\$6748.74
Cash – PayPal	\$0
<u>Total Membership Funds</u>	<u>\$20,998.36</u>
<u>Closing minus Opening</u>	<u>\$9088.76</u>
<u>Creditors (Whittlesea District Council)</u>	<u>\$2750</u>



Rick Wheatley creation, Willunga, South Australia (Bruce Munday)

MORE TEXT>>>>>



Nature's own dry stone wall (Bruce Munday)