



THE DRY STONE WALLS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated 5 September 2003, No A0044737S

ABN 31 721 856 687

ANNUAL REPORT
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Innes Lane, Buninyong Victoria. AGM Field Trip 2017

Photo: Committee Member Raelene Marshall

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1

DSWAA Statements of Vision and Goals

DSWAA MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- 1.1 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- 1.2 RULES OF ASSOCIATION
- 1.3 PURPOSES

SECTION 2

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- 2.1 PRESIDENT
- 2.2 VICE-PRESIDENT
- 2.3 SECRETARY
- 2.4 TREASURER

SECTION 3

PORTFOLIO CONVENORS' REPORTS

- 3.1 TOWARDS A NATIONAL BODY
- 3.2 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL PLAN
- 3.3 DOCUMENT THE NATION'S DRY STONE WALLS AND STRUCTURES
- 3.4 TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WORKSHOPS
- 3.5 WALL OWNER ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE
- 3.6 LIAISON WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
- 3.7 DEVELOP A CONSERVATION ADVOCACY PLAN
- 3.8 EVENTS
- 3.9 COMMUNICATIONS EXTERNAL LIAISONS AND MARKETING
- 3.10 PUBLICATIONS
- 3.11 SECRETARIAL

SECTION 4

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

DSWAA STATEMENTS OF VISION and GOALS

VISION - *That dry stone walls and dry stone structures are widely accepted for their unique place in the history, culture and economy of the nation and for the legacy they represent.*

GOALS - *That governments and the wider community recognise the importance of significant dry stone structures built by Indigenous peoples, European explorers, early settlers and modern craftspeople as valued artefacts of our national identity,*

That this acceptance and 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 and structures have made to the culture of Australia.

1. DSWAA MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Patron: Lyn Allison Honorary Accountant Brad Purvis

1.1 Office Holders and Committee Members (2017 – 2018)

Office Holders

President	Jim Holdsworth
Vice President	Allan Willingham
Secretary	Andrew Miller
Treasurer	Vacant

Committee

Raelene Marshall
Stuart Read
Geoff Thomas
Bruce Munday
Geoff Duggan
Ian Crouch
Natalie Paynter
Chris Payne

Note: Committee Members Geoff Duggan, Ian Crouch and Natalie Paynter were duly elected at the 2017 Annual General Meeting in response to a decision to increase the number of Committee Members to eleven. Ian Crouch tendered his resignation April 18 2018.

1.2 Rules of Association

The DSWAA was incorporated in Victoria on 5 September 2003 (No. A0044737S) and registered its Own Rules based on the Model Rules under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. Incorporation is now subject to the requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

1.3 Purposes

1. The Association is established for the principal purposes of:

- a. acknowledging, promoting and celebrating the historical and contemporary contribution of the construction of dry stone walls in the shaping of Australia's physical and cultural landscape.
- b. promoting the ongoing protection, restoration and maintenance of Australia's dry stone walls.

2. To achieve these purposes the Association aims to:

- a. promote and assist the statutory protection of dry stone walls of heritage significance (yet to be determined) by liaising with local, state and national levels of government.
- b. foster and assist the identification, recording and classifying of Australia's dry stone walls that are socially, culturally, architecturally or agriculturally important.
- c. value and promote the dry stone skills and early settlement endeavours of Australia's European migrants.
- d. promote the environmental values of dry stone walls which provide habitat and protection for indigenous flora and fauna.

- e.** promote good management of stone walls and in particular encourage their continuing use by addressing the concerns, issues and needs of farmers and property owners.
- f.** advocate and assist the development and maintenance of formal training, assessment and credentialing processes and procedures.
- g.** influence relevant training institutions to introduce and accredit the craft of dry stone walling as part of their formal curricula.
- h.** influence and assist the establishment and maintenance of a database of dry stone wallers currently practicing the craft in Australia.
- i.** affiliate, co-operate and exchange information with similar or 'related' interest groups both within Australia and overseas.
- j.** acknowledge and promote the craft in the contemporary context as viable and practical options in rural and urban landscaping and structural situations.
- k.** encourage, promote and facilitate opportunities for the commissioning of dry stone 'Sculptures' in private and public art applications.
- l.** explore and influence the breadth of opportunities to promote dry stone walls within local, national and international cultural tourism industries.
- m.** foster and cultivate the promotion of dry stone walls and the craft of dry stone walling as 'value adding' components of other educative and leisure industries.

2. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

2.1 PRESIDENT

This is my fourteenth report as President.

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting, the Association's Strategy to 2020 was adopted. This set the scene, not only for the year just passed, but as a pointer for the activities of the Association into the future. While the Strategy aims to progressively implement our Goals and Vision it also, as a strategic document, allows the Committee to redefine the scope of the Strategy from time to time.

Adoption and implementation of the Strategy has had benefits, but two in particular. One, it has defined and laid down within its eleven Portfolios the broad scope of work which is being implemented, and two, it gives the Committee an understanding of how the various portfolios interact and how the scope of each Portfolio fits into the overall picture.

Another positive outcome of the 2107 AGM was the expansion of the Committee to a total of eleven members, including the four executive members. We have seen immediate benefit through the introduction of new faces, new skills and a broader perspective to the Committee's deliberations.

One significant achievement has been the work of Geoff Thomas, reflected in a motion to the AGM, that we adopt revised Model Rules. If passed, this means that future annual elections will be for the President, and Committee members. The Committee will determine other office bearer positions. This is a better arrangement as it will allow Committee members to take on roles more in keeping with their interests and skills, and has a better fit with the Portfolio system.

I have indicated to the Committee that this year is the last that I will be President. Fifteen years, if not fewer, should signal the 'use by' date for any President!

I had proposed to not seek re-election today, but given the settling down of both the current and upcoming Committees into the Portfolio arrangement, I decided to offer myself for one year only. I acknowledge that, if elected, this will create a casual vacancy in 2019. The Model Rules allow for that possibility and have mechanisms to deal with it.

The portfolio Convenors' reports within this Annual Report provide a broad picture of the year past; one that has seen the Association continue to evolve and mature, especially in terms of the public face we present via our website.

In the year ahead, I see promoting the training and accreditation of skilled wallers and the widening of awareness of the Association among local governments as two areas of particular interest to me.

Looking back over the last year, I acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of the Committee in guiding the Association, including the thoughtful inputs of Ian Crouch, who resigned his membership of the Committee in April. Our meetings overflow with ideas and lively discussion and always run over time. The Vice-president's warm hospitality may be the culprit, but I thank him for it!

Jim Holdsworth

Port Melbourne, Victoria

June 2018

DSWAA Inc. President

2.2 VICE-PRESIDENT

The DSWAA Inc. has had an eventful and in my view a very successful year. We have conducted very well attended field trips and workshops and advanced the objectives of our Association in a number of related activities. The Committee has met regularly (on occasions at my residence 'Denton Hall' in North Fitzroy) and undertaken a time-consuming but nevertheless highly beneficial re-organisation of our Committee structure and review of the model rules for the DSWAA Inc. In the process, we have set up a number of portfolios which now allow for a more efficient and responsible management of our somewhat diverse activities as well as improved administrative processes.

My role as vice-president is primarily to support our wonderfully adept president and the supporting executive in the organisation of field trips and allied activities, and to suggest ways in which the objectives of the DSWAA Inc. can be further advanced. As convenor of the Documentation portfolio, I have brought my experience as an architectural historian and heritage consultant to bear in developing a strategy for the identification and documentation of dry stone walls as existing throughout Australia, and in devising a template which can be used to record and assess the significance of these fascinating and highly diverse walls and structures in this Country.

The DSWAA Inc. has a promising future and one which will inevitably involve us increasingly in the education of both public and private landholders, government instrumentalities, and other interested parties, in the techniques for the identification, assessment, conservation and maintenance of dry stone walls and structures in Australia.

Allan Willingham

North Fitzroy, Victoria

June 2018

DSWAA Inc. Vice-President

2.3 SECRETARY

The 2017/18 year has seen some strong development of the DSWAA.

The Association's two key communication mediums continue to develop in a manner that is very positive for our membership, both now and into the future.

The Flag Stone is an outstanding medium for sharing knowledge and stories associated with the wonderful craft of dry stone walling. Editor Bruce Munday and the DSWAA membership must both be acknowledged for maintaining the high standard in content. We all need to support the publication by meeting any requests from Bruce. As members we can all watch for opportunities for stories, and then meet Bruce's deadlines for submitting our contributions.

The DSWAA website continues to see strong development as a communication medium and our Patron and Membership Officer, Lyn Allison, provides wonderful leadership and sound advice in this area. Members are encouraged to visit the website regularly to stay updated on all the Association's news.

The Committee has again experienced a productive year and this Annual Report shows there have been valuable achievements. The maintenance of a soundly-run association takes considerable time and effort by the Committee and we always welcome input from members.

Field Trips continue to be an important part of our program and increase our learning and understanding of the heritage value of dry stone walls.

Sincere thanks to current and new members for their commitment to the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia and many thanks to Raelene Marshall who has assisted in compiling the 2017/18 Annual Report.

Andrew Miller

Ballarat, Victoria

June 2018

DSWAA Inc. Secretary

2.4 TREASURER

This position has been vacant since the resignation of Ian Crouch in April.

The Association's financial situation is presented in the Special Purpose Financial Report prepared by the Honorary Accountant in Section 4 of this Annual Report.

3. PORTFOLIO CONVENORS' REPORTS

The Association's Strategy, adopted at our 2017 Annual General Meeting, includes eleven Portfolios which include a suite of tasks that encompass the range of current and future activities of the Committee.

Set out below are the Convenors' Reports and relevant members' contribution for each Portfolio.

3.1 Towards a National Body

Convenor: Jim Holdsworth

Members: Stuart Reid, Bruce Munday

Three priority tasks are included in the Strategy. With a comment on recent tasks, they are:

3.1.1 Approach the State government (Heritage branch of the Department of Planning, or equivalent) to open communications

No direct approach has been made to Heritage departments in the four States (Vic, SA, Tas, NSW) during the year. Although ~~but~~ contacts had been made in previous years, ~~but~~ these now require follow-up as a matter of some urgency. Committee member Stuart Reid is in the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning in NSW.

3.1.2 Include a 'State' page on the website and in the Flag Stone

Templates were prepared and state pages for Victoria and South Australia are so far on the website. The website also has state-specific pages on conservation and on waller directories.

Issues of The Flag Stone include articles relating to States, but there is no dedicated 'State page'. There is some uncertainty as to whether the Flag Stone is the right vehicle for State-oriented stories, and that the website is a more appropriate forum.

3.1.3 Establish a Photo Gallery by State, on the website

This has been implemented for NSW, Vic, SA and Tas, with a wide variety of mostly captioned images which automatically 'scroll'. These will be updated from time to time.

3.1.4 Proposed tasks for 2018-2019

The Strategy proposes that the Committee includes at least one member from each of Tas, NSW, SA and Vic. This applies in the current Committee with the exception of Tasmania, and steps should be taken to achieve this objective.

A range of other tasks is included in the strategy, and the new Committee should consider and determine on each of these.

3.2 Funding and Financial Plan

Convenor: Ian Crouch (resigned April 2018)

Member: Jim Holdsworth (author June 2018)

While some income is generated from workshops, the vast majority of our funds are member subscriptions.

The Financial Statement prepared by our Honorary Accountant show the state of our finances as at 30 May, the end of our Financial Year, with income and expenditure itemised.

One area of expenditure has been the printing of 2000 leaflets about the Association and what we do and how to contact us.

A key consideration of the Committee has been how to use our funds most appropriately to assist the Association to achieve its goals and vision. While no decisions have been made, the new Committee should consider use of our capital in areas such as:

- grants to assist in restoration work or promotion of DSWs

Potential areas of income which the new Committee could explore include:

- commission on sale of walling tools and equipment
- merchandise (calendars).

3.3 Document the Nation's Dry Stone Walls and Structures

Convenor: Allan Willingham

Members: Jim Holdsworth, Andrew Miller, Stuart Reid

Since the inception of the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc., many dry stone walls and structures have been identified by members of the DSWAA Inc., either on their own account or in the course of DSWAA exploratory field trips and site visits to particular localities and pastoral properties. A number of these walls are now very well known, and have been identified and otherwise marked in dry stone walling trails and in site plaques/interpretation panels and published literature regarding the ancient craft of dry stone walling.

Many such walls and historic sites have now been recorded and discussed in informative articles published regularly in *The Flag Stone*. Since the formation of the DSWAA Documentation Portfolio late in 2017, preliminary work has been undertaken to prepare a bibliography on dry stone walling in Australia and to otherwise list disparate reference sources concerning this craft. This bibliography, when complete, will be an invaluable aid in researching and otherwise understanding the history and significance of dry stone walls and structures in Australia. It is anticipated that this bibliography will include much new data to be found in local newspapers, to include tender notices for the construction of dry stone walls in pastoral regions of Victoria and elsewhere in Australia.

As well, a preliminary survey of Australian newspapers through the aegis of the National Library of Australia search engine 'Trove' has been initiated to establish how prevalent references to the construction of dry stone walls can be found in local newspapers published in Western Victoria and across the great basalt plains of Australia Felix.

3.4 Training, Certification and Workshops

Convenor: Geoff Duggan

Members: Bruce Munday, Geoff Thomas

3.4.1 Certification

As part of the Strategy implementation a discussion paper was produced that outlined the importance and benefits of adopting a Craftsman's Certification scheme. In order to promote best practice and acknowledge competency in the craft, countries such as France, Spain, Ireland, Japan, Unites States and Canada have all either adopted or adapted the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain's (DSWA) Level 4 Craftsman Certification scheme.

The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia (DSWAA) agreed in principle to adopt this scheme as well, however, there still remains some topics and accreditation issues yet to be resolved. It is the belief of this author and other accredited wallers that the Association's policy should ensure its credibility is not jeopardised and reflect a commitment to foster incentives for wallers to gain accreditation. The current state-wide Wallers' Lists includes both those who are qualified and those who are not, a cause of some concern as to the oversight of the professional quality of their work.

At this point in time, this author is the only DSWA qualified examiner who resides in Australia and is able to examine under the British Certification Scheme. He can examine anyone for Level 1 Accreditation, and due to relative isolation has been given special dispensation from the DSWA to examine up to Level 2 in the scheme.

So how can we facilitate certification or test days and grow the numbers of qualified wallers in Australia given the constraints of the current examination circumstances? From time to time accredited examiners under the British DSWA scheme do visit Australia and may be available to co-examine if we were to set up a something more formal. Additionally, the DSWAA could explore funding possibilities and opportunities to enable examinations to be undertaken here. It is planned to raise this topic as part of the 2019 Strategy Agenda.

3.4.2 Training

There are limited opportunities for more advanced training in the craft up to Certification Levels due to distances involved and relatively few skilled wallers. Emma Knowles, David Long and Andrew Garner are accredited craftsman capable of carrying out more advanced training required. Again, funding opportunities could bring wallers together for networking and passing on skills to each other as a prelude to a certification day.

The pool of professional wallers in Australia is incredibly small and spread across many states. Under the auspices and authority of the DSWAA introducing a training and accreditation scheme will help provide credibility for the Association, foster the protection of existing walls, facilitate the need to train young wallers and guidance to those commissioning works.

3.4.3 The Craft: Workshops, Advocacy, Preservation and Education

The DSWAA advocates for the ongoing education and preservation of the dry stone walling craft. Information about upcoming courses is promoted on our Website and also disseminated by Mail Chimp. Some workshops are facilitated by the DSWAA and or as part of an event such as a Field Trip. On other occasions, we promote those being conducted or run by professional wallers and the City of Melton as part of their Local Government strategy. We encourage the facilitation of training activities for wallers to achieve their professional United Kingdom accreditation, and where appropriate assist other ventures, in particular farmers, who are interested in conducting more permanent workshops as part of their farming and or business practices. **Raelene Marshall and Lyn Allison**

3.4.4 Dry stone walling workshops in South Australia

The DSWAA supported two hands-on dry stone walling workshops, one in October 2017 and one in April 2018. Both workshops were held at Corromandel Valley in the Adelaide Hills. In each case 12 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 Jon Moore of JRM Stonework. All workshop participants received a manual *Building Dry Stone Walls – a guide for beginners*. DSWAA provided insurance cover.

There have now been fifteen weekend workshops in this series training approximately 160 learner-wallers; There is still demand for workshops but not to the extent of previous years. Whereas in the past the owners of the properties have collectively acquired about 180 metres of very fine rustic wall, the last two walls have been built at Jon Moore's property just for the workshop and pulled down prior to the following workshop. The safety record has been good, with three minor reportable incidents (over the 15 workshops), none resulting in insurance claims. All participants are encouraged to complete an exit survey, results of which have been very encouraging and helpful.

Participants pay \$220 for a workshop and the instructor receives \$2000. DSWAA benefits when there are 10 or more participants (allowing for the free manual) but underwrites the event if numbers are less. **Bruce Munday**

3.5 Wall Owner Assistance and Advice

Convenor: Geoff Thomas

If the many hundreds of walls on private properties are to be preserved this strategy item is crucial to the DSWAA's goal in its Statement of Purposes

It recognises the needs of wall owners to receive advice and practical assistance in assessing, repairing and maintaining walls on their properties. A draft guide for beginners based on Bruce Munday's guide is being prepared as a practical tool for wall owners.

The DSWAA also recognises, and where appropriate, supports private business initiatives aimed at providing basic training to wall owners and individuals interested in developing walling skills. One such business is the Kyneton Dry Stone Walling Centre which launched at the Lost Trades Fair earlier this year. Classes are ongoing.

Investigations have commenced to find people with walling skills who may wish to engage in this strategy. A distinction is drawn between those with practical skills and those with recognised qualifications. Discussions have commenced with one TAFE college to ascertain the usefulness of landscape students being engaged in the strategy.

An important component of this strategy is publicity to attract the interest of wall owners. The plan is to pick a local area to launch the initiative as a trial. In doing so we need to acknowledge the limitation of resources if a strong response from the community is not able to be served. A simple brochure is being developed to explain this strategy.

Due to the potential risks associated with practical activities on private properties, a risk management plan is being developed which includes participant indemnities, and insurance advice.

3.6 Liaison with Indigenous Communities

Convenor: Raelene Marshall

Member: Natalie Paynter

3.6.1 Indigenous communities and dry stone structures

The long-term aim of this portfolio is to seek out nationwide any indigenous communities and tribes that have dry stone structures within their native land areas. Whilst there is evidence of dry stone walls constructed by Gunditjmara labour on 1800s early settler holdings in southwest Victoria, it is anticipated that dry stone fish traps constructed thousands of years ago will likely dominate the findings.

Although the big picture research is in its infancy we do already have a well-established relationship with the Gunditjmara and have collected images and documented material on the sophisticated aquaculture system of their Budj Bim land. Likewise, we also have similar information about the Fisheries at Brewarrina in N.S.W and the Ngemba peoples who were the nominal owners of Baiame's Ngunnhu, the extensive structure of several hundred fish traps.

Initially our aim is to identify areas where Indigenous dry stone structures and possibly walls exist and identify the relevant Indigenous group and key contacts. Whilst this may sound a simple research task we anticipate that it will most likely evolve more through word of mouth and through the contacts that emerge during that process.

To date we have initiated early discussions with Gunditjmara and begun an early internet search list that has unearthed a list of Indigenous Australian group names, a registered list of Aboriginal Parties in Victoria, a range of published papers such as the Methodological issues for the issues for the study of aboriginal intertidal rock wall fish traps together with an early list of relevant and related websites.

The next phase is to build upon the data collected so far to develop short, medium and longer term follow up strategies.

The evidence of dry stone walls constructed by Gunditjmara labour on 1800s early settler land holdings was unearthed by Dr Carlotta Kellaway [dec] in 2000 in Public Records files. Carlotta discovered early Parish maps and letters to the Lands Department from Reverend Stahle of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission arguing that the landowner John Dashper should not have to pay improvements on his land because the walls were built by blacks. Whilst images and brief references to these documents can be found on the A Stone Upon A Stone exhibition panels, there still remains an exciting opportunity for this portfolio to explore this story further.

3.6.2 Victorian Aboriginal Registered Aboriginal Parties

Ten Victorian Aboriginal Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) have been identified that manage cultural heritage across the State. These overlap with Municipalities identified as having dry stone walls within their boundaries. The RAP groups include:

- Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
- Martang P/L
- Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Corporation
- Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Another three Victorian Traditional Owner stakeholder groups with DSW include:

- Kuuyang Maar Aboriginal Corporation
- Gulagin Traditional Owner Group
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

Other Aboriginal and Traditional Owner stakeholders across Australia are currently being researched. Investigation into Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is also currently being undertaken. This includes a query of site types including stone fish traps and stone circles such as Wurdi Youang at Little River in Victoria. This site is owned and managed by the Wathaurong Co-operative, granted under an Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) agreement.

Dry stone walls associated with Aboriginal mission and Aboriginal Protectorate sites are also being investigated. Numerous publications document some of these features at each site (Rhodes 1995, Lane 2009). Community consultation with relevant RAP and Traditional Owner groups is essential to progress this portfolio. **Natalie Paynter**

3.7 Develop a Conservation Advocacy Plan

Convenor: Natalie Paynter

Members: Lyn Allison, Jim Holdsworth

3.7.1 Overview

The conservation portfolio was recently developed and is focussed on promoting conservation and establishing and maintaining stakeholder relationships. The following has been undertaken as part of this portfolio:

- Collation of relevant photographs of objects or items from the Victorian Collections website to curate an online exhibition around dry stone walls, promoting conservation;
- Relevant stakeholder contact details from Victoria and Interstate are being collated to promote conservation and broaden awareness. Contacts include statutory bodies (Heritage Victoria, Heritage NSW etc.), land managers (Parks Victoria, CMAs, Water Authorities), other relevant organisations (Universities, Victorian Farmers Federation, LandCare, Museums, historical societies, National Trust, Conservation Volunteers), heritage consultants and heritage advisors. Relevant stakeholders will be included in the digital newsletter send out;
- Assist in uploading photos of walls, initially from the committee for the DSWAA website page and for the Facebook page. This ties into portfolios 9 and 10;
- Communication (ongoing) with the NT heritage department regarding the presence of DSW and relevant legislation in place to protect them, in order to update the DSWAA Conservation page. Additional information on convict era walls in Tasmania is being investigated and will contribute to the Tasmanian Conservation tab online.

3.7.2 Conservation South Australia

Bruce Munday gave a presentation to the Mid-Murray Council's Heritage Development Plan Amendment hearing in October 2017, concerning the heritage value of dry stone walls in the district. It is encouraging that the Council is now seeking funds to undertake an audit, with recommendations for conservation of these walls, some of the best in SA.

On a less promising note, the Heritage listed wall at Cut Hill was damaged by a car in June 2017 and then again in September. On behalf of the DSWAA Bruce Munday has enquired of District Council of Victor Harbor and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) as to how the wall will be repaired. It is dismaying that work to repair the wall to an appropriate standard has still not been contracted. Meanwhile stone at the

damage site is now being pilfered. At the time of writing the DPTI has confirmed that they 'will soon call for tenders' to undertake the restoration. **Bruce Munday**

3.8 Events

Convenor: Jim Holdsworth

Members: Lyn Allison, Andrew Miller

3.8.1 2017 Annual General Meeting

This was held in Buninyong, Victoria on 19 August. It was attended by about 50 members and included a short car tour of DSWs in the local area, including to the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. The guest speaker was local identity Lorraine Powell, President of the Australian Garden History Society. The day concluded with an informal dinner at the Buninyong Town Hall.

3.8.2 Kyneton Field Trip

This was scheduled for 2 November but was postponed to 24 February due to the threat of bad weather. The event was very well attended, with over 50 members and guests participating. After a visit to the Kyneton museum, vice-president Allan Willingham led a walking tour of bluestone churches and other historic venues in Kyneton. A visit to historic 'Rock House' preceded lunch at 'Tanderrum', Jim Kilsby's property where waller Emma Knowles was conducting a two one-day workshops on dry stone walling. After a walk to inspect the dry stone walls and other features of 'Tanderrum', the group finished the day at a modern stone house 'Fiddler's Green'.

3.8.3 Lost Trades Fair, Kyneton, 10-11 March

In conjunction with Jim Kilsby's 'Kyneton Dry Stone Walling Centre' the Association contributed to a demonstration of dry stone wall building at this very popular fair. Association members provided advice and information to the hundreds of people watching the demonstration.

3.8.3 Bathurst Field Tour Weekend, 11-13 May

As part of enhancing the Association's presence on each State, this tour was promoted to members, on a weekend to coincide with the Bathurst Rare Trades Trail. Despite early interest, the tour was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

However a small group of members and friends undertook the tour to the Bridle Track, Hill End and Sofala, and attended the Rare Trades Trail a feature of which was the construction of a dry stone seat in the grounds of the Bathurst Agricultural Research Station. The seat was built by wallers Emma Knowles, Wayne Fox and Tracy Cumberbatch.

3.8.3 Committee Meeting

Two meetings have been held; 14 October and 17 March.

3.8.4 Proposed Events for 2018-2019

- Western Victoria, with emphasis on indigenous dry stone structures: Spring 2018
- Tasmania Midlands: early 2019
- 2019 AGM: venue to be determined, June/July 2019
- South Australia (location to be determined): Spring 2019.

3.8.5 Committee Meetings

Tentative dates, to be confirmed by the new Committee are 14 July and 17 November.

3.9 Communications External Liaisons and Marketing

Convenor: Lyn Allison

Member: Bruce Munday

3.9.1 Promotion of Field Trips and Walling Workshops

- TryBooking using PayPal was introduced for events and has proved very efficient and effective.
- Attendance at field trips and walling workshops has steadily risen over the year with targeted Mail Chimp invitations and reminders sent to a subscriber base of over 400 people. This list has now been bolstered by 200 attendees at the March 2018 Kyneton Lost Trades fair who provided their contact details to our members there.
- We have encouraged wallers and other organisations to tell us about their forthcoming workshops and events which we promote on the website and in eNews
- Difficulties remain in attracting people for events in states other than Victoria and the well-planned Bathurst trip in May had to be cancelled for lack of interest.

3.9.2 Website

- The website continues to increase its reach and attracts 4-500 users and 1,500 page views each month. We track levels of interest in content on the website such as information about wallers, field trips and workshops, dry stone wall history, links and publications and the downloadable guide for beginners. Almost half of all website visitors are from Melbourne, 18% from Sydney and 5% from Adelaide.
- Templates have been set up for state-based pages to encourage activity in all states. Pages have so far been developed and published for Victoria and South Australia.
- Reports of field trips are written up and published on the website.
- A compendium of substantive articles from The Flag Stone has been commenced but this will take some time to complete.

3.10 Publications

Convenor: Lyn Allison

- The DSWAA's publication, the Flag Stone, was published three times this year and emailed to members using Mail Chimp. The author Bruce Munday ensures copies are sent to and archived at the National Library of Australia <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/141045>
- A new printed brochure has been produced for handouts at future events.
- eNews is published as required for membership renewals, notices of upcoming events, the AGM and general news.

3.11 Secretarial

Convenor: Andrew Miller

Members: Geoff Thomas, Lyn Allison

3.11.1 Overview

The Secretarial Portfolio has been a more recent addition to the DSWAA Portfolio Schedule and as such, priority tasks have not been established at this stage. It is planned that this Portfolio will convene soon after the 2018 Annual General Meeting to identify the key Secretarial Portfolio tasks over the short to medium term.

Communication is a key foundation to the success of the DSWAA and the development of the Secretarial Portfolio will link closely with the DSWAA website and DSWAA archives. Other Portfolio areas will be consulted in the process.

Another important aspect of this portfolio should be the development of a DSWAA Administration Procedures Manual to assist successive committee members in the efficient running of the Association.

3.11.2 Archive Project

The DSWAA archive was formally established in 2017 and electronic materials are hosted on Victorian Collections, a free system developed by Museums Victoria.

Since its establishment, further progress includes the following:

1. A simple indexing system has been developed to arrange archive materials electronically.
2. A substantial quantity of DSWAA records, mostly hard copy Committee minutes, AGM reports and reports of field trips, has been located.
3. The process of creating electronic copies suitable for uploading to the archive has commenced. This will take some months to complete due to amount of material involved. The process will also help to identify gaps in the records.

At this stage, most of this material will be available to the Committee but not to the general public. In the future, the Committee will decide if items other than *The Flag Stone* and Annual Reports may be accessible to a wider audience.

It should however be noted that the DSWAA Archive is not a new initiative. The materials referred to above reflect the excellent work of previous Committee member, Anne Mulholland, who collected and arranged the key historical documents of the Association, thus making the job of the current archivist so much easier. **Geoff Thomas**

3.11.3 Journal

Issues 40, 41 and 42 of *The Flag Stone* were published with contributions from committee members and some general members, maintaining the overall style established by Charmian Brent. Issue 41 followed the theme of 'wallers', featuring wallers across the ages from both Australia and the UK and covering traditional functional walls and artistic creations. While this format could be seen as more compatible with journal concept it restricts opportunistic articles, particularly from readers. **Bruce Munday** *The Flag Stone* editor.

3.11.4 Membership 2017-18

In line with the model rules for incorporated associations, we have modified arrangements for membership so that prospective members must indicate that they support the purposes of DSWAA, agree to abide by our rules, provide us with their contact details, including address, and pay the prescribed membership fee. Applications for membership must also be approved by the DSWAA Committee of Management.

This means all new members (including workshop participants who were previously given free membership) must fill in the membership form and pay the \$30 fee. Our experience has been that very few free workshop members have renewed after a year or so but a big majority have been willing to be subscribers to our eNews. We have also changed the family membership to membership for two people, both of whom must be identified and agree to our terms. The discount for family membership continues to apply for couples.

These changes mean that overall member numbers show a decrease from that reported in the previous year (369). We can expect a further loss of around 20 members next year as the remaining free workshop memberships become due but these will likely be replaced by new members. 27 new members joined in 2017-18.

DSWAA currently has 171 ordinary members, 21 professional members and 2 corporate members. Total 194. By State these are: ACT 1; NSW 42; Qld 4; SA 43; Tas 9; Vic 93; WA 2.

Currently there are 609 Subscribers and in the last year 21 members chose to renew for 3 years. PayPal is now in place for new members and current members renewing in 2018/19 and beyond. **Lyn Allison**

SECTION 4

The Special Purpose Financial Report 2018 will be circulated at a later date.