

Australian Archaeology



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EDITORIAL

A newsletter is a fairly easy thing to start off, particularly when it is buoyed by the wave of enthusiasm a new association generates. It is more difficult to maintain year after year. In many groups like ours, everyone likes to receive a newsletter, but few can spare the time to write the articles that will keep it going. With so many other outlets for short archaeological research reports - *Mankind*, *Australian Quaternary Newsletter* and *Australian Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter*, to name a few - the founding of yet another may seem over ambitious. This newsletter should aim at providing a wide, if superficial, coverage of all branches of Australian archaeology - historical, marine, prehistoric, industrial, etc. By allowing members to glimpse a broad spectrum of archaeological research, the newsletter will provide a service that other publications do not give. But whether this issue is to be the first of the few, rather than the first of the many, is largely up to you the members and your facile pens.

As editor, I shall try to produce two newsletters a year. One of these, with the 1st of April as a deadline for receipt of copy, will accept articles and short research reports from individual members, and will hopefully act as a forum for general debate on archaeological topics. Contributions will be welcome from any member who wishes to impart research news, explain archaeological techniques or express an opinion. The second newsletter of the year, deadline 1st of October, will be structured more formally. I shall ask a member from each region, or major institution, or sector of archaeological interest, to act as correspondent and furnish a summary of research news central to his interest during the previous 12 months, following much the same format as the Research Reports section of *Australian Quaternary Newsletter*. By this means all members will be able to view the panorama of Australian archaeology each year. However, some individual articles will be acceptable in October, such as debate continuing from the April issue, association news and business reports, and so forth.

Taking first things first, members should start thinking *now* about articles for the April, 1975 issue. In it we would like to include reports covering both the Archaeology Section of the forthcoming ANZAAS Congress and the Archaeological Association Forum, "The State, People and Archaeologists". Would someone like to act as rapporteur at these meetings? The task could be shared among several people if necessary. Please let me know before ANZAAS begins. Among other worthwhile but longer term pursuits, would someone care to compile an annual list of publications in Australian archaeology?

Those of us who are also members of the Far Eastern Prehistory Association will quickly realise that a certain amount of legerdemain was practised in order to bring out so large a first issue of this newsletter. Much of the content was in fact lifted from the Australian Prehistory section of FEPA Newsletter No. 3 - with the editor's kind permission of course. But for our next issue we will not have a head start of this kind and will depend entirely on the contributions sent in by members.

R.J. Lampert