

Call for Papers

Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology

**AIMA13 *Towards Ratification* - Australia's underwater cultural heritage
4-6 October, 2013, Canberra, Australia.**

**Hosted by the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, Australian National
University**

The conference organising committee would like to call for papers for the AIMA13 conference. Session details for the conference are presented in the following pages.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30 June. Abstracts that best fit the session themes will be given preference. Please submit a 250 word abstract for conference papers or posters direct to session chairs (contact details included below).

Paper presentations will be 15 minutes in length, either followed by a 5 minute question and answer session after each presentation or at the end of the session dependant on the session organiser's preference. Posters must arrive to the poster session chair by 3 October.

Student researchers are particularly encouraged to submit papers and posters.

Registration and other details can be found at:

www.aima-underwater.org.au/conferences-events/AIMA13

General queries to:

Andrew Viduka andrew.viduka@environment.gov.au

Dr Jennifer Rodrigues Jennifer.Rodrigues@museum.wa.gov.au

Dr Wendy Van Duivenvoorde wendy.vanduivenvoorde@flinders.edu.au

Conference theme- *Towards Ratification* - Australia's underwater cultural heritage

This conference's primary objective is to continue to encourage the Australian Government towards immediate ratification of the *UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* to meet the international best practice standards for management of underwater cultural heritage. The Conference themes will highlight the variety and significance of our underwater heritage in Australian waters and overseas, and the significant positive value that Australia's ratification would have in the region.

This conference aims to:

- support and inform Australia's ratification of the *UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*
- encourage discussion about Australia's diverse underwater cultural heritage in Australia and overseas
- exchange and disseminate information about underwater cultural heritage activities within Australia, Asia and the countries of the Indian and Pacific Oceans
- facilitate professional development for maritime archaeologists and underwater cultural heritage managers in the Asia-Pacific region
- provide a forum for discussion on the pros and cons of ratification
- review necessary legislative steps to becoming a party of the Convention.

Session Abstracts

Session 1:

Australia's indigenous underwater cultural heritage

Session Chair: Daina Fletcher and David Nutley

Submit abstracts to: dfletcher@anmm.gov.au

Papers are encouraged on inquiries made and work which has been done in the field of Indigenous maritime archaeology in Australia. This includes investigating methodological, practical and theoretical frameworks for understanding the underwater cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in salt and freshwater environments. It covers occupation, spiritual and resource sites including seascapes, and how archaeological method and analysis has been informed by cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary perspectives. It could also cover the changing scope of what constitutes Indigenous underwater cultural heritage under UNESCO conventions. What are the issues and challenges of the field today?



Session 2:

Australia's overseas underwater cultural heritage

Session Chairs: Andrew Viduka and Dr David Stevens

Submit abstracts to: andrew.viduka@environment.gov.au

Australia has a rich and diverse underwater cultural heritage that is not located in our waters or administered under our legislation. This session's aim is to highlight the geographical range and

variety of our overseas underwater cultural heritage, to encourage reports on individual sites located overseas to better understand their significance, to encourage understanding of how particular sites are currently managed by Coastal States, and to seek individual's thoughts on potential issues or benefits to our overseas underwater heritage should Australia ratify the 2001 *UNESCO Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention*.



Session 3:

Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and States positions in that regard

Session Chairs: Ulrike Guerin, Graeme Henderson and Dr Lyndel Prott

Submit abstracts to: u.guerin@unesco.org

This session shall serve to illustrate the legal content and practical impact of the UNESCO 2001 Convention. It shall also demonstrate what the positions of States are in regard of this treaty as well as which chances the Convention opens in terms of legal protection, State cooperation and the cohesion of the discipline of underwater archaeology on an international level. The free exchange on the cooperation of the community of underwater archaeologists with UNESCO is encouraged as well as questions on the operational work that has been done or should be done in the region.



Session 4:

In-situ preservation and conservation of cultural heritage

Session Chairs: Vicki Richards and Debra Shefi

Submit abstracts to: vicki.richards@museum.wa.gov.au

The aim of this session is to broaden discussions with respect to in-situ stabilisation and management of terrestrial and underwater cultural heritage sites and their associated archaeological finds. Papers discussing this basic theme including the ideology of on-site preservation and conservation, legislative requirements and present directions of *in-situ* preservation, assessment of site and artefact deterioration, principles for development and implementation of mitigation and conservation strategies, long-term effects of past stabilisation and conservation techniques, in-situ monitoring of sites to determine the effectiveness of management and conservation strategies, etc are encouraged.



Session 5:

The Edge of the Ocean

Session Chair: Michael Ross and Rupert Gerritsen

Submit abstracts to: michael.ross.1401@gmail.com

There is a period prior to British colonisation when European and non-European voyagers encountered the coasts and peoples of Australia and New Zealand. Some of these were voyages of exploration and charting, some accidental encounters, others purposeful engagements. A proportion ended disastrously in shipwrecks, mutiny and the marooning of survivors including conflicts with Indigenous

Australians and Maori. Some interactions, however, such as between the Macassans, the Yolngu, and other Indigenous groups, were enduring and mutually beneficial.

As a result of these events a number of different types of sites were formed. Shipwreck sites are one obvious manifestation and a number from this period have been discovered and investigated in Western Australia. However, there may be others. There are currently two projects searching for other such wrecks. Several shipwreck survivor campsites have also been previously investigated to varying degrees. Research projects are now in progress or anticipated, to identify such sites or look at pre-existing sites more intensively.

In a number of cases explorers have left artefacts behind, some of which were subsequently recovered such as the Hartog Plate left behind in 1616 and the Vlamingh Plate in 1697. In 1998 two bottles, deposited in 1772, believed to have possibly contained French documents claiming possession of Australia, were recovered on Dirk Hartog Island. Potentially other such evidence exists. It is known, for example, that de Surville left relics in New Zealand in 1769, including an anchor from the *St. Jean Baptiste*.

Skeletal and related material have been recovered from at least one conflict site on Beacon Island, Western Australia, as a result of the *Batavia* Mutiny in 1629. Potentially there are similar sites elsewhere such as known killings of coastal Indigenous peoples or, as in New Zealand, of French explorer Marion du Fresne and 24 of his crew, in 1772.

In recent years rock art at an inland site in the Northern Territory has been dated to establish when the Macassans began coming to Australia. These, and many other examples, show that the boundaries of maritime discovery, exploration and archaeology can extend well beyond the edge of the ocean.

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Session 6:

The archaeology of aircraft as underwater cultural heritage

Session Chairs: Dr Silvano Jung and Danielle Wilkinson

Submit abstracts to: silvano.jung@gmail.com

Aviation heritage sites including crashed aircrafts of World War I and II, air bases and other support structures, represent a significant body of heritage that is poorly understood despite their enormous heritage value. Archaeology of the recent past is just as significant as sites that are thousands of years old. The survival of any archaeological site is precious and finite. Recent media coverage of 'excavations' of aircraft crash sites in England and France suggest that 'smash and grab' methods are alive and well, as they are in Australia.

In Australia, flying boats make up the largest percentage of the type of aircraft found, with Western Australia being the only state to protect located sites. It is hoped that aviation sites elsewhere will be formerly recognised for their significance by heritage managers. Certainly it is hoped the rest of the world will see the value of such sites as the archeological manifestations of a changing life way: These sites are now fading from personal memory to collective history, and it is important that the dramatic changes brought to the area ... during this time are not forgotten (Garrett *et al.*, 2006:82). From a management perspective, there is very little information available to the public who visit these aviation wrecks. Papers are invited for this session that cover any aspect of research and/or management of aviation heritage sites located in the marine or freshwater environments including associated structures and air bases, especially considering their inclusion for heritage protection similar to that of old wreck sites.



Session 7:

Commercial exploitation of UCH - issues, consequences and options for control

Session Chairs: Patrick O'Keefe

Submit abstracts to: ockiff@bigpond.com

The 2001 Convention bans commercial exploitation of underwater cultural heritage. What is the meaning of this? Can there be circumstances where threats from deterioration, currents, fishing and other activities make commercial exploitation the only way to protect the heritage? If that path be taken, there will be issues of whether the excavator be allowed a profit and if that profit be part or all of the objects raised. Does the Convention allow the deposition of recovered material in a collection run by a body formed to commercially exploit it?



Session 8:

Capacity Building in UCH – Training Needs, Goals, and Realities

Session Chairs: Martijn Manders and Dr Hans Van Tilburg

Submit abstracts to: M.Manders@cultureelerfgoed.nl

The reality is that underwater archaeology is still executed by a fairly small community of professional archaeologists, a group unequal to meet the larger challenges of cultural resource management and preservation. With the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and its Annex in place, however, there is a clear need for more archaeologists and cultural heritage managers with knowledge in underwater archaeology. Only then we can fulfill these needs.

What are the current tools and practices for increasing capacity in UCH management? Are there new initiatives? Is there a balance to be achieved between resource management needs and the amount of people trained? Are there any plans to train other stakeholders that also have their place in the management of UCH, like law enforcement bodies or avocational divers? Is there a level of standardization or minimal requirements for this training? You are encouraged to submit a paper proposal that addresses one or more of these issues and will - together with the other papers (max. 4) - form the basis for the productive discussion on the needs, goals and realities of capacity building in underwater cultural heritage management and underwater archaeology.



Session 9:

Shipwreck exhibitions in museums and the Underwater Convention

Session Chairs: Dr Jennifer Rodrigues

Submit abstracts to: Jennifer.Rodrigues@museum.wa.gov.au

Museums are generally seen as safe and reliable sources of educational information on cultural heritage and the past. In the eyes of the public, museum displays and interpretive information are authoritative and the entire project is legitimized by the host museum, a public institution. In recent years, there has been an increase in exhibitions of shipwreck material in museums, drawing some of

these institutions into the conflict of contentious issues between the maritime archaeological community and commercial entities. What are the fundamental problems and challenges facing maritime cultural heritage professionals today in relation to exhibitions of shipwreck material in museums that go against the principles of the underwater convention? Papers are invited for this session that deal with shipwreck exhibitions in museums involving contentious issues of ethical practice, the treatment of maritime cultural heritage, the underwater convention, commercial entities and the impression of the public.



Session 10:

Poster Session

Session Chair: Grant Luckman, Madeline McAllister and Nicolas Bigourdan

Submit abstracts to: grant.luckman@environment.gov.au

Researchers are invited to submit posters for the AIMA13 conference. Posters may cover any aspect of maritime archaeological research in Australian waters, however, posters about shipwrecks of significance to Australia which are located overseas are especially encouraged.

