

## Editorial note

The papers included here were presented at the sixth Victorian Archaeology Colloquium held at La Trobe University on 3 February 2017. As in previous years, we would like to thank all the participants whose attendance testifies to the importance of this fixture within the local archaeological calendar as an important opportunity for consultants, academics, managers and Aboriginal community groups to share their common interests in the archaeology and heritage of Victoria.

The sixth volume of *Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria* includes a variety of papers that span Victoria's Aboriginal and European past. This year there is a particular focus on aspects of method and approach. Gary Vines, Martin Lawler and Asher Ford consider issues related to surveys and subsurface testing, while Darren Griffin provides a perspective from his experience working within Registered Aboriginal Parties. Jamin Moon's historical review of heritage legislation gives additional background informing Griffin's discussion. Some of the issues raised by Moon are dealt with by Anita Smith and Matthew Meredith-Williams as they consider the requisite skills required by archaeology and cultural heritage graduates.

Several reports deal with specific sites. David Thomas, Dan Turnbull, Birgitta Stephenson, Xavier Carah, Oona Phillips and Barry Coombes illustrate the value of a close analysis of a site and excavation, in this case linked to an historical perspective provided by Traditional Owners. Phillip Roberts makes use of a range of ethnographic sources in his discussion of ceremonial sites and systems in Victoria. A variety of structures and associated material culture are seen in reports on historical sites by

Sarah Myers and Sarah Mirams in Albury, and by Ian Travers' study of an area in central Melbourne.

In addition to these more developed papers, we have continued our practice of publishing the abstracts of other papers given at the Colloquium, illustrated by a selection of the slides abstracted from the PowerPoint presentations prepared by participants. These demonstrate the range of work being carried out in Victoria, and we hope that many of these will also form the basis of more complete studies in the future. All papers were refereed, and we would like to thank those who assisted with this task. Caroline Spry managed this process and the sub-editing of this volume. Layout, as in other years, was undertaken by David Frankel.

We were pleased to announce at this year's Colloquium that previous volumes of *Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria* are now available to download for free via La Trobe University's institutional repository, Research Online ( < <http://hdl.handle.net/1959.9/558330> > ). We hope that this will encourage the dissemination of this valuable research in the broader community, both in Australia and internationally.

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The editors and authors acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and heritage discussed at the Colloquium and in this volume, and pay their respects to their Elders, past and present.

