

## EDITORIAL

1986 has been a very good year for archaeology in Queensland. As the following pages testify, fundamental research is being undertaken throughout the length and breadth of the state. Furthermore it is being carried out by researchers who hail from not only Queensland but institutions throughout Australia. Perhaps the most significant discovery reported this year was the site of Wallen Wallen Creek on North Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay (see R. Neal and E. Stock, Nature 1986:618-621). While excavating a recent surface midden for salvage purposes, Rob Neal, a Ph.D candidate at Queensland University, discovered a deep (>2.5m) deposit within a coastal dune which yielded a continuous human occupation sequence. Collaboration with geomorphologist Errol Stock from Griffith University established that two soil units were formed after the dune was laid down and that associated cultural material is relatively undisturbed. C14 dating revealed an internally consistent series of determinations which stretch to over 22,000 B.P. Present results indicate a dramatic increase in occupation intensity (as measured by discard rate) in the late Holocene (esp. after ca. 2,000 B.P.), a pattern which fits well with results from other research in this area (eg. Hall & Robins QAR, Volume 1) as well as other parts of eastern Australia. This discovery has provided the Pleistocene-Holocene chronological framework that has been sought for the Moreton Region for several years now. Future analysis of Wallen Wallen Creek material promises to add much to our notions of cultural change in this and adjacent areas.

This volume provides the archaeological community with much new data from several significant sites and study areas within the state. The lead article by Josephine Flood and Nicky Horsfall reports the findings of excavations at Green Ant and Echidna Shelters in the Koolburra Plateau region of north Queensland. This excellent body of information also demonstrates the value of the Earthwatch program to archaeological research in Australia. The following article by Ian Lilley is also a result of this interdisciplinary research and represents the first systematic open site survey in the region.

Mike Rowland's paper is an interesting historical look at Aboriginal occupation of the Whitsunday Island group off the central Queensland coast. When married to the results of his brief archaeological reconnaissance it provides some interesting implications for future work concerning offshore island exploitation.

The next paper is a report on the excavations of Maidenwell and Gatton rockshelters by Mike Morwood who is interested in tying rock art with the archaeological record in a more concrete manner. The Gatton site especially offers a detailed examination of cultural changes in the Holocene archaeological record of southeast Queensland and represents an important addition to the quickly-growing corpus of sites in this region.

Roger Cribb provides a most useful addition to our knowledge about the large shell mounds which appear to be restricted to northern Australia. Particularly he reports shell mounds discovered during ethnographic mapping work in the vicinity of Aurukun on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula. Cribb also includes some very interesting ethnographic and geomorphic insights into their origins and history.

The final paper is by Peter Hiscock who offers a useful and uncomplicated method for describing conjoin sequences when one is conducting stone artefact analysis.

This set of six articles exemplifies the original aim of QAR to provide the archaeological community detailed archaeological data which often never see the light of day outside of theses and unpublished site reports.

Concerning the next volume of QAR, potential contributors should note that your Editor intends to bring it out in 1987 instead of early in the following year as has been the practice to date. I urge you then to submit your manuscripts before August 1987 in order to have it refereed, revised and published for Volume 4. You should also note that manuscripts will be accepted in the form of a file on a floppy diskette formatted to either MS DOS or CPM operating system (see also "Notes to Contributors" on inside back cover).

On a less favourable note it is regretted that the cost of QAR will rise to A\$12.50 after this issue. Although previous shortfalls have been (and will continue to be) covered by funds provided by The University of Queensland Archaeological Services Unit (UQASU) - our consulting arm of the Department - publishing costs have increased to the point where we must pass on some of the burden to the subscriber.

In the next issue QAR will offer a new section called "Current Research" which will serve as a forum for information about the who, what, where and when of upcoming field research, conferences, workshops, seminars, publications, and other items of interest (eg. new finds, C14 dates, new theses etc.). Items concerning late 1987 and all of 1988 should be submitted by November 1, 1987 in order to be included in Volume 4. I shall look forward to receiving your inclusions and manuscripts.

J. Hall - Editor  
January 25th 1987.