

EDITORIAL- QUEENSLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH 100 YEARS ON

Exactly 100 years ago Henry Tryon published the first piece of Queensland archaeological research in the inaugural volume of Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland. It concerned rock engravings and associated stone artefacts in archaeological deposits in a rock-shelter on Pigeon Creek near Gatton, S.E. Queensland. This inaugural volume of Queensland Archaeological Research can be viewed as commemorating an archaeological century. I considered it fitting that the front cover depict Tryon's original rock art recordings. The back cover depicts the same panel recorded some 9 decades later by Michael Quinnell of the Queensland Museum. A glance of comparison will be sufficient to allow that Tryon's work was of excellent quality for its day.

I suspect that Tryon would have been more than a little disappointed if foretold back in 1884 that some three generations would pass before Australian Archaeology became a formally recognised course of university study in this country, and some 90 years before Queensland universities added Archaeology to their curricula. I also suspect he would have presaged the destructive impact such a delay would have upon the archaeological record. In respect of the densely populated coastal belt he would have been correct. It is indeed unfortunate that the value of Australian Aboriginal history and culture to our understanding of the development of humankind as a whole was recognised so late.

The establishment of two teaching positions in this state, my own here at The University of Queensland and that held by John Campbell at James Cook University, has meant more than simply supplying our students with current knowledge about the deep and rich Australian past - from the point of European-Aboriginal contact back to the Pleistocene world of the paleo-Australians. It has also now begun to bear fruit in the form of archaeological scholars who have cut their teeth on Queensland archaeological problems and are eager to go out and make their own respective marks on the archaeological world. The past few years have seen more archaeological research in Queensland than the previous century. Further, if the present rate of increase continues, this output will triple within the next decade. Thus, the tardiness of our archaeological start in Australia is in part being made up for by the rapid expansion of research across the state.

It was in order to cater for this burgeoning of archaeological work and personnel that I initially conceived of QAR. For the past 5 years or so archaeological information has been accumulating in unpublished theses, survey and site reports, CRM reports and unpublished papers, the details of which are often considered unsuitable for publication by editors of international journals. In short, I felt there was need of a vehicle for the outlet of detailed site reports, for archaeological survey reports, for preliminary results of field and/or laboratory research and for the more substantive material of theses which may not make the larger journals but which do contain information of value to the Australian archaeological community. QAR was designed to meet this need. In this way QAR should also help to alleviate the perennial frustrations experienced by undergraduate archaeology students at discovering that data "vital" to their research papers are virtually locked away in theses, conference papers, government CRM reports and the like.

QAR does not espouse any particular approach to archaeological research. Indeed, it has only two unifying themes - "Queensland" and "Archaeology". The "Research" portion of the title may refer to any of the many legitimate shades and hues of our discipline. QAR will accept the purely descriptive and the purely analytical, the historic as well as the prehistoric. Research may be methodologically and theoretically couched in the "American Way" or that of Britain and Europe, although I would prefer they became progressively more Australian in flavour. Such a local stamp may be the most positive result of the blending of the anthropological and historical schools, with the net result of some kind of hybrid vigor. I believe such is already being borne.

QAR will, for the present, be produced as an annual volume to appear in October-November. Manuscripts should be submitted by July 31st. They may be short (one or two pages) or as long as 20,000 words. In sum, QAR will consider any manuscript which considers the archaeological record of Queensland or can be shown to be relevant to archaeological issues in Queensland. At present, manuscripts will be initially read by The Editor(s) and/or a member of the Editorial Advisory Board before acceptance may be made. A final draft will be sent to authors for approval. Once so approved, only spelling and typographical checks will be made before sending manuscripts to press. Responsibility for style, content and opinion rests with authors.

I am pleased to say that Volume 1 of QAR exemplifies well the diversity of archaeological research interests in Queensland and fulfills original aims for the series. I hope that readers will find the contents stimulating and useful to their own archaeological research.

J. HALL (Editor)