

EDITORIAL

Dear Quaternarists,

In this post-INQUA edition, we have many reports from the congress in Dublin. A strong contingent from AQUA were in attendance, representing postgraduates, ECR's, mid and senior academics and partners. We hear from our AQUA travel awardees, Tim Pollard, Valerie Van Den Bos and Emma Rehns who recount their experiences of INQUA from plenary's to field excursions.

INQUA is always a vast smorgasbord of Quaternary science; the opportunity to sample areas outside your own speciality, and also to focus in on your particular research discipline. The opportunity also to talk to the leading researchers in Quaternary science, and to catch up with old friends. AQUA researchers were well represented at the congress: two SHAPE sessions, a SHeMax session and Helen Bostock delivering one of the plenary speeches. Lynda Petherick updates us on the SHeMax session, while Tim Barrows recalls two of the field excursions.

Away from INQUA, we have further articles representing the varied scope of Australasian Quaternary research. David Lowe provides a comprehensive summary of the state of Quaternary Science in New Zealand, while Helen Bostock reports on the 13th International Conference on Paleoceanography. Janelle Stevenson provides a detailed report on the application of 3D printing of microscopic pollens to facilitate effective teaching practice.

Scientific research is often described as “standing on the shoulders of giants”; whereby we discover truth by building on previous discoveries. Rigorous peer review and debate allow us as scientists to test hypotheses and consider the results of research from an objective and mature perspective. In this issue, our feature article from Jim Bowler reflects on the wider implications of research published earlier this year which detailed evidence for the early human occupation (120 ka) of a clifftop site at Warrnambool Victoria. As Jim himself notes in the acknowledgements to his article, ...“Despite a dire warning that “No archaeologist will believe you”, the risk of encouraging scandal is more than off-set by the need to challenge disbelief.”

Finally, we look forward to the AQUA Conference in 2020. The glorious Atherton Tablelands will be the venue for our next Quaternary gathering, from 20-24 July. The warmth of the dry season tropics awaits: so save the date!

Yours Quaternarily,

Sanja van Huet and Carol Smith
Co Editors

