

EDITORIAL

Dear Fellow Quaternarists,

This year will see a full transition of the *Quaternary Australasia* editorship to Carol Smith and Sanja van Huet, with Pia Atahan retiring mid-year. Carol and Sanja represent the twelfth and thirteenth editors in the line that began when Jeannette Hope and Bruce Thom began editing QA's predecessor: the *Australian Quaternary Newsletter*. A strong focus of QA over its lifetime has been on publishing meeting reports and updates related to formal group projects, making QA a valuable asset for the Quaternary community. This strong focus is evident in the current issue of QA, with groups working within the framework of INQUA and PAGES represented.

Kathryn Fitzsimmons describes the INQUA Loess Focus Group meeting, the *International Symposium on Aeolian Deposits in Earth History*, held near Beijing in China. Joelle Gergis and others update us on the *4th Auszk Workshop* (Auckland, NZ), where progress made by the PAGES *Auszk* working group was reviewed. Peter Gell reports on progress in the PAGES *Aquatic Transitions* working group.

In this issue of QA, we travel to Tierra del Fuego. Firstly to Punto Arenas (in Chile) where the *VIII Southern Connection Congress* was held. Brent Alloway describes the important work of this meeting to bring together scientists working across the Southern Hemisphere. Following this, Jess Reeves takes us across the border to Ushuaia in Argentina, where she will embark on a three week long journey to Antarctica with 77 other female scientists later this year. Jess outlines this ambitious mission, which aims to build leadership capabilities in women. We look forward to hearing about the trip after she returns!

QA editor, Sanja van Huet reports on the *Lancefield Megafauna Festival*. She includes a fascinating account of the history of fossil discovery in the region and of one town's remarkable embrace of its fossil record. The 'Fossil Road Show' session sounds unmissable.

Also in this issue John Magee reflects on the book 'Climate Change in Deserts: Past, Present and Future' by Martin Williams, and Carol Smith reviews "A Continent on the Move" edited by Ian Graham.

We also pay tribute to the achievements of great Quaternarists. Regents' Professor Herbert Wright sadly passed away recently, and Esmée Webb provides us with a summary of his career highlights. And finally, with the wonderful awarding of a Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand to Janet Wilmshurst; Jaime Wood and Carol Smith summarises her career to date.

We also introduce a new section "Notes from the Field" where we report on current fieldwork projects in the field. We welcome reports (and photos) on your fieldwork, both in Australasia and overseas. We start in this issue with reports on drilling projects from both sides of the Tasman: The LOCH project from Lake Ohau in the South Island; the Whanganui Drilling Project from the North Island and the Lake George drilling project, NSW.

The next AQUA conference, *Quaternary in the city of sails*, is being held in Auckland from the 5th to 9th of December, 2016. We look forward to seeing you there!



Yours Quaternarily,

**Pia Atahan, Carol Smith and
Sanja van Huet**
Editors