



AURA Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (AURA) INC.

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38/1

POSITION VACANT

The position of Chairperson of the AURA Congress has become vacant due to the sudden resignation of Robert G. Bednarik from this position.

Proposals for filling it are invited from Australian full or subscribing members of AURA.

The position of Chairperson of the AURA Congress involves planning and conducting the Fourth AURA Congress, to be held in July 2022 in Perth, and any subsequent similar events. It entails no remuneration or reward but requires intensive work in planning field trips and negotiating with site custodians and tour operators; in planning accommodation, travel and logistics for participants; obtaining support for Aboriginal and developing countries delegates to attend; planning the event's program and refreshment breaks; securing insurance, forming a support committee and finding volunteers; balancing the expenditures and income of the event; promoting and advertising the congress; securing conference satchels and producing the event program; and managing numerous other related matters. Previous AURA Congresses (in 1988, 1992 and 2000) have been highly successful but involved the investment of several hundred days of demanding work by the Chairperson — for each of these three events. In realistic terms, this is an unpaid job involving considerable responsibility and intensive, enthusiastic work. Previous experience in organising academic conferences would be required.

Following competitive tenders, the Fourth AURA Congress is to be held at the University of Western Australia. The venue has been secured and substantial financial support for a participants subsidisation program has been pledged by the State Government of Western Australia, through Business Events Perth. The event was nominated by the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations as the IFRAO-2024 Congress late last year, and it is being planned for 800 to 1000 participants.

Please direct proposals relating to the position of AURA Congress Chair to the Editor and Secretary of AURA, R. G. Bednarik, at auraweb@hotmail.com.

Statement by R. G. Bednarik:

With a heavy heart and much regret, I resign my position as AURA Congress Chair, having organised three congresses and six Inter-Congress Symposia over the past 34 years. However, I have long been paying a price for my opposition to archaeological vandalism at Murujuga, Dampier Archipelago; for my espousal of Aboriginal control over indigenous cultural heritage; for my opposition to farcical heritage legislations and to the infiltration of university departments by major resource companies who are heritage vandals. Some rock art agencies whose support the AURA Congress needs to secure have declined to be involved in it, and I do not wish to encumber the event's success by the impediment of my involvement. I regard organising an AURA Congress as a thankless task at the best of times, but I could not perform it under such adversarial conditions.

I apologise for my lack of perseverance but recognise that it is time to pass on the baton. The future Chairperson(s) can be assured of my most complete cooperation in the transition.

For future details, please consult the congress webpage at <http://www.ifrao.com/the-aura-congress/> and the November 2022 issue of *RAR*. This copy of the *AURA Newsletter* is received only by Australian members and subscribers because to involve a non-resident would not be practicable.

AURA Treasurer's financial statement 2019/2021

Balance in hand on 30 June 2019: \$8971.45

INCOME:	\$	EXPENDITURES:	\$
Sales of books	478.00	Postage	81.60
Bank interest	55.41	Business Affairs Registration	113.80
		Telephone	20.26
		Website	390.50
TOTAL	533.41	TOTAL	606.16

Balance in hand on 30 June 2021: 8898.70

AURA Newsletter

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