



ICOMOS

ICAHM

**International Committee
on Archaeological
Heritage Management**

ICAHM at WAC 10

WAC 10 was held in Darwin from 22 to the 28 of June with some incredibly distinctive features for which Professors Claire Smith and Heather Burke of Flinders University played commanding roles. The following distinctive elements set a standard that will not be easily met at any future congresses:

Sessions were well organised with up-to-date information and abstracts available on the extensive and very user-friendly WAC 10 website, as well as on the event's dedicated app. There were over two thousand participants with multiple themed concurrent sessions along with a multitude of workshops and a strong focus on Indigenous involvement and ethical issues in archaeology.

In line with its commitment to equity and access, WAC-10 offered a comprehensive travel grants program, providing full and partial scholarships to participants from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged regions. The event was supported by a dedicated team of 200 international volunteers.

Sponsored by Flinders University, yet held in a newly constructed University of Darwin building with multiple lecture rooms and large lecture halls (below). The classrooms had from 3 to five large screens offering good views of the power point presentations in crowded rooms. The provision of video linked live transmissions worked seamlessly due to the plethora of red and yellow t-shirted international students that managed the technology.



WAC10 included a one-day field trip to Kakadu rock art sites, as well as a visit to the world-renowned Darwin evening market and a lively banquet on the esplanade. The opening ceremony at the Northern Territory Museum had a magnificent First Nations singing group and lots of food and drinks. Busses were provided to all venues as well as to hotel/motel accommodation where required.

Many major archaeological companies sponsored events such as keynote speaker with drinks and nibbles and the spectacular closing ceremony with drinks, eats and dancing for more than a thousand people. Offerings by national and international archaeological companies were of quality and varied including insulated water bottles by Vicus an Australian based dating laboratory, and perhaps the most welcomed was multiple flavoured slushies with metal straws and opaque plastic cups by Austral Archaeology - the best flavour in Brian's opinion was melon.

We encourage all members of ICAHM to join WAC.

ICAHM session

The ICAHM was the only scientific committee of ICOMOS to offer a session. The session was situated within Theme 16 organised by Dr Katia Schörle and Dr Ania Kotarba of Flinders University and chaired by Claudia Uribe-Chinen (right).

The following papers were offered either in person or by video link.

16 Session: 03 International Archaeological Heritage Management of Endangered Sites

Chaired by Claudia Uribe-Chinen



Charaideo Moidams of Assam India - A quest for UNESCO World Heritage

Deepi Rekha Kouli and Simran Sambhi

Preserving the vanishing past: Addressing Threats to Early Buddhist Monasteries and Rock Art in Ladakh

Sonam Dolma

Pandemics and Heritage: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on Archaeotourism in South Africa

Nithya Eswaran

Aspects of the Japanese Kofun, including imperial tombs as Cultural Heritage: Between Social and Academic Contexts

Kunikiho Wakabayashi

An insight into the Kotha: A Forgotten Heritage in Garhwal Himalaya

Medha Bhatt, Nagendra Rawat

ICAHM and its Recent Activities

Helena Arose, Brian J Egloff, Ian Lilley

Chancay's Vanishing Heritage: Archaeological Practice, Ethics and the Loss of Pre-Hispanic Sites in Coastal Peru

Claudia Uribe-Chinen

Juukan Gorge: The Story of Destruction and Rebuilding

Jordan Ralph, Burchell Hayes, Michael Slack

Heritage of a Shared Estate: Archaeological Investigations at Perth Airport

Joe Dortch, Rod Garlett, Sally Burgess de Castilo

Heritage and Tourism in Patagonia, Argentina: Achievements and Limitations in Managing Archaeological Sites in Central-western Santa Cruz Province

Josefina Flores Coni *et al.*

The Cumberland Plain: An Endangered Archaeological and Cultural Landscape

Rebekah Hawkins, *et al.*

Following the stimulating discussions, Claudia is pleased to share that Dr. Katia Schörle and Dr. Ania Kotarba are preparing to edit a volume based on the Theme 16 proceedings, to be submitted to Springer's One World Archaeology Series later this year. The volume will carry the same title as Theme 16: *Endangered Archaeological Sites and Cultural Landscapes: Adaptability, Sustainability, and Responses to Climate, Conflict, and Human Impacts.*

Drafted by Brian and Claudia on 8 July 2025