Australian Archaeology

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EDITORIAL

This issue of the Newsletter contains two reports on field surveys by Father E.D. Stockton. Both surveys were major undertakings, and Father Stockton is to be congratulated for making the results available quickly, before taking a year's sabbatical leave at the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Francaise, Jerusalem. Although not strictly a professional prehistorian, Father Stockton has contributed significantly to Australian prehistoric research for several years now, exemplifying the continuing worth of the dedicated amateur in archaeology, a discipline that, after all, flourished as an almost wholly amateur pursuit during most of its formative years. While some of us may wish to 'professionalise' the subject further, albeit with the laudable purpose of improving the quality of research, others, for whom the study of history inspires a feeling of continuity and kinship with the past, may think that the non-professional worker still has a creative role to play. This will no doubt be discussed at length with regard to the proposed 'professional association of archaeologists' reported on in this Newsletter. I hope to receive many comments on this topic for the April issue. Meanwhile I offer our best wishes for a successful year abroad to Father Stockton.

As ever, contributions to the Newsletter are eagerly sought. In particular, there is a dearth of comments and opinions, even though the Newsletter was conceived initially as a vehicle for discussion between members. Contributions of this kind, as well as news items and longer articles, will be most welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 1st April.

R.J. Lampert