# Annual Report: 2022

## 1. Administrative Details

1. **Name of National Committee:**
   Blue Shield Australia

2. **Date Report Completed:**
   February 2023

3. **Reporting period covered:**
   January 2022 – December 2022

4. **Names, positions and emails of all those who were the governing body/ trustees / principal officers on the date the report was approved or who served during in the reporting period:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Kathryn Dan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au">info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chair, to Jan 2023</td>
<td>Catherine Robinson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary and Treasurer to Jan 2023</td>
<td>Annette Mills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Address of the main office:**
   c/- Australian Library and Information Association, Deakin, ACT 2600

6. **Website and social media (if applicable):**
   www.blueshieldaustralia.org.au

7. **Email Blue Shield Australia email should forward to:**
   info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au

## 2. Income:

What is the total income of your committee? **Total Annual Income 2022 = AUD $5693.40**

Member Associations pay a sliding scale of fees, depending on their representation and size and capacity to contribute funds. Fees were held at a reduced rate for the 2022 year to acknowledge ongoing impacts of COVID-19 but reverting to regular levels for 2023. Two member associations donated funds in 2022 to support BSA activities.

What are the primary sources?

Membership fees, occasional donations, income from DRR Day events.

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

**Submissions**

BSA makes submissions to State and Federal inquiries that may relate to cultural property issues. These have included inquiries into specific disasters such as fire and flood, risk and resilience, movable cultural heritage, and cultural policy.

**National Cultural Policy** - BSA provided a submission on the development of a National Cultural Policy via the Office for the Arts. Submissions were invited to address 5 thematic pillars. The BSA submission highlighted the importance of regional networks, funding and incentives for planning and recovery from disaster, skills development and the value of training heritage professionals and emergency management personnel, collaborative planning, gaps in moveable cultural heritage legislation, and the importance of adoption of international protocols for cultural property protection. Launch of the National Cultural Policy is expected on 30 January 2023.

**National Recovery and Resilience Agency – Second National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction** - BSA took this opportunity to recommend increased training, coordination and targeted initiatives relating to cultural property protection.

Preparatory work for advocacy with government about the Second Protocol commenced in 2021.

3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

Information sharing is a key activity for BSA and the committee seeks to take advantage of opportunities to communicate the values of Blue Shield.

BSA committee members have benefited greatly from training and informal meeting opportunities provided by BSI. Formal training material as well as demonstrated experiences of other national committees has fostered deeper understanding of heritage protection. BSA was able to present about its work in September.

**Presentations**

BSA Secretary Annette Mills presented a poster at the national Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience conference in August 2022. The presentation was an opportunity to directly engage with participants and connect with the broader disaster resilience community through BSA messages about:

- who are we?
- what we do and what we have done
- our main advocacy date for the year (IDRRD) and what we are doing in 2022
research is now beginning to understand what cultural heritage means for resilient communities.

Sue Hutley presented at an ALIA Tasmania webinar

**UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction promotion and events**

Blue Shield Australia uses 13 October Disaster Risk Reduction Day as a focus to raise awareness of preparedness at the start of the Australia Disaster Season (fires, floods, cyclones, etc). Refreshed promotional collateral was used and social media postings around the day had good reach. [https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/day-for-disaster-risk-reduction/](https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/day-for-disaster-risk-reduction/).

**BSA workshops and network events**

Adelaide - ALIA and BSA partnered with South Australian cultural heritage organisations to hold a disaster planning workshop to provide practical exercises in assessing disaster risk and preparing preventative plans.

Tasmania – Libraries Tasmania hosted a very collaborative and successful network meeting of cultural heritage organisations. Participants heard from the Chair of the State Fire Management Council, shared information on disaster plan arrangements, and agreed to an ongoing program of cooperation.

Perth – a network meeting inviting cultural institutions and universities was coordinated by Kay Soderland of AICCM. Follow up with the group has not identified specific actions or training at this stage.

Bundaberg, Goulbourn, Ballarat – network meeting have been proposed for these regional locations for 2023. A package to support administering network meetings has been compiled for ongoing use.

BSA is very grateful for sponsorship from and participation of recovery company Steamatic for these network events.

**2023 Disaster Preparedness Calendar**

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material and their Disaster Preparedness Committee, with support from BSA, issued the second annual poster-sized calendar to be used by cultural organisations and individuals in planning for annual disaster preparedness activities. The calendar was issued in a digital and hard copy version and was launched with a webinar on 13 October. The webinar provided valuable reflections on experiences of flood impact and recovery, particularly in Lismore and regional New South Wales. The calendar continues to be promoted as a valuable support for disaster preparedness planning.

**Symposiums / Events / Webinars**

BSA member organisations and individual committee members are active in promoting cultural property protection at conferences and events. For example, DRM4H, an online and in-person training event to promote understanding and preparation for risks to heritage, was coordinated and delivered by Catherine Forbes, AICOMOS. AICCM continues to provide excellent online content such as Agents of Change: 10 agents over 10 months ([https://aiccm.org.au/events-and-webinars/webinars/10-agents-10-months/](https://aiccm.org.au/events-and-webinars/webinars/10-agents-10-months/)).

Blue Shield Australia promotes disaster preparedness and recovery, and cultural property protection events conducted by Member Associations via our website and social media.

| 3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness: |
| Blue Shield Australia continually promotes various disaster risk preparedness resources to member associations and the general public during Australia natural disasters via [https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/](https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/). |

| 3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict: |
| The ‘Cultural Response Roundtable’ formed by a group of senior cultural and heritage institution leaders in 2019/2020 to facilitate meetings and discussions to share experiences from bushfires and the impacts of Covid19 met during the year at a crisis point with flooding in eastern Australia. Issues discussed included coordination, messaging and access to small grant schemes. It is a network that is activated as required when significant and widespread natural disasters occur again in Australia to provide easier sharing of information and collaborative activities. |

| 3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support: |
| The BSA website continues to be a resource for recovery and support. |

| 3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations): |
| The Blue Shield Australia committee met six times during 2022 via videoconference. An operational version linked to the Strategic Plan was prepared to guide activities. Representation and consistent attendance has been a challenge during 2022. Documentation for the committee is maintained by the Secretary via a Dropbox. BSA focusses external communication via the website and the BSA Facebook and Twitter social media accounts. The committee was unsuccessful in securing a volunteer to assist with social media. |

| 4. Main issues faced: |
| The Blue Shield Australia committee is a representative committee and committee members have continue to face pressure on availability of volunteer time. The BSA committee is small and further discussions need to be held to widen the committee structure or capacity so that |
other interested volunteer representatives on our various Associations can more easily contribute their time and skills to the work of BSA. Encouraging such participation remains an issue.

5. Future goals

The Blue Shield Australia committee will continue to advocate to and work with relevant Australian Government agencies and other key national stakeholders with the aim for Australia to ratify the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention

Further work is needed to gain greater awareness of Blue Shield Australia throughout the Member Associations.

Greater connections with emergency services agencies is also a future goal.

6. Other

Report Submitted By:

Kathryn Dan
Chair, Blue Shield Australia

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As at 4 March 2023