

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Mawson's Huts Conservation Expedition

Merit Pool Recruitment – Specialist Roles

CEO Foreword

The Mawson's Huts Foundation is entering a significant phase of conservation delivery, with our next expedition representing a major milestone in our long-term stewardship of the Mawson's Huts Historic Site, in partnership with the Australian Antarctic Division.

This work is not routine field deployment; it is the continuation of a nationally and internationally significant conservation program in one of the most extreme environments on Earth. The individuals selected will contribute directly to preserving a site of outstanding heritage value and to advancing best-practice conservation in Antarctica.

We are seeking highly capable, committed professionals who can operate at a high standard, think critically in the field, and contribute meaningfully to a multidisciplinary team.

About the Opportunity

The Mawson's Huts Foundation (MHF) is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified professionals to join the **conservation expeditions to the Mawson's Huts Historic Site, Cape Denison, Antarctica**.

This expedition forms part of the Foundation's long-term commitment to preserving one of the most significant sites of early Australasian Antarctic exploration and contributes to an ongoing program of conservation, research, and heritage management.

Successful applicants will be placed into a **merit pool**, from which final expedition team members will be selected, subject to:

- Medical and training requirements
- Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) approvals
- Logistical capacity and berth availability
- Final expedition requirements

2. Available Roles

Applicants may apply for one of the following specialist roles:

Archaeologist

- Archaeological survey and recording
- Artefact documentation and context analysis
- Contribution to site interpretation and reporting

Conservator

- Fabric conservation of historic structures and objects
- Environmental monitoring and material stabilisation
- Implementation of conservation treatments under field conditions

Heritage Carpenter

- Structural stabilisation and repair of historic buildings
- Sensitive timber conservation and replacement works
- Working within strict heritage conservation guidelines

3. Expedition Context

- **Location:** Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica
- **Duration:** Approximately 6 weeks (Dec – Feb window)
- **Environment:** Extreme, remote polar conditions
- **Access:** Via the Australian Antarctic Program/international logistics partner

Team members must be capable of working in:

- Isolated environments
- Sub-zero temperatures and high winds
- Physically and mentally demanding conditions

This expedition operates within a highly controlled environmental and heritage framework, requiring precision, adaptability, and professional discipline.

4. Key Responsibilities (All Roles)

- Deliver conservation and heritage outcomes in line with approved works plans
- Work effectively within a multidisciplinary expedition team
- Adhere to environmental, heritage, and safety protocols at all times
- Contribute to documentation, reporting, and data collection
- Represent the Foundation professionally in all settings

5. Selection Criteria

Essential

- Relevant tertiary qualifications or equivalent professional experience
- Demonstrated experience in heritage, conservation, or archaeological practice
- Strong teamwork and communication skills
- High level of physical and mental resilience

Desirable

- Antarctic, polar, or similar climate experience
- Experience with historic timber structures (for carpenter)
- Experience in archaeological field recording (for archaeologist)
- Experience in heritage conservation in extreme environments
- First aid / remote area qualifications

6. Merit Pool Process

- Applicants will be assessed and ranked based on merit
- Successful applicants will be placed into an ongoing **merit pool** over several seasons
- Final selection will occur once:
 - Expedition scope is confirmed
 - AAD approvals are secured
 - Logistical constraints are known

Inclusion in the merit pool does not guarantee selection for deployment.

7. Employment Conditions

- Positions are **paid fixed-term contract roles**.
- Remuneration will be discussed following the EOI process and selection into the merit pool.
- Cooperation with the [Australian Antarctic Division Recruitment and Selection Process](#), including but not limited to:
 - Medical & adaptability (psychological) screening
 - Demonstration of Expeditioner Personal Qualities (Assessment Centre)
 - Pre-departure Training

8. How to Apply

Applicants must submit:

- CV (maximum 3–4 pages)
- Cover letter addressing the selection criteria
- Relevant certifications
- Contact details for two referees

Deadline: July 6

Submit via email to MHF's CEO: lara.colrain@mawsons-huts.org.au

9. Expeditioner Personal Qualities

The applicant's attitude, behaviour and potential behaviour will be assessed in terms of each indicator under the personal qualities criteria listed below:

- Team Work
- Proactive
- Focus on Excellence
- Emotional Intelligence
- Community Mindedness

- Inclusivity
- Flexibility
- Organisational Alignment
- Safety Commitment

10. Enquiries

Lara Colrain, CEO, lara.colrain@mawsons-huts.org.au

11. Why This Matters

The Mawson's Huts Historic Site is one of the most important heritage sites in Antarctica and holds exceptional scientific, historical, and cultural value. The conservation work undertaken through this expedition contributes to safeguarding this site for future generations and supports broader international efforts to understand and protect Antarctic heritage.

Participation in this program offers a rare opportunity to contribute to a project of national and international significance while working at the forefront of conservation practice in extreme environments.