Adjunct Associate Professor Wendy Beck
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Wendy Beck BSc(Melb)1978 PhD(LaTrobe)1986 is an Adjunct academic in Archaeology at UNE. Retired after 28 years in academia, she continues her research into education and archaeology working in partnership with local Aboriginal communities.

Fellowship title: Improving Graduate Employability by implementing Subject Benchmarks

Year completed: 2014

Expertise key words: benchmark, archaeology, standards

What did you achieve?: 1) The benefits that accrued from this program occurred in the following areas: through the Benchmarking we established a sense of community among archaeological educators (as well as what did and didn’t work in achieving this); we achieved wider dissemination of the program aims and outcomes than originally envisaged (such as cross-sector application to consulting archaeology companies); we influenced the achievement of a Benchmarks exemplar project undertaken at the University of Queensland; and the project inspired further innovation in archaeological education, through my successful ARC Discovery application. 2) Since my Fellowship I have recently been involved in rewriting the Archaeology Benchmarks for a new generation of academics, and have been working in archaeological education for Indigenous students inside and outside the University.

What does the sector need now?: We are currently within a period of increasing research audit culture in universities world-wide. Group peer-mentoring such as the Fellows’ network needs to be encouraged to sustain us through this.