Archaeology and Heritage Volunteering

There isn’t a lot of call for archaeological volunteers in South Australia, although the occasional archaeological project will ask for them (so keep checking back with this web page and make sure you join the Fuad list). To gain volunteer experience you will often need to look outside the department itself, to the various heritage and history-related bodies that need volunteers as part of their day to day running. Below are some obvious examples, but you can probably find local volunteer opportunities with historical societies, or with local or district councils (for example, the City of Unley’s Unley Museum works with volunteers: http://www.unley.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=849), just by enquiring.

South Australian Museum
The South Australian Museum accepts applications from students and people interested in undertaking work experience, or volunteering their services to the museum. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services needs to complete an application form. Volunteer intake for the Anthropology and Archaeology section is conducted twice yearly. http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/page/default.asp?site=1&page=ABT_Volunteers

Department of Environment and Heritage
DEH provides opportunities to volunteer at various parks and historic sites around Adelaide and South Australia. Some of their ongoing projects involve assisting at the Botanic Gardens, the Adelaide Gaol, Fort Glanville, Old Government House, or in the general Volunteer Support Unit at DEH: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/deh/volunteers/projects.html.

Mitcham Heritage Research Centre
Volunteers working within the Local History Program work together and individually to collate both yesterday’s and tomorrow’s history. Through their work, the volunteers build up resources to enhance people’s knowledge and appreciation of their district. Talk to the Community Historian (Maggy Ragless) at the Mitcham Cultural Village, 103 Princes Road, Mitcham SA 5062.

The Waite precinct
Part of the University of Adelaide, the Waite precinct volunteer program incorporates historic Urrbrae House and its gardens, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve. Volunteers at Urrbrae House and the nearby Coach House are involved in researching and learning the history of these buildings and the people who lived and worked here. They also act as guides for visitors and care for and document the significant collections of furniture, memorabilia and scientific material. Volunteers also participate in planning and organising the many social, cultural and fundraising events that take place at Urrbrae House: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/volunteers/opportunities/waite/.

History SA (Formerly the History Trust of South Australia)
Volunteer with the Community History Unit or any of the museums under History SA’s management (e.g. the South Australian Maritime Museum, the Motor Museum, or the Migration Museum). Volunteers are involved in a variety of work including cataloguing collections, maintaining research libraries, research, providing education and school holiday programs, conducting oral history interviews and assisting at exhibition openings and other special events: http://www.history.sa.gov.au/history/volunteer.htm.