

# BACKFILL

## Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

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Church Hall, Toowoomba, Queensland

Friday, 2 December 2011

### 1. Welcome

The 2011 AGM commenced at 6:35 pm and was chaired by Lynley Wallis (President). The President welcomed members and observers to the meeting and acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional lands of the Giabal and Jarowair people. She proposed, in order to allow all business to take place within a reasonable time frame, that comments from the floor be restricted to 2 minutes per person, and noted that AAA had received legal advice that defamatory comments made from the floor could expose the Association to litigation.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Patricia Bourke, Lincoln Steinberger, Denise Gaughwin, Stuart Rapley, Sally May, Pam Smith, Robin Torrence, Lesley Head, Sue Hudson, Mick Morrison, Anne McConnell, Jane Hinton and Shelly Greer.

### 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2010 AAA AGM

The minutes of the 2010 AAA AGM, held at Coach House Marina Resort, Bateman's Bay, New South Wales, 13 December 2010, were published in AA 72:76-88.

Motion: 'That the minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. as circulated, be taken and read as confirmed'. Moved: Bryce Barker. Seconded: Joe Dortch. Motion carried nem. con.

### 4. Business Arising from the Previous AGM

It was noted that in line with a motion passed at the 2010 AGM, AAA joined the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) in 2011. AAA representatives attended and participated in HASS on the Hill held in Canberra from 22-23 March 2011 (see Section 5.13.1). The general sense is that CHASS membership has provided worthwhile lobbying opportunities and consequently the Executive has decided to continue membership in 2012. It was also noted that the National Executive made numerous attempts to seek membership of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies [FASTS; now known as Science and Technology Australia (STA)], again in line with a motion passed at the 2010 AGM. Despite initial positive correspondence, latter attempts to contact relevant persons were met with no response. It is recommended the new Executive continue to investigate joining STA.

### 5. Reports

#### 5.1 President's Report (Lynley Wallis)

This was the second one year term for the current Executive team, albeit with some changes to some positions. As was the

case in 2010, my role was supported by the great dedication and commitment of other members of the Executive, and I take this opportunity to thank them all.

2011 has been another busy year for AAA. As is discussed in more detail in the Membership Secretaries' report, we have the pleasure of announcing that the AAA membership has increased again in 2011 to record high levels, marginally short of the 1000 mark. As well as reflecting a general growth in heritage employment opportunities and strong tertiary programs in archaeology and cultural heritage, the recent membership growth has in no small part been achieved by the consistent proactive efforts of Dan Rosendahl and Jacqueline Matthews who have invested a huge amount of time in recruiting and processing the applications of new members: thank you for so clearly making AAA the great success it has been in 2011. With such membership numbers, AAA can truly lay claim to being the largest archaeological organisation in Australia, representing the highly diverse nature of our discipline.

The Executive have continued to regularly post to the AAA email list to inform members about information relevant to the Association. While there are other useful forums available to members (a key one being the Oz Arch Google group, which Gary Vines is to be thanked for initiating and maintaining to great effect following the demise of the original Aus-Arch listserver), feedback indicates that the majority of members appreciate our efforts to keep people up-to-date with recent developments. The AAA list is intended to be complementary to other services such as Oz Arch, with each offering subscribers different information and opportunities. For instance, the AAA email list is not a discussion list, meaning that the only people who can post to it are members of the Executive. While we recognise that sometimes our posts are forwarded on from other notification services and thus people receive them multiple times, most of our ca 1300 subscribers (there are more subscribers than there are AAA members) are not members of the other lists, and so the AAA list is the only forum through which they receive such information. The AAA email list has created a much more visible profile for the organisation amongst our membership, and we believe has been a strong factor in the increased membership numbers in 2011.

The continuing success of AAA is contingent on the efforts of a range of other office holders beyond the core Executive members. Special mention should be made of our hardworking editors Sean Ulm and Anne Ross, who have again in 2011 produced another two high quality issues of AA. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors Scarp Archaeology, Archae-Aus, Rio Tinto and Cultural Heritage Systems and Strategies we were in the fortunate position of being able to print both 2011 issues in full colour, resulting in a spectacular showcase of research by,

and relevant to, many of our members. Colour printing will now be a permanent feature of the journal. Sadly, Sean and Annie are stepping down from their roles in 2012. It is genuinely hard to find adequate words to express our appreciation to them for their impressive service to the Association and all they have achieved during their time as editors. They have raised the standard and profile of *AA* to unprecedented levels, dedicating extraordinary amounts of time (often at the expense of their own research), implementing many new initiatives to ensure it is of the highest quality, and always performing their roles with the utmost integrity and transparency – your presence will be sadly missed, and I have no doubt (only in part because I am one of them) the incoming editors will regularly turn to you for guidance and advice as they attempt to ensure the journal continues to achieve the exacting standards you have set! Thank you, thank you, thank you on behalf of all members of AAA.

With this change of editors will also come a change in the Editorial Committee, and I also offer warm thanks to Editorial Assistant Linda Terry (UQ), Short Report Editors Lara Lamb (USQ) and Catherine Westcott (QLD Department of Transport and Main Roads), Book Review Editors Jon Prangnell (UQ) and Jill Reid (QLD Department of Transport and Main Roads), and Thesis Abstract Editor Stephen Nichols (QLD Department of Environment and Resource Management); you have all made vital contributions to the success of *AA* over the years, and I hope you greatly enjoy the longer periods of free time you'll all now have available to you with the conclusion of your commitment.

Thanks also to our Media Liaison Officers Iain Davidson and Alice Gorman for their efforts throughout the year in implementing new initiatives in attempts to more systematically develop our media contacts and adopt new technologies. Another critical component of our public profile and outreach is the AAA website and our Webmaster Sam Bolton continued to do a great job in this regard during 2011. Sam has advised that she will be stepping down from this role in 2012 owing to other work commitments and in order to provide someone else with the opportunity, and I offer thanks for her sustained efforts over many years in this demanding role. Thank you also to the members of the Web Redevelopment Subcommittee that was formed in early 2010 to guide the redesign of the AAA website following a suggestion outlining the need for this from the Webmaster in 2009; the new website will be launched in 2012 following some final adjustments. Thanks also to Sally Brockwell, who has continued to serve in the little-known but crucial role of Public Officer.

For continuing in the important role of Indigenous Liaison Officer (ILO) in 2011 I thank Chris Wilson. Following a suggestion from Chris in 2010 that the ILO role had limited responsibilities, a situation he suggested amending, a decision was taken to have the AAA ILA serve as the ILO on all future Annual Conference Organising Committees. This serves the purpose of allowing some 'corporate knowledge' to be developed that is not lost each year when a new Organising Committee takes on the conference, and provides Indigenous community members with a regular point of contact whom they can come to know and trust, rather than having to deal with a different person every year. I thank Chris for his efforts in coordinating Indigenous participation at this year's conference, during which (thanks to our generous sponsors) a record high amount of funding was awarded to assist Indigenous participants to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairs of the following AAA subcommittees: Jane Balme (Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning, ANCATL), Richard Fullagar (Code of Ethics) and Sarah Ward (National Archaeology Week). A special thanks to Jane, who has advised she will be stepping down from her role in 2012. ANCATL has been an enormously successful initiative and Jane's hard work has been integral to that success.

On a regional level, the Executive would also like to thank our State and Territory representatives, many of whom had an extremely busy year in 2011 as a consequence of the legislative reviews and reform being undertaken around the country. It is due to the commitment of all our office bearers and committee members that the Association continues to operate successfully.

I wish to thank all members of the Awards and Prizes Subcommittee, with a special and heartfelt thank you to Val Attenbrow (Chair), who has advised she is retiring from this position. Whenever the annual prizes and awards are announced, they are met with a range of excitement and interest, and often generate considerable discussion and comment from our membership, both formally and informally. Some are in no doubt that the right people have been honoured; most are in general agreement with the decisions made by the Subcommittee; some are ambivalent, taking little interest; and sadly, there always seems to be a very small minority who grumble and complain. For many years now Val has untiringly led this Subcommittee with integrity, transparency and fairness (characteristics that are displayed by all of the Subcommittee members), and some members are largely oblivious to the extensive time commitment that Val and her team dedicate to ensuring the nomination and assessment process is rigorous, fair and scrupulous. I know I am not alone in offering my extreme gratitude to the professional manner with which Val has always conducted herself in this position – her retirement will leave some very large metaphorical shoes to fill.

Thanks to the 2011 AAA Annual Conference Organising Committee, led by USQ staff members Lara Lamb and Bryce Barker, assisted by Eddie Thangavelu and Shirley Clifford (USQ), Annie Ross and Birgitta Stephenson (UQ), and Chris Wilson (Flinders). This small and hardworking team has risen to the many challenges of hosting what is the largest AAA conference to date and delivered an exciting and interesting program. Bringing together so many people in a regional centre is no minor task, and the dedication of the committee members is greatly appreciated.

Finally, as I complete my term as President I would like to thank all of the members to whom I have turned for advice and who have offered encouragement over the past two years. I have found the role to be often time-consuming and at times more challenging than others, but the positive experiences have far outweighed any negative ones. All volunteer organisations are dependent on their members to achieve outcomes, and any successes of the AAA Executive during my term have been due to the altruistic effort and tireless energy of many, many people; the failures I hold myself responsible for.

Best of luck to the incoming President and other members of the Executive; your generosity in agreeing to take on these roles, in a world where everyone seems increasingly busy and community service seems to count for little in the world of

academic promotions, (where the primary concern – despite the rhetoric assuring us this is not the case – continues to be on the number of quality of journal publications and the amount of funding dollars you can secure ... yes I am a little cynical and jaded ... maybe an improved work-life balance will help rectify this!), is graciously acknowledged. May the road ahead prove not too bumpy and I'm sure you'll find the experience as rewarding and worthwhile as I did.

Discussion arising: none.

### 5.2 Secretary's Report (Nathan Wright)

After taking over the role of secretary from Andrew Border (thanks AB!) in early 2011, the bulk of work related to this role remains the same as in previous years. In addition to matters dealt with in the President's Report, members of the Executive held several informal meetings throughout the year in order to attend to operational business.

The vast majority of correspondence to the Association this year continued to be related to career advice, work experience, requests for consultant services, people seeking advice on archaeological materials they had found, employment opportunities for individuals and miscellaneous matters. Careers advice was offered, where appropriate, and the contact details for relevant people, organisations and programmes were passed on. Regarding both employment opportunities and consultant details, the enquirer was referred to The Register of Archaeology Work Experience Partners on the AAA website.

Discussion arising: none.

### 5.3 Treasurer's Report (Michael Morrison)

#### Overview

The financial position of AAA is excellent and the 2011 financial year (1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011) saw an overall profit of \$57,498.75, which is an increase of \$24,242.75 on 2010 (Table 1). This is attributable to a twofold membership increase since 2009, along with a major new income stream associated with copyright claims on our journal, as well as ongoing strong conference profits averaging \$13,375 per year. The 2011 financial year has seen a major increase of \$21,583.94 in annual expenditure associated with an increased focus on increasing the profile of the Association. The total equity in the Association as of 31 August 2011 was \$173,694.75, compared to \$116,196 in 2010.

#### Income

Memberships continue to represent AAA's major source of income and have increased markedly from \$34,105 in 2009, to \$45,256 in 2010 (Table 2) and \$67,350.08 in 2011. This represents an almost two-fold increase in membership-derived income since 2009.

Conference related income in 2011 is at an all-time high at \$34,100.82 though this figure is inflated by the fact that revenue associated with conference registrations are now managed directly by AAA rather than external organisations. This revenue (\$20,913.03, rows 1 and 2, Table 2) does not represent conference profit, but instead reflects income associated with registrations and sponsorship and necessarily excludes expenses associated with this year's conference; however, these will be presented in the 2012 report.

Profits from the 2010 conference hosted by ANU generated \$13,187.79. This is a reduction of \$13,745.21 from 2010; however, as outlined in the 2010 Treasurer's Report that year's income represented profit from both the 2009 and 2010 conferences. The average annual conference profit for the past three years stands at \$13,374.

2011 also saw several new income streams, summarised as 'Non-subscription income' in Table 2. The \$16,071.56 here principally comprised \$11,317.55 derived from distribution by the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) of papers published in AA. The remainder is derived from sponsorship, including sponsorship to the value of \$4754 for the production of AA Volume 71 which was the first volume to be printed in colour.

#### Expenditure

Total expenses for 2011 were \$62,686.94, an increase of \$21,583.94 compared with 2009 (Table 3). This represents a significant increase on expenses which were in the range of \$40,000 to \$42,000 in both 2009 and 2010.

The major increase in expenses is associated with advertising and promotion costs of \$10,473.56 (up from \$954 in 2010). This included \$5000 support provided to Ronin Films for production of the Lake Mungo documentary, along with costs for graphic design and the production of promotional materials.

Journal production – which includes printing, postage, layout, artwork and employment of an Editorial Assistant – increased by \$5318 in 2011. The category of postage and stationary is largely associated with journal mail outs, though does include other postage costs not associated with the journal. This figure has increased by \$2392.15 from 2010 which reflects a change in bookkeeping practices, as this category was formerly subsumed under the general category of journal production. Thus, incorporating postage costs, the journal production costs are in the order of \$39,600 and have increased by approximately \$7000

**Table 1** Profit and Loss, 2011 financial year.

	2010	2011	Variation
Total income	\$74,359.00	\$120,185.69	\$45,826.69
Total expenses	\$41,103.00	\$62,686.94	\$(21,583.94)
Operating profit	\$33,256.00	\$57,498.75	\$24,242.75
Retained profit	\$82,940.00	\$116,196.00	\$33,256.00
Total equity	\$116,196.00	\$173,694.75	\$57,498.75

**Table 2** Income, 2011 financial year.

	2010	2011	Variation
2011 conference registrations	–	\$12,913.03	\$12,913.03
2011 conference sponsorship	–	\$8000.00	\$8000.00
Previous conference profits	\$26,933.00	\$13,187.79	\$(13,745.21)
Non-subscription income	–	\$16,071.56	\$16,071.56
Subscriptions and back issues	\$45,256.00	\$67,350.08	\$22,094.08
Interest	\$1570.00	\$2663.23	\$1093.23
Other income	\$600.00	–	\$(600.00)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$74,359.00</b>	<b>\$120,185.69</b>	<b>\$45,826.69</b>

since 2010. This can be attributed to increased membership and printing requirements along with a shift to colour printing, though the latter expense has been largely offset by sponsorship.

A range of other less notable changes in expenses occurred in 2011. Web hosting and development costs for 2011 have increased as a result of a part payment of \$5346 towards costs of the ongoing website redevelopment. An additional payment of this size will be required to complete the website and will appear in the financial statement for 2012. Conference related expenses are very low at \$514.95, a figure that reflects only reimbursements provided to the 2010 conference organisers rather than the real conference costs; actual expenses are much higher but do not appear here as they were managed by the previous conference host. This figure will be considerably higher in 2012 when these figures are updated following the 2011 conference, now that responsibility for managing conference accounts lies with the AAA.

### Assets and Liabilities

Table 4 highlights current assets and liabilities of the AAA. Current Assets have increased by \$57,499 to \$184,910.

No variation occurred in liabilities (\$11,215). Our principal liability remains the Bruce Veitch Award Fund, which remains the same as 2008-2010 at \$11,215.

There was an increase of \$57,498.75 in net assets (i.e. less liabilities) from \$116,196 in 2010, to \$173,694.75 in 2011. The total equity/retained earnings of the Association for 2011 currently stand at \$173,694.75. This includes a marked increase in retained earnings over the past two years, though in 2011 this

is partially attributable to the incorporation of income (but not expenses) of \$20,913.03 associated with the 2011 conference. A total of \$152,781.72 for current retained earnings (excluding 2011 conference income) is a more realistic estimation of our end of year position. This is a marked increase when compared with figures from 2009 (\$82,940.33) and 2010 (\$116,196) and indicates that total equity of the Association has almost doubled since 2009.

Assets are currently distributed across four accounts. The UWA account (\$35,595.15) represents income from online memberships. This will be closed and the balance transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) Cheque Account in early 2012 once a new payment system for the redeveloped website is implemented. The Cash Management Trust product was discontinued by the CBA during 2011 and the balance (\$22,172) automatically transferred to the CBA Cheque account. The CBA Term Deposit retains \$28,791.05 and generated \$1048.05 through interest earnings in 2011. Our primary account, the CBA Cheque Account, currently stands at \$117,043.95 and the new account established specifically for the conference has a balance of \$3840. Some funds associated with conference-related income were accidentally directed into the CBA Cheque Account and will be transferred to the Conference Account in 2012.

### Considerations for 2012 and Beyond

The 2010 and 2011 financial years have seen a marked increase in annual income and it may be the case that the Association can plan around a conservative estimate of annual profit of at \$20,000 per year for 2012 and beyond. This is because while

**Table 3** Expenses, 2010 financial year.

	2010	2011	Variation
Advertising and promotion	\$(954.00)	\$(10,473.56)	\$(9519.56)
Audit fees	\$(770.00)	\$(770.00)	-
Bank fees and charges	\$(262.00)	\$(228.77)	\$33.23
Insurance and regulatory costs	\$(2769.00)	\$(3630.94)	\$(861.94)
Web hosting and development	\$(1731.00)	\$(5346.00)	\$(3615.00)
Journal production	\$(31,892.00)	\$(37,210.57)	\$(5318.57)
Prizes	\$(2600.00)	\$(2000.00)	\$600.00
Sundry expenses	\$(125.00)	\$(120.00)	\$5.00
Postage	-	\$(2392.15)	\$(2392.15)
Conference	-	\$(514.95)	\$(514.95)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$(41,103.00)</b>	<b>\$(62,686.94)</b>	<b>\$(21,583.94)</b>

**Table 4** Balance sheet, 2010 financial year. \* did not exist in 2010; # rolled into the Cheque Account.

	2010	2011	Variation	
Current Assets	CBA Cheque Account	\$41,820.00	\$117,043.95	\$75,223.95
	CBA Term Deposit	\$27,743.00	\$28,791.05	\$1048.05
	CBA Cash Management Trust	\$22,172.00	-#	\$(22,172.00)
	CBA Conference Account	-*	\$3480.00	\$3480.00
	UWA EFT Account	\$35,676.00	\$35,595.15	\$(80.85)
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$127,411.00</b>		<b>\$57,499.15</b>
Current Liabilities	Bruce Veitch Award	\$11,215.00	\$11,215.00	-
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$11,215.00</b>	<b>\$11,215.00</b>	<b>-</b>
Net Assets	\$116,196.00	\$173,694.75	\$57,498.75	
Equity	Retained Earnings	\$82,940.00	\$116,196.00	\$33,256.00
	Operating Profit	\$33,256.00	\$57,498.75	\$24,242.75
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>\$116,196.00</b>	<b>\$173,694.75</b>	<b>\$57,498.75</b>	

membership numbers are unlikely to consistently increase in the future, non-membership income streams including copyright claims and conference profits are likely to continue. While these profits are important and reflect the increased profile of the Association, the increasing equity in the raises new issues about the management of our accounts, described below.

First, given the increase in our total equity, it may be prudent for the incoming Executive to develop a more robust system for account management than is currently in place. The existing spreadsheet and paper-based system is prone to administrative oversights and errors, and is also arduous and overly time-consuming. **It is recommended that in 2012 funding be allocated for the appointment of a bookkeeper or adviser to help establish a more robust accounting system using commercial accounting software.** This will increase the efficiency of invoicing, issuing payment reminders, receipts and so on, and also ensure that our accounts are much more organised than at present.

Second, much closer attention needs to be paid to monthly income and expenditure. The present system makes it difficult to monitor income and expenses outside of an annual reporting process. Such information would be invaluable to future Executives making decisions about new initiatives by providing a sound basis for planning. **It is recommended that the above new financial management system be used to establish annual budgets and that monthly income and expenditure be more closely monitored against these budgets.**

Finally, the increase in our total equity along with the closure of CBA Cash Management Account in 2011 and the planned closure of the UWA EFT account for 2012 effectively means that there will be a significant amount of money held in a low-interest cheque account. **It is recommended that each year a balance of \$50,000 be retained in this account and all other surplus funds be transferred to the CBA Term Deposit on an annual basis.**

Motion: 'That AAA accepts these recommendations (as per the Treasurer's Report) and suggest to the new Executive that they implement them, but that they are not required to do so'. Moved: Peter White. Seconded: Maria Cotter. Motion carried nem. con.

Further discussion arising: Peter White noted that AAA has within its accounts up to \$170,000 and made the suggestion that the Association should undertake more proactive activities with this money rather than just placing it in an higher interest account and letting it compound. He suggested that we use any interest earned to provide student (honours level and beyond) funding for conference attendance, research and/or dating. Peter noted that this would not need to be a permanent commitment for an undetermined time, nor would it need to be an exceptionally large amount, perhaps \$1000 per student. Both Judith Field and Maria Cotter commented that they fully supported Peter's recommendation and indicated that other organisations, such as the Linnean Society, have similar valuable initiatives. Chris Wilson noted that a percentage of the monies awarded could go to Indigenous students or researchers, a view seconded by Robyn Bancroft. There were suggestions that the scheme be opened up to non-students, though this was countered by the proposal that it be limited to the students for the next few years or until the scheme was noted as working well; students typically have no sources of funding available to them, whereas others can usually apply to various schemes.

Harry Webber noted the need for a strong communication strategy for such a scheme, and Bryce Barker questioned who or what form of management strategy would be put in place, as it could be complex. Discussion was had around the possibility of a set amount being placed in a future fund managed by a new Subcommittee with applications from AAA student members to be competitive though not too restrictive, and with relatively small amounts awarded in order to support as many students as possible. Publication subsidies were another suggestion to include within the scope of applications as suggested by Caroline Bird. Lynley Wallis suggested that recipients be required to provide a report to AAA, with the new Executive required to determine who would be on the Subcommittee, who could then be charged with establishing the rules of the new scheme.

Motion: 'That AAA establishes a Subcommittee to oversee a new Research Grant Scheme'. Moved: Lara Lamb. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

Motion: 'That AAA places \$75,000 in a high interest bearing account, the interest from which is used to fund the aforementioned scheme'. Moved: Peter White. Seconded: Ken Mulvaney. Motion carried nem. con.

Motion: 'In 2012 funding be allocated for the appointment of a bookkeeper or adviser to help establish a more robust accounting system using commercial accounting software'. Moved: Mick Morrison. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

Motion: 'That the previously mentioned new financial management system be used to establish annual budgets and that monthly income and expenditure be more closely monitored against these budgets'. Sean Ulm noted that this motion was unnecessary as it could be undertaken within the Treasurer's scope. As such the motion was not seconded and no vote was necessary.

#### 5.4 Membership Secretary's Report (Daniel Rosendahl and Jacqueline Matthews)

We are ecstatic to report that 2011 has been the biggest year for membership growth in the history of AAA. In 2011 we have had an increase in membership numbers in every category. As of the end of November our total membership base had grown to 975, 27% (n=210) more than 2010 (Table 1), though at the time of the AGM it is 989. Of the total membership base 32% are returning lapsed members (i.e. pre-2010) and 19% are first-time members. These figures emphasise the effectiveness of persistent reminders, the successful development of the AAA email list, and overall the success of the initiatives we have put in place to increase our membership base. We think that this demonstrates increases in both the number of people engaged in the archaeological workforce and a growing awareness of the value of the Association and the willingness of the archaeological community to support it.

##### Dominant Subscribers

The division of the membership base across the different membership categories is on par with that documented for previous years (Table 2). Ordinary members still dominate the membership base with 620 individuals (63%), while student memberships are the second most populous category with 177 memberships (18%). While increases in Institutional,

Overseas and Retiree membership categories were not substantial, there is potential to increase these categories in the future by promoting AAA further afield. Retiree memberships increased by 45% from 40 in 2010 to 58 in 2011. Institutions increased by two and Overseas memberships increased by six (Table 2).

NSW is still winning the battle of the states at 244 members, with a 42% increase in members (Table 3). QLD is still next in line with 187 members, an almost 30% increase. WA's membership base increased by 37% from 91 to 125, the second largest increase after NSW.

### Initiatives

At the start of 2010 we implemented four initiatives to increase the overall membership base and to re-sign lapsed members:

1. Development of the AAA email list: The email list setup in 2010 has grown from 1167 to 1288, indicating that there are some 300 people who receive our emails but for whatever

**Table 1** Membership numbers and number of new members over the past 10 years.

Year	Members	New Members
2011	975	186
2010	765	165
2009	718	181
2008	650	127
2007	547	86
2006	491	78
2005	482	93
2004	560	110
2003	568	126
2002	497	83

**Table 2** AAA membership types, 2009-2011.

Type	2009	2010	2011
Ordinary	438	484	620
Student	121	137	177
Overseas	20	22	28
Retiree	36	40	58
Teacher	n/a	n/a	4
Institutional	68	69	71
Secondary Student	n/a	n/a	0
Life Member	12	13	14
Non-Member Journal Subscriptions	n/a	n/a	2

**Table 3** AAA membership by state, 2009-2011.

State	2009	2010	2011	Percentage Increase
ACT	51	64	80	25.0
NSW	167	172	244	41.8
NT	13	12	15	25.0
QLD	134	144	187	29.8
SA	58	65	75	15.3
TAS	13	11	15	36.3
VIC	129	153	169	10.4
WA	92	91	125	37.3

reason do not have membership with us. However, this is a positive for the AAA list and the information that is posted on it, as it seems that non-members must still find the information useful or interesting to remain on the list.

2. Targeting of new and lapsed members: Two strategies we employed to encourage new memberships included emailing PowerPoint slides to university lecturers (domestic and international) at the start of each semester to promote AAA. In 2011, this strategy resulted in a noticeable increase of student membership, with increase of 29% or 40 individuals. This is a two-fold increase in new students compared to 2010. Our second strategy was to send reminder emails at the start of each month to all lapsed members. This was initially met with a huge renewal response but as numbers approached 950 the initial rate of response subsided, a sign that we may have hit the ceiling of the obtainable membership base, at least for now.
3. The creation of new membership categories: New membership categories were created in 2011 to incorporate members of the public such as teachers and school students. This was an attempt to reach a wider audience and also in response to feedback from members of the public who thought they had to be archaeologists to join the Association. This initiative has only had a modest impact, with four teachers electing to join the Association and no school aged students. However, this was only advertised through word of mouth, as getting access to teachers email lists has proven difficult. We are actively working on developing relationships with history teacher societies to continue promoting AA as a valuable teaching resource.
4. Membership incentives: After the mid-year journal mailout we found that there were still several hundred lapsed members from 2010 and earlier. As an incentive for them to join, and also for students to join we offered milestone prizes of free sets of available journal back-issues and one year free membership to AAA for the 800<sup>th</sup>, 850<sup>th</sup>, 900<sup>th</sup>, 950<sup>th</sup> member and also for the 1000<sup>th</sup> member if we ever hit it.

### Future Advice

There are still many lapsed members who have, for whatever reason, decided not to renew their memberships, perhaps some of them leaving the discipline. We recommend that regular reminders should continue to be sent and we expect to see the membership base continuing to increase with the development of the new website as another incentive of membership. A further initiative to make the journal more publicly available would not be to create new categories but to make it clearer on the website that AAA membership is open to all members of the public as ordinary members. We also feel that international members should be targeted more in future. There are many international email lists on which AAA membership could be advertised and with AA now available online via JSTOR it is now more readily available to a wider audience. As AA is an internationally respected journal we have an exciting opportunity to promote our journal and membership to our Association internationally.

Overall we have achieved some successes in our objectives to target lapsed and student members, and to make AA more publicly assessable, especially to schools. We would like to thank Lynley Wallis for her enduring support and for assisting us with

processing the huge volume of membership renewals at the start of the year; and Sean Ulm, Annie Ross and Linda Terry for their continued advice on promoting AAA and assistance with the journal mailout. We'd also like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who passed on our emails to their staff and to all teaching staff who promoted AAA to their students. Finally, a warm thanks to all members for their continued support and dedication to AAA and to those who sent personal emails to us encouraging our efforts in promoting AAA and getting the membership base up to where it is.

Discussion arising: Daryl Wesley questioned how many new members are international ring-ins from Ireland and such? Sean Ulm stated that there is no actual way of knowing this, as nationality information is not collected as part of our membership applications. Fiona Hook stated that it is, or should be, a responsibility of employees to make sure those workers join AAA and AACAI.

Andrew Cooper asked if it is possible to increase student members by subsidising student costs. Lynley Wallis noted that student memberships are already subsidised to match the actual journal production cost so further subsidies would be unsustainable.

Motion: 'A formal thanks from AAA to Jacq and Dan for the hard work and dedication this year, especially in relation to membership matters.' Moved: Sean Ulm. Motion carried by acclaim.

### **5.5 Editors' Report (Sean Ulm and Annie Ross)**

During 2011 Numbers 72 (June) and 73 (December) of *AA* were published; *AA72* was posted in early June and *AA73* in late November.

This year we continued to make improvements to the format, content and production quality of the journal throughout the year. Commencing with *AA72* year we took advantage of our sponsorship to print in full colour to introduce a more welcoming Table of Contents highlighting key articles in the issue and also to include thumbnail images of books reviewed. In *AA72* we also launched a new 'Forum' section as a medium for the exchange of ideas about archaeology to encourage more dialogue between practitioners.

Mid-year saw the scrapping of the system of ranking academic journals as part of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. We welcome the change in direction taken by the Government and ARC in abandoning the rigid system of ranking journals and we at *AA* and the Association look forward to contributing to the design of journal quality profiles.

This is the final edition of *AA* to be edited by the current editorial team.

### **Future Challenges**

The global publishing landscape will continue to present challenges and opportunities to *AA*, but we believe that the resilience of the journal to negotiate these futures is underwritten by the strong membership base and a strong positioning of the journal in the marketplace. However, there are a few issues that we see looming in the immediate future of the journal.

As a biannual publication there can be delays in publishing topical research. The ongoing rise in submissions to *AA* means that not all content ready for publication can be published in any

given year and the size and/or frequency of the journal cannot be easily increased owing to printing and postage costs and the likely premature deaths of the Editors [Comment from Lynley Wallis and Heather Burke: 'Spare us please!']. There is clearly scope here to bridge this gap with an online facility to make material accepted for publication accessible to readers. However, pursuing such solutions require major reorganisations and resource inputs.

We encourage the new editors to continue to work to address the underrepresentation of women as authors, referees and book reviewers in the journal. We have addressed this on the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB), but this has not flowed through to authorship and contrasts with the even representation of men and women in the workforce.

Another major challenge is to engage more people in the machinery of the journal production process. We do not screen papers before sending them for blind review. We believe that this reduces editorial bias and provides the basis for justifying publication decisions and providing constructive feedback to authors. Every article and short report received is reviewed by an Editor, a senior and junior referee, and an EAB member. This has provided a rigorous peer review process. But this system is under strain from the volume of submissions and the difficulty of finding appropriate referees. We appeal to people to support their professional community through acting as referees.

We would like to end with some thanks. First, many thanks to the members of the EAB for their advice on the initiatives we have proposed, and for their continuous refereeing activity; to the other referees who have provided such sage counsel; and also to former members of the Editorial Committee – Ian Lilley and Chris Clarkson (former Book Review Editors) and Geraldine Mate (former Editorial Assistant). The members of the current Editorial Committee have worked tirelessly to ensure quality material is prepared in a timely manner: the journal could not have been produced without your work. To Linda Terry (Editorial Assistant) and John Reid (Lovehate Design), we just could not have survived without you both. And finally, thanks to all those who have offered papers, short reports, book reviews and other material to the journal. Clearly *AA* is what it is today as a result of your contributions. Do please continue to support the new editors and their team as you have supported us.

We wish the new editors all the best with their time at the helm of the journal!

Discussion arising: none.

Motion: 'A formal vote of thanks from AAA and the archaeological community for the hard work of both Sean and Annie in their editorial roles in the production of the *AA* journal'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried by acclaim.

Motion: 'That the Editorial Committee subvention be raised from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per annum'. Moved: Sean Ulm. Seconded: Annie Ross. Motion carried nem. con.

### **5.6 Indigenous Liaison Officer's Report (Chris Wilson)**

The role of Indigenous Liaison Officer (ILO) slightly changed in 2011, with the suggestion that the role be expanded through automatic participation on the Annual Conference Organising Committee. As such, my main task in 2011 was managing

the process of Indigenous Support Funding applications for Indigenous participants attending the AAA Conference this year; this expansion of the ILO duties was worthwhile and should continue. This year there was a high number of AAA Indigenous Funding Applications received, showing great enthusiasm by Indigenous peoples working within the discipline. A total of 28 Indigenous participants successfully applied for funding to attend the annual conference, the highest number supported by the AAA.

In 2010, I suggested some initiatives that could be the responsibility of the ILO, including: examining better ways to serve Indigenous members of AAA; a formal collaboration between AAA and AIAA; increasing Indigenous participation in AAA conferences; and, engagement in national discussions aimed at increasing the participation of Indigenous peoples in archaeological training and employment programs. Although initial discussions have occurred regarding pre-entry programs (in cultural heritage, archaeology and environmental management) for Indigenous students at some institutions, a national approach needs to be undertaken to progress Indigenous education and training in the discipline more broadly. This is timely given the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and an issue that both AAA and AIAA should consider during 2012.

Discussion arising: Annie Ross thanked Chris for his positive, brilliant session that examined the relationships between different collaborators, and Lynley Wallis also offered special recognition for his hard work this year, particularly in regards to the conference. Robyne Bancroft also noted the previous efforts of Dave Johnston in working with archaeologists and thanked Chris for his efforts as AAA's ILO.

### **5.7 Media Liaison Officers' Report (Alice Gorman and Iain Davidson)**

Since taking over in these roles, Iain Davidson and I have undertaken the following activities:

1. Updated the media contact list by contacting metropolitan and regional daily newspapers, radio and television stations, and other publications to verify the correct contact details;
2. In February 2011, we responded to an enquiry from a BBC producer about appropriate protocols for working with Aboriginal people, and places and projects for a proposed television series about archaeology;
3. On 16 May 2011, we issued a media release jointly with the AIAA in relation to an opinion piece by Steve Strong, published in the *National Indigenous Times* 28 April 2011, reprinted from an article in *New Dawn*. Strong has argued for an 'out-of-Australia' model of human evolution. The media release was a collaboration between Iain Davidson, Chris Wilson, Lynley Wallis, Colin Groves, Sheila Van Holt Pellekaan and Dave Johnston. The release was sent to, among many others, *The Courier Mail*, *The Australian*, *The Sunday Mail*, *The Age*, *Canberra Times*, *Herald Sun*, *Mercury News*, *West Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Koori Mail*. The story was not picked up by any media outlet as far as we know, although some bloggers expressed interest in it.
4. On Monday 3 October, at 4.00 pm, we received an enquiry from a BBC journalist needing a comment about the

archaeology of the Wurdi Youang circle in Victoria, in relation to Professor Ray Norris' work on ancient astronomy at the site. Owing to the long weekend and the journalist's deadline, we were unable to locate relevant people in Victoria; however, we did put the journalist in touch with an Australian archaeoastronomer. The archaeological component was not used in the story, which can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15098959>

5. We located a media distribution service that may streamline and make more effective our efforts to attain media coverage. Medianet is Australia's premier Press Release Distribution service. This following is taken from their website:

Medianet is the only distribution service that can distribute your press release to AAP's National Newswire. The Newswire is a dedicated text-based service that delivers news and information directly to the editorial information systems of major print, radio and television newsrooms in Australia. Unique to AAP, the Newswire ensures your release reaches the editorial networks of these newsrooms simultaneously. In addition, Medianet offers over 1000 pre-built, highly targeted fax and email lists that will put your press release on the desktop of Australia's leading journalists. Updated daily by our dedicated research team, Medianet's distribution lists include:

- Major Metropolitan Media and Expanded Regional Media
- Weekend Newspapers and Suburban Newspapers
- Talkback Radio
- Community Radio
- Current Affairs
- Press Galleries

Medianet also provides you the flexibility to distribute media releases to your own personalised fax, email and SMS lists. Emails cost \$0.47 per recipient for a media release with no extra attachments. Fax costs \$1.50 per recipient for a 1 page release, \$0.50 per recipient for every page after. Newswire costs \$49 per state, per 400 words. In addition, there is a once-off \$100 set up fee, and a minimum monthly charge of \$25.

6. AAA Twitter account (@AustArchAssoc): This was initiated and maintained by webmaster Sam Bolton; we have commenced tweeting on it and, with incoming webmaster Mick Morrison, we would like to build it into a stronger presence for the Association. The hashtag for this year's conference is #OzArchaeology2011.
7. The President received an enquiry from the *Sydney Morning Herald* about the Rhys Jones Prize on 13 November. The enquiry was followed up by Chairperson of the Awards and Prizes Subcommittee, Val Attenbrow.
8. Media about the current AAA conference is ongoing, with interest from ABC Science Online and the *Toowoomba Chronicle*.

Discussion arising: none.

Motion: 'That AAA takes up an annual subscription to Medianet service for one year. This subscription will be renewed after one year if the service is viewed as worthwhile'. Moved: Alice Gorman. Seconded: Harry Webber. Motion carried nem. con.



### 5.8 Webmaster's Report (Samantha Bolton)

For the fourth year in row, hits to the AAA website have increased in the last 12 months, with page visits rising by 7.36%. The top three pages visited were:

- Study Options
- *Australian Archaeology* journal pages
- Conference

This is different to previous years, with the conference page making an appearance in the top three, edging out the Work Experience page. However, the popularity of the Study Options and Work Experience pages again highlights that most visitors to the website are likely to be students and people looking to study archaeology, rather than professional members.

This is supported by the number of new visitors to the site, with 66.22% of visits from new visitors. In line with this trend 74% of visits come from search engines, with Google being the major source (68% of new visits). The number of members joining or renewing online this year was 76%, down slightly on previous years.

The hits for the National Archaeology Week (NAW) website were unavailable at the time of writing.

There has not been much development on the website as the new site continues to be developed. On the social media front, AAA has a Facebook page and Twitter account (@AustArchAssoc) which are being increasingly used to make announcements to people who are interested.

This is my last year as Webmaster as I hand over the reins to others. I would like to thank the past presidents, Alistair Paterson, Ian McNiven and Lynley Wallis, and the Executives over the past six years for all of their support. I would also particularly like to thank Mick Morrison for taking on the website redevelopment with energy and enthusiasm, Sean Ulm for his patience, help and support, and Luke Kirkwood who continues to look after the NAW website, and who I'm sure wondered at times whether he ever really had stopped being Webmaster. I would also like to acknowledge the continued support of the UWA Website Office who host the site.

Discussion arising: Mick Morrison is taking over the role from Sam Bolton.

Motion: 'Thanks to Sam for all her hard work in the role'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried by acclaim.

### 5.9 Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning Report (Jane Balme)

ANCATL's ongoing activity is to host and maintain the Register of Archaeology Work Experience Partners which, this year, is under review, as it needs to be substantially re-worked to be compatible with the new AAA website to be launched later this year. The other major activity for 2011 has been finalising the special volume *Research in Archaeological Education* which arose from the Teaching and Learning session of the 2010 conference and is edited by Wendy Beck, Sean Ulm and Lynley Wallis. This volume will appear in 2012.

Sean Ulm, Cameo Dalley, Stephen Nichols and Geraldine Mate have been completing the report stemming from the 2010 'Profiling the Profession' survey. This will shortly be available on

the ANCATL website and it will be interesting to see how the profession has changed since 2005. One of the changes deriving from the first survey is the response to discussions about the appropriateness of the content of undergraduate degrees as training for the professional heritage market. Several universities now offer, or are developing, coursework Masters degrees to cover this gap.

I will be retiring from the position of chair of ANCATL this year and Sean Ulm has been nominated by the Committee to take the position on. The National Executive indicated its support of Sean taking over the role of ANCATL chair.

Discussion arising: Sean Ulm reiterated the importance of ANCATL and how much it has achieved over the years, including the way in which ANCATL drives many projects such as the Australian Post-Graduate Network. Sean advised of the upcoming need to reinvigorate these projects and move into developing a national website linked to AAA that networks postgraduates and professionals from across the country.

Motion: 'AAA provide up to \$15,000 for ANCATL to develop an Australian Postgraduate Archaeology Network Website'. Moved: Sean Ulm. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

### 5.10 Awards and Prizes Subcommittee Report (Val Attenbrow)

The 2011 AAA sub-committee comprised six members:

- Val Attenbrow, Australian Museum (as Chair);
- Fiona Hook, ArchaeoAus;
- Ken Mulvaney, Rio Tinto;
- Sean Ulm, James Cook University;
- Heather Burke, Flinders University; and,
- Lynley Wallis, The University of Queensland (as the 2011 AAA President).

#### AAA Awards for 2011

This year nominations were called for:

1. Rhys Jones Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Archaeology
2. John Mulvaney Book Award
3. The Bruce Veitch Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement
4. Life Membership for Outstanding Contribution to the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

Notices requesting nominations for the awards were sent out on the AAA email list as well as the AACAI, ASHA, AIMA and WAC lists, on two occasions (1 July and 28 August 2011). Nominations were requested to be submitted by 12 September 2010.

#### Paper And Poster Prizes for 2011

The following paper and poster prizes were sponsored by the Association:

- Best Overall Paper
- Best Student Paper
- Best Overall Poster
- Best Student Poster
- Runner-Up Student Poster

In addition, the following conference prizes were sponsored:

- University Of Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Prize: For best application of the use of radiocarbon dating in a paper or poster presented at the AAA conference. Sponsored by The University of Waikato Dating Laboratory;
- The Laila Haglund Prize for Excellence in Consultancy: For best paper or poster presented by a consulting archaeologist. Sponsored by AACAI;
- Excellence in Archaeological Interpretation: For best paper presenting excellence in archaeological interpretation. Sponsored by Eureka Archaeological Research and Consulting UWA; and,
- The Daryl West Award: For best Indigenous contribution to the Conference. Sponsored by AIAA and Betty Meehan.

#### **AAA Photographic Competition**

Entries for the Photographic Competition were called for the following categories:

- Archaeological site images
- Archaeological fieldwork or laboratory work in progress
- Archaeological artefact images
- Manipulated or artistic images
- 'Just for Fun' – the lighter side of archaeology

Results of all Awards and Prizes will be announced at the Conference Dinner on Saturday, 3 December 2010 at the Picnic Point Café, Toowoomba. A final report advising the winners will be sent to the President after the conference, and reports will be sent for publication on the AAA Website and in *AA*.

Discussion arising: Lynley Wallis advised that Val Attenbrow had notified the Executive she is resigning as Chair of the Awards and Prizes Subcommittee. Lynley thanked Val for her untiring work and utmost integrity in performing the role over many years, and advised that Annie Ross will take over this position. Sean Ulm also stepped down from the same Subcommittee; his position will be taken over by Caroline Bird.

Motion: 'A formal thanks from AAA to Val Attenbrow for all her hard work in her position as Chair of the Awards and Prizes Subcommittee'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried by acclaim.

#### **5.11 Code of Ethics Subcommittee Report (Richard Fullagar)**

During 2011, Chair of the AAA Code of Ethics Subcommittee received requests for comment on a range of issues, including one complaint.

One issue related to a TAC ban on archaeological consultancies in Tasmania. A member of AAA sought advice about appropriate action given that the ban had apparently been breached by some Aboriginal traditional owners. Confidential advice was provided.

A second issue related to apparent destruction of heritage in WA without proper process and the forced modification of a heritage report. The precise circumstances are not yet clear and the AAA Executive is monitoring developments between the mining company, DIA, the archaeologists, anthropologists and the Aboriginal organisations. No action has been taken at this stage.

A specific complaint, raised just recently, alleges that a member of AAA has breached the AAA Code of Ethics. However, the matter has not yet been investigated because of related legal action which must be completed before the subcommittee can properly assess the details. The complainants have been advised accordingly.

Discussion arising: none.

#### **5.12 National Archaeology Week Subcommittee Report (Sarah Ward)**

No report submitted.

#### **5.13 State Representative Reports**

##### **5.13.1 Victoria Report (Duncan Wright)**

In my capacity as Victorian State Representative, I attended Humanities on the Hill 2011 (an opportunity for academics to meet MPs) with Jo McDonald (see report below). In January 2011, updates relating to flood damage in Victoria were also posted on the AAA email list. I received only one request for information this year: a gentle lady of South Yarra asked for the location of the Mahogany Ship! I do not think she was entirely satisfied with my advice. If you happen to visit the Armstrong Bay area (near Warrnambool) at midnight, look out for a lady in wellington boots wielding a shovel!

##### **Report on HASS On The Hill, 22-23 March 2011 (Duncan Wright and Jo McDonald)**

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) hosted HASS on the Hill, its annual opportunity for members of the Arts and Social Sciences community to communicate directly with government and senior policy makers. This year, the AAA sponsored Jo McDonald and Duncan Wright to attend.

Seven sessions were held over the two days, with politicians and academics showcasing ideas and case studies. Presenters included Prof. Jonathan Lomas, the CEO of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, presenting on knowledge exchange and Dr Jane Rovins, Executive Director and Head of Office of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk IPO based in Beijing, discussing disaster management and recovery. Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, made the keynote address, examining innovation and the HASS sector. There were also presentations from:

- Prof. Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor, The Australian National University;
- Prof. Peter Shergold AC, Macquarie Group Foundation Professor, Centre for Social Impact, UNSW; and,
- Mr Terry Moran AO, Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The focus of the 2011 HASS On The Hill was to show how policy development can be opened up for knowledge exchange, and discussions around major policy issues with research leaders and policy officials, including disaster recovery, homelessness, design and innovation, and the population debate are featuring in the programme. There was discussion on the role of Australia's galleries, libraries, archives and museums in the innovations

system and knowledge networks of the near future were also included – at a time of restricted funding and fast moving change in technology and business process.

The event concluded with a gala dinner held in the Gandel Hall at the National Gallery of Australia. The dinner featured an extremely entertaining speech from the VC of Macquarie University, Prof. Steven Schwartz.

Papers were interspersed with numerous networking opportunities (fully mobilised by the two AAA representatives), lubricated by coffee and delicious food. At the early career researcher lunch Dr Sally May showcased her research.

The messages arising from this summit were positive overall, with the general feeling being that it is an exciting time for the humanities with money being pumped into education, an emerging broadband network and increased government focus on developing a 'knowledge generation'. The opening session was driven by Mr Terry Moran who suggested (perhaps a little provocatively) that academics avoided key responsibilities by not providing clear, timely and occasionally relevant data to policy makers. Prof. Ian Young (and others) reminded Mr Moran that academic research was frequently outside policy or applied research and that universities could be much better utilised if they were strategically funded towards national research priorities with an explicit policy matrix incorporating both pure and applied research. They would then be in a position to genuinely assist with the implementation of policy decisions.

There were seldom specific references to archaeology – or even more broadly cultural heritage – although The Honourable Kim Carr did mention archaeology on a list of four ERA high performers. Carr further stressed that research 'must always come back to the role of humans in the development of society'.

The advice from policy makers to academics could be summarised as follows:

- Make the most of think-tanks and other accessible mediums for presenting research; the government will support you;
- The digital medium (e-research, visualisations) is recommended;
- Policy makers do not read journal articles!;
- If you are writing journal articles make them multi-disciplinary and clear; and,
- Invite policy makers to give lectures at your university.

While this advice was clear there was little indication of how such advice was to be implemented, especially considering the current weight that the ARC puts on publishing single authored, A and A\* ranked journal articles. Senator Kate Lundy stressed the importance of digitisation, providing examples of raising the profile of Australia's museums through on-line displays. Ms Lundy invited interested researchers to visit her blog: 'Accessing Australia: The Challenges of Digitisation'.

While the programme for this year's HASS on the Hill was only marginally relevant to archaeological interests, this is definitely a forum that AAA should continue to engage with – and provide feedback to. Possibly in future years more interaction between the AAA and CHASS could be mobilised to provide suggestions for the programme which would showcase and highlight issues which are relevant to our multifaceted discipline.

Discussion arising: none.

### 5.13.2 New South Wales Report (Maria Cotter)

As NSW delegate, I confess to not having had a very proactive year. However, there are two matters that I wish to report on – or at least point out to the AAA membership. The first of these is that on more than one occasion I have had concerns raised to me in my capacity as AAA representative by Aboriginal communities regarding the respect and involvement provided to them in matters of their heritage by some archaeologists. It has not been a single isolated incident or a single community raising such concerns. Unfortunately I have not had opportunity to take the matters more formally to AAA as although the Aboriginal communities have voiced these concerns they have not put them formally in writing to me. So I here note only that these concerns have been informally raised, and emphasise the need to actively consider the AAA Code of Ethics when dealing with all Aboriginal communities (i.e. irrespective of any legislative requirements or consultation guidelines that exist within a given jurisdiction).

Secondly, as highlighted last year, NSW has commenced the first round of consultations regarding the broader reform of Aboriginal heritage legislation in NSW. A first round of workshops directed solely at Aboriginal communities commenced in early November, and these are being followed by a series of roundtable meetings with peak industry organisations, including archaeological consultants. The last of the industry meetings is scheduled for December 14 in Newcastle. Final written submissions on the current *Issues Paper* regarding the reform and review of Aboriginal heritage are sought by the end of December 2011. I urge all interested AAA members to read the material found at the weblinks below; and provide specific comment on the Issues Paper as each sees fit:

- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/> provides a general overview;
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/ACHmedia.htm> gives access to the consultation material specifically; and,
- <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/110391issues.pdf> is a link to the specific 'Issues Paper' for discussion.

Discussion arising: Maria Cotter added that there is a Native Title claimant group taking a mining company to court for damages and breaches. The changes in NSW legislation may mean that a precedent may be set in this case.

### 5.13.3 Queensland Report (Lincoln Steinberger)

The review of Indigenous cultural heritage legislation continued in 2011. In January AAA responded to the release of an exposure draft of the *Indigenous Cultural Heritage Acts Amendment Bill 2011* with a brief submission, noting that none of the concerns we had raised in previous stages of the review had been addressed in the draft bill. In June DERM sought feedback on two proposed amendments relating to an expanded mediation role for the Land Court, and the replacement of existing CHMPs and agreements. Having made detailed submissions to previous stages of the review with little effect, AAA decided not to respond to these specific proposed amendments.

At the suggestion of Gordon Grimwade, there has also been some discussion this year of a push to nominate a

person of archaeological expertise to the Queensland Heritage Council. Given the Council's involvement in heritage matters, and especially its role in relation to the approval of listing of archaeological places on advice received from DERM, it is desirable that archaeological expertise is represented in its membership. Consultation with ASHA, AIMA and AACAI has been undertaken on this matter.

The final significant business of 2011 for QLD has been the organisation and hosting of the AAA Annual Conference by USQ with support from UQ.

Discussion arising: none.

#### **5.13.4 Northern Territory Report (Trish Bourke)**

Archaeology continued to have a public profile in the NT thanks to the work of a range of people including Dr Ilka Schacht, Senior Collections Manager, History and Culture at the Museum and Art Gallery NT (MAGNT), (who is also the NT rep. for ASHA) who organised the 2011 NT Seminar Program for National Archaeology Week, held at MAGNT.

A raised public profile of a sadder kind has also occurred, with the NT Government hosting a state funeral for Dr George Chaloupka OAM FAHA, on 4 November 2011. George Chaloupka (1932–2011) made a major contribution to the field of rock art through his work in western Arnhem Land, and his death is a great loss to the archaeological community. George's legacy includes *The George Chaloupka Fellowship*, established in his honour by the MAGNT (with funding by ERA), to promote and support research and conservation of Aboriginal rock art in Arnhem Land.

Despite the demise of archaeology at Charles Darwin University, archaeological research in the NT has continued in Arnhem Land through ANU and Monash University based projects.

Discussion arising: none.

#### **5.13.4 Western Australia Report (Stuart Rapley)**

On 19 April 2011, Heritage Minister John Castrilli launched WA's first State Cultural Heritage Policy. The review of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* is the first major initiative arising from the Policy. As a result, Dr John Avery was appointed on 9 May 2011 for a 12 month term to assist in the reform of Aboriginal cultural heritage processes in WA; we eagerly await the outcomes.

Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) versus Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) is the other big story over here at the moment. An eye is being kept on proceedings. The DIA are being active over the matter.

Discussion arising: Peter White asked for clarification on the YAC situation from members present. Fiona Hook responded that the DIA are investigating the matter. Ken Mulvaney emphasised the seriousness of the matter, especially in respect to the engagement of Indigenous people and pressures placed on consultants. Ken also pointed out that in many cases the consultant archaeologists are inexperienced and are working on projects beyond their capacity. Ken posed the question 'can AAA actively involve itself in stopping such things from occurring?'

Lynley Wallis responded that the Executive sent out the Code of Ethics approximately three weeks prior to the AGM and reminded all members that when they join AAA they agree to abide by the Code. Executive members have also had

conversations with YAC and several archaeologists involved in the matter. The Executive did provide advice to YAC that one way forward would be for them to submit a specific formal complaint to AAA against our members, or a formal letter asking for AAA's assistance. The situation is extremely complex and the Executive has not heard all sides at this stage. After an emergency meeting held on the evening of Wednesday, 30 November 2011 the Executive came to the conclusion that no informed, formal comment can be made by AAA due to a lack of information from some parties. Further, because there are government agencies involved and legal proceedings in course, AAA may not be able to ascertain that information. The Executive continues to monitor the situation with some concern. Lynley then asked for suggestions on alternative ways AAA could proceed.

Ken Mulvaney noted that a further complication in this matter is the fact that there are two family groups which need to be communicated with within YAC. However, he felt the more general issue is the lack of experience of consultant archaeologists taking on jobs outside their skill range. AAA should encourage people with the appropriate skills to take the appropriate jobs.

Maria Cotter added that this is a national problem and that AAA is in some ways 'not relevant' (i.e. not big enough) in terms of lobbying government. Therefore, as a group AAA is not effective and needs an accreditation program or standard by which we can move forward. Lynley Wallis and Annie Ross stated that AAA is not a professional organisation and that anyone can become a member; accreditation is more the purview of AACAI. AAA can and does lobby at many levels of Australian government and will continue to do so on behalf of its membership. Unfortunately, many recent formal submissions have met with limited government response, but the accreditation issue needs to be progressed through AACAI. Joe Dortch added that this was discussed at the 2011 AACAI AGM and suggested AAA and AACAI work together more closely in the future with regards to it.

Sam Bolton asked whether there had been any movement on the Avery Report and the associated reform of the Aboriginal cultural heritage processes. Fiona Hook advised that both AACAI and AAA representatives met with John Avery and attempts are still being made.

#### **5.13.5 South Australia Report (Belinda Leibelt)**

While it has been a very busy year for many South Australian (SA) AAA members, in terms of AAA activities and issues it has been reasonably quiet. Many SA AAA members have been involved in a number of excellent research projects, as well as a variety of interesting consulting archaeological projects, as the State expands in both urban areas and in mineral exploration. Additionally, through the Anthropological Society of SA a number of AAA members were able to present at a very successful symposium on 'Issues in South Australian Aboriginal Archaeology' this year.

Following on from last year's report, we have been waiting for news regarding the possible threat to heritage at Burra. To recap, in July 2010 the previous AAA State Representative (Alice Gorman) coordinated an AAA submission in response to Phoenix Mining's proposal to conduct exploration activities within the Burra State Heritage Precinct. After over a year of waiting for a response to the submission, I am happy to report

that in October 2011 the Minister for Mineral Resources Development announced that exploration would not be allowed within the boundaries of the Burra Heritage Precinct.

This year we have also been monitoring the ongoing review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 1988. As reported last year, in September 2010 a report outlining the results of the first round of Aboriginal community consultation was released and a second round of consultation was announced for 2011. Unfortunately, no news, public announcements or updates have been received this year regarding this second round of consultation.

In other news, in July 2011 the AAA President submitted a letter on behalf of the Association to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AARD). The letter addressed recent concerns by SA AAA members for obtaining archaeological research permits under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 1988. In seeking permission from AARD to excavate or take samples from Aboriginal sites, a number of SA AAA members have been led to understand by AARD personnel that to gain approval for permits they must undergo a full Section 13 consultation process (including newspaper advertisements and large-scale community consultation meetings). In many cases this is despite letters of support from Indigenous organisations involved in the research. At the same time, AARD have confirmed that they cannot provide the funds available to undertake this process. The letter sought advice for an efficient and practical solution to the issue. To date, AAA has not received a reply regarding this matter.

Discussion arising: none.

#### 5.13.6 Tasmania Report (*Denise Gaughwin*)

Three issues are relevant to the Australian Archaeological Association members:

1. The *Aboriginal Relics Act* 1975 is under review. The drafting and public consultation of the new Bill is timed for mid-2012 with the final Bill going to Parliament at the end of 2012. AAA should ask to be involved in the consultation process.
2. The Brighton (Jordan River) Bypass Aboriginal survey and subsequent excavation resulted in the bridge over the river being redesigned so as to allow no disturbance to the known site argued to be ca 40,000 years BP. This was considered insufficient mitigation by the Aboriginal community and their supporters and a number of rallies occurred. The Aboriginal community set up a tent camp which was occupied for some weeks and then deserted when the impact of the recommenced bridge construction impacted on the intangible heritage values.

This incident highlights the need to incorporate Aboriginal values in the earliest part of the planning for major projects rather than in conjunction with construction.

It further highlights the need to have agreed outcomes between the developer and the community.

One outcome of the above dispute is that there is currently a ban on Aboriginal heritage surveys being completed within Tasmania.

3. Australian archaeology is still not being taught at the University of Tasmania and is not currently being considered. AAA should contact the University with the argument of the value of such a course in a State with so much important

Aboriginal and historic archaeological heritage.

Discussion arising: none.

#### 5.13.7 Australian Capital Territory Report (*Sally May*)

This is a brief summary of my work as the ACT representative for AAA in 2011. After a busy year in 2010 organising the annual conference, most AAA members from ANU spent the first half of 2011 recovering and catching up on other work commitments. This conference was a great success and had a very high attendance rate. I would like to publicly thank the conference organising committee for all their efforts throughout 2010 and continuing into 2011. In particular, the student volunteers made a huge contribution to the day-to-day running of the event and many AAA members phoned or emailed after the conference to send their thanks. These messages were gratefully received by the committee members and students.

Despite a very hectic end to 2010, many archaeology-related activities took place across the ACT throughout 2011. These included the Canberra Archaeology Society (CAS) seminar series, Centre for Archaeological Research (CAR) events, Rock Art Research Centre (RARC) activities and more. A number of projects by ACT archaeologists attracted national media attention including work in Vanuatu, East Timor and Arnhem Land.

In regard to official AAA work, I have received and replied to 30 emails and approximately 45 phone calls relating to AAA. Most questions related to the 2011 AAA conference and individual membership, as well as a few from high school students seeking advice on working in archaeology. A number of emails and phone calls related to archaeology in the media and these were directed to the relevant archaeologists. Throughout the year AAA membership was promoted to undergraduate students at the ANU and the University of Canberra. The 2010 AAA conference reinvigorated interest in AAA from many ACT students at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

I send my apologies for being unable to attend the 2011 conference and look forward to a productive 2012 for archaeology in the ACT.

Discussion arising: none.

Motion: 'That all of the reports as tabled and presented are accepted as read'. Moved: Colin Pardoe. Seconded: Paul Tacon. Motion carried nem. con.

## 6. Election of Officers of the Committee

The following individuals nominated for the National Executive in 2012:

- President: Patrick Faulkner
- Treasurer: Nathan Wright
- Secretary: Vacant#
- Membership Secretary: Jacqueline Matthews and Xavier Carah
- Journal Editors: Lynley Wallis and Heather Burke

Motion: 'That the individuals named are elected to the positions as nominated'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried by acclaim.

The following individuals nominated for the General Executive in 2012:

- Public Officer: Sally Brockwell (continuing)
- Media Liaison Officers: Alice Gorman and Iain Davidson (continuing)
- Webmaster: Mick Morrison
- Indigenous Liaison Officer: Chris Wilson (continuing)

Motion: 'That all the officers nominated be elected'. Moved: Jill Reid. Seconded: Fiona Hook. Motion carried by acclaim.

The following individuals nominated and agreed to serve as State Representatives in 2012:

- Queensland: Dee Gorrington
- Victoria: Harry Webber
- New South Wales: Maria Cotter (continuing)
- Northern Territory: Trish Bourke (continuing)
- Western Australia: Sam Bolton
- South Australia: Belinda Liebelt (continuing)
- Tasmania: Denise Gaughwin (continuing)
- Australian Capital Territory: Sally May (continuing)

(# This vacancy was filled following the AGM in December 2011 by the appointment of Anne Dighton.)

## 7. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: 'That the same auditor be used from last year (2010-2011 financial year)'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried nem. con.

## 8. Other Business

### 8.1 Future Conferences

Lynley Wallis advised that a team comprising of Wendy Beck, Maria Cotter and others had agreed to host the 2012 conference through the University of New England. There has been no confirmation at this stage as to location.<sup>1</sup>

The University of Western Australia had agreed to host the 2014 conference; however, the president of AQUA has written suggesting a joint AAA-AQUA conference be held in either 2013 or 2014. Sean Ulm advised a joint JCU-University of Papua New Guinea team were willing to host such a conference in Cairns. Discussions are currently underway with AQUA as to whether this conference will be held in 2013 or 2014, which may affect the UWA offer for 2014.

Discussions have been held with Presidents of ASHA and AIMA about a triple header conference, though as yet no host has been forthcoming. In the past these conferences have proved to be very difficult to organise for various reasons, and this matter has been left in the hands of the 2012 Executive.

Eleanor Crosby announced that the 'Women in Archaeology' conferences that were quite big in the 1990s need to be reinvigorated. To this end a website ([www.womeninarchaeology.org](http://www.womeninarchaeology.org)) is under development. Eleanor asked for help with the website development and for interested parties to contact her.

<sup>1</sup> Following the AGM, AAA was advised that UNE was no longer in a position to be able to host the conference. After discussions with various parties, Bert Roberts advised the Centre for Archaeological Science at the University of Wollongong was able to host the conference, and he and Richard Fullagar are thanked for their willingness to step in at such short notice.

### 8.2 AIATSIS Grant Funding

Daryl Wesley noted that he has been asked by Sue O'Conner to put forward a motion regarding the state of AIATSIS grant funding. At this stage there is a rumour that the AIATSIS scheme is to be axed. Daryl noted the enormous impact of AIATSIS grant funding on archaeology in Australia and that this funding forms the basis of many community-based archaeology projects. Lynley Wallis noted that the Executive had contacted AIATSIS who stated that no decision had been made but there is a board meeting schedule for early December at which the Research Grants Scheme is to be officially discussed; until then AIATSIS was unable to offer any further comment on the issue. Lynley suggested AAA members (particularly those who were also AIATSIS members) make comment on this issue and recommended the new Executive follow up the issue in early 2012.

Motion: 'That AAA will write to AIATSIS, the Minister and the AIATSIS Council expressing our support for the continuation of the Research Grants Scheme'. Moved: Daryl Wesley. Seconded: Jacq Matthews. Motion carried nem. con.

### 8.3 Student Representative

Jordan Ralph suggested that a student representative was needed on the AAA Executive to voice student concerns; they should be at the same level as the state representatives, not necessarily at the National level. Lynley Wallis stated that this issue has been something that the National Executive had discussed and they were in support of this suggestion; such a move would not require a constitutional change. Lynley added that one of the roles for the Student Representative would be assisting with the next Meet the Graduates event. Ken Mulvaney noted that a student representative position had previously existed, but had not been filled for several years: all that required was for an individual to nominate from the floor and to be accepted. Jordan Ralph was subsequently nominated and accepted.

### 8.4 Thanks

Judith Field noted that the work of Chris Wilson in organising and assisting in such a successful process for getting Indigenous people along to the conference should be noted and thanks given for his efforts. Chris was thanked by a spontaneous round of applause.

Motion: 'That AAA give thanks to Lynley Wallis for her untiring efforts in the role of President'. Moved: Annie Ross. Motion carried by acclaim.

Motion: 'That AAA thanks the conference organising committee, principally Bryce Barker and Lara Lamb for their efforts this year'. Moved: From the Chair. Motion carried by acclaim.

## 9. Close of Meeting

Lynley Wallis thanked the members for attending the meeting and keeping to the time limit. The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.