

MINUTES OF THE 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Inc.

University of New England, Armidale
Tuesday, 14 December, 2004

1. Welcome

The President, Judith Field, welcomed members to the AGM, and declared the meeting open at 5.35pm.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Richard Fullagar, Lesley Head, Annie Ross, Isabel McBride, Pam Smith, and Ian Lilley.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2003 AAA AGM

The minutes of the 2003 AAA AGM held at the Station Resort, Jindabyne, New South Wales, on 5 December 2003 were published in AA58:53-62. Motion: "that the 2003 AGM minutes as published in AA58 be accepted." Moved: Peter White. Seconded: Pat Gaynor. Motion carried nem. con.

4. Business arising from the 2003 AGM

4.1 Proposed amendments to the AAA Code of Ethics

Sean Ulm representing Richard Fullagar, the Chair of the Code of Ethics Review Subcommittee, and Nathan Woolford, Indigenous representative of the Code of Ethics Review Subcommittee spoke to this item. Sean explained the history of the operation of the Subcommittee and provided a report of progress during 2004. He stated that in 2002 Richard Fullagar had raised the issue of amendments to the existing AAA Code of Ethics which had been in operation for 13 years without amendment, and was subsequently appointed Subcommittee Chair. A co-opted Subcommittee of Sean Ulm, Ian Lilley, Terry Blair, Nathan Woolford, Annie Ross, Mike Williams, Peter Veth, Jo McDonald, Tim Murray, and Jane Anderson was later established.

Proposed changes to the AAA Code of Ethics were emailed to members in 2003 and covered the whole spectrum of the existing document. These proposed changes were taken to the 2003 Jindabyne conference where extensive reworking to the clauses occurred. Submissions had been made to the Subcommittee during 2004. This included the issue of the constitution of the committee and its duties. The Code of Ethics had been adopted subject to legal advice at the Jindabyne conference.

Sean discussed that Jane Anderson had raised the issue of the Code of Ethics codifying intellectual property was already subject to individual agreements that archaeologists have established with Indigenous communities and was unnecessary in the Code of ethics. A particular problem was raised in relation to clause 3.1 which gave primacy which was counter to that position.

Comments on the Code of ethics by various members had been obtained by Sean and these were presented. Clause 3.1 was then read in its present state "Members acknowledge the primacy of Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property and cultural rights in respect of Indigenous heritage and the following articles reflect this principle". The comments received by Sean all centered on that this clause neither recognised different domains of knowledge, and that in certain

situations expert archaeological advice would be invalidated by the clause. The Subcommittee thought it necessary to change clause 3.1.

Four different options were presented for voting at the 2004 AGM:

Option 1

- Members acknowledge the authority of Indigenous knowledge, and recognise the Indigenous rights in their cultural heritage. The following articles reflect this principle.

Option 2

- Members acknowledge the authority of Indigenous knowledge, and recognise the primacy of Indigenous rights in their cultural heritage. The following articles reflect this principle.

Option 3

- Delete clause 3.1 and renumber remaining clauses in Section 3.

Option 4

- No change. Keep existing Code of Ethics Section 3.1.
- Members acknowledge the primacy of Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property and cultural rights in respect of Indigenous heritage and the following articles reflect this principle.

Nathan Woolford, acting as Indigenous Representative on the Code of Ethics Subcommittee spoke on these proposed options. Nathan expressed disappointment that he was not able to attend the 2003 AGM and stated that he did not support clause 3.1 as it stood. He discussed his belief that archaeological and Aboriginal knowledge were not the same thing, and that it was wrong to circumscribe the discipline in this respect. Rather than recognizing primacy, Nathan stated that AAA should rather respect Aboriginal culture. He found it patronizing that this clause existed, and pointed out that archaeologists and Indigenous views are often different. He asked the AGM to remove clause 3.1.

Comments were then taken from the floor. Steven Price suggested choosing option 3 'in principle' for the next 12 months, so that there was a working Code of Ethics.

Motion 1: Judith Field moved that option 4 be adopted; that there be no change to the clause 3.1. Seconded: Jo McDonald. Motion dismissed unanimously.

Jo McDonald asked whether the Code of ethics was already an 'open' code.

Sean Ulm answered that it was, and that it could be changed at any time, and that we could change the whole thing at next years AGM if we wanted.

Motion 2: option 3; Delete clause 3.1 and renumber remaining clauses in Section 3. Moved: Peter White. Seconded Pip Rath. Those for 65, against 9. Motion carried.

4.2 Aboriginal Issues

Steven Free spoke on this issue. He acknowledged the traditional owners of the area and provided a background on himself, and then outlined three issues that he wanted to cover, i) the formation of IAA (Indigenous Archaeologists

Association) this year with a membership of eight in their core group, ii) the AAA Code of Ethics, iii) Indigenous heritage issues. Steven suggested that IAA wanted to form a close alignment with AAA, but had not been consulted by AAA at any stage so far. He then discussed a statement written by Dave Johnston which alleged possible breaches of the AAA Code of Ethics by unnamed person(s), which he wished to table with the AAA executive.

Steven stated that IAA was an association for all archaeologists. There were different categories of membership, and that all were welcome. He mentioned that with concern with the AAA Code of Ethics some people had not wanted to join AAA.

The statement by Dave Johnston was not tabled to the AAA executive. Steven stated that the President of AAA had undertaken to consult with him on this matter. Steven then read a list of members of IAA.

Ken Markwell then spoke to the AGM. He said that he was not speaking for all, just based on his experience at the 2004 conference. He experienced archaeology at 'the other end' teaching in the country. Ken stated that he had attended numerous archaeology papers and that introductions consisted of housekeeping, and introduction on what archaeology was, and there was no acknowledgement of traditional owners. He stated that in the course of the conference such acknowledgement only happened five times. Ken stated that we need to move beyond the question of who owned the past, to who belongs to the past. He cited the need for associate lecturers to teach Aboriginal people as a good idea, that Aboriginal knowledge was another side, and that he had earned that knowledge.

Ken stated that there was an inherent need for teachers to have Aboriginal people with qualifications but also earned knowledge. Australian Universities needed a process and had a responsibility to teach with Aboriginal People in institutions, and that we should not subject other people to the same things that he has personally been through. Ken said that as a Commonwealth employee they have an Indigenous recruitment policy, and there was no excuse not to have a similar process now.

Sue Hudson spoke stating that she was both a Rotarian and an Aborigine. She stated that there was never a proper welcome to country at the conference and no smoking ceremony. She believed that there was only a token Aboriginal representation at the conference and in the presentation of papers, and this was a huge ongoing problem. No Aboriginal views had in her opinion been incorporated into papers at the AAA conference.

Robyn Bancroft spoke on behalf of Dave Johnston. She said he had worked hard on the Code of Ethics and provided a lot of support, and that AAA should have shown him greater respect in relation to this, and that he should have been included more.

Sean Ulm said that it was unfair to say that Indigenous People had not been included in the Code of Ethics Subcommittee, and that there were Aboriginal representatives on the Subcommittee. Sean stated that Dave Johnston had an opportunity to comment on the Code of Ethics and there had been long meetings on this matter.

Robyn Bancroft replied that she appreciated that there had been Indigenous input, but that it should have been pushed harder.

Judith Field said that she would look at the composition of the Code of Ethics Subcommittee and look for greater

Indigenous input.

Robyn Bancroft replied that Aboriginal groups had a good idea of who worked with communities and who did not, and the impact that it causes when archaeologists make mistakes.

Judith Field agreed and encouraged Aboriginal attendance at AAA conferences. She noted that it is unfortunately very expensive and took a great deal of organization to bring Aboriginal communities to the conference, but that all members of AAA would like Aboriginal representatives in attendance.

Steve Free suggested that various organizations combine funding for Aboriginal attendees.

Peter Veth noted that at AIATSIS conferences this was a mandate, and that they aimed at maximizing Indigenous participation. More lobbying was needed and the more we can combine things the better. He also noted the ARC Indigenous Research Support Scheme, and Mandy Thomas at AIATSIS as a contact for post graduate and post doctoral funding for Indigenous people.

Ken Markwell asked that AAA ask all Universities that teach archaeology to report back on the progress of including Indigenous aspects to the AAA AGM.

Jo McDonald stated that there was already a teaching and Learning Subcommittee co opted by AAA.

Judith Field asked whether there was a program to develop this Subcommittee and noted there is a need to present ways for getting Indigenous People to AAA conferences. She stated that conference attendance fees should be automatically waived and that this issue would be worked through over the next 12 months.

Matthew Spriggs spoke regarding the AAA Teaching and Learning Subcommittee. He said that AAA was an association and not a University and that any checking up on Universities sounded prescriptive. He stated that it was difficult to compel any University to report on such matters.

Judith Field replied saying that she will pursue assistance of getting Indigenous representatives to conferences and not the issue of reporting on Universities.

Sean Ulm provided a counterpoint to these issues. He asked whether the best place for raising issues of University teaching might be in the Indigenous Archaeology Association, and that AAA already had a role for Indigenous representation. He believed there was no need for another Subcommittee and the various issues raised should be fed into existing Subcommittees.

Ken Markwell stated that he had not asked for a motion and that if there are existing Subcommittees then he was satisfied. He stated that he was originally asking about funding in Universities, their role, and what they were actually doing in respect of Indigenous concerns.

Sue Solomon stated that UNE had an existing indigenous employment strategy.

4.3 Public Liability Insurance

AAA Treasurer, Joe Dortch spoke on this matter. He stated that AAA had acquired Public Liability Insurance of \$5 million and Association Liability Insurance of up to \$1 million. The costs of these had been \$2135 and \$802 respectively for the year.

4.4 Kenniff Cave Conservation

Catherine Westcott and Luke Godwin spoke on this matter. Catherine stated that at present Kenniff Cave had been closed to the public under inherent threat of collapse following

a report by geologists. There had been correspondence with the Queensland Minister for Environment regarding this matter. Parks responses besides closing the site had been to remove Kenniff Cave from all park brochures, however there had been attempt to address the potential loss of a site of immense archaeological significance. There was no further intention to do anything to the site to ensure its protection. Parks staff had replicated photographs of Walsh in order to monitor changes but that was all.

Luke Godwin stated that this was a second rate response based on misinformed management and then read a prepared statement. In this statement the assertion that the potential collapse due to natural processes was ridiculous, and there should always be support for both the historical and natural environment. He noted that other funding had been available for environmental studies whilst Kenniff cave had been neglected. The responses had been idiosyncratic and the idea there was no money to look after this iconic site was ridiculous. He stated that the consultative process had been dubious and questioned whether independent advice had indeed been obtained. Luke noted that the local traditional owners approve of the closure but that their decision should have been for cultural reasons and not forced on them because of potential danger.

Luke suggested that the response of the Queensland Government was consistent with their approach to cultural heritage, that they possessed an unwillingness to commit to resource something they claim ownership over. He suggested that the local interpretive photos were inadequate and ludicrous, as a cultural resource strategy, for a site that is the oldest site in the Queensland highlands, and that the Queensland Parks Service had missed much of the significance of the site – the deposit. He suggested salvage excavation possibilities, and photogrammetric survey, and that a general cultural heritage management plan was necessary for an open process.

Catherine Westcott agreed with the concerns of Luke Godwin, but thought it unfair to target the interpretive officer, suggesting that people were doing what they could. Luke Godwin stated that the Queensland Government had provided responses only at the lowest level.

Judith Field said that AAA had received no responses to correspondence.

John Mulvaney stated that Kenniff Cave constituted the first excavated site in Australia with a stratified sequence dating to the Pleistocene and based on that it should demand recognition.

Judith Field said that this issue required addressing at a higher level than had so far been achieved.

John Mulvaney suggested that the Australian Heritage Council should be approached.

Judy Birmingham suggested that a motion be put to affirm the significance of and concern for such an iconic site, so that something could be triggered.

Josephine Flood stated that AAA should put forward a case for registration of the site with the Heritage Council so as to short circuit the process, and bring the issue to the medias attention.

Judith Field proposed the motion that “the Australian Archaeology Association is deeply alarmed at the threatened state of Kenniff Cave in view of its iconic significance as a place in Australian archaeology” Moved: Judy Birmingham. Seconded: Sue Hudson. Motion carried nem. con.

Steve Brown stated that AAA needed to follow up on heritage listing the Kenniff Cave site. He proposed the motion that “the Australian Archaeology Association submit a nomination for Kenniff Cave to the Australian Heritage Council for listing” Moved: Steve Brown. Seconded: Jo McDonald. Motion carried nem. con.

Judith Field co opted a Subcommittee for matters regarding this issue and appointed John Mulvaney, Catherine Westcott and Luke Godwin to this Subcommittee.

5. Reports

5.1 President’s Report (Judith Field)

In my first year as president I have continued reassured by the dynamic and inclusive group of people who are committed to the discipline and have been always willing to be involved in issues that arise and need professional input.

One of the most significant achievements 2004 has been the completion of the digital archive of the journal. I think that this marks an important move to make that journal more accessible and as a result I expect an increase in citation rate. The last 30 years have marked considerable development and change within the association and the production of this important compilation ensures that accessibility of the work documented in those pages. Michael Haslam, Sean Ulm and Luke Kirkwood require a special mention as it is a product of their time and commitment.

The new AAA website has also recently been loaded onto the web and this provides a very polished and easily navigated public interface for the association. Luke association is indebted to him.

Archaeological sites continued to be threatened either by development proposals or the vagaries of nature, as has been the case for Ngarrabullgan and Kenniff Cave. As per usual either finding out details from the appropriate authorities and or interacting with them has been challenging to say the least. Luke Godwin has been extremely helpful in his advice and help in trying to get a coherent response from the relevant authorities.

In 2004 AAA was asked to contribute to the selection of individuals for the expert panel of the ARC. This turned out to be a complicated and drawn out process. While this year we felt unable to nominate any one individual, not because of the lack of good potential members, but the inability to nominate someone from a university without their DVC/PVC/Research approval. This is difficult as universities nominate their own people and, from the advice given to me will not sign off on people they are not prepared to nominate themselves. There is a significant time commitment from any individual which requires this release by any institution. I will be writing to the DVC at Sydney to get further confirmation and to the ARC before we go through this process again. We must be able to act as we see fit, which may well conflict with the institution. Forewarned is forearmed and I will move to clarify the role of organizations such as ours.

Earlier this year we asked of the duty of care guidelines by the Assistant director of the Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit. We have responded but have no indication whether our recommendations have been incorporated into the document.

The committee has worked proactively to maintain and improve the membership base and Joe Dortch and Amy Stevens have been actively pursuing this over the year.

5.2 Secretary's Report (Michael Slack)

Correspondence to AAA in 2004 consisted of 79 emails and 3 letters. By far the greatest amount of correspondence concerned employment inquiries (usually from overseas). Seven children contacted AAA about the possibilities of completing work experience. Most of these occurred directly after National Archaeology Week.

Other correspondence ranged from membership inquiries, subscriptions to *Australian Archaeology*, scientific advice, and five questions regarding 'alternative' archaeologies.

5.3 Treasurer's Report (Joe Dortch)

The AAA financial year ending 31 August 2004 saw continuation of most of the activities initiated by the previous executive, with the result that income and expenditure remained high. Overall, the association's finances are healthy. An increase in income means that while AAA paid for both the 2003 and 2004 journal printings in the one financial year and so made a loss, it remains well-positioned for next year's costs and is placed to make a reasonable profit (Table 1).

2003		2004
\$		\$
30,033	TOTAL INCOME	33,636
16,626	TOTAL EXPENSES	44,356
13,407	OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	(10,721)
55,154	Retained Profits	68,211
68,211	PROFIT AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	57,490
68,211	RETAINED PROFITS	57,490

Table 1 Profit and Loss Summary 31 August 2004.

As usual, most income is from subscriptions (78%), which continue to be in good shape thanks to the sending of reminders to members of the previous year and encouragement of new student members. We also had better than usual conference profits (11%), thanks to conference sponsorship in 2003. These are net profits here, after subsidies for student and Indigenous delegate travel and some workshop costs are included. Bank interest (7%) derives largely from our two investment accounts, detailed below. Sales of back issues remain at a similar level (3%) to previous years but with the new DVD of past back issues now on sale this source of income may reduce in future. Copyright fees (1%) are at a similar level to most previous years.

The highest expenditure was in the two journal printings paid for in one financial year (81%). This expense should be halved in future years. Other expenses have been in initiatives such as National Archaeology Week (in this year we paid design and production costs for posters, hence printing for NAW posters, stationary, and postage (7%) are presented separately from journal costs) and conference prizes (6%). Auditor's fees (3%) were high in 2004 but should be reduced in future. Remaining expenditures represent internet fees (2%) and the normal operating costs for our bank accounts (1%). A summary of expected expenditure for 2005 follows. Having now shifted to paying for the journal printing earlier in the year, in future years we will revert to the normal situation of paying for one journal printing per year (57%). Additional printing, stationary, and postage costs will increase (10%). There are new expenses in two areas, on public indemnity and liability insurance (9%) and DVD archiving (9%), which we

paid for in the current financial year. Insurance will be an annual and necessary cost for future years. The policies were recommended by the same broker who recommended insurance policies for AACAI. Conference prizes expenditures will increase (8%). Sales from the DVD journal archive should begin to repay the one-off costs of moving the entire journal to PDF format, and may return a small profit in future years. Future auditing costs (3%) may be reduced with the introduction of accounting procedures recommended by the 2004 auditor. Moving to electronic banking (2%) has reduced the costs of card transactions and it is hoped to fully automate receipting, which will keep postage costs low (and workload). Internet fees (2%) should remain similar to last year. With the starting base of our current account balance plus an expected income from 2005 subscriptions, future expenditure is amply provided for.

The last statements for these accounts show a combined balance of \$39,080, more than the costs of two year's journal printings, which is the intended purpose of this reserve (Tables 2, 3).

\$	EQUITY	\$
	Reserves	
<u>68561</u>	Retained profits	<u>57,490</u>
	Represented by:	
<u>1 Sept 2003</u>	CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1 Sept 2004</u>
	CBA Business Account	
31,875		18,638
20,870	CBA Term Deposit	22,345
<u>15,816</u>	CBA Cash Management Trust	<u>16,507</u>
<u>68,561</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>57,490</u>

Table 2 Balance Sheet 31 August 2004.

Statement Date	Particulars	Amount Invested	Term	Maturity Paid	Interest
3/12/2004	Term deposit	\$22,384	180 days	18/12/2004	4.9% on maturity
1/10/2004	Commonwealth Cash Management Trust	\$16,696	Ongoing	N/A	4.56% pa

Table 3 Investment Register.

Variations in income from 2003 to 2004 included higher total subscriptions and net conference profits, which include the costs of travel subsidies and workshops (Table 4).

2003	INCOME	2004
396	Copyright fees	199
1936	Net conference profits	4184
1226	Interest received	2264
517	Sales	1054
23,258	Subscriptions	25,935
<u>2700</u>	Workshop income	-
30,033	TOTAL INCOME	33,636

Figure 4 Profit and Loss - Income.

Variations in expenditure from 2003 to 2004 included the cost of two years' journal production and reduced expenditure on the annual conference, workshops, telephone, postage, and bank fees (Table 5). Variations in internet and database fees are due to some of these bills having been paid for two years in advance. The adjustment of last year's audit is due to an accounting error by the 2003 auditor.

Overall this has been another successful year for AAA, for which thanks are due to the previous executive for their excellent management of the association, and to the 2003 conference committee for a very successful conference.

2003	EXPENDITURE	2004
1320	Auditor's remuneration - fees	1408
1200	Bank charges	418
625	Bankcard charges	196
5900	Conference expenses	0
500	Database maintenance	548
145	General expenses	154
687	Internet fees	345
26	Licences, registrations, permits	54
0	Journal production costs	34,870
3485	Printing, stationery and postage	3813
3365	Prizes/Medallions	2550
453	Telephone	0
<u>16,626</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>44,356</u>
13,407	OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	(10,721)
55,154	RETAINED PROFITS - 1 September 2003	68,561
	<u>Less:</u> Adjustment for error in prior year	350
	RETAINED PROFITS - 1 September 2003	68,211
<u>68,561</u>	RETAINED PROFITS - 1 September 2004	<u>57,490</u>

Table 5 Profit and Loss - Expenses.

5.4 Membership Secretary's Report (Amy Stevens)

A the time of the AGM membership was 560, just short of the previous year which was 565, however the AGM was earlier this year. All categories except for ordinary members had witnessed some small growth. Reminder forms again proved by far the best way to encourage membership.

There were 110 first time new members of AAA in 2004 (Table 6), all of whom received a bonus back issue of AA, an initiative continued from last year. Membership forms were sent out to every archaeology department in Australia in an attempt to encourage student members, and lecture 'bashing' was conducted at a number of Universities.

Membership by State was relatively steady, however membership in the ACT and Victoria has decreased significantly, and might need some attention (Table 7).

Year	Members	New Members
2004	560	110
2003	568	126
2002	497	83
2001	367	67
2000	363	38

Table 6 Number of members and new members for the last five years.

State	2004	2003	2002
NSW	154	148	127
QLD	104	111	124
ACT	66	81	55
VIC	66	81	51
WA	47	44	41
SA	31	39	37
NT	20	17	15
TAS	9	7	11

Table 7 Membership numbers by State for the last three years.

5.5 Webmaster's Report (Luke Kirkwood)

The exponential success of the website in 2003 continued unabated in 2004. By the end of the year, traffic to the website had effectively doubled, with over 9 Gigabytes of data served. The website had also received over 400,000 hits by the end of the year at a rate of roughly 7,000 unique visits per month. November was once again the most popular month of 2004 with 52,811 hits. This was most likely due to interest generated by the conference.

2004 also saw the debut of the new and improved AAA website. Following the successful migration and implementation of the AAA membership database in 2003, work began on redesigning the website to take advantage of this new system. Four main objectives were identified and directed the development of the new website. Firstly the website must have a management system that does not rely on competency in coding webpages, secondly it must be a system that requires minimal training, thirdly it must have a minimum operating lifetime of at least five years, and finally the website shouldn't be completely orange.

The new website is the result of 6 months of development and testing and has met all of the objectives outlined. To facilitate management of the website, a backend interface has been designed which can be utilized through a web browser by the administrator. Information can be updated across the entire website through the use of simple web-based forms. The simplicity of this approach allows the website to be managed by new executives without the need to have an expert to update basic content. This gives the Webmaster the ability to concentrate on upgrading and adding new features that will benefit AAA membership.

The technology involved in the new website is a combination of PHP scripting language (<http://www.php.net/>) and MySQL databases (<http://www.mysql.com/>), both of which are open source software packages. Because these software packages are well supported among web designers, this will ease migration of the website to newer technology at a later date. Lastly the website isn't completely orange.

It was also with mixed feelings that I announced at the 2004 Annual General Meeting that 2005 will be my last year as principle webmaster for the AAA website. When I was first invited by Sean Ulm to join his executive team for 2002, I did not expect to finish up with a website that attracts 50,000 hits per month. My time as webmaster for AAA has been nothing short of a dream job for me, marrying my two loves: archaeology and computers. Being awarded a Life Membership Award at the 2004 conference for my contributions to the AAA website was the icing on an already delicious cake. I would like to thank AAA and our association's members for giving me the opportunity to create a resource that will hopefully be an

indispensable tool for all Australian archaeologists and help to promote the advancement of Archaeology.

5.6 Editors' Report (Donald Pate)

To mark the 30th year of the publication of *Australian Archaeology*, the AAA Electronic Archiving subcommittee converted back issues Volumes 1-57 (1974-2003) to a digital format. The resulting archive is now available on a single DVD disc for AUD\$50.00 including postage. Thanks to Michael Haslam, Sean Ulm, and Luke Kirkwood for their efforts in relation to this project. An order form for the DVD can be found on page 74 of AA 59 (December 2004) or on the AAA website at: www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/australianarchaeology

AA journal subscriptions were maintained at record levels of over 550 subscribers during 2004. The editors continued to offer a complimentary copy of the Special 20th Year Volume AA 39 (1994) with each new membership. Sales of back issues of the journal continued to be strong in 2004 with most stocks of older issues being depleted. An order form for remaining back issues dating from 1996 can be found on the AAA website.

The editors launched an AAA photo competition in 2004 to stimulate interest in archaeological photography in relation to the submission of high quality images to the journal. Photos in three categories were judged at the AAA conference in Armidale. These categories included: Archaeological Site Images (Winner: Matt Schlitz, Flinders University), Archaeological Fieldwork or Lab Work in Progress (Winner: Matt Schlitz, Flinders University), and Artefact Images (Winner: Kerrie Grant, University of New England). Thanks to all who submitted photos for the competition and to the judges Judith Field and Mike Roach.

The December 2005 issue of AA will be a Special Volume addressing Teaching and Learning in Australian Archaeology. This volume will be edited by Sarah Colley (University of Sydney), Sean Ulm (University of Queensland), and Donald Pate (Flinders University).

The editors thank all members of the AA editorial team and journal contributors and referees for their contributions during the 2004 year. Finally, a special thanks to Ian Murray at Graphic Print for his ongoing assistance with journal production.

5.7 State Representative Reports

No State representative reports were received for 2004.

5.8 AA Electronic Archive Subcommittee Report (Michael Haslam)

Michael Haslam explained how to use the new AA DVD electronic archive and how the user could search it by keyword, title etc. Total costs for this project were \$3614.04 and a total of 30 copies at \$50 each had already been sold during the conference. He thanked Ian Lilley for allowing them to use his old copies of AA for the archive. Peter White said that this was a great achievement and an enormous amount of work had been undertaken on this project by the Subcommittee. Judith Field suggested that due to time constraints of the AGM a full demonstration of the features of the archive should be convened for later during the AAA conference.

5.9 Media Liaison Officer Report (Johan Kamminga)

Early in 2004 a AAA media release was posted about National Archaeology Week events around Australia. Preparing

this release involved considerable correspondence with members of the NAW committee and the AAA webmaster, Luke Kirkwood. Jo acknowledges with thanks Luke Kirkwood's assistance and his considerable effort in revising the media web page. While a number of research findings by AAA members and related matters were canvassed in the media, no other significant issues were referred to the media liaison officer by the AAA executive or members during the months leading up to the conference. Jo dealt with a number of enquiries from the public, and liaised with media about the theft and destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq. Media releases concerning issues to be raised at the annual conference are in the process of being posted on the web site and some releases will be sent to specific media agencies as well as being posted on the AAA web site.

Jo has also been updating the list of media contacts a process that will be ongoing in 2005. Media interest in the 2004 annual conference mostly concerns the recent archaeological discoveries in Flores and there have been a number of enquiries in the last few weeks. A number of journalists and other media representatives are attending the conference and the organisers at UNE have provided dedicated facilities for them. The AAA executive is currently considering whether there is scope for the liaison officer to provide media contacts for independent releases about research results by AAA members.

5.10 Archaeology Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Report (Sarah Colley)

Apologies were received by Richard Mackay, Claire Smith, Alistair Paterson, and Martin Gibbs.

The T&L Sub-Committee acknowledged the continuing support of AAA during 2004. The committee was re-named the Joint Interim Standing Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (JISCATL) at the 2003 National Archaeology Teaching and Learning Workshop to reflect its aim to incorporate all areas of Australian archaeological practice and the support of ASHA, AACAI and AIMA, as well as AAA.

Committee business has been conducted by e-mail through 2004, with one face to face meeting at the UNE Conference.

The main focus of the committee's activities has been the 'Learning Archaeology' Session held at the AAA Conference at UNE. The December 2005 issue of the journal *Australian Archaeology* (Volume 61) will be a special edition devoted to papers from the session, plus additional invited contributions. This will be edited by Sarah Colley and Sean Ulm in collaboration with Donald Pate.

Current initiatives linked to the Committee's aims (as reflected in the RAT Charter developed at the National Archaeology T&L Workshop) included the following:

- 1) Sean Ulm has started a project to profile the profession in Australia
- 2) Sarah Colley, with input from Martin Gibbs, Sean Ulm, Denis Gojak and others has started work towards defining a list of core skills for archaeology graduates which could be linked to a nationally recognized course in professional practice.
- 3) Sarah Colley attended a session on Archaeological Pedagogies organized by Thomas Dowson at the December 2003 TAG Conference, University of Lampeter UK and presented a paper on issues in T&L/ professional training in Australia and the work of the Committee. This was

published in *World Archaeology* in 2004. Sarah Colley had also publicized the work of the Committee and the forthcoming issue of *AA* at the joint AIMA/ASHA Conference in September 2004, and at the Sydney Historical Archaeology Workshop in November 2004.

- 4) Wendy Beck, with Jane Balme, has conducted research into benchmarking Honours programmes in Archaeology in Australian universities.

Sarah Colley reported briefly on Committee activities for 2004. Sean Ulm presented a draft proposal for an AAA Award for Excellence in Teaching & Learning. He had agreed to submit a motion to the AAA AGM seeking in principle support, with further details to be decided in 2005 (e.g. terms of the award (university and/or public education); criteria; value of the award).

Discussion of e-mail correspondence previously circulated by Sean Ulm from David Roe expressing concern about changes to Commonwealth Funding Clusters for Archaeology which reduces funding compared to e.g. Anthropology, Social Sciences and Science subjects. Funding has been a problem for some time and these changes make no effective difference to financial support allocated to e.g. Archaeology practical work courses in some universities as this depends on structure of degree programmes and internal funding re-allocation in each institution. It was agreed to submit a motion to AAA AGM seeking AAA support for a campaign to lobby the Commonwealth Government on behalf of Australian university teaching staff in Archaeology, in conjunction with the wider profession, to secure a higher level of funding for Archaeology units of study which, with practical work and professional practice component, are more expensive to deliver than other Humanities subjects. It was proposed to investigate seeking support from senior archaeologists in the Australian Academy of the Humanities, given the very small number of Chairs of Australian Archaeology (i.e. limited lobbying ability).

A Proposal to investigate a more workable structure and membership of the JISCATL was presented. A model suggested was a smaller Steering Committee composed of active members with interest/expertise to liaise with representatives of e.g. AAA, ACCAI, ASHA, AIMA and a wider committee with nominated representatives from each Australian university which offers an Archaeology programme of study, plus other departments which offer Archaeology units of study within other degree programmes. Useful input from Thomas Dowson on UK model and experiences had been provided and it may be sensible to include Continuing Education Programmes (or equivalent) also. Sarah Colley will be overseas for 2005 and wishes to step down as Chair of JISCATL. Agreed that Sarah will remain as Chair until March 2005, then Wendy Beck and Jane Balme will take over.

Comments were invited from the floor. Peter White said that a teaching award was very questionable because many areas in archaeology teaching such as classical archaeology were not covered by the association, and that there needed to be some sort of assessment procedure on how this might be accomplished. Andre Rosenfeld endorsed the general idea but asked how an award might be assessed and who by. Sean Ulm suggested that areas such as the motivation and commitment to students and commitment to supporting teaching were crucial aspects of the award, and that the recipient need not be teaching in a university. Bryce Barker expressed concern of the assessment process. Pip Rath said that if Sean Ulm's suggestions were adopted that students could decide. Sarah

Colley stated that the Subcommittee would look at these issues, and that the award need not be a cash prize. Robin Torrence state that she thought more thought was required and that the motions be rejected until there was a firm plan in place. Val Attenbrow expressed support for Robin Torrence's comments.

A first motion was put to the floor; that "AAA provide in principle support for a AAA Award for Excellence in Archaeology Teaching". Motion: Sarah Colley. Seconded: none.

Second motion was presented: that "AAA provide in principle support to approach the Australian Academy of Humanities and other bodies to develop an effective strategy to lobby the Commonwealth Government to increase university funding allocated to Archaeology units of study under current formula models". David Roe commented that this issue was complicated as the government does not provide as much for archaeology but that seeking advice was a good idea. Motion: Sarah Colley. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

A third motion was presented: that "AAA make available funds up to \$2500 for the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee for 2005". Motion: Sean Ulm. Seconded: Val Attenbrow. Motion carried nem. con.

6. Other Business

6.1 Annual Conference 2005-2008

Judith Field presented the 2005 AAA Annual conference progress. An email had been received by co-organiser Al Paterson which was read. The AAA conference is to a joint conference with AIMA and will be held at the Western Australian Maritime museum in Fremantle, WA, from the 27th of November to the 30th of November 2005. The theme of the conference will be "the Archaeology of Trade and Exchange". The web site for the conference should be active by April 2005. Proposed speakers at the conference are to include John Adams. Judith Field expressed some concern over the cost of accommodation but stated that organizers were looking into booking a backpacker venue for attendees.

6.2 Archiving of Archaeology Honours Theses

Sean Ulm stated that attempts had been made to pursue this issue. AIATSIS had been willing to accept Honours thesis of Indigenous students. No further progress had been made, and it was decided that the AAA executive would follow up on this subject in 2005.

6.3 National Archaeology Week May 2005

Michael Westaway spoke on this topic. The dates for National Archaeology Week had been set to commence from the third Sunday in May each year. He stated that there would be around 150 activities planned for this years NAW and that he was investigating various sources for funding. Public lectures, displays and open days were planned.

Michael asked AAA for a motion "to make up to \$2500 available for National Archaeology Week for 2005". Motion: Sean Ulm. Seconded: Pip Rath. Motion carried nem. con.

6.4 Ngarrabullgan Cave Conservation Issues

Bruno David presented a background to the Ngarrabullgan site and concerns over future development. He explained that the whole of the Ngarrabullgan mountain was a highly significant area in terms of archaeology, Aboriginal spiritual importance and unique faunal communities. He

discussed archaeological investigations which have been recently completed and that Aboriginal occupation at Nonda rockshelter had recently been dated at between 60,000 – 50 000 years BP.

Luke Godwin discussed the plans for coal mining to occur at Ngarrabullgan. A permit to explore had been obtained and that an access agreement was in place for work to occur. He described the process of exploration which will consist of 20 – 30 test holes as preliminary holes, but that he expected this number will expand greatly. If coal mining is found to be economically viable high wall and long wall mining will occur. Luke stated that such methods will ultimately result in the collapse of surface ground by a couple of meters along any mined areas. He discussed various avenues open to AAA to attempt to stop mining at Ngarrabullgan, including National Heritage listing, and appealing to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protection Act. Meetings were planned for February 2005 of the Resource Tribunal, and that he had approached Bruno David to provide expert evidence at this meeting. A motion was then presented.

Motion 1: that “The Australian Archaeological Association recognises the immense cultural significance of Ngarrabullgan to the Jungun people. The association notes that the archaeological sites that have been investigated on Ngarrabullgan comprise one element of the cultural values with which the mountain is imbued. The association notes that archaeological sites investigated there constitute some of the oldest evidence yet found for the occupation of the Australian mainland by Aborigines. The association fully supports the Jungun people in their determination to protect their cultural inheritance and with that in mind stands totally opposed to mineral exploration and any consequent development of Ngarrabullgan.” Moved: Judith Field. Seconded: Michael Strong. Motion carried nem. con.

Luke Godwin asked that a motion be presented to assist with travel for Bruno David and others to attend the planned meetings. Kevin Tibbett asked if there was a definite amount asked for. Luke Godwin stated that it needed to be a serious amount if AAA wanted to pay for airfares. Bruno David said that he was not sure of the overall costs at this stage. Judith Field proposed that \$2000 be made available. Eleanor Crosby

expressed concern that this might ‘open the floodgates’ for other situations. Peter White suggested that it would not so long as each appeal/situation was assessed individually. Judith Field agreed stating that consultation with AAA needed to occur in all situations. John Appleton stated that he was worried about using AAA general funds, and that it might be wise to set aside money in a discretionary fund rather than use the general pool. Sean Ulm stated that a “grant in aid” might be made by the AAA executive.

Judith Field as the President of AAA, committed to release such funds to members of the association to the maximum of \$2,000 to assist members with such travel for the purpose of tending evidence to any court hearings into issues associated with cultural values and the development of Ngarrabullgan.

6.5 Other matters

Robin Torrence suggested that it was appropriate that the President of AAA on behalf of the association write a letter of support to Bruce Veitch. Moved: Robin Torrence. Seconded: Sheryl Sparkes. Motion carried nem. con.

7. Election of Officers of the Committee

Judith Field read out a list of the current officers of the committee. She stated that all were willing to run for another year. No other nominations were received. The nomination of the AAA executive was accepted unanimously.

No nominations were received for the positions of media liaison officer, state representatives, or public officer. Existing officers who were all absent were re-elected unanimously. The position of state representative for Western Australia was subsequently filled by Fiona Hook.

8. Close of Meeting

The President of AAA, Judith Field, called the 2005 AAA AGM to a close at 7.45pm.

