

BACKFILL

Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

Australis Noosa Lakes Resort, Noosaville, Queensland

4 December 2008

1. Welcome

The 2008 AGM commenced at 5.55pm. The President welcomed everyone to the conference and the AGM and gave special thanks to the team from The University of Queensland for their efforts in organising the conference. The President commenced proceedings by acknowledging Traditional Owners of the land and the Gubbi Gubbi nation and Elders.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Samantha Bolton, Annie Carson, Chris Clarkson, Bruno David, Tim Denham, Lesley Head, Garrick Hitchcock and Anne McConnell.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2007 AAA AGM

The minutes of the 2007 AAA AGM held at the University of Sydney on 22 September 2007 were published in *Australian Archaeology* (66:87-94). Motion: 'That the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed'. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded: Matthew Spriggs. Motion carried nem. con.

4. Business Arising from Previous AGM

None.

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report (Ian McNiven)

My predecessor Alistair Paterson and his Executive handed the reigns of the AAA Executive to our Monash University team at last year's AAA conference in Sydney. Our job of running the AAA Executive this year was much enhanced by the excellent state of our Association left to us by the previous Executive and the generous ongoing support and advice provided by Al Paterson and his team. On behalf of the current AAA Executive, I thank the previous Executive for their generous support during 2009. Alistair also handed to Monash University an archive of AAA documents for our temporary storage and curation.

My position as President was enabled and facilitated by the commitment of other members of the Executive. I take this opportunity to thank Bruno David (Treasurer), Tim Denham (Secretary) and Sally Brockwell (Public Officer). In particular, I would like to thank Jeremy Ash and Liam Brady for their tireless commitment as Membership Secretaries for AAA. The new Executive decided that increasing the AAA membership and the number of people who receive our journal *Australian Archaeology* would be key goals for 2008. I am pleased to announce that under the leadership of Jeremy and Liam, the AAA membership has continued to grow strongly and is currently at record high levels.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairs of the following subcommittees:

- Val Attenbrow, Chair, Prizes and Awards Subcommittee
- Jane Balme, Chair, Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL)
- Samantha Bolton, Chair, Information Technology Subcommittee
- Richard Fullagar, Chair, Code of Ethics Subcommittee
- Sean Ulm, Chair, Editorial Subcommittee
- Michael Westaway, Chair, National Archaeology Week Subcommittee

Thanks also to Peter Veth and Wayne Brennan in their capacity as Media Liaison Officers for AAA and to all the State and Territory representatives a big 'thank you' for your continued work over the past year. As all of the Executive, subcommittee, officer and representative positions in AAA are filled by volunteers, your efforts are greatly appreciated and are central to the operation and viability of our Association.

The role of AAA President is largely reactionary. You, the members, are the eyes and ears of our Association so if you come across issues that you feel AAA has the capacity to deal with under the terms of our Constitution and Code of Ethics then contact the Executive in writing. Activities of the AAA Executive over the course of the past 14 months since the Sydney AAA include the following:

In October 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) contacted me to see if AAA would like to recommend changes to the archaeology section of the Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines Classification Codes. These RFCD codes are important as they are the means by which all government-funded research, university publications and postgraduate research topics in Australia are classified. The AAA Executive took the opportunity to overhaul the codes to remove their social evolutionary references to the 'Archaeology of Hunter-Gatherer Societies', 'Archaeology of Agricultural and Pastoral Societies', and 'Archaeology of Complex Societies'. These codes have now been replaced by a series of culturally and geographically-focused codes including 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeology' and 'Archaeology of New Guinea and Pacific Islands (excl. New Zealand)'. These new codes better represent and identify research undertaken by the AAA community.

AAA has continued to maintain close contacts with the Presidents of ASHA and AIMA. I thank Ross Anderson (AIMA) and Martin Gibbs (ASHA) for their active engagement in this regard. In January 2008, the three associations, as registered stakeholders, made formal written requests to the Western Australian government to review the Cossack cultural heritage draft master plan. A copy of the plan has yet to be made available to AAA.

In January 2008, I also accepted an invitation by the New South Wales government for AAA to attend a 'Forum to review the Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants' and to discuss ways of improving Aboriginal community consultation to better inform the basis for issuing Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits. My comments on the discussion paper were presented to Jo McDonald who kindly represented AAA at the forum.

In February 2008, the Federal Government announced its intention to establish a new research quality and evaluation system. Known as the Excellence in Research for Australia (or ERA), the initiative was developed by the ARC, the peak funding body for university research in Australia. A key dimension of the ERA was to measure the quality of Australian academic research using the ranked status of publications. Towards this end, universities in Australia were sent a master list of over 17,000 journal titles with a request to comment on rankings assigned to each. The AAA Executive, operating through Monash University, made a series of recommended changes to these rankings. Of immediate concern to the AAA membership was the recommended addition of *The Artefact*, *Queensland Archaeological Research* and *Archaeologies* (Journal of the World Archaeological Congress) to the list and the recommended increase in the rankings of *Australian Archaeology*, *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology* and *Bulletin of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology* to 'A' ranked journals. The outcome of the recommended changes has yet to be made public. For assistance in deciding and coordinating these recommendations, the AAA Executive would like to thank Ian Lilley, Tim Murray, Bert Roberts, Mark Staniforth and Sean Ulm.

In August 2008, AAA accepted an invitation by the Queensland Government to participate in reviews of both the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. I thank Lara Lamb and Annie Ross for representing AAA in this regard. As part of the Queensland State Representative's report at this AGM, Annie will provide an overview of issues raised at the review.

On 23 September this year Peter Hiscock announced the cessation of the online AUSARCH-I listserver. For 11 years AUSARCH has served well the Australian archaeological community and in particular the membership of AAA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his efforts in running AUSARCH. As most of you are aware, Peter felt it necessary to terminate AUSARCH to avoid legal action associated with certain comments made on this unmoderated list. Later on in this AGM, Sam Bolton and Daryl Guse will discuss options for a new Australian archaeology list. It is important for us all to remember that we will be discussing options for a professional archaeological list and not some form of Facebook or blog site where politeness and professionalism are considered optional extras.

Finally, in February this year I applied to the Federal Government to represent AAA at the 2020 Summit hosted by Prime Minister Rudd. Although my application was unsuccessful, our interests were served well by the attendance of Lesley Head. While the merits of the Summit continue to be debated, I think all of us would acknowledge that Mr Rudd cemented his place in Australian history with The Apology to the Stolen Generations. The Apology has particular resonance with the AAA community

as most of us work with Indigenous Australians whose families have been impacted by misguided policies and practices of past, and dare I say, present governments. The Apology is a reminder to us all that in our quest to understand Australia's rich and unique archaeological past, we have an obligation to know our own discipline's checked history and to have an appreciation of the social policies that have impacted and shaped present generations of Indigenous Australians.

5.2 Secretary's Report (Tim Denham)

In addition to matters dealt with in the President's Report, the Officers of the Committee (President, Treasurer and Secretary), along with the Membership Secretaries, held several informal meetings throughout the year in order to attend to operational business. AAA received c.10 letters, c.40 emails and c.40 telephone calls during 2008. The majority of correspondence related to National Archaeology Week (events and publicity), careers advice in archaeology (including a telephone enquiry from the USA), employment opportunities for individuals and organisations requiring consultants, and miscellaneous matters. In terms of NAW, the request was passed on to the relevant publicity officer, state representative or NAW coordinator. Careers advice was offered and the contact details for appropriate 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.

5.3 Treasurer's Report (Bruno David)

Overview

The AAA financial year ending 31 August 2008 saw a substantial profit, largely due to the influx of new members and a significant profit made during the 2007 Sydney AAA conference.

With the exception of \$20,000 of DEH funds obtained last financial year, 2007-2008 saw almost identical total expenses and total income (and therefore profits) to 2006-2007 (Table 1).

Income

The breakdown of income for the year is detailed in Table 2. As with previous years, subscriptions remain the primary source of income for the Association. The combined income from interest on the savings accounts and two investment accounts amounted to \$3006.32, a rise of \$575.72. Funds were invested at high interest rates in the two investment accounts to achieve these results. Operating profit was almost identical in 2007-2008 to 2006-2007 (Table 1).

Expenditure

In 2006-2007 AAA was awarded \$20,000 funding from DEH to assist Indigenous participants to attend the previous year's Beechworth AAA conference; this year such funding was not obtained. With the exception of that DEH grant 2007-2008 saw a similar total expenditure to last year (Table 3). In 2007-2008, extra costs were incurred producing advertising material for AAA, National Archaeology Week and to distribute at the 2008 WAC conference; this advertising material will last for another year at least. Additional costs were also borne for the next five years of website and email hosting by Melbourne IT; to create

templates to allow for the online publishing of supplementary information with AA papers; and for a reprint of AA64 owing to rising membership. In addition, costs were borne for the previous year's auditing as well as this year's.

Expected Expenditure 2008-2009

In the coming 2008-2009 financial year, no new major costs are anticipated. \$693 of sundry already-issued cheques are expected to be presented, along with \$2679.98 of cheques for liability and professional indemnity insurance and \$770 for the 2007-2008 audit. These are expected to appear in the 2008-2009 accounts, much in the same way that similar costs were carried last year.

Summary of Assets

As of the 31 August 2008 the AAA assets totalled \$83,036.36 (Table 4). This does not include the contents of the Bruce Veitch Award fund, which consists of \$11,214.93.

Table 1 Profit and Loss – Summary.

2006-2007 \$		2007-2008 \$
64,958.20	Total Income	44,659.22
59,277.27	Total Expenses	39,080.62
5,680.93	Operating Profit	5,578.60
71,776.83	Retained Earnings	77,457.76
77,457.76	Total Equity	83,036.36

Table 2 Summary of Income for year ending 31 August 2008.

2006-2007 \$	Income	2007-2008 \$
0.00	Copyright fees	1,781.48
1,600.00	Conference profits	6,351.42
2,785.00	DVD/Back issue sales	725.00
2,430.60	Interest received	3,006.32
37,632.58	Subscriptions	32,795.00
500.00	Donations	0.00
20,000.00	DEH funding	0.00
10.02	Bank alterations	0.00
64,958.20	Total Income	44,659.22

Table 3 Summary of Expenses for year ending 31 August 2008.

2006-2007 \$	Expenditure	2007-2008 \$
627.00	Auditor's fees	1,463.00
923.71	Bank charges	698.64
25,075.34	Journal printing	20,803.70
1,732.50	Insurance	2,708.88
1,018.40	Internet fees	1,227.30
2,546.14	Postage & stationery	4,118.25
4,412.42	Printing	3,302.45
2,250.00	Prizes	2,500.00
20,007.26	DEH Funding	0.00
684.50	Sundries	2,258.40
59,277.27	Total Expenditure	39,080.62

The details of the two long-term accounts held by the Commonwealth Bank are presented in Table 5. The contents of the of the long-term accounts continue to represent in excess of two years journal printings, which was the intended purpose of the funds.

5.4 Membership Secretarys' Report (Jeremy Ash and Liam Brady)

2008 was a bumper year for the AAA membership base, with record numbers for total memberships and new members. An Assistant Membership Secretary (LB) was appointed in January 2008 to share the increased workload resulting from new subscriptions.

As of 17 November 2008, there were 650 AAA members (Tables 1-2), 127 of whom were new members. The most positive growth recorded was in Victoria and Queensland, with strong growth also seen in New South Wales and Western Australia (Table 3). Of the 127 new members, 60 were Ordinary Subscriptions and 57 were Student Subscriptions (Table 4). Student Memberships currently represent 18% of the subscription base. The healthy ratio of new student subscribers may be a result of the great value for dollar offered by student membership (just \$30).

A key aim for the 2008 subscription campaign was to increase our overseas subscriptions. The original AAA promotional flyer was redesigned and included in delegate packs at the WAC-6 (World Archaeological Congress) conference in Dublin, Ireland and at the Society of Historical Archaeology annual conference in Albuquerque, USA. It is worth noting here for future campaigns that these attempts were not very successful in terms of materially increasing overseas subscriptions (Table 2), however it has raised the international profile of the Association and its journal.

Table 4 Balance sheet for year ending 31 August 2008.

2006-2007 \$		2007-2008 \$
	Assets	
	Current Assets	
35,199.97	CBA Cheque Account	46,451.12
24,303.89	CBA Term Deposit	25,595.48
19,109.41	CBA Cash Management Trust	20,344.69
10,613.92	UWA EFT Account	1,860.00
89,227.19	Total Current Assets	94,251.29
	Liabilities	
	Current Liabilities	
11,214.93	Bruce Veitch Award	11,214.93
11,214.93	Total Current Liabilities	11,214.93
77,457.76	Net Assets	83,036.36
	Equity	
71,776.83	Retained Earnings	77,457.76
5,680.93	Operating Profit	5,578.60
77,457.76	Total Equity	83,036.36

Table 5 Details of long-term accounts as of 31 August 2008.

Statement Date	Particulars	Amount Invested	Maturity Paid
18/06/2008	CBA Term Deposit	25,595.48	1291.59
31/08/2008	CBA Cash Management Trust	20,344.69	1235.28

On the domestic front, subscription flyers were also included in the 2008 AAA conference delegate packs (c.250), in the December mail-out of *Australian Archaeology* (c.650) and in the Melbourne series of National Archaeology Week. 250 flyers were also included in the December issue of *Australian Aboriginal Studies* in a cross-promotional scheme. We will continue to cross-promote AAA in other targeted journals in 2009.

Our focus for the 2009 subscription campaign will be directed towards retaining and increasing (1) student memberships; and (2) overseas memberships. Archaeology programmes at universities in Australia and New Zealand will be targeted for distribution of promotional material (e.g. subscription flyers), and subject coordinators will be encouraged to communicate the benefits of AAA membership to the student body. We will also be targeting overseas universities through a limited advertising campaign aimed at institutions with links to Australian archaeology.

To reduce costs and our carbon footprint next year, we will be relying more heavily upon electronic media to communicate with members. To this end, we are compiling email addresses of all current and recently lapsed members (to 2004). We will however continue to mail-out hard-copy reminder letters to past and current members without email addresses. One medium we used this year to promote and increase membership awareness was through electronic postings on the AUSARCH-1 listserver. The demise of this resource represents a significant loss in our ability to communicate with the broader archaeological community. Our recent experience using AUSARCH to email mass subscriptions reminders to the list resulted in considerable spikes in membership renewals during the following week.

We would like to thank the members of the previous and current Executive and, in particular, the previous Membership Secretary, Annie Carson (University of Western Australia), and Sean Ulm (Editor, *Australian Archaeology*) for assisting with our queries over the past year. Many thanks also to Samantha Bolton (University of Western Australia) for troubleshooting database

problems and for streamlining the student subscription process. We would like to thank Phil Scamp, Graphic Designer for the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, for donating his time to redesign the flyer, and the School of Geography and Environmental Science for kindly covering international and domestic postage costs.

5.5 Editors' Report (Sean Ulm and Annie Ross)

During 2008 Numbers 66 (June) and 67 (December) of *Australian Archaeology* were published. AA66 was posted in mid-May and AA67 in mid-November. We were pleased to publish the special volume *More Unconsidered Trifles: Papers to Celebrate the Career of Sandra Bowdler* guest edited by Jane Balme and Sue O'Connor as Number 67, December 2008, bringing together a diverse range of papers strongly influenced by Sandra's scholarship and interests.

The increasing quality of AA was recognised during the year through AA's inclusion in both the ISI Web of Knowledge and SCOPUS, the world's leading research publication indexing services. As part of the ISI Web of Knowledge (Thomson Reuters), AA is indexed in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index and Current Contents/Arts & Humanities, which also include journals such as *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, *Historical Archaeology*, *Journal of Archaeological Science* and *Archaeology in Oceania*. SCOPUS (Elsevier) indexes major journals such as *Geoarchaeology*, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, *Journal of Maritime Archaeology* and *World Archaeology*. Both ISI and SCOPUS host comprehensive search facilities, citation analysis tools and other bibliometric analyses which will be invaluable to both readers and authors.

Inclusion in ISI and SCOPUS builds on AA's profile in the international research community and complements existing indexing of the journal in Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS), Anthropological Literature and Anthropological Index Online.

Table 1 AAA members and new members, 2000–2008

Year	Members	New Members
2008	650	127
2007	547	86
2006	491	78
2005	482	93
2004	560	110
2003	568	126
2002	497	83
2001	367	67
2000	363	38

Table 2 AAA membership types, 2006–2008.

Type	2006	2007	2008
Ordinary	309	325	395
Student	68	96	121
Overseas	19	19	20
Retiree	29	30	36
Institutional	59	68	68
Life Member	7	8	10
Non-Member Journal	0	1	0
Total	491	547	650

Table 3 AAA membership by state, 2006–2008.

State	2006	2007	2008
NSW	132	128	145
QLD	92	110	135
WA	57	64	79
VIC	75	92	126
ACT	43	47	51
SA	34	36	43
NT	12	13	13
TAS	4	7	10

Table 4 New members, 2008.

Type	New Members
Ordinary	60
Student	57
Overseas	2
Retiree	1
Institutional	6
Life Member	1
Non-Member Journal	0
Total	127

In mid-2008 AA was ranked 'B' in the Australian Research Council's (ARC) draft journal rankings for the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. The ARC defines 'B' journals in part as being 'often important outlets for the work of PhD students and early career researchers. Typical examples would be regional journals with high acceptance rates, and editorial boards that have few leading researchers from top international institutions'. We do not believe this to be the case for AA, which has an Editorial Advisory Board of international standing, regularly publishes influential work of leading researchers in the field and has a rigorous double-blind review process. We have made strong submissions to the ARC urging a reclassification of AA as an 'A' ranked journal, along with cognate quality journals such as *Archaeology in Oceania*.

In another milestone, the Australian Archaeological Association Inc., as publisher of AA, has been awarded a 'Green' rating by the OAK (Open Access to Knowledge) List Project. This rating recognises AA's policy of allowing authors to retain copyright in their work and allowing them to self-archive both pre-print and post-print versions of work published in AA.

In response to a strong copy flow we increased the size of a standard AA issue from 86 to 102 pages, added a facility to publish detailed supplementary material relating to articles online and expanded the Editorial Advisory Board to add capacity in historical archaeology, physical anthropology and cultural heritage management.

In June we launched a Referee Mentoring Programme to increase AA reviewer expertise by allowing referees to view other assessments of papers they review, on a strictly confidential basis. We feel that this programme will be of particular benefit to junior referees and others wishing to build their effectiveness as reviewers.

During the year we promoted AA in other journals and at various conferences and workshops, including sponsorship of the Society for American Archaeology's Ethics Bowl. Combined with the stupendous efforts of the AAA Executive to increase membership, these initiatives have required a substantial increase in the print run of AA. Cost increases have been contained by changing to a more competitive printer. It is worth noting that the actual average cost of production and postage of the journal to AAA has increased less than \$2 per member in the last 8 years.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the other members of the 2008 Editorial Committee consisting of Linda Terry (Editorial Assistant), Lara Lamb and Catherine Westcott (Short Reports Editors), Chris Clarkson and Jill Reid (Book Review Editors) and Stephen Nichols (Thesis Abstract Editor). Dan Rosendahl, Janet Sypkens, Merle O'Rourke, Marie Vlahos, Jane Lavers, Elle Piotto, Emma St Pierre, Clair Harris, Michelle Langley and Jo Bowman provided support in the Editorial Offices. We also thank retiring Editorial Advisory Board member, Paul Rainbird, and welcome Chris Gosden as Paul's replacement. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of The University of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, School of Social Science and the University of Queensland Archaeological Services Unit.

In closing, we would like to thank contributors, referees, the Editorial Advisory Board and the AAA Executive for their support.

Discussion arising: The President thanked the editors for the excellent job they continue to do in raising the standard, profile and quality of production of AA.

5.6 Media Liaison Officers' Report (Peter Veth and Wayne Brennan)

The AAA Media Liaison Officers released c.20 major press releases in the last period; fielded some 120 enquiries; made 52 interviews in the domestic and international media and are aware of over 650 media stories on Australian archaeology in national and international outlets. Much of their work involved linking researchers and their finds with relevant journalists, media outlets and film producers.

Stories covered significant finds (e.g. Narrabeen burial, early Pilbara dates etc), capacity-building in cultural heritage, Heritage Listing and ongoing protection of sites on the Dampier Archipelago, historic sites in NSW and Victoria and lobbying on international codes of ethics and Indigenous engagement.

We estimate an increase of c.60% in Australian archaeology stories and media profile during the last 12 months – with strong support from the AAA Membership and Executive.

5.7 Webmaster's Report (Samantha Bolton)

The AAA website has had another successful year, with visits to the site increasing by a massive 156% in the past 12 months, with the highest number of visits in February. The top three most popular pages, apart from the home page, were:

1. *Australian Archaeology*
2. Study Options
3. The Register of Archaeology Work Experience Partners

71% of people that visited the site were new visitors, and 66% accessed the site through a search engine such as Google. 61% of members used the website to join online.

There have not been any significant changes to the front end of the site this year, and I have continued to keep up-to-date with conferences, seminars and latest news. However, one addition is that students are now able to upload their student ID via the online membership page, rather than having to send it separately to the Membership Secretary, no doubt making everyone's job much easier. Over the next 12 months, I will continue to make minor improvements to the website, and look for ways to improve it, particularly the members' area.

The management of the site did change significantly, with the University of Western Australia introducing a new management system called cPanel in April. This gives the Webmaster more control over the site, and means that I do not have to rely on the University of Western Australia Website Office as much. It required the site to be transferred to a new server, which caused a few minor problems, particularly with the domain names, although they now seem to be fully resolved.

Through the cPanel programme, the website is monitored by two separate web statistic programmes: Google Analytics, which has been monitoring the site for the full year and Webalizer which has been active since April 2008. The number of hits that these programmes give differ, owing to the different ways that they collect the data, although the general trends are the same. Therefore I have given the trends rather than actual hit numbers, which are a little misleading.

The total hits on the National Archaeology Week website since December 2007 increased by 43% on 2007. As in previous years the number of hits peaked in May, just before and during National Archaeology Week, and the average hits per day were 38% higher than 2007. Due to lack of time, the transfer of the National Archaeology Week website to UWA did not occur, but it is set up and ready to go and should happen in 2009.

Following the end of the AUSARCH-I mailing list I have investigated a number of options to provide a replacement for our members. These are outlined in a separate report for discussion.

After a busy couple of years building the current website and adding new features, I was happy to concentrate on fixing some of the errors, and continue to add content. There is still more work to be done in this area, in what is perhaps a never-ending task of improving the website and adding features and content to entice visitors. The number of people accessing both the AAA and NAW websites is increasing each year, and more work needs to be done to keep the websites fresh, and encourage visitors to keep visiting them.

I would like to thank the Executive for their support over the last 12 months, and once again, give enormous thanks to the University of Western Australia Website Office, in particular George Mutale, who have provided a huge amount of support and help, in hosting the website.

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

The Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL) is a subcommittee of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. The role of the committee is to provide a forum for discussion of tertiary teaching and learning and related issues and to provide a conduit for involvement in these issues for other archaeological associations and interest groups.

The main activity this year was the continuation and completion of the Benchmarking Honours Degrees project. This project began in 2006 and was funded by a Carrick Institute (now Australian Learning and Teaching Council) grant obtained by Wendy Beck, with the help of Catherine Clarke. The purpose of the project was to produce a document to make explicit learning criteria, levels of achievement and assessment practices in archaeology honours programmes. Over the last three years we have held workshops with representatives of all Australian universities teaching archaeology to discuss these criteria and to devise a set of benchmarks based on these workshops, surveys of the profession and the UK benchmark document. The final version was completed following the May workshop this year and a copy is now available through the AAA website. These workshops also provided the opportunity to discuss teaching generally and participants reported that they had already used the benchmark document to lobby for the discipline within their own universities, for example, to demonstrate the need for particular courses and equipment.

One of the tensions in teaching undergraduate courses is that they must include generic skills and discipline knowledge while preparing students for a wide variety of vocations. Thus one of the other topics that we have been discussing is how students

may become better prepared for particular employment through vocational experience with industry partners and how these can be further developed. Some of this vocational experience is organised informally through the Register of Archaeology Work Experience Partners (AAA website) initiated in 2007. We continue to get good feedback from both students and partners for the Register and, while a couple of partners have removed themselves from the register, a few were newly listed this year so there was an overall gain. We would like to encourage more industry partners to participate in this programme. Other experience has been more formally organised through universities, for example internships and honours projects. There is also an increasing number of heritage Masters programmes being developed in universities.

We have also discussed the associated problem of the role of university teaching departments in accreditation for professional practice. One of the main employers of archaeology graduates is the development industry. On the upside this has made it easy for people to get work but, on the downside, it has led to inexperienced people doing work with little supervision. What accreditation should there be and what are the relevant roles of universities, industry and the government departments that administer protective legislation?

The general decline in funding for universities has seen most institutions reduce the number of units available to students and we have also discussed some models for offering units across universities and sharing units although there is still much to be done on this especially with the move for diversification between universities.

With the completion of the benchmark project for undergraduate courses our planned future direction will be in implementing those benchmarks by developing education resources that can be used by universities – initially a website for teaching resources, collaborative research and development projects beginning with an honours dissertation moderation project and development of benchmark criteria for the new heritage masters degrees.

Another project for 2009 will be the development of a new 'Profiling of the Profession 2010' survey to update Sean Ulm's previous survey.

Numerous people have contributed to the projects of ANCATL. I would like to thank especially the ANCATL committee: Sarah Colley, Sean Ulm, Martin Gibbs, Wendy Beck, Andy Fairbairn and Catherine Clarke, the Advisory Committee of the Benchmark project: Sarah Colley, Sean Ulm, Stephen Nichols, Wendy Beck and Catherine Clarke and all other contributors to the activities of the ANCATL, especially those who attended the workshop, and Industry partners who have signed up for the Register.

5.9 Prizes and Awards Subcommittee Report (Val Attenbrow)

The 2008 Prizes and Awards Subcommittee consisted of Val Attenbrow (Australian Museum) (Chair), Fiona Hook (Archae-aus), Ken Mulvaney (Rio Tinto), Sean Ulm (University of Queensland) and Ian McNiven (Monash University, AAA President).

This year the Association called for nominations for:

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

Notices requesting nominations for the awards were sent out on several occasions through AUSARCH-1 as well as the AACAI, ASHA, AIMA, and WAC listservers, with the first on 23 May 2008. Nominations were requested to be submitted by 31 August 2008, and were duly received. The results of these nominations will be announced at the conference dinner on Saturday 6 December 2008.

I need to note here, however, that this year one of our subcommittee members was nominated for an award. That member offered to withdraw from the subcommittee. After consideration by the other members, we agreed that this nomination should not preclude that person from remaining on the subcommittee. However, of course, they were not involved in assessing the nominations for the award for which they were nominated.

5.10 Code of Ethics Subcommittee Report (Richard Fullagar)

During 2008, the Chair of the Code of Ethics Subcommittee was asked by the AAA President to investigate one complaint that first came to AAA Executive attention in the previous year. After consideration of all relevant issues, no breach of the AAA Code of Ethics was found.

The Chair of the AAA Code of Ethics Subcommittee is appointed by the AAA Executive from year to year. A subcommittee, sometimes quite large (e.g. Code of Ethics Review Subcommittee 2003-2004), may be appointed from time-to-time by AAA Executive according to the nature of matters under investigation.

The AAA Code of Ethics can be found on the AAA website (<http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/ethics>). Complaints may be made according to AAA Code of Ethics Section 4.3: 'Any person can notify the Executive Committee of a member's conduct which they believe to be detrimental to the interests of the Association. Complaints may activate procedures outlined in Section 32 (Expulsion of Members) of the Constitution, including rights of appeal.'

AAA receives complaints from time-to-time from members and non-members. It is important to note the procedures. The formal process must necessarily involve a written letter to the President of AAA, outlining the complaint in relation to specific points of the AAA Code of Ethics. The President may ask the Chair of the Code of Ethics Subcommittee to investigate. A similar process is outlined in much more detail by the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (http://www.aacai.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=31#_Procedure_for_Handling).

The person against whom the complaint is made must have a right of reply. Consequently, the letter should also include a statement of complaint that can be forwarded to the person against whom the complaint is made, so that the President can invite a formal response and the Code of Ethics Subcommittee,

can assess all the relevant issues. The Chair of the Code of Ethics Subcommittee will report back to the President of AAA, who will notify both parties of the recommendations accepted by the Executive. If a member is expelled, details are provided in our Constitution, Section 32 (Expulsion of Members) with references to notifications, appeals and voting by AAA members. Except in the event of expulsion (and only as provided for in Section 32 of the AAA Constitution), the AAA Executive and the Code of Ethics Subcommittee is legally bound not to disclose any details of a specific complaint whatsoever in any open or public forum (e.g. among the broader AAA membership, at AAA AGMs or among non-members).

5.11 State Representatives' Reports

5.11.1 Queensland Report (Lara Lamb)

There were two items of correspondence for 2008. These were (1) a request from the Brisbane City Council Library for AAA promotional materials to display during National Archaeology Week and (2) an invitation from Tim Watts, the project officer for the Department of Natural Resources and Water, to nominate an AAA delegate to attend a meeting for the Queensland Cultural Heritage Acts Review. Annie Ross was nominated and attended the meeting on 17 September 2008. There were no other matters arising for 2008.

Discussion arising: Annie Ross provided a brief overview of the Queensland Cultural Heritage Acts Review process. Annie tabled a draft copy of AAA's submission to the review for comment.

5.11.2 New South Wales Report (Jo McDonald)

Jo McDonald reported on AAA's involvement in the 'Forum to review the Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants' (NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change). A key concern was the need for clarification of the selection process of consultation with appropriate communities.

Discussion arising: Luke Godwin pointed out that local land councils will be part of the consultation process. Sue McIntyre-Tamwoy pointed out the need for DECC to assist with the consultation process. Jo McDonald identified the need for clarification of which Native Title holders/claimants were appropriate for consultation. Annie Ross confirmed that problems of identifying appropriate Native Title holders/claimants also existed in Queensland.

5.11.3 Western Australia Report (Stuart Rapley)

This year was a much busier year for the Western Australian wing of AAA; as State Representative I received two emails. This is a 100% increase in last year's workload and a 200% increase during my time as State Representative overall. Things are really going crazy over here at the moment. Of the emails, one was an update on the continuing Cossack debate and the second was from a person who had a small lease of land on the Burrup Peninsula and was looking for contract archaeologists to survey it so he could build a factory on it. The first email I filed away for future reference, the second I pointed in the direction of some contractors.

Motion: 'That the reports as presented are accepted as read'. Moved: President. Motion carried nem. con.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Vince Crowe & Associates was appointed as the auditor for the 2007–2008 financial year.

Motion: 'That AAA accepts appointment of Vince Crowe & Associates as auditor for the 2008–2009 financial year'. Moved: President. Motion carried nem. con.

7. Replacement for AUSARCH-I

The President noted the desire of many members of AAA to establish a replacement to AUSARCH which folded in September 2008. A document with a range of options for a new discussion list prepared by Sam Bolton was tabled.

Discussion: Sue McIntyre supported a 'members only' list. This would encourage people to join the Association, and would be useful for advertising work. Jo McDonald noted that a 'members only' list could be moderated. Ken Mulvaney said it would be sensible to have a 'members only' list as those on the list would be bound by the AAA Code of Ethics. Harry Webber noted that there were many people external to AAA who offered good contributions. Annie Ross offered a motion to express thanks to those who contributed to running AUSARCH. Peter Veth noted that a moderated list would require a significant commitment of time (some 15-20 hours per week).

Motion: 'That AAA would like to thank Peter Veth, David Rowe and Peter Hiscock for establishing and managing AUSARCH'. Moved: President. Motion carried nem. con.

Motion: 'That AAA investigate options for a replacement for AUSARCH for AAA members only'. Moved: President. Motion carried nem. con.

8. Collaboration with Society of Antiquaries

Matthew Spriggs introduced the possibility of approaching the Society of Antiquaries London to provide financial support for bringing international keynote speakers to AAA conferences.

Discussion: The President endorsed the proposal and no objections were registered.

9. Burrup Peninsula Nomination

Sue Smalldon requested AAA support the World Heritage Nomination for the Burrup Peninsula.

Discussion: Sue McIntyre noted that the Burrup was not on the Australian Government's Tentative List (and nor were any other Australian sites), and that once the Burrup was on the list it would be more difficult to remove it. Ken Mulvaney pointed out that the Western Australian Premier recognised the World Heritage values of the Burrup Peninsula and would potentially support an application for inclusion on the Tentative List. Peter Veth noted that industry would need to reform protocols that prohibited work alongside World Heritage sites, and suggested the need to lobby senior heritage managers at BHP and Rio Tinto with the view to a parallel submission to industry.

Motion: 'That the AAA Executive write to Commonwealth and State parties calling for the inclusion of Dampier Archipelago on the Tentative World Heritage List and make a media release in this regard with parallel submissions to relevant industries'. Moved: President. Motion carried nem. con.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Election of Officers of the Committee

The following AAA Officers were elected for 2009:

Executive

President – Ian McNiven

Secretary – Tim Denham

Treasurer – Bruno David

Public Officer – Sally Brockwell

Editors – Sean Ulm & Annie Ross

Committee

Membership Secretary – Jeremy Ash & Liam Brady

Media Liaison Officer – Peter Veth & Wayne Brennan

Webmaster – Samantha Bolton

Indigenous Liaison Officer – Mark Dugay-Grist, Robyn Churnside & Tootsie Daniels

Subcommittee Chairs

Prizes and Awards – Val Attenbrow

Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning – Jane Balme

Code of Ethics – Richard Fullagar

National Archaeology Week – Michael Westaway

State and Territory Representatives

ACT – no nomination

NSW – Jodie Benton

NT – Daryl Guse

QLD – Michael Morrison

SA – Lynley Wallis*

TAS – Denise Gaughwin*

VIC – Harry Webber

WA – Stuart Rapley

* Accepted position following AGM.

12. Close of Meeting

The President thanked the members for attending the AGM and noted that the next AGM would be held at the 2009 AAA conference to be hosted by Flinders University in South Australia. The meeting was closed at 7.32pm.