

Australian Archaeological Association Annual General Meeting 2015

Minutes

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

6:30pm

1 Welcome

The 2015 AGM commenced at 6:34pm, chaired by Fiona Hook. The President welcomed all to the meeting, and asked everyone to sign on the attendance sheet.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Lyndon Patterson, David Mott, Pat Faulkner, Sandra Bowdler, Jill Reid, Travis Gottschutzke, and Vicky Winton.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2014 AAA AGM

The Minutes of the AAA AGM, held at the Pullman Cairns International, Cairns, Queensland on 2nd December 2014 were circulated by email and on the website amongst the AAA membership.

Motion: 'That the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. has circulated, be taken as read and confirmed".
Moved from the chair: Fiona Hook. Motion carried nem. con.

4 Business arising from the previous AGM

Fiona Hook noted that the business arising would be addressed in the reports.

5 Reports

5.1 Presidents Report (Fiona Hook)

In this our 41st year of existence the Association has seen some major milestones achieved that were foreshadowed in my last report.

Once again the NEC has worked intensively and closely for the year meeting 12 times. We welcomed the new journal editorial team of Sandra Bowdler / Kate Morse / Vicky Winton to the last 10 months of meetings. I thank for their hard work Peter Veth / Jo McDonald (Vice-Presidents), Martin Porr and his replacement Lucia Clayton

Martinez (Secretary) Ben Smith / Sven Ouzman (Treasurers), Jamie Hampson / Tom Whitley / Leslie Zubieta Calvert (Membership Secretaries), and Sally Brockwell (Public Officer). Sam Harper (Webmaster) has also been a regular attendee to our meetings this year owing to the issues with our website.

As discussed in the 2014 AGM and detailed in the NEC report the Association faced a number of serious challenges. The two foremost issues are our financial stability and a dysfunctional website. The measures agreed to in last years AGM have reduced the deficit and we will be reporting a small loss for the year with projection for 2016 of placing us firmly back into surplus and a rebuilding phase. Rigorous management of our income and expenditure by the Treasurers has achieved this.

The NEC would have reported a small profit this year if we hadn't had to redesign our website. In early 2015 it became apparent and on the advice of Alyka (website host) that our website was completely unstable and we would need to have a new one designed. The NEC put this work out to tender and a designer was selected. The build phase took longer than expected and the website was launched earlier this month.

During this time the Treasurers and more specifically the Membership Secretaries and the Webmaster had worked inordinate hours to ensure members could still join. The membership secretaries have had to manually manage the membership database and along with the Webmaster have protected and rebuilt the database after repeated phishing attacks.

In the 2014 AGM the NEC was tasked with selecting the new editors of *Australian Archaeology*. With the assistance of a sub-committee of past AA editors and some EAB members, interviews were held and the team lead by Sandra Bowdler was selected. Their first journal edition will be in you letter boxes shortly. The NEC thanks the outgoing journal editors, Heather Bourke and Lynley Wallis, for their hard work and for helping through the transition period.

The NEC was also tasked with making the decision whether to have an external publishing house take over the publication of AA or to keep publishing in house. Again a sub-committee of past AA editors and some EAB members who had experienced a similar process for another journal was setup to advise the NEC on the two offers from publishing houses. After much deliberation it was decided that the Maney offer gave the association the best deal. Ben Smith (Treasurer) led the negotiation team with Maney and managed to add a number of our wish list items into the agreement. Halfway through the negotiation Taylor and Francis bought out Maney. They agreed to honour all conditions agreed too. The contract was signed with Taylor and Francis in early November to publish AA from 2016 onwards. Our journal editors, who still have complete editorial and stylistic control, are now preparing for that transfer.

The NEC has spent some time lobbying government at a state and federal level in an attempt to highlight serious issues in heritage protection and extolling the uniqueness of the Australia archaeological record. In the same vein the NEC has briefed the media resulting in a number of newspaper articles.

As we prepare to handover to the next NEC there are a number of outstanding matters that the current NEC would encourage them to pursue. We propose that future NEC activities should target public perceptions of the importance of heritage with continuing direct engagement at Ministerial level and engagement with the media. Now that the website has been launched we see a necessity to grow the membership base especially with a focus on international membership and to concurrently increase the international awareness for AAA and I look forward to assisting the new NEC in my new role as Vice-President.

I hope that you have a great conference in my hometown and for those who didn't make it across the Nullarbor you've missed a great treat.

Discussion arising: none.

5.2 Secretary's Report (Martin Porr and Lucia Clayton Martinez)

Martin Porr

The past year's activities of the Secretary were mostly related to tasks that supported the Executive directly and the distribution of information to and from AAA members. Because of a new position and new responsibilities, I stepped down from the position of Secretary effective from the Executive meeting on May 1st, 2015.

Activities fell overall into the following categories:

1. ***Distribution of information, answering and forwarding of emails to the Secretary's email account.*** Requests were mostly related to work experience and job opportunities, membership issues, inquiries related to the Annual Meeting, requests directed at the Executive for consideration
2. ***Organisation of general announcements through the AAA Secretary mailing list.*** Announcements were related to the AAA 2015 Annual Meeting, the amendments to the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act, the new editorial team for the Association's journal, revisions regarding the AAA website and memberships
3. ***Preparation of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the AAA.*** The Minutes were published together with the announcement for the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the AAA
4. ***Organisation of the Executive meetings.*** While I was still in the role of Secretary in 2015 the AAA Executive met four times either at UWA or the

offices of Archae-aus in Fremantle. For each meeting an agenda was prepared and circulated and detailed minutes were prepared and circulated among the Executive for approval at the following meeting.

Lucia Clayton Martinez

I filled in Martin Porr's place as secretary from May onwards and continued the activities related above, as well as organising the reports for the 2015 AAA AGM, announcing the 2015 AAA AGM, continuing the organisation of monthly meetings at either UWA or the Archae-aus offices in Fremantle. Emails sent to the secretary were in the same vein as those received by Martin, outlined above.

Discussion arising: none.

5.3 Treasurer's Report (Benjamin Smith, Sven Ouzman)

Overview

This report covers the 2014/15 financial year (September 1st 2014 to August 31st 2015), and is the second report prepared by the current Treasurers. All figures provided are derived from audited reports. After two years of significant deficits (\$62,323 in 2012/13 and \$32,054 in 2013/14), our primary effort has been on cost control and upon delivering a break-even financial report. We confirm that we have avoided another significant deficit and report a much reduced deficit of \$3,587. A single unanticipated expenditure stopped us from posting a surplus: the AAA website malfunctions became so serious that a professional rebuild of the entire site was unavoidable (total cost \$20,000).

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Variation
Total income	\$108,284	\$113,875	\$105,322	<i>(\$8,553)</i>
Total expenditure	\$(170,607)	\$(145,929)	\$(108,910)	<i>\$37,019</i>
Operating surplus	\$(62,323)	\$(32,054)	\$(3,587)	<i>\$28,466</i>
Retained surplus	\$200,037	\$137,713	\$105,660	<i>(\$32,054)</i>
Total Equity	\$137,713	\$105,660	\$102,073	<i>(\$3,587)</i>

Table 1: Surplus/Deficit, 2014/15 financial year (GST Excl.)

Accounting processes

This is the first financial year where all income and expenditure has been run through the professional accounting software: MYOB. All AAA payments are now electronic. We no longer handle petty cash or issue cheques – though we can still receive cheques. Our MYOB software allows us instant oversight of all aspects of the financial position of the Association and permits a level of monthly financial control that was impossible before. This software has streamlined the task of managing AAA finances and the preparation of annual reports for audit purposes. This is an important development for the Association that will ensure a smooth transition and continuity in financial management whenever new Treasurers are elected.

Auditors

We have been forced to change auditors as Vin Crowe and Associates were bought out and informed us they could no longer conduct our audits. We have engaged Anthony Curtis and Co., based in the ACT, for this audit. In sourcing a new auditor, we have been advised that it is easier – and standard practice – to engage a firm from within the state or territory in which the business or association is registered. We therefore seek to appoint a permanent auditor from ACT. This current audit has been noticeably more thorough than the previous audit, and we believe this increased scrutiny is positive, especially in light of the Association's newly established Public Fund.

GST

In 2013 we passed the annual turnover threshold of \$150,000 that is the maximum allowed before non-profit organisations, such as ourselves, must register for Goods and Services Tax. We therefore registered for GST on the 1st July 2014 and have submitted quarterly Business Activity Statements (BAS) through our Bookkeeper, Additions Bookkeeping Services, since this date. Whilst this has increased the work of the Treasurers, this has been somewhat offset by the efficiency dividend provided by the new MYOB software. As predicted in 2013/14, our registration for GST has not negatively impacted the financial position of the Association. Overall, we have received back slightly more in GST than we have paid.

The Australian Archaeological Association Public Fund

In 2015 members of the Association voted to amend the Constitution of the Association to allow for the formation of a Public Fund. The Fund is now established and functioning. The Public Fund is the charitable arm of the Association. It receives

donations and it will support projects that further the cultural purposes of our Association. Our application for gift-deductible tax status is pending with the Ministry of Culture's Register of Cultural Organisations and we hope it will be approved in 2016. Over the next decade we will endeavour to build up the Public Fund so that it can provide significant, long-term support to Australian archaeology.

Income

We are reporting an income decline of \$8,553 in 2014/15, but this is somewhat misleading as the income reported in previous years was GST inclusive, whereas, now that we are GST registered, GST must be excluded from both our income and expenditure reports. The total income received in 2014/15 was therefore in real terms similar to that received in 2013/14.

	2013/14	2014/15	Variation
Conference	\$28,051.50	\$28,964.98	\$913.48
Conference Trust	\$13,804.97	-	\$(13,804.97)
Gifts and Donations	-	\$14,132.23	\$14,132.32
Journal	\$13,320.48	\$2,880.80	\$(10,439.68)
Royalties and back issues	\$1,170.06	\$3,933.26	\$2,763.32
Subscriptions	\$56,508.77	\$53,671.79	\$(2,836.98)
Interest	\$1,019.57	\$1,739.20	\$719.63
Total income	\$113,875.35	\$105,322.26	(\$8,552.88)

Table 2 Income, 2014/15 financial year (GST Excl.)

Items to note:

- The apparent decline in journal income is not a real decline. In moving to our MYOB software and in our reporting for GST it became evident that our institutional journal subscribers, previously included in 'journal income', needed to be reclassified within our broader income category 'subscriptions'.
- The income from subscriptions should have been considerably higher in 2014/15 than in 2013/14 because subscription rates were increased in January 2015 and the income from institutional subscribers was reallocated into this line item. The reported decline in subscriptions is caused by two factors: a) the 2014/15 figure is exclusive of GST (whereas the 2013/14 figures are inclusive of GST) and so the

real amount received was higher in real terms than in 2014/15; b) many of our members were unable to pay their subscription fee during this financial year because of serious problems with our old website payment portal. These problems are now resolved and we expect to see a resurgence in subscriptions during the next financial year because our Membership Secretaries are not reporting a calendar year drop in membership numbers, on the contrary they report encouraging growth.

- Our improvement in interest earnings marks the dividend of our shifting all reserves to savings accounts. In real terms our reserves have fallen slightly, by \$3,587, during this financial year.

Expenditure

	2013/14	2014/15	Variation
Audit fees	\$(2,420.62)	\$(1,184.55)	\$1,236.07
Bank fees & charges	\$(2,249.28)	\$(1,401.32)	\$847.96
Bookkeeping	\$(85.60)	\$(316.32)	\$(230.72)
Conference expenses	\$(31,362.58)	\$(13,661.33)	\$17,701.25
Insurance & regulatory costs	\$(2,921.11)	\$(5,270.43)	\$(2,349.32)
Journal Production	\$(75,092.99)	\$(51,532.32)	\$23,560.67
Postage & stationary	\$(8,746.59)	\$(9,122.48)	\$(375.89)
Prizes and awards	\$(10,480.00)	\$(3,490.00)	\$6,990.00
Subscriptions & back issues	\$(2,155.73)	-	\$2,155.73
Sundry expenses	\$(2,120.49)	\$(4,286.15)	\$(2,165.25)
Web & IT	\$(8,293.83)	\$(18,644.92)	\$(10,351.09)
Total expenses	\$(145,928.87)	\$(108,909.82)	\$37,019.41

The significant reported decline in expenditure from \$145,929 to \$108,910 is a product of the implementation of stringent cost controls.

Table 3 Expenses, 2014/15 financial year (GST Excl.)

Items to note:

- The cost of bookkeeping is increasing because of the additional work of GST reportage. Our bookkeeper has worked *pro bono* this financial year, but this cannot be expected to continue.
- We are progressively working towards the position where no conference expenditures are met by the Association. All conference expenditure should be paid from the conference income that is received by our conference organisers.
- \$ The cost of *Australian Archaeology* was significantly reduced. We aim for

further AA cost reductions, as good publication practice should ensure that total journal costs are lower than total subscriptions income. During this financial year the total production and postage cost of AA was \$60,654.80 which is higher than our total subscription income of \$53,671.79.

- The amount given in prizes and awards is substantially lower this year because the Association was not a financial position to make any awards in the Student Research Grant Scheme in this financial year. As we return to a financial surplus the reinstatement of SRGS is our top priority.
- Sundry expenses were higher than is usual because we had to mint a new batch of ten Rhys Jones Medals. This sundry expense will not recur until 2024.
- The cost of web and IT were significantly higher this year because we had to pay for the development of an entirely new website. Again, this is an investment for the future and it is not expected that anything much more than routine maintenance and minor improvements will be needed for the website over the next few years in addition to routine hosting costs.

Assets and liabilities

Current Assets have decreased for a third consecutive year and stand at \$105,458.40. Net Assets have decreased to \$102,072.65. Net Assets are the total equity of the Association. This small overall reduction in our assets of \$3,587.06 is a significant improvement in our financial performance - we reported to total of \$94,377 of reductions in assets during the previous two years. We are in a strong position to post a financial surplus in 2015/16 and thereby return to a status of appreciating assets.

Items to note:

- There have been no major changes in the structure of our major operating and savings accounts. As in the previous year our cash flow remains tight.
- We have opened a new bank account for the Public Fund, as required by law. Public Fund monies are held separately and subject to legislated national reporting requirements.
- Accounts receivable are monies owed: i.e. monies invoiced and for which we await payment.
- As decided in 2013/14 we have removed the Bruce Veitch Award as a liability and re-entered it as a donation, as per the donors' original intentions and befitting of this ward's nature.
- A new line item in liabilities shows the GST monies currently held by the Association that potentially may need to be paid to ATO. In practice, only a small percentage of this amount will actually be claimed by ATO, the rest being written off against expenses.

	2013/14	2014/15	<i>Variation</i>
Current Assets			
CBA Operating Account	\$7,536.63	\$1,801.50	<i>\$(5735.13)</i>
CBA Savings Account	\$105.24	\$105.24	<i>\$0</i>
PayPal Account	\$3,331.56	\$2,288.46	<i>\$(1043.10)</i>
Petty Cash	\$38.77	-	<i>\$(38.77)</i>
Conference Online Trust	\$13,804.97	\$7,500.00	<i>\$(6304.97)</i>
Bruce Veitch Fund	\$14,123.91	\$14,410.02	<i>\$286.11</i>
Prize Fund	\$80,773.13	\$78,735.49	<i>\$(2037.64)</i>
Public Fund	-	\$85.35	<i>\$85.35</i>
Accounts Receivable		\$532.34	<i>\$532.34</i>
Total Current Assets	\$119,714.21	\$105,458.40	<i>\$(14,255.81)</i>
Current Liabilities			
Bruce Veitch Award	\$14,054.50	-	<i>\$14,054.50</i>
GST	-	\$3,385.75	<i>\$(3,385.75)</i>
Total Current Liabilities	\$14,054.50	\$3,385.75	<i>\$10,668.75</i>
Net Assets	\$105,590.30	\$102,072.65	<i>\$(3,587.06)</i>
Equity			
Retained surplus	\$137,713.23	\$119,714.21	<i>\$(32,053.52)</i>
Operating surplus	\$(32,053.52)	\$(3,587.06)	<i>\$28,466.46</i>
Total equity	\$105,659.71	\$102,072.65	<i>\$(3587.06)</i>

Table 4 Balance sheet, 2014/15 financial year.

Looking forward to 2015/16

The coming financial year will see a significant change to the financial management of the Association. During 2014/15 we negotiated a favourable publication agreement with the Taylor and Francis Group of Informa PLC. As part of the agreement Taylor and Francis will take on the administration of the subscription payments of the Association. This agreement is complex and multi-faceted, but the important financial terms include the following: Taylor and Francis will retain a

section of this income to cover the cost of Journal production and postage to our members, the remainder of subscription income will be returned to the Association. We have agreed to pay a fixed price of \$55 per Ordinary Member for three hard copy issues of AA per year and unlimited digital access. In addition we will pay a fixed fee of \$6000 so that up to 550 concessionary members (students and retirees) can receive unlimited digital access to the journal. These prices are fixed for seven years. Institutional subscribers will pay the current fee charged by the Association and this fee may not rise by more than 5% p.a. In addition to the above, a royalty will be paid to the Association of 25% of net sales receipts.

This permits us to calculate the exact cost of the Journal to the Association over the next seven years. Basing the calculation on our existing subscriber base:

- 651 Ordinary members will cost us: \$35,805.
- Up to 550 student and retired members will cost us: \$6,000.

Total fixed p.a. cost for next seven years: \$41,805.

It is difficult to predict the extend of future royalty payments, but these are likely to increase steadily as the marketing power of Taylor and Francis extends the distribution of and paid access to *Australian Archaeology* and there seems no doubt that they will greatly exceed our current income. Taylor and Francis have suggested that the initial royalty payment is likely to offset costs by an amount in excess of \$10,000.

This carefully negotiated agreement with Taylor and Francis will secure the long term quality, expansion and growth in exposure/prestige of *Australian Archaeology*, while leaving the Association in full editorial control over the journal. As importantly, it will place the Association in a secure and predictable financial position where it will then be in a position to make annual awards to support student research projects and continue to give financial support to the editors of *Australian Archaeology* to hire editorial assistants as needed. Passing on the administration of membership to a commercial company (but with precise fee increase restrictions in place) will take a massive administrative burden off both the Treasurers and Membership Secretaries – two roles that are becoming impossibly onerous for employed workers. This is a good deal for the Association and for Taylor and Francis. Future Association Treasurers will find themselves able to make more meaningful financial contributions to archaeology in Australia thanks to the benefits of this agreement.

Discussion arising: Val Attenbrow enquired how the subscription for lifetime members would fall in this structure. The Treasurer stated that all lifetime members would continue to receive the journal for free, and that the Association will pay \$55 on their behalf, compared to \$96 last year. Peter White enquired whether the back issues will continue to be produced by Taylor and Francis, do they 25% of sales

include that, and will they be available digitally. The Treasurer clarified that all the back issues are made available to members online through the AAA website and on JSTOR. Part of the deal with Taylor and Francis is that the JSTOR window is increased to five years. And all of the back issues will be available on the T&F website. Any subscriber will be available to access back issues for free. Receipts for these sales are included in the 25% sales. Peter White commented that it is a very good deal.

Motion: vote of thanks to the Executive for organising the contract with Taylor and Francis, a lot of work with a very good outcome for the Association. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded by Sean Ulm. Motion carried nem. con.

Further discussion arising: Sean Ulm raised concern about the increase in membership fees, and whether it is possible now to scale them back. The Treasurer agreed that once work starts with Taylor and Francis it is hoped that fees can be scaled back. The President suggested it be put on the Agenda for next year's AGM and make a decision then whether to scale back membership fees.

5.4 Membership Secretary's Report (Tom Whitley, Jamie Hampson, and Leslie Zubieta Calvert)

Current Makeup of the AAA

Once again, it was a busy year for the Membership Secretaries (MS). We continued to deal with phishing attacks on the old website and database, meanwhile awaiting the long-anticipated release of the new website (which launched in November 2015); which will be discussed in much more detail by the Webmaster. To summarise the nature of the membership: The total number of AAA financial members, as of November 11, 2015, stands at 1011. This is up 142 from 2014. Table 1 shows the membership by category for the last 10 years. As a comparison, Figure 1 illustrates the trends in membership by category over the last 30 years. Both the table and the chart use the new simplified categories defined last year and approved at the 2014 AGM.

The membership includes 178 new (mostly students) and 833 renewing members (Figure 2). The acquisition rate for new members is slightly lower than the average over the last 10 years. However, the rates of retention (percentage of existing members who renew) and attrition (the percentage of existing members who choose not to renew) is much better (Table 2). About 96% of the members are Australian-based and illustrated by state in Figure 3. The remaining 4% are International (Figure 4). There was a slight decrease in international memberships this year.

Table 1. Members by Category (2005 - 2015).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Life member	8	7	8	10	12	13	14	17	18	21	14
Institutional	56	57	68	68	69	69	70	65	55	39	46
Concessionary	120	96	126	157	177	177	247	284	305	294	280
Ordinary	281	329	345	415	460	506	658	702	682	515	671
Grand Total	465	489	547	650	718	765	989	1068	1050	869	1011

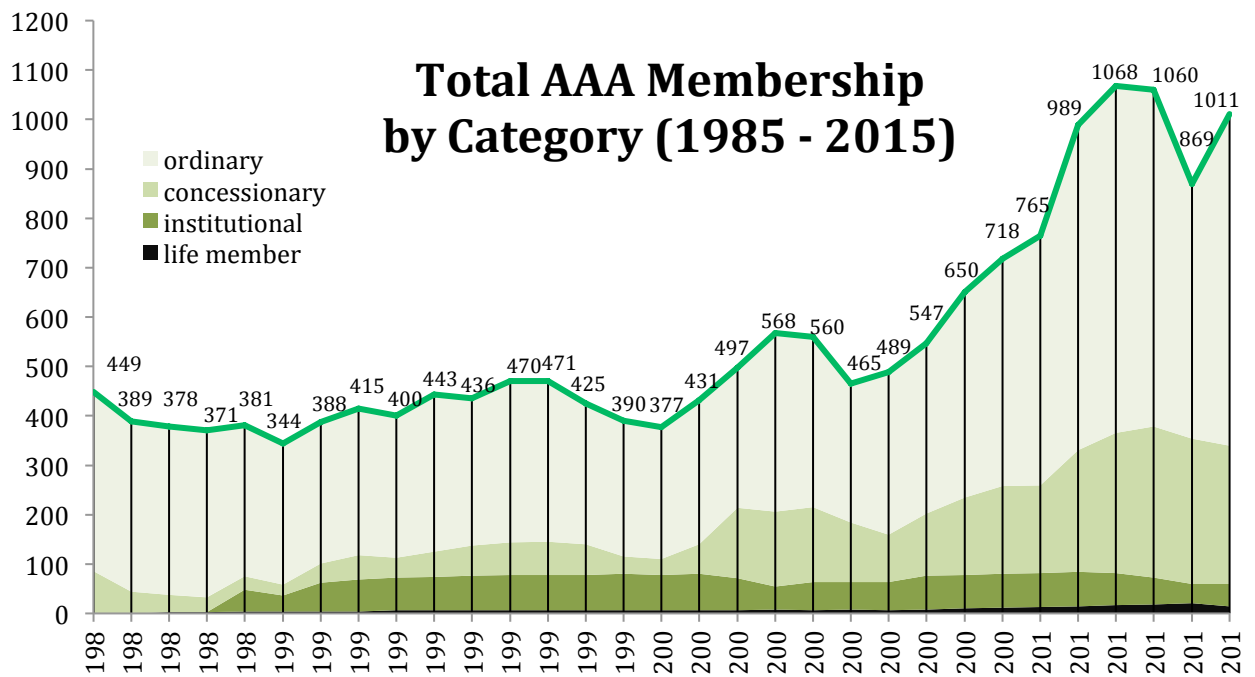


Figure 1 – Total AAA Membership by Category (1985 through 2015)

Table 2. Membership Acquisition, Retention, and Attrition Rates

	Acquisition	Retention	Attrition
2005	17%	69%	31%
2006	16%	86%	14%
2007	18%	94%	6%
2008	23%	96%	4%
2009	28%	83%	17%
2010	23%	84%	16%
2011	25%	100%	0%
2012	32%	76%	24%
2013	26%	73%	27%
2014	24%	59%	42%
2015	22%	96%	3%
Average	23%	82%	18%

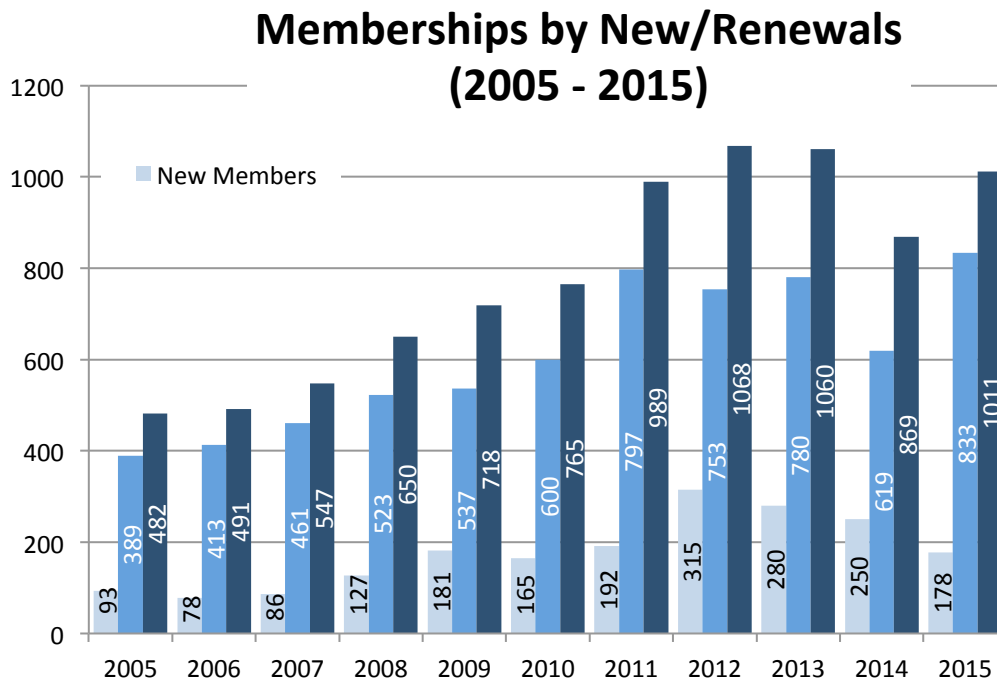


Figure 2 – Memberships by New/Renewals (2005 through 2015).

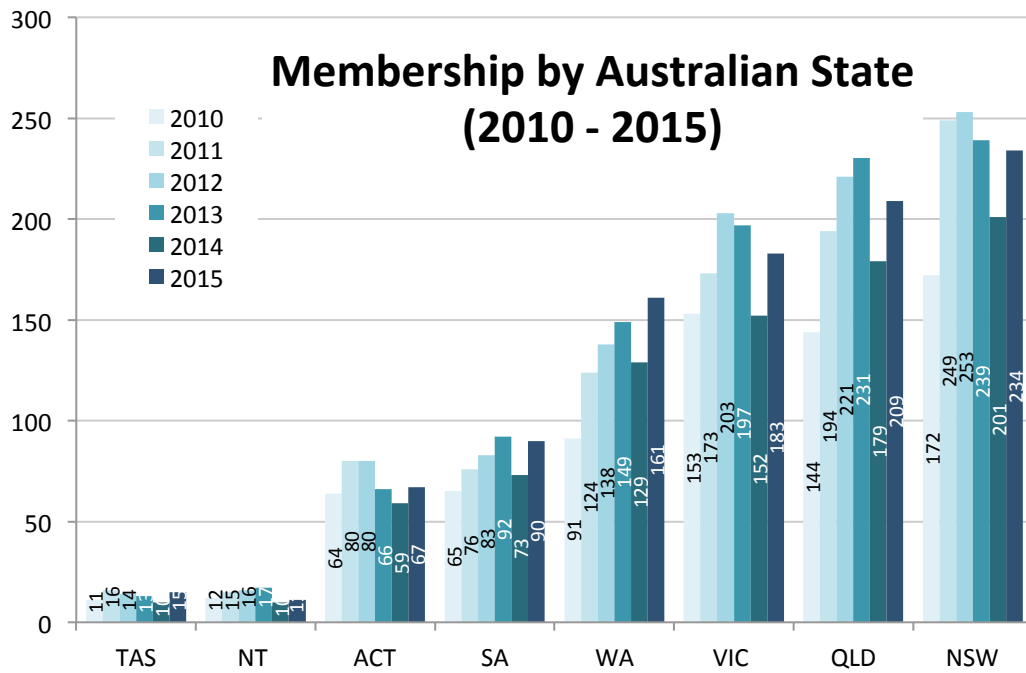


Figure 3 – Total Australian Memberships by State (2010 through 2015).

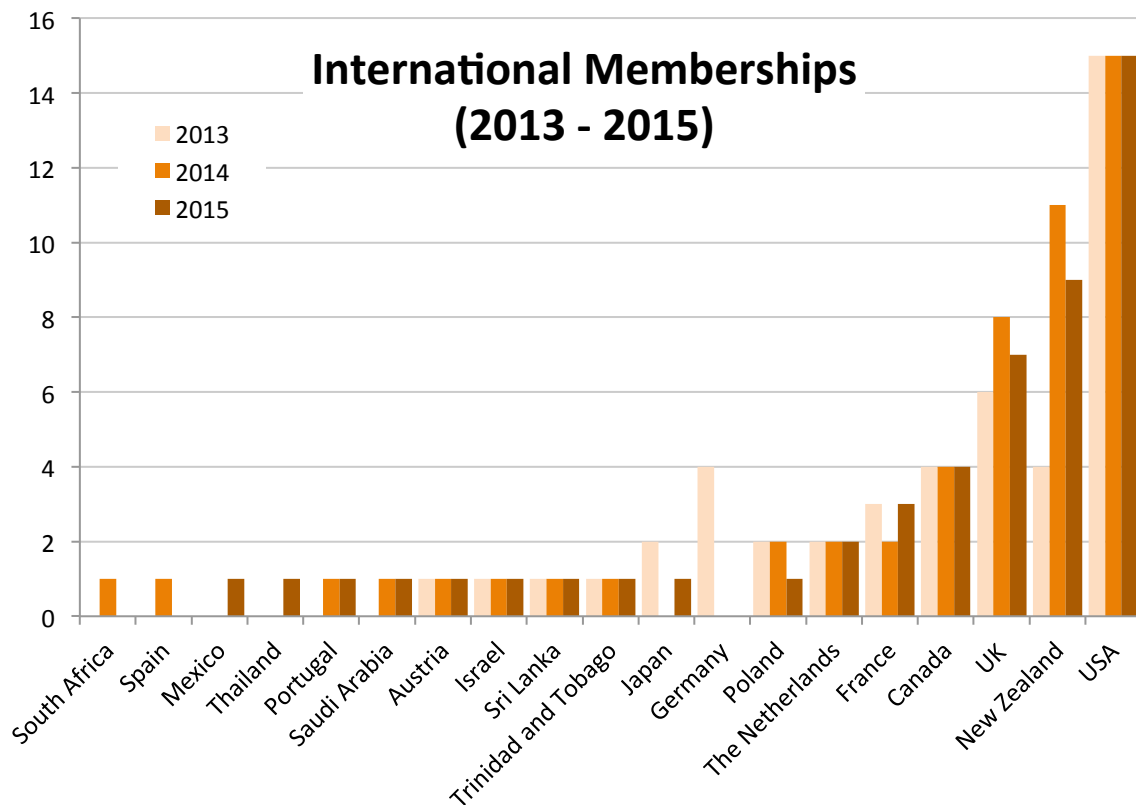


Figure 4 – International Memberships by Country (2013 through 2015).

With respect to the proportional distribution across membership categories, currently ordinary members make up 66% of the AAA, concessionary members (students and retirees) comprise 28%, institutions 5%, and life members the remaining 1%. Table 3 illustrates the trends in representation across membership categories for the last 10 years. Table 4 shows the percentage change from year to year (with 2005 as the baseline) and is conditionally formatted to highlight the largest proportional changes with darker filled cells; either positively or negatively.

Table 3. Proportional Representation by Membership Category (2005 - 2015).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Life member	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Institutional	12%	12%	12%	10%	10%	9%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%
Concessionary	26%	20%	23%	24%	25%	23%	25%	27%	29%	34%	28%
Ordinary	60%	67%	63%	64%	64%	66%	67%	66%	65%	59%	66%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4. Annual Percentage Change by Membership Category (2005 - 2015).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Life member	0.47%	-0.29%	0.03%	0.08%	0.13%	0.03%	0.28%	0.18%	0.11%	0.72%	1.03%
Institutional	1.86%	0.39%	0.78%	1.97%	0.85%	0.59%	1.94%	0.99%	0.90%	0.70%	0.06%
Concessionary	-1.16%	6.17%	3.40%	1.12%	0.50%	1.51%	1.84%	1.62%	2.18%	5.06%	6.14%
Ordinary	-1.18%	6.85%	4.21%	0.77%	0.22%	2.08%	0.39%	0.80%	1.39%	5.08%	7.11%
St. Dev.	1.46%	5.33%	3.16%	1.38%	0.59%	1.52%	1.57%	1.19%	1.58%	4.18%	5.45%

We can see that the largest change since last year is the reversal of the trending decrease in ordinary memberships. More than 95% of the existing members renewed their membership, whereas only 59% did the previous year. However, there were fewer new student memberships this year than in years past. The

renewal rate trends are not entirely clear though because there does appear to have been an automated renewal feature that was at least partially enacted within the database while it was under the domain of the old website (discussed further below). But the return to higher existing member renewal this year suggests that the downturn in the job market may be improving, or at least levelling out. Also of note in both Tables 3 and 4 is the slight improvement in institutional memberships this year.

Other Issues

At the beginning of this year we were hoping to have migrated to a new database structure by the end of July. As the new website evolved, the delay stretched until mid-November before the membership information was transferred over. This was problematic for the MS team because it meant we had to keep a 'clean' running spreadsheet of active members, and update it manually with new information as members logged in and made changes. Keeping up with address changes was notably difficult and as a result some members did not initially receive their journals. There were also numerous issues with members not being able to access the old website at all, and having to renew via cheque or manual bank transfer. Again, this period lasted a good five months longer than we had anticipated. Currently the member database is kept within the domain of the new website and is experiencing no new phishing attacks, or corruptions.

One additional problem that was identified was the tendency for the database to override the end of calendar year expiration date for some members, and to automatically renew certain membership types without receiving payments. We identified about 100 of these erroneously renewed memberships at the beginning of the year and changed their membership status to 'expired' based on their last date of payment. Those members were notified and asked to login and renew. The problem was eliminated by manually switching the expiration dates for all active members to Dec 31, 2015, in the 'clean' database prior to its inclusion under the new website.

In 2016, the membership database will be integrated into the Taylor and Francis system and will cease to be managed by the next MS team. With the transfer of the membership roster to Taylor and Francis, the MS team's role in maintaining the database will no longer exist. Instead the primary function of the MS will be as the intermediary or ombudsman with Taylor and Francis, the NEC, and the editorial team. We expect that the future MS, or MS team, will find the role far less chaotic than it has been these last two years. Please note that membership runs for a

calendar year and not for a year following the date of renewal. Thus, all membership payments made in 2015 will go towards the member's 2015 membership only. Members can expect to receive membership renewal notices from Taylor & Francis in early 2016.

Discussion arising: Mathew Spriggs noted that in regards to the issues with address changes, ANU has changed the postcode on their address. The Membership Secretary noted that this will be checked. Peter White commented that institutional membership has dropped in the last ten years from 12% to 3-5% approximately, and enquired that with the switch to Taylor and Francis, what has been discussed about institutional memberships. The Treasurer replied that it becomes Taylor and Francis' money and the Association gets 25% of it. We can expect a radical increase, as 46 for a journal like AAA is not enough, it should be much more. It is anticipated that in the next 5-10 years there will be a radical shift in the royalty payment. The Membership Secretary noted that institutional membership has been going down for years as institutions are going through major publishers. The Treasurer also noted that Taylor and Francis will supply information on readership, which should increase radically along with citations. Christian Reepmeyer wondered whether renewing membership in July could be an option, as it is when people get their tax returns, which is what ICOMOS does. The Treasurer noted that according to T&F renewal can be done anytime, however it is in the Constitution that it be done at the beginning of the year. Peter White suggested that it remain in January, as the journal runs over a year.

5.5 Editors' Report (Sandra Bowdler, Vicky Winton, Kate Morse, Joe Dortch, Jane Balme, with input from Heather Burke)

During 2015, Numbers 80 (June) and 81 (December) of *Australian Archaeology* (AA) were published; AA80 was posted in late May, and AA81 will be posted in late November or early December. Last year was the 40th anniversary year and, to celebrate, extra large volumes were published, which meant that there was not a lot of copy backlog for this year. AA80 had a total of 9 articles, while AA81 has 5. Fresh copy has been coming in, however, so, provided referees cooperate, next year should see a substantial number of new papers.

Change but not, we hope, decay

This year has seen a change in the Editorial team, from Heather Burke and Lynley Wallis (Editors), Sean Winter (Short Report Editor), Alice Gorman and Claire St George (Book Review Editors), and Tiina Manne (Thesis Abstracts Editor) to a larger

team comprising Sandra Bowdler (Editor), Vicky Winton and Kate Morse (Assistant Editors), Joe Dortch and Jane Balme (Consulting Editors). Work allocations amongst this team is based on differential burdens rather than responsibilities, in other words, Vicky, Kate and Sandra are doing the proof reading while more general issues are resolved by consensus of the whole team. It also means that we are not at this time having separate responsibilities for short reports, thesis abstracts or book reviews, but we will be reviewing how this works as we go along.

The handover officially took place on July 1 2015, but effectively the work load was not entirely shifted until late September. This means that the most recent issue, No 81 December 2015, is to a large extent a collaboration of the old and new editorial teams. We are still reviewing how to work best with the website, Facebook page and so on.

EAB

The Editorial Advisory Board is under review by the new team, and changes will be announced in the near future.

Change in production

As most members will know, we are about to sign off on a deal which will see *Australian Archaeology* be produced under the aegis of international publisher Taylor and Francis. While we foresee many benefits from this, in terms of both financial aspects for AAA overall and lightening of workload for the editorial team as well as AAA officers, it is about to be finalised at the time of writing and no actual action has as yet taken place under this new arrangement.

Continued Support of WAC Global Libraries

We note that in 2014 AAA continued to support the WAC Global Libraries programme (<http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/activities/global-libraries/198-global-libraries-program>), which sees AA sent to libraries in 30 economically disadvantaged countries around the world.

Motion: That AAA continues to provide free copies of the journal to members of the WAC Global Libraries programme.

Ulm-Ross Prize

With a large field of entries to review, we thank co-members of our judging panel for 2015: Annie Ross, Jo McDonald and Rodney Harrison. We look forward to announcing the winning paper at the AAA 2015 conference dinner.

Discussion arising: none.

5.6 Webmaster's Report (*Sam Harper*)

During 2015 the role of Webmaster was passed from Erin Mein to temporary Webmaster Jacq Matthews, and then to Sam Harper. As a large part of this handover it was recognised that the current website was reaching the end of its life cycle and potentially needed complete replacement. Issues included collating content from the accumulation of a wealth of material built up over the history of the website, security – the website was frequently being hacked, creating temporary shut-down's and blocking particular IP addresses, and speed of the website as a result of various issues.

As Webmaster I was trained by Jacq Matthews in the basics of uploading events to the calendar, and adding various posts.

During the course of the year, and with the development of the new website, it became clear that the workload of the Webmaster is considerable, and recognition is due to all previous webmasters who have managed to maintain this workload and ensure that the website has been kept up to date with all relevant information.

With previous handovers between Webmasters information has been lost about the role, including passwords and information around the general layout and content of the website.

Following these two considerations it was decided by the Webmaster that ideally the Webmaster role should be shared in tandem, with offset timing i.e. each webmaster position runs for two years, with a new webmaster being recruited and trained each year. Lucia Clayton Martinez volunteered to become a co-webmaster in September, and was gratefully inducted.

New Website

It was decided by the NEC that a new website would be developed in 2015 using the same content, but developing a new design, and built on a new platform. The website hosting contract expired early in the year, and Alyka took over the hosting in the interim, prior to the development of the new website.

A series of website developers were approached to tender for the website, including Alyka. The successful applicant was Digital Monopoly (DM), whose design for the new website was innovative and visually appealing.

The original launch date was proposed to be late July – a three-month build period to fit in with the expiry of our hosting contract with Alyka. For uncontrollable reasons this timeframe blew out considerably, one issue may have been the amount of content on the existing website was much larger than the new host DM had realised. With perseverance, and consultation with the AAA NEC, the design was finalised, and build process monitored through development links.

The new website was launched on the 11th of November. So far, there have been few complaints experienced with the new website - a few people have had difficulties logging in and these issues have been resolved swiftly. Positively, there have been more compliments on the new website than complaints, people have been impressed with the look and design, and ease of access to move through content.

The Editor commented that the Webmaster is currently preparing to out a new section in the website called “Latest Date”. This will be for consultants who have a lot of dates that get lost in the grey literature and are inaccessible to everyone else. If they have the relevant permissions from communities, clients, etc., they can be uploaded via a form the Webmaster is preparing.

Discussion arising: Peter White raised the concern about needing to know the context and material of the radiocarbon date. The Editor noted that all of that information will be on the form, and it will be reviewed once processed. All the information that comes with the date from the laboratory (how is was processed, etc.) will be reviewed before placed on the website.

5.7 ANCATL Report

Not submitted.

5.8 Ethics Subcommittee Report (*Luke Godwin*)

As of 24 November 2015 only one issue had been referred to the Ethics Officer by the Association. This matter is ongoing and it would, therefore, be inappropriate to provide any further details at this stage. It is not expected that this matter will be finalised until early 2016. As and when all particulars have been received and given due consideration, the Executive will make a decision on a course of action. This will be duly reported at the next AGM of the Association.

Discussion arising: none.

5.9 Indigenous Subcommittee Report (*Kellie Pollard and Chris Wilson*).

Not submitted.

Discussion arising: Dave Johnston mentioned that Kellie Pollard has resigned and Chris is currently unavailable, and that he is keen to have new officers from the membership. The President noted that new officers will be discussed at the end of the AGM.

5.10 Social Media Report (*Jacq Matthews and Brit Asmussen*)

Across 2015, we have seen a continued rise in audience numbers for AAA's two social media accounts. At the time of writing (late-November) the AAA Facebook (FB) page had 4181 likers (i.e. individuals connected to our page), which is up from the 3000 we had at the end of 2014 (39% increase). The AAA Twitter account had 1628 followers at the time of writing, which is also up from 2014 when we had 1130 followers (44% increase).

As per previous years, the content being shared on these accounts caters to AAA's diverse membership and the broader public, and primarily includes a combination of AAA announcements (including about the conference and journal) along with heritage, archaeology and museum news stories from Australia and around the world. We are continuing to use HootSuite (a free social media management platform) to schedule content for both AAA accounts. This tool allows us to be more effective in terms of the time required of us to create, schedule and tailor content for our respective accounts. In addition to creating content, we also actively monitor the social media accounts responding to comments and messages as required.

So far this year we have shared over 1600 posts and the popularity and reach of these is most reliably measured using data from FB (Twitter doesn't provide such detail for free). On average our FB posts are each reaching 1106 unique individuals, which is up from 660 in 2014 (68% increase). We will post a blog on the AAA website at the end of the year detailing the top ten posts for the year – our top 5 posts at this stage reflect the varied nature of our content and the importance of AAA's presence on these platforms. The top 5 posts in order of popularity were:

1. News story about the return of Mungo Man's remains (reached 9474 individuals)
2. Research suggesting that Aboriginal oral traditions (about palm trees in Central Australia) may have endured for up to 30,000 years (reached 9427 individuals)
3. News on the search for the tomb of Nefertiti (reached 8495 individuals)

4. Announcement of the Archaeolympics at AAA 2015 (reached 7579 individuals)
5. A tribute article to murdered Syrian archaeologist, Khaled al-Assad (reached 7183 individuals)

It is with reluctance that Brit is stepping down from her role as co-manager of the AAA social media accounts due to work demands and would like to wish her successor/s all the best in taking on this great opportunity to present archaeology to our followers. The continued growth and success of our social media accounts depends on the time the volunteers running them are able to put in and as such we are seeking expressions of interest from AAA members who would like to get involved in working as part of the social media team in 2016 (to replace Brit and eventually to also relieve Jacq from the role by the end of 2016 too). Anyone interested would need some experience with social media, knowledge of AAA's aims and objectives to be able to identify 'appropriate' content, and to be able to devote a few hours every week to creating content and monitoring the accounts.

Discussion arising: none.

5.11 Media Liaison Officer's Report (*Liz Vaughan and Peter Veth*)

The past year was quite successful for the generation of media content on Australian Archaeology and related fields. Notable stories and themes that attracted media attention was changes to the *WA Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, interest in Kimberley rock art and interest in the 2000 year old pearl excavated from a Kimberley site in the Admiralty Gulf. Notably, the media release surrounding the release of the AA June 2015 journal which contained a story on the proposition that a Kimberley rock painting previously theorised to be a *Thylacaleo Carnifex* was newly interpreted to be a thylacine, generated considerable media buzz and resulted in print, radio and televised stories.

Further of note is that the Australian Archaeological Association now has a mailchimp account loaded with media contacts which greatly assists in the ease and distribution of media releases. This account was set up by Liz Vaughan, the 2015 media liaison, and details to logon to the account will be passed on to the next media liaison.

Media releases

10/12/14 Australian Archaeologists Prove to be World-class: Australian Archaeologists at the Cutting-edge.

25/01/2015 Australian archaeologists rewrite our understanding of human artistic origins– named in top 10 scientific achievements for 2014.

18/02/2015 Media release supporting Australian Anthropological Society open letter to WA Government on the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 proposed legislative changes.

18/03/2015 Ice-age living in the Pilbara– archaeologists prove 46 000 year occupation in Australia’s arid northwest

12/05/15 How do the Nepalese and UNESCO deal with the destruction of cultural heritage sites in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake

29/05/2015 Is it a lion or a tiger? Review of Kimberley rock art suggests images are of the extinct Tasmanian Tiger

26/06/15 Senator Leyonhjelm needs to ‘update his knowledge of the science’ on anti-Aboriginal origins claim

19/11/2015 Climate change linked to ancestral migrations: International archaeologists to present the latest research on human origins and cultures at Australian Archaeology Conference in Fremantle.

Cross promotional posts and releases:

03/06/2015 2,000-YEAR-OLD PEARL UNEARTHED FROM ANCIENT SITE

07/05/2015 New book documents Indigenous heritage.

Australian Archaeology in the news.

01/11/2015 <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/archaeologist-shares-insights-ancient-australia/2826652/>

09/11/2015 <http://www.ibtimes.com.au/australias-stonehenge-nsw-remains-object-mystery-1481863>

29/11/2015 <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous/secrets-uneearthed-at-boodie-cave-humankind-just-got-a-little-older/story-fn9hm1pm-1227626037512>

16/11/2015 <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-17/archaeological-dig-at-port-arthur-unearting-convict-past/6948568>

04/06/2015 <http://www.archaeology.org/news/3373-150604-yalibirri-mindi-occupation>

22/10/2015 <http://www.archaeology.org/news/3821-151022-australia-megafauna-extinctions>

05/06/2015 <http://www.ibtimes.com.au/archaeologists-uneart-rare-2000-year-old-pearl-australia-1451158>

Rock Art

02/11/2015 <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4344017.htm>

06/11/2015 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/mungo-man-bones-of-australias-42000-year-old-man-returned-to-aboriginal-tribes-for-burial-a6724706.html>

11/11/2015 <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2015/11/rock-art-reveals-secrets-of-australia%E2%80%99s-first-settlers>

18/04/2015 Art in distant cave catches worlds eye. Reporter: Victoria Laurie. *The Australian*.

Western Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act changes.

There was a large amount of interest in the changes to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

'Protesters in WA present petition against changes to Aboriginal Heritage Act	ABC Online by Katrin Long, Nov 20 2014
'Class action to take on State Government over heritage changes'	ABC Online by Katrin Long, Nov 20 2014
'WA traditional owners concerned about Aboriginal Heritage Act changes	PM, ABC News Radio Online with Mark Colvin, by Anna Vidot, 30 Sept 2014
'Traditional owners to 'lose control' of sacred sites under changes to heritage act'	ABC Online, no author, 20 June 2014
'WA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier accused of avoiding responsibilities'	Perth Now by Kaitlyn Offer, 1 Sept 2015
'Frustration rises over changes to the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act'	The Conversation by Thor Kerr & Shaphan Cox, 21 April 2014
'Custodian of Collie River mythology Joe Northover fights to reinstate protected site'	ABC Online by Claire Moodie, 6 June 2015

'Traditional owners in WA to launch class action over deregistration of sacred sites	ABC Online by Laura Gartry, 11 May 2015
'Aboriginal Heritage Act: Proposed changes 'discriminatory', should be dumped says KLC']	ABC Online by Nicolas Perpetch, 5 August 2014
'Ancient sites at risk in the Pilbara]	The Australian by Victoria Laurie, 25 Sept 2014
'Slump in recommended indigenous sites receiving heritage listing'	The Australian by Victoria Laurie, 10 Jan 2015
'WA reforms destroy sacred indigenous heritage: Ian Viner	The Australian by Victoria Laurie, April 4 2015
'Former heritage tsar Michael Robinson hails sacred site judgment'	The Australian by Victoria Laurie, April 13 2015
'WA bill amendment again silences Aboriginal voice	The Age by Toni Buti, 7 April 2015

Discussion arising: none.

5.12 Student Representatives' Report (Georgia Roberts, Megan Berry)

This has again been a busy year for the student representatives with several new initiatives started. We have received an increased number of enquiries from student members this year, asking for advice on university options, field experience and specialisations. It is certainly one of the more satisfying parts of the job.

The AAA conference has now become a major draw card for many Australian archaeology students, with nearly one third of this year's registered delegates being enrolled students. We think this strongly reflects the many valuable workshops and opportunities now available at the conference and we hope that these will continue into the future.

The increase in student attendance is also likely linked to the increased exposure to conference environments that students are able to get through the National Archaeology Student Conference. Thus year NASC was held jointly at the University of Sydney and Macquarie University. Once again, the event was a great success with many students presenting on a range of topics and field experiences. All of the judges commented on the high standard of the presentations, with many confirming that they would not have been out of place at more "grown-up" conferences. All

participants are to be commended on their exceptional work. We hope that this conference continues, developing further opportunities for students to build on their presentation skills. Next year's conference will be hosted by the students at the University of Western Australia. We wish the UWA student organizers good luck with the conference. We know they will do an excellent job.

This year, we are offering several new workshops at the AAA conference, aimed at broadening the skill base of our student cohort. With a focus on upskilling for an ever tightening job market, we hope that these workshops might give Australian students an edge in the global job market.

The results of our insurance study last year are to be published shortly in Dig It, the journal of the Flinders Archaeological Society. We would like to reiterate how important insurance is to everyone when undertaking fieldwork, and encourage all student members to read the article.

This year we were disappointed to hear about the cancelling of the AAA Student Research Grant Scheme by the AAA Executive due to budgetary issues faced by the organisation. We would like to again congratulate the committee on how effectively and efficiently they dealt with the matter, and would like to encourage the permanent reinstatement of this award as soon as possible.

Finally we would just like to note that this is that last year as student representative for both of us, and we would like to sincerely thank the executive committee for giving us this opportunity and for supporting our endeavours. We hope that we have made a positive contribution to the AAA community throughout our time here and wish the next round of student representatives all the best in continuing what we have begun.

5.13 State Representative's reports

5.13.1 Australian Capital Territory (*Michelle Langley*)

Once again I received very few emails from the public and/or students over the past year, likely owing to the Canberra Archaeological Society along with the Archaeology departments (Archaeology & Natural History and Archeology & Anthropology) at the Australian National University fielding most enquiries. Archaeology in the ACT has received some good attention from the media over the past year, with ANU based researches having their work broadcast to the public through television, newspaper and social mediums. The archaeological community in Canberra aims to continue this great outreach work over the next year.

Discussion arising: none.

5.13.2 New South Wales (*Alan Williams*)

In terms of reporting, there has been little activity in NSW this year. We are still awaiting further information on the proposed Aboriginal heritage reform for which we are a key stakeholder. The reform began in 2013, and we provided submissions in early 2014. These were reported on, along with other submissions later that same year. To date, we have been advised of no further development since that time.

We also highlight to our members a recent Land and Environment Court ruling in relation to a proposed expansion of Calga Quarry in the Central Coast of NSW (*Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council v Minister for Planning and Infrastructure & Anor; Australian Walkabout Wildlife Park Pty Limited (ACN 115 219 791) as Trustee for the Gerald and Catherine Barnard Family Trust v Minister for Planning and Infrastructure & Anor* [2015] NSWLEC 1465 (17 November 2015)). The exploration of the Aboriginal heritage issues in the ruling is expansive, but revolves around our understanding of a significant engraving site, and its context within the wider cultural landscape. The LEC ruling ultimately resulted in over-turning an approval for the expansion that had been issued under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The ruling was only made in November 2015, so it is unclear the ramifications of the case, but it may have implications for how Aboriginal heritage assessments are undertaken for these types of approvals into the future.

Discussion arising: none.

5.13.3 Northern Territory (*Malcolm Connolly*)

Nothing to report

5.13.4 Queensland

Not submitted.

5.13.5 Tasmania

Not submitted.

5.13.6 Victoria.

Not submitted.

5.13.7 Western Australia (*Cheng Yen Loo and Jane Skippington*)

The cultural heritage industry in Western Australian has experienced a tumultuous year characterised by plunging ore prices and a corresponding decline in demand for archaeological services in the mining sector. The significant reduction in demand for archaeological survey work has left many of our colleagues asking: what is the future for consulting archaeologists in WA?

As we enter this new and uncertain phase for consulting archaeologists, and the chances to work in some of the most beautiful regions of state become fewer, new opportunities to explore other aspects of cultural heritage management have begun to emerge.

Developing partnerships between cultural heritage organisations and Traditional Owner groups is a growing trend. These partnerships are resulting in new social and culturally orientated projects geared towards the preservation, interpretation and representation of Aboriginal heritage values and involve the community directly as project leads. Experimentation with new data collection techniques is also being explored, such as the application of terrestrial scanning and ground penetrating radar to increase efficiency and accuracy of archaeological data collection.

The significant drop in demand for archaeological work has the potential to give rise to a higher standard of archaeological practice. A hunger for more effective, culturally inclusive and research-orientated approaches to consulting archaeology is slowly beginning to replace requests for standard archaeological survey work.

In the academic space, social media is now a standard application for promoting research projects. Crowd funding websites promote tours of archaeological sites to help fund research projects. Regular daily updates on academic research projects spearheaded by PhD students can be regularly seen on Facebook. The application of social media has increased the opportunities for professional archaeologists and archaeology enthusiasts to share in their experiences.

Since the proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) WA were publically released and introduced into parliament late last year, there has been little progression. Instead, the uncertainty surrounding the legislation was compounded in late March when The Supreme Court quashed a decision by the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee (ACMC) to deregister Port Hedland Aboriginal sacred site the Marapikurrinya Yintha because of jurisdictional error. Importantly, the ruling has triggered a review of the many similar decisions to de-register culturally significant sites across WA that have occurred since late 2012. The Aboriginal Heritage Action Alliance (AHAA), a community action group established in February 2015 to oppose the proposed changes to WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act, has been active throughout the year.

While there has been no change to the legislation, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have made several administrative changes that can be seen on their website including changing the format of site reporting forms and the mechanisms in which data can be requested.

In summary, 2015 has seen a significant decrease in the demand for traditional archaeological services. However, with this change come new opportunities to innovate and reinvent the application of archaeological services in WA. The new and

exciting research projects being undertaken in the State are more accessible to the greater public than ever with project results and updates being broadcast via social media. The future of archaeological services in WA will depend on our ability to continue to push the envelope in a climate that has undergone a significant shake up. With each new challenge comes the opportunity to grow and develop in the profession we all love.

Discussion arising: none.

5.14 National Archaeology Week

No report submitted.

Motion: 'That all the reports as presented are adopted'. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded: Jo McDonald. Motion carried nem. con.

6 Remuneration

The President noted that the servants of the Association receive no remuneration, it is all for love.

7 Appointment of Auditor

The President noted that the Association tried to get three quotes from auditors, but only received one, which we are currently trialing. Motion: 'Ratification of the Executive Committee's resolution to having tried to acquire quotes only was able to get one quote from Anthony Curtis and Co. who are the new auditors'. Moved: Peter White. Seconded Peter Veth. Motion carried nem. con.

8 Other business

8.1 2016 Conference.

The President noted that the NEC has spent a year trying to find someone who will conduct the 2016 conference, with no success as yet. Opened to the floor. The Vice-President commented that many options have been attempted, but it is not a convenient year for many departments. Annie Ross enquired whether it has to be a university that organizes the conference; the President replied that not necessarily, it can be a committee. At the moment the Association is looking at there being no conference for 2016, as planning for the current conference started two years ago.

8.2 2017 Conference

Tim Denham from ANU and David Frankel from Latrobe University raised the proposal of a joint UISPP – AAA conference in Melbourne in 2017. Tim Denham discussed that the congress will be happening in Melbourne in early September, and that it would be a good idea to run it in conjunction with AAA.

The proposal consists of a congress runs 3-10th September, with a welcome reception held in the city, and with the main sessions held from the 4-7th September at the Melbourne Convention Centre. There would be a day off for a local fieldtrip, and smaller sessions at Melbourne universities, and workshops and fieldtrips associated with the congress. There is a conference organizer-management team in place, and there are organising committees established since it was announced in Brazil at the 2013 UISPP. There are affiliations with UNESCO and will be working with other organisations. Currently the organizers are talking about having Paul Keating as a patron, given his advocacy. A trilingual website will be launched, in Spanish, English and French in March. This will be the main core for proposals, symposia, etc. The organisers are looking for Australia to show leadership here, as well as linking it into the international representation. Sponsorship has already been obtained for plenaries. Keynote speakers who are world leaders in their field will be invited, as well as plenaries from the Australia-New Zealand region to showcase their work. There will be a public lecture series during the week in the city of Melbourne, projecting academia into the community and linking it into large ethnic communities within Melbourne. The organizers have also obtained sponsorship for students and academics from developing nations, are looking for funding for Indigenous representation from the Australasian region, and are looking to develop sponsorship for social events. There will be a profit share arrangement. Tim Denham outlined that this will be an amazing opportunity to showcase research to a global audience, and networking opportunities. Tim Denham estimates there will be 2,000 attendees. The organizers are looking to pair commissions. UISPP has their established commission, but Tim Denham considers we should pair these commissions with those in this country, to create interchange of ideas. Tim Denham commented that there is a need for intergenerational change in UISPP and in this region we have a lot to offer and link with international colleagues, increasing our international reach. The organisers underline that this is not an ANU-Latrobe initiative, it is inclusive of different universities and cultural institutions.

Discussion arising: Steve Nichols made a comment that many Aboriginal people find the term 'prehistoric' offensive and that AAA has to be very careful not to lose its values and nature, and individuality and what it stands for particularly the social aspect of archaeology, and the inclusion of Aboriginal people. Michelle Langley supports Tim Denham's proposal, and mentions that her European colleagues are very intrigued with an Australian congress as they are not familiar with the

Australian context. While there may be problems with the title, there may be a way around it, and it could be an opportunity to help European and American colleagues see why the term may be an issue.

Tim Denham agrees that the term prehistoric is outmoded, and that we can show leadership to engage in a conversation with international colleagues to change that. The new executive of the UISPP wants to engage with issues here that are much more social and political than they've ever had before. They want to have an open forum associated with repatriation, in terms of engagement which have not been on the UISPP agenda before, to bring people in and have dialogues. Annie Ross queried having a conference for 10 days in the middle of the teaching semester, as it may be problematic for certain academics and undergraduates to attend. A December conference is something students and academics can all attend. Tim Denham replied that he understands the concern, but that he hopes this event can be worked into the semester, and we can work around schedules to enable to participate.

Annie Ross asked about the cost for students, Tim Denham does not know yet but that it is not more than that of AAA. Annie Ross asked about the cost of 10 days accommodation in Melbourne. Tim Denham does not know, but that while there will be some costs, it does not happen often. Peter White commented that the important thing is that as far as academics are concerned, which is not a large proportion of AAA, if there is an international conference we make provision to go to it, so we make a provision to go to an international conference in Australia. For students it may be more difficult, but we may have to live with it. There are also many contract archaeologists who can also make provision if they know ahead of time. We have to recognise that we need to look at this internationally, and that we should go with this opportunity. Mathew Spriggs supported what Peter White said, and that prehistory is not necessarily an issue outside of Australia, but that Tim Denham made an important point. This is the place where we can show the issues. There has not been a conference so big in Australia since 1914, the British Association for the Advancement of Science; this one will be bigger. This is a wonderful way of subverting a conservative organisation, but is the official UNESCO body for archaeology in the world.

Jo McDonald agreed it is a great idea, and asked whether IFRAO is involved as initially it was going to be. Tim Denham replied that there was a parting of ways. The idea is that there still be a strong representation of rock art at UISPP. For international people, one of the main reasons they want to come to Australia is for the rock art.

Motion: "that in 2017 AAA hold a joint congress with UISPP in Melbourne in September". Moved: Tim Denham. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

8.3 2018 conference

The President commented that one of the efforts of lobbying activity for the 2016 conference is that there have been discussions about possibly holding joint conference with the New Zealand Archaeological Association in New Zealand in 2018. They are approaching New Zealand universities to form a committee. There may be an official bid next year for this.

9 Election of Officers of the Committee

The following individuals nominated for the National Executive in 2016:

- President: Lara Lamb

Nominated: Peter Veth. Seconded: Jo McDonald. Elected unopposed.

- Vice President: Fiona Hook
- Secretary: Lucia Clayton Martinez

Elected unopposed.

- Treasurers: Sven Ouzman and Benjamin Smith (continuing until end of financial year 2016)

No nominations for 2016: position open.

- Membership Secretary: Alyssa Madden

Nominated: Lara Lamb. Seconded: Sven Ouzman.

- Webmasters: Sam Harper (continuing) and Lucia Clayton Martinez.

Nominated: Sam Harper. Seconded: Jane Balme.

- Social Media: Jaqueline Mathews (continuing) Lorna Cooper.

Nominated: Jo McDonald. Seconded: Lucia Clayton Martinez.

- Media Liaison Officers: Tim Denham, Michelle Langley

Nominated: Tim Denham. Seconded: Peter Veth. Nominated: Michelle Langley. Seconded: Jo McDonald.

- Indigenous Liaison Officers: Sharon Hodgetts.

Nominated: Dave Johnston. Seconded: Tim Maloney. Second Officer to be coopted.

- Student Representatives: Carly Monks and Rebecca Hawkins

Nominated: Lucia Clayton Martinez. Seconded: Meg Berry.

- Ethics committee: Luke Godwin. Elected unopposed.
- New South Wales: Alan Williams

Elected unopposed

- Victoria: Georgia Roberts

Nominated: Georgia Roberts. Seconded: Peter Veth.

- Queensland: Luke Godwin

Elected unopposed

- Western Australia: Wendy Reynen.

Nominated: Kaye Morse. Seconded: Sam Harper.

- Northern Territory: Malcolm Connolly (continuing)
- Tasmania: vacancy
- South Australia: Sean Freeman

Nominated: Sean Freeman. Seconded: Jane Balme.

- ACT: Michelle Langley (continuing).

10 Thanks

Motion: vote of thanks to the outgoing Executive for all their hard work. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded: Val Attenbrow.

11 Close of Meeting

Fiona Hook thanked the amazing efforts of the NEC, welcomed the new NEC and closed the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8:18pm.