

# BACKFILL

## Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

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La Trobe University, Beechworth Campus, Victoria  
9 December 2006

### 1. Welcome

The 2006 AGM commenced at 6:06 pm. The President welcomed everyone to the conference and the AGM with a special welcome to Mitch Allen and Jim O'Connell from the United States.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Samantha Bolton, Shaun Canning, Neale Draper, Rebecca Edwards-Booth, Kelly Fleming, Vanessa Hardy, Sue Hudson, Peter Randolph and Annie Ross.

### 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2005 AAA AGM

The minutes of the 2005 AAA AGM held at Fremantle, Western Australia on 28 November 2005 were published in *Australian Archaeology* (62:68-74). Motion: 'that the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed'. Moved: Lynley Wallis. Seconded: Jill Reid. Motion carried nem. con.

### 4. Business Arising from Previous AGM

#### 4.1 Burrup Peninsula

At the 2005 AGM members directed the Executive to lobby the federal and state governments to consider the importance of the cultural heritage of the Burrup Peninsula. The Burrup has been an issue which has garnered state, national and international attention. Additionally the introduction of the Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill into federal parliament on 12 October 2005 was seen to relate to the push to develop the Peninsula. AAA made a submission to this Bill, and has been in contact with state and federal members on this matter. Letters from the President expressing AAA's concern that important archaeological sites may be compromised in the push for development were sent to the respective Western Australian Premiers Gallop and Carpenter; additionally, two letters were sent to Senator Ian Campbell offering the expertise of our membership, and our shared concern. The support of Paul Taçon and Sharon Sullivan throughout the year has been much appreciated. Paul was very helpful with AAA's submission to the 'Draft Management Plan for the Proposed Burrup Conservation Reserve'. Sharon assisted with letters to Senator Ian Campbell. Other members of the archaeological community have assisted us with media requests for information. Many thanks for their efforts. This issue will continue to be important in 2007. The President submitted to the AGM a suggestion that the membership discuss whether they wish the AAA Executive to take further action on this matter.

#### 4.2 Cossack

The Executive has been lobbying on behalf of the Association regarding the development of areas surrounding Cossack. The development of the historical site of Cossack was raised at the AAA 2005 AGM. AAA has written to state and federal members of parliament about this development project. In late November 2006 a Management Plan was released for the town, and we have been invited to comment on the plan. In keeping with several other initiatives this year, AAA will be making a joint submission on this matter, in this instance with ASHA, AIMA and the National Trust of Australia (WA). Any members with an interest in these matters should contact the AAA Secretary immediately to be involved with the submission.

#### 4.3 Establishment of a Submissions Page

Sue McIntyre suggested that AAA consider the establishment of a 'Submissions' page on the AAA website, similar to that on the AACAI website. The Executive will consider this option.

### 5. Reports

#### 5.1 President's Report (Alistair Paterson)

Welcome to the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Incorporated. I would like to commence proceedings by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of this land. I thank the organisers at La Trobe University for organising this conference.

2006 was a year of change for AAA Inc. The Executive moved westwards and has gone through a lengthy process of learning the ropes. I would like to start by introducing the Officers of the Association and subcommittee chairs. Firstly, I am a Lecturer at the University of Western Australia in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, in the Discipline of Archaeology. Fiona Hook is AAA's Secretary – Fiona is the Director of Archae-aus, the largest employer of archaeologists west of Adelaide. Our Treasurer is Adam Dias, Senior Archaeologist at Archae-aus. The *Australian Archaeology* editors are Sean Ulm and Annie Ross, both at the University of Queensland. The Public Officer is Sue O'Connor, Head of the Centre for Archaeological Research at the Australian National University. Our Membership Secretary is Annie Carson, an archaeologist at Eureka Archaeological Research and Consulting at the University of Western Australia. The Media Liaison Officer and Webmaster are Kelly Fleming and Samantha Bolton, both PhD students at the University of Western Australia – both present their apologies.

I acknowledge our subcommittee chairs:

- Samantha Bolton, Chair, Information Technology Subcommittee
- Richard Fullagar, Chair, Code of Ethics Review Subcommittee
- Sean Ulm, Chair, Prizes and Awards Subcommittee
- Sean Ulm, Chair, Editorial Subcommittee
- Stephen Free, Chair, Indigenous Subsidies Subcommittee
- Wendy Beck, Chair, Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL) (formerly Joint Implementation Standing Committee on Archaeology Teaching and Learning (JISCATL))
- Michael Westaway, Chair, National Archaeology Week Subcommittee
- Nikki Stern and Richard Cosgrove, Chairs, Annual Conference Subcommittee.

In the report I want to highlight the Association's major activities in 2006, as well as the intentions of the Executive for 2007 if re-elected at this meeting.

When we were elected we decided to focus on three areas over and above the normal running of the Association. These were to:

- improve membership numbers
- maintain and improve our financial position
- provide added content for members

Our membership situation will be detailed by the Membership Secretary, but to summarise we have slightly improved our membership since last year; however, the number needs to be greater. This year I wrote a letter to 500 people whose membership had lapsed in the last five years inviting them to rejoin and for feedback. This was quite successful, and their feedback will guide our ongoing initiatives. Financially we appear to be better off than last year.

I want to focus on some initiatives being undertaken by us.

Firstly, during 2006 the website has been moved from the University of Queensland to be hosted by the University of Western Australia following UQ's decision to charge for the additional space required to expand the website to offer enhanced features to members. As an aside, as we add content to our site, we take up space on a server. Moving the website has proven to be a large problem-ridden task – thankfully this does not occur often, the last time being the move from the Archaeological Computing Laboratory at the University of Sydney to UQ. I am very thankful for Samantha Bolton's work on the transfer, and the amount of work she has committed to this task. Luke Kirkwood has also been invaluable as out-going Webmaster. The new site is to be launched this week, and some of you may have already seen it. As a result of the efforts required to transfer the site the old online site has been rarely updated in 2006, which means it is increasingly out of date.

We plan to continue working on the new site, leading up to the situation where a Member's Only section is made available on the site – this is intended to provide online content for members, as seen with other websites such as the European Archaeological Association, the Society for American Archaeology and Society for Historical Archaeology. Content needs to be determined by AAA members; however it could include:

- grey and out of print literature
- online publications by AAA
- information for job seekers and employers
- a place to house CVs
- an ability to check one's membership status and to renew membership
- a shopping cart function

It is very clear to me that the website will grow more important and is one of our most important assets. The housekeeping conducted in 2006 has revealed that the site is too much work for one person. Accordingly we plan to increase the size of the Information Technology Subcommittee, and I would like to hear from members who are keen to assist. Basically we need people to keep the site up-to-date, and others for improvements and more technical 'behind the webpage' work which no-one really fully appreciates.

The changes to the website to include additional content will help shift our members' registration behaviour from the current focus on renewing either at the middle of the year to get the June volume of *Australian Archaeology*, or at year's end for the conference member's rate, to a 'year-round' membership ethos.

The NAW website needs some work: it is a national effort but managed by AAA. We still have yet to move the site, and hope that the expanded subcommittee will make this easier in 2007. A review process is required to consider how representative of Australian archaeology the site currently is, and what improvements could be made. I encourage the enlarged subcommittee to make this a priority once the AAA website and membership data base are successfully hosted at the UWA server.

Related to the website, I am pleased to announce that the first solely online publication by AAA Inc. is being prepared by editors led by Laila Haglund, whose initiative led to this project; they will be editing a volume of currently unpublished papers from past Women in Archaeology conferences. This will be published by AAA as an online publication following a peer-review process in consultation with the *Australian Archaeology* Editorial Committee. The publication will have an ISBN. As an interface it will be accessible online as a contents page with the chapters available as pdf files. I thank Sean Ulm and his editorial team for assistance with this initiative. We have also started to add the abstracts from the 2005 AAA conference and intend to do the same for 2006. These too can have ISBNs, although they are not peer-reviewed.

Another web-related improvement has been the development of an online payment system for AAA membership applications and renewals. This facility is hosted by UWA, and was developed for last year's AAA/AIMA conference. It has been immediately successful, and we expect to see a greater amount of use in years to come. The architecture is in place for this to be a site to purchase other AAA products, for example, one can already purchase the *Australian Archaeology* DVD online. The funds currently go to a UWA account, and we have a commitment from the School of Social and Cultural Studies to continue to host this facility beyond the life of this current WA-based Executive.

One of the challenges faced by AAA Executives is the typical term of two years, as a lot of time is spent learning the ropes. To assist future Executives we are preparing a handover and induction package which will include, for each key role, an

inventory of resources, a statement of key tasks and a calendar of key dates. We will also arrange to have a handover session as part of the conference proceedings in 2007, so that the outgoing and incoming executives can meet in the same venue. I note that ASHA has moved from 3 to 5 year executives.

Conference planning for future years involved a tough decision: we inherited two concurrent joint conferences, the first in Sydney proposed for 2007, then a joint conference for 2008 at Flinders. The AAA AGM meeting at the 2002 AAA/ASHA/AIMA conference proposed that joint conferences should be held every 3–4 years. We have resolved that AAA2007 will be a triple-header in Sydney hosted by the University of Sydney at the end of September. Vanessa Hardy is acting as the AAA representative on that organising committee. UQ has indicated that they are willing to host the 2008 conference. Flinders has indicated that they can host the 2009 conference. ANU has agreed to host the 2010 conference, possibly jointly with AQUA to be held on the south coast of NSW. I personally think that a longer planning cycle of conferences is required to allow for joint meetings. We are working towards that, and wish future Executives the best of luck.

AAA has maintained close contact with the ASHA and AIMA Presidents during the year, normally in the form of regular phone calls and emails. We have been able to work together on several submissions – this is a direct benefit to members of the archaeological community. There has been some discussion within all three organisations over recent years regarding better communication and better services for members. I will not go over all the details here, they have been raised in several fora already, including the editorial of the most recent AA. I propose getting some data from AAA members on these matters, and as such we will be organising a simple questionnaire in the New Year to gain a better idea of what AAA members think on a range of issues: such as reduced rates for membership of all three organisations (despite the fact it is very reasonable anyway), the number of joint conferences etc.

ASHA have been successful in getting funding for an administrative position, accordingly we are preparing an application for funding from Grants to Voluntary Organisations – our submission is being prepared by Stephen Free. If successful we would be able to pay for someone to process all the incoming mail and assist the Executive. This would provide great relief to the process and free up time for other work by the Executive.

In 2005 Stephen Free and Lara Lamb, of the Indigenous Subsidies Subcommittee, were successful in getting funding from DEH for Indigenous attendance at this conference. In all, 20 Indigenous participants have been funded to attend, with \$20,000 provided by DEH and approximately \$1000 by AAA. I congratulate Stephen and Lara on their efforts: this committee worked seamlessly despite being located in the ACT and Queensland, and negotiating with DEH in Perth. I hope that the committee are successful in obtaining funding for future meetings.

AAA's commitment to teaching and learning continued, with funding provided to Wendy Beck, Chair of the Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL) (formerly the Joint Implementation Standing Committee on Archaeology Teaching and Learning (JISCATL)), for meetings in 2006. This committee has been successful as the 'Benchmarking Archaeology Degrees Project' has been

granted \$114,000 from the Carrick Institute for 2007 and 2008 to set up a standards network with all the university providers of archaeology in Australia. This is an amazing achievement for our discipline, and I commend the efforts of Wendy Beck and her associates. For those who are unaware the Carrick Institute only funds the highest quality applications from across Australia.

The introduction of the Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill into Federal Parliament on 12 October 2005 required a response from the archaeological community. Despite the fact that there was little time to respond, and over 400 pages of legislation to digest, a joint submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (ECITA) was made by AAA in collaboration with ASHA; I am particularly thankful to the efforts of Richard Fullagar, as well as Tracey Ireland and ASHA President Susan Lawrence. In all, 71 submissions were made to the Committee.

Another legislative issue was the call for comments regarding the Federal Government's Productivity Commission Draft Report 'Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places', which was of concern to archaeologists working with historical heritage. AAA was consulted about ASHA's comprehensive written submission to the Commission in February 2006.

We also note the death of Dr Bruce Trigger this year.

We have been assisted in 2007 by the University of Western Australia, namely the School of Social and Cultural Studies, Dianne Anstey at Archaeology, the Web Office, and the Media Officer.

Finally I thank the AAA Executive, *Australian Archaeology* Editorial Committee, and Subcommittee Chairs for their work in 2006.

### 5.1.1 Discussion Arising

Concerns were raised regarding the high registration fees for the conference and for the conference dinner. The Executive noted that they had already written to the organisers of the 2007 conference to request that costs be kept to a minimum.

Concern was raised regarding the scheduling by the 2006 conference organisers of a discussion group that clashed with the 2006 AGM. Motion: 'In future conferences there should be no conference events scheduled at the same time as the AAA AGM'. Moved: Matthew Spriggs. Seconded: Ian Lilley. Motion carried nem. con.

Concern was raised regarding people presenting multiple papers at conferences. It was pointed out, however, that while some groups of papers were presented by one person, they were not the senior author on more than one. The discussion then moved to the issue of running multiple sessions. The President pointed out that the conference organisation was at the discretion of the organisers and that in some instances such as joint conferences multiple sessions were required but that on the whole AAA adhered to a policy of no multiple sessions.

As Indigenous students were being subsidised to attend the conference it was requested that similar consideration be given to non-Indigenous students. The Secretary pointed out that students already receive subsidies in the form of reduced registration fees in addition to travel subsidies if they present a paper or poster.

## 5.2 Secretary's Report (Fiona Hook)

Further to the matters described in the President's report, the Executive held eight meetings over the year where procedural matters and the issues already outlined by the President were discussed. Additional to those mentioned by the President, other matters discussed included:

- Petitioning the federal government in association with WAC and ASHA regarding the correct management of the archaeology at Gallipoli.
- Discussion of a request for assistance from the NT State Representative regarding the repatriation of Indigenous material culture in the NT (this will be discussed in more detail by the NT State Representative in his report).

In between meetings, members of the Executive generally communicated by email with 583 emails received by the Secretary and the subcommittees generating 195 emails.

### Correspondence

The Secretary received 165 emails and three letters during 2006 from members and the public. The main themes to emerge from the correspondence include:

- Requests for information from prospective archaeology students.
- Amateurs looking for volunteer excavation experience.
- International and Australian archaeologists looking for work with numerous requests for remuneration scales.
- Membership and *Australian Archaeology* queries.
- Scientific and alternative archaeology enquiries.

The vast majority of the correspondence relates to the first three themes. The previous Executive flagged the development of set of common questions and answers to be posted on a specific school student's page on the website. While no information was provided to the current Executive we have developed a section of the new website that provides some answers to the common questions received. This new section to the webpage will be completed early next year.

The Membership Secretary and the AA Editors dealt with their respective emails. Requests for member contact emails/ addresses were dealt with by the Secretary or Membership Secretary passing on the request to the member rather than providing private information.

Enquiries such as Celtic colonisation of New Zealand and the presence of mummies in Queensland were responded to with a generic no comment email. Enquiries such as the protection of Chinese mining sites in Victoria were assisted by putting them in touch with relevant AAA members.

### Telephone Calls

The Secretary received 26 telephone calls from amateur archaeologists, prospective students, a NSW Aboriginal organisation requesting assistance on a disciplinary matter and a geologist selling stereoscope and GIS software.

## 5.3 Treasurer's Report (Adam Dias)

### Overview

The AAA financial year ending 31 August 2006 saw a substantial profit for the organisation; however, this profit was artificially inflated as certain payments were not made until after the end of the financial year (Table 1). Furthermore, profits from the UNE 2004 AAA conference (\$6951) did not arrive until several weeks into 2005–2006. As predicted by the previous Treasurer, both conference and insurance expenditure saw substantial reductions, thanks largely to the organisers of the Fremantle 2005 conference securing sponsorships.

There was a substantial reduction in income from both subscriptions and DVD sales. Many members had not joined at the end of the 2005–2006 financial year, but mail-outs and the arrival of the online membership facilities saw membership numbers climb in the few months between the end of the financial year and the 2006 conference. DVD sales have decreased, as is to be expected given that there is a finite demand for the product, and sales were so successful in the previous year.

In conclusion, despite a decrease in income from membership and DVD sales the finances of the Association remain healthy. This has been achieved primarily through reductions in expenditure.

### Income

The breakdown of income for the year is detailed in Table 2. This clearly shows that subscriptions remain the primary source of income, with profits from conferences and donations also sizeable. The conference income is inflated as it includes profits from two years: 2004 and 2005. If the 2004 funds were to be removed, the conference income would be considerably smaller (\$1590), and more in line with previous years.

Income from the savings account and the two investment accounts is moderately higher than previous years. These figures could have been even higher, but as has often been the case in the past, the Treasurer was on fieldwork when the investment

**Table 1** Profit and Loss – Summary.

2004-2005 \$		2005-2006 \$
31,580.00	Total Income	34,625.22
42,249.00	Total Expenses	9670.62
(-10,669.00)	Operating Profit (Loss)	24,954.60
57,491.00	Retained Earnings	46,822.23
46,822.23	Total Equity	71,776.83

**Table 2** Profit and Loss – Income.

2004-2005 \$	Income	2005-2006 \$
743.00	Copyright fees	630.70
(-5005.00)	Conference profits (Loss)	8541.13
9348.00	DVD/Back issue sales	1910.00
1410.00	Interest received	1391.50
25,040.00	Subscriptions	19,296.89
44.00	Other Income	0.00
0	Donations	2855.00
<b>31,580.00</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>34,625.22</b>

terms were due for renewal. When this occurs the investments are renewed at the default, low, rate of interest.

A small amount of profits are not represented in these figures owing to an error in the formation of the University of Western Australia account which handles online subscriptions. For a period of two months GST was erroneously deducted from subscriptions, lowering the income. This mistake was corrected, and this money will appear in the financial report of 2006–2007.

### Expenditure

As outlined in Table 3 there was a substantial decrease in expenditure in 2006. It was this decrease in expenditure that led to the increase in profits (Table 1). However, several expenditures for 2006 were not paid until after the financial year had ended. This has the dual effect of artificially lowering 2006 expenditure and increasing that for the subsequent financial year.

As predicted by the previous Treasurer, there was a substantial drop in costs associated with DVD production now that setup costs are not involved. Insurance payments cannot be considered a real saving, as the 2004–2005 payment represents two years and the 2005–2006 payment was delayed and does not appear in this report.

In the coming 2006–2007 financial year, no new costs are expected. The Association has received a grant of \$20,000 from DEH to fund Indigenous participation in conferences, and it is expected that this will be utilised in full. Owing to the delay of some significant costs in 2006 into the 2007 financial year, it may initially appear that expenses will rise, but this is not expected to be a real rise, but rather the effect of essentially making several payments twice.

### Summary of Assets

As of 31 August 2006 the AAA assets totalled \$71,776.83 (Table 4). This does not include the \$10,000 held in the Bruce Veitch Memorial Award Fund, which is currently held in the AAA bank account.

**Table 3** Profit and Loss – Expenditure.

2004–2005 \$	Expenditure	2005–2006 \$
950.00	Auditor's fees	750.00
943.00	Bank charges	42.30
365.00	Bankcard charges	412.19
4295.00	DVD production	1179.81
22,461.00	Journal printing	3300.00
0	Sundries	400.00
6224.00	Insurance	0
756.00	Internet fees	0
54.00	Licences, registrations, permits	0
3251.00	Printing, stationary and postage	1092.95
2950.00	Prizes	513.00
0	Conference	1980.37
42,249.00	Total Expenditure	9670.62

The arrival of online subscriptions saw the formation of a new funds account, held at the University of Western Australia. This account represents fluid funds which can be utilised by the Association at any time. It is advised that periodically these funds are shifted to the main savings account.

The details of the two long-term accounts held by the Commonwealth Bank are detailed in Table 4. As in previous years these have represented approximately two years' journal printings, which remains the intended purpose of these funds.

### 5.4 Membership Secretary's Report (Annie Carson)

AAA had a total of 489 members in 2006 which is comparable to last year's number of 482 (Table 1-3). We gained 80 new members this year, most of whom were Ordinary members rather than students. This reflects the fact that the Association did not specifically target students with any membership drives this year. The membership drive for 2006 instead targeted lapsed members from 2003–2006, which is where we recuperated membership numbers to come out with a slightly larger contingent than last year.

Membership initiatives for 2006 included the introduction of the online payment facility which allows subscribers to pay for their AAA subscription and DVD purchases by credit card. This facility was introduced to the AAA website by the Webmaster in July 2006 and advertised in our membership drive in August. This method of subscription and payment has already helped streamline the subscription process and members should see a vast improvement in the turn-around time between payment and receipting in 2007.

Other initiatives introduced this year included a new subscription/renewal procedure to remind members that subscription is due for the coming year. On the 1 December 2006, the inaugural subscription reminder notice for 2007 was emailed and posted out to current members. The December reminder gives members plenty of time (30 days) to consider and arrange their renewals for the beginning of the following year. The December mail-out will replace the annual March reminder and allow more time to be spent on organising and executing

**Table 4** Balance Sheet, 31 August 2006.

2004–2005 \$	Equity	2005–2006 \$
	<b>Assets</b>	
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
16,756.12	CBA Cheque Account	36,878.87
22,784.00	CBA Term Deposit	23,436.61
17,282.11	CBA Cash Management Trust	18,118.29
0	DWA EFT Account	3826.89
56,822.23	Total Current Assets	82,260.66
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
10,000.00	Memorial Fund	10,483.83
10,000.00	Total Current Liabilities	10,483.83
46,822.23	Net Assets	71,776.83

targeted mail-outs to students, educational institutions, lapsed members and/or other interested groups.

AAA conference attendees who were not already AAA members for 2006 were given the option of subscribing to AAA for both 2006 and 2007 in one payment. The Executive is trialling multiple year subscriptions to see whether or not options for up to three years in advance are viable.

In 2007 the Executive will continue efforts to increase membership and improve our services and benefits to members. Membership drives in 2007 will focus particularly on students and educational institutions to improve our student member population. We also aim to create a detailed and thorough Procedures Manual for the position of Membership Secretary. This manual will help improve the handover process between the executive positions in 2007, allowing a smooth transition from one Membership Secretary to another.

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

This was my first year as Webmaster as I took over from Luke Kirkwood. The major achievements for this year were the launch of the online payment system for memberships and the transfer of the website to a new host.

In order to move the website forward and implement new features it was necessary to move the website as it was going to be too expensive to continue hosting it at the University of Queensland (UQ). Several options were investigated, and the University of Western Australia (UWA) were happy to host the site. Therefore the decision was made to relocate the site to the UWA servers.

We obtained full control over the website in April 2006 at which point the move was started. As it became clear that we wanted to be able to do a lot more with our website than other sites hosted at UWA, the initial attempts to move it were aborted, and we started transferring it using an alternative content management system, known as Drupal. Ultimately this has meant that the transfer took a lot longer than initially anticipated, as I had to learn a new system and rebuild the site almost from scratch.

**Table 1** AAA members and new members, 2000–2006.

Year	Members	New Members
2006	489	80
2005	482	93
2004	560	110
2003	568	126
2002	497	83
2001	367	67
2000	363	38

**Table 2** AAA membership types, 2005–2006.

Type	2006	2005
Ordinary	309	277
Student	68	96
Overseas	20	18
Retiree	28	26
Institutional	57	57
Life Member	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>482</b>

The new site will be launched in early 2007. New features that will be added to the site over the next 12 months include a member's only area, including an area to look for jobs and volunteer opportunities, and an opportunity to post a CV online. In addition to the added features to the AAA website, proposals are being considered to improve the National Archaeology Week website and provide more information and access to the general public about archaeology in Australia.

After using an online payment system for the 2005 annual conference, we introduced it for memberships to AAA at the beginning of July. This has proved highly successful, with 34% of memberships since then being paid using the online system. Problems that we had with users of Internet Explorer during the conference have now been rectified with the launch of IE7. In addition to memberships, the DVD and journal back issues are also available through the online system.

In September UQ did some work on their web servers which unfortunately meant we could no longer access the website or our membership database. This problem was slowly rectified, mainly thanks to the help of Luke Kirkwood, but it did severely affect processing of memberships for about two months.

The total hits on the AAA website were unavailable at the time of writing.

The total hits on the National Archaeology Week website since January 2006 were 392,000 at an average of 36,000 hits per month, peaking during March, April and May, just before and during National Archaeology Week.

The past six months have been an incredible learning curve for me as I have had to learn to use several new software programmes and website coding. I would like to acknowledge the previous Webmaster, Luke Kirkwood, who not only did a fantastic job with the old website, but despite his best efforts, has not quite managed to give it up yet as I continually harass him. Also UWA, and in particular the Web Office, have been very supportive as I have built the new site. I would also like to thank the Executive for their patience as the date for the launch of the new website was continually pushed back.

**Table 3** AAA membership by state, 2004–2006.

State	2006	2005	2004
NSW	131	155	154
QLD	91	93	104
WA	57	64	47
VIC	75	60	66
ACT	43	50	66
SA	34	38	31
NT	12	14	20
TAS	4	7	9

### **5.6 Media Liaison Officer's Report (Kelly Fleming)**

There was fairly limited movement on the media front for 2006, but now that the new website is up and running we'll be posting more regularly. In the meantime the following media releases have been sent out over 2006 primarily through the (very helpful) University of Western Australia Media Office (Colin Campbell-Fraser) and AUSARCH-L.

#### **Media Releases 2006**

##### **25 May – National Archaeology Week**

UWA Media Office released a statement on activities taking place and the details of the national website which was picked up by a number of WA news sources.

##### **18 August – AAA Award Nominations**

UWA Media Office released the details of the call for nominations for AAA's awards. Also posted on AUSARCH-L.

##### **21 September – Conference Indigenous Funding from DEH**

Posting to AUSARCH-L, AACAI and AIATSIS list servers calling for applications from Indigenous people for conference funding.

##### **8 November – Call for Burrup Submissions**

UWA Media Office released details and closing dates. Also posted on AUSARCH-L.

##### **20 November – Successful Applicants for Indigenous Conference Funding**

UWA News December included a short story on the three UWA students. Also posted on AIATSIS and AUSARCH-L.

##### **1 December – Conference 2006 Media Release**

General announcement of key themes and keynote conference speakers. Released in collaboration with La Trobe Public Relations Office.

##### **10 December – Mike Smith (Recipient of the Rhys Jones Medal)**

Media release sent out in collaboration with the UWA Media Office and the National Museum of Australia detailing Mike Smith's citation for the Rhys Jones Medal.

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

During 2006 Numbers 62 and 63 of *Australian Archaeology* were published marking the transition from the Editorial Committee based at Flinders University to one based at the University of Queensland. The new team consists of Sean Ulm and Annie Ross (Editors), Geraldine Mate (Editorial Assistant), Chris Clarkson, Lara Lamb and Catherine Westcott (Short Reports Editors), Ian Lilley and Jill Reid (Book Review Editors) and Stephen Nichols (Thesis Abstract Editor).

We have taken this opportunity to review the place of *AA* in the archaeological landscape and make some strategic changes to ensure that the Association is able to provide a financially viable high quality journal to our members into the future. At the most superficial level this involved a cosmetic makeover of the cover, page layout and paper stock. The redesign is part of a deliberate policy to broaden the appeal of *AA* to Australian

archaeologists and the wider public. These changes have allowed improvements in the production quality of the journal within the existing *AA* budget. On the distribution front, we have been able to contain postage costs by establishing a Postage Paid service with Australia Post.

At a more fundamental level, we have also taken the opportunity presented by the transition to the new Editorial Committee to review editorial policies and procedures. One outcome has been the formalisation and documentation of editorial policy, including templates for the wide range of correspondence required in the day-to-day operation of the journal. This documentation will aid in the transition to a new Editorial Committee in the future.

Referees are central to ensuring the quality of manuscripts accepted for publication in *AA*. In order to build a wider network of skilled referees, we have adopted a policy of inviting one senior and one more junior scholar to referee each article and short report. From this year we also have commenced publishing a formal list of referees in the December issue in recognition of the contribution of others to the quality of the journal.

In this age of digital mania, we also clearly need to improve the accessibility of *AA* on the internet. A patchy selection of *AA* back issues is already available electronically to many institutional subscribers through the Australian Public Affairs – Full Text electronic journal collection, by means of a non-exclusive license provided by an agreement between AAA, Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL), RMIT Publishing and the National Library of Australia (see AA56:72). However, there is a considerable delay in the availability of current issues and they are not available to members not affiliated with major institutions. To address this problem, we are investigating a range of online options for the journal and hope to have arrangements in place for optional online subscriptions in the near future. We will also continue to work with the Executive to improve *AA*'s visibility and resources on the AAA website.

In another move, we have signed up to the WAC Global Libraries Program to support the development of archaeological resources in developing countries by donating 50 copies of each issue of *AA* published. While this contribution incurs negligible costs to AAA, it clearly helps to bring *AA* to a global readership and aligns closely with AAA's commitment to working to bring more voices into archaeological discourses.

Volume 62 was posted in the last week of June and the December issue was posted in the second last week of November. In 2007, we plan to mail out the June edition in early May and the December edition in early November.

The current editorial team is committed to providing a range of archaeological topics to our readership. In the future, we hope to be able to continue to provide readers with rich and diverse content and we therefore welcome quality contributions on all flavours of archaeology.

In closing we would like to thank the team who helped with the transition from Flinders University and in relaunching the journal. Thanks to Donald Pate and Jo McDonald, in particular, for working with us to make the transition as smooth as possible; the other members of the Editorial Committee for much hard work; John Reid (Lovehate Design) for graphic design,

innovation and patience; Antje Noll for much general assistance; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and the School of Social Science at the University of Queensland for providing funds to employ Geraldine Mate as a casual Editorial Assistant; and the contributors and referees for helping build the quality of *AA*.

### **5.8 Indigenous Subsidies Subcommittee Report (Stephen Free)**

As a result of funding from the Department of Environment and Heritage, support was provided to 20 Indigenous participants to attend the conference. There are plans to request new funding for 2008.

Given the increased attendance in Indigenous participation, the subcommittee suggests that an Indigenous keynote speaker be considered for future conferences.

### **5.9 Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning Report (Wendy Beck)**

In 2006, this subcommittee (now known as ANCATL to avoid confusion with earlier subcommittees) has had an active year.

#### **New Subcommittee Membership**

After the successful Volume 61 of *Australian Archaeology (Teaching, Learning and Australian Archaeology)* was published in 2005, a new subcommittee membership was formed, from the group of authors in this volume. The subcommittee, and their liaison responsibilities are:

A/Prof. Wendy Beck, University of New England (Australian Institute for Archaeology Liaison) (Chair)

Dr Jane Balme, University of Western Australia (Australian Archaeological Association Liaison)

Cameo Dalley, University of Queensland

Catherine Clarke, University of New England

Dr Sarah Colley, University of Sydney (UK Higher Education Academy, History, Classics and Archaeology Subject Area Liaison)

Dr Martin Gibbs, University of Sydney (Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Liaison)

A/Prof. Jay Hall, University of Queensland

Stephen Nichols, University of Queensland

Jody Steele, Tasmanian National Parks (Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Liaison)

Dr Sean Ulm, University of Queensland (Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. Liaison; World Archaeological Congress Liaison)

The Executive of the Subcommittee comprises Wendy Beck and Sean Ulm (Chairs of Working Parties) and Catherine Clarke (Secretary). We have met twice this year, we have a listserver, and a presence on the AAA website to encourage information flow.

#### **Goals for 2006**

The role of ANCATL for 2006 was to further the Redfern Charter, as these issues still seem to be a major concern to members.

#### **Redfern Charter:**

- i. Better coordination of opportunities for students and early career graduates to gain vocational experience.
- ii. Accept the principles of the UK benchmarks for teaching and learning as a step towards the development of a model for Australian undergraduate archaeology degree structures.
- iii. Support for greater interaction and exchange in teaching and learning between universities on the one hand and regulatory authorities and industry on the other.
- iv. A commitment to gathering reliable data for benchmarking of a variety of archaeology activities similar to UK survey instrument.
- v. Develop mechanisms to tell the archaeological story to the public that own and relate to that archaeology.

#### **Priority Actions Completed in 2006**

There were two main priorities for 2006 which were (i) and (ii) above. Priority (iii) has been covered in 2004–2005. Two working parties were set up to progress these priorities.

Vocational experience (Chaired by Sean Ulm): A list of vocational opportunities (especially archaeological workplaces who might be willing to offer work experience to students) has been initiated, based on a mail-out survey of employers. It is planned to make this available on the AAA website, with perhaps a standardised work experience form which would also be available there.

Benchmarking archaeology degrees (Chaired by Wendy Beck): Wendy Beck was successful, as Team Leader, in gaining a Carrick Institute Grant for 2007–2008 (\$114,000) for 'Benchmarking Archaeology Degrees in Australian Universities'. ANCATL will be the Steering Committee for this grant, and will work in partnership with all 10 university providers of four-year degrees, other university providers and professional bodies to discuss the UK benchmarks, their strengths and weaknesses and feasibility for Australia. There will also be opportunities for broader discussion with other stakeholders. Through a collaborative process of discussion and endorsement, a shared network of understanding of the standard of archaeology degrees will be developed. The final 'Benchmarks' could be similar to the 'Code of Ethics' a voluntary charter widely agreed to and publicly available on the AAA website.

#### **Other Actions**

Public archaeology is also a key area and school education is particularly neglected, but some simple actions could improve information provision and this will be a priority for 2007. We are in the process of making a submission to the NSW Department of Education about archaeology in the curriculum. The AAA website could be expanded next year to include more information about other forms of study and not just becoming an archaeologist, but the other benefits of archaeology as well.

Our thanks are extended to the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. for their financial and in-kind support of our work this year.

#### **5.9.1 Discussion Arising**

Concern was raised regarding the lack of an archaeologist in the Prime Minister's History Teaching Committee. It was proposed that the ANCATL make a formal approach to the committee.



### **5.10 Prizes and Awards Subcommittee Report (Sean Ulm, Fiona Hook and Ken Mulvaney)**

The Prizes and Awards Subcommittee was formed at the 2005 AGM to help manage the increasing number of awards offered by the Association, which include the 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., and conference paper and poster prizes. The committee also manages the Laila Haglund Prize for Excellence in Consultancy on behalf of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. In total, there are 10 awards in seven categories.

During 2006 the committee, consisting of Fiona Hook, Ken Mulvaney and Sean Ulm, formalised the descriptions and procedures for applying for each award and established selection criteria for the assessment of each award. These changes provide the basis for ensuring a consistent and transparent assessment process across all award categories.

The committee received nominations for all award categories. Multiple high-quality nominations were received for the Rhys Jones Medal, John Mulvaney Book Award and Bruce Veitch Award. Of particular note, the Rhys Jones Medal, the highest award offered by the Association, received nominations of non-members by non-members, indicating that the Medal is increasingly valued by the wider archaeological establishment.

This year marks the inaugural awarding of the Bruce Veitch Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement, celebrating Bruce's close collaboration with traditional owners and important contributions to the practice and ethics of archaeology in Australia.

Over the next 12 months the committee plans to ensure that accurate and comprehensive listings of past awardees are available on the soon-to-be relaunched AAA website along with full descriptions, application procedures and selection criteria for all award categories.

The subcommittee would like to thank President Alistair Paterson for active participation in the committee, Val Attenbrow for assisting in the review of nominations for the John Mulvaney Book Award and Nikki Stern for organising judges for the conference awards. For funding awards for this year's conference we thank Nexus Energy, Bob Wilson from Footprint Books and the La Trobe conference organisers. Finally, we thank the 2006 conference prize judges. For papers we thank Fiona Hook, Ken Mulvaney, Nikki Stern and Alex Mackay and for posters Mitch Allen, Janine Major, Alistair Paterson and Sean Ulm.

### **5.11 National Archaeology Week Subcommittee Report**

There is currently no National Archaeology Week Subcommittee. We are seeking a new chair for this subcommittee, if interested please contact the Executive after the AGM.

### **5.12 State Representatives' Reports**

#### **5.12.1 Northern Territory Report (Daryl Guse)**

Indigenous archaeology in the NT is probably at its lowest ebb in a very long time.

The repatriation of Indigenous skeletal remains is gaining some momentum with the recent employment of Francesca

Cubillo at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT. She was formerly at the National Museum of Australia and worked on their repatriation programme. Francesca is a local Larrakia woman and I have high confidence in her ability to manage issues regarding the repatriation of Indigenous skeletal remains in an appropriate and sensitive manner.

My colleague, Richard Woolfe and I, have been trying to implement consultation with Indigenous traditional owners on archaeological consultancy surveys, a practice undertaken in every other State and Territory, and as you know, an important part of AAA and AACAI codes of ethics. However, Heritage Conservation Services, the Northern Territory Government agency responsible for administering the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991*, will not enforce this as a condition of archaeological surveys and, therefore, proponents will not fund consultations. We've taken this issue up with the NT government, however with no results.

A significant rock art site in western Arnhem Land on the road to Oenpelli was destroyed by fire as a result of negligence from the local community government council. The incident was reported by to the NTG who responded that they would not investigate the incident. The NTG has stated in response to a proposal I and the Northern Land Council had put to them, that issues regarding rock art management in Arnhem Land 'cannot be described as a high priority for this division at this point in time ... and are not in urgent need of Government attention given that they are statutorily protected as prescribed archaeological sites, as well as having the protection offered by restricted access to Aboriginal Land' (Correspondence from the EPA Director).

Charles Darwin University no longer has an archaeology programme, with one anthropology lecturer remaining in the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts. There are no plans for CDU to replace the archaeological staff. It is likely that the well-equipped archaeology laboratories established by Peter Hiscock will be converted into office space. As a result there are fewer professional development, research, and education opportunities in archaeology for people who reside in the NT.

A parallel development to the end of archaeology at CDU resulted in the Director of Heritage asking me what relevance there was in retaining the general provisions for the protection of Indigenous archaeological sites and objects in the development of the new *Heritage Conservation Act* if there is no research or education fraternity in the Northern Territory. Obviously there are many answers to this question, however, you might start to see where things are going here in the NT.

I have personally written to the Chief Minister in response to the government's new Indigenous Community Development policy promoting possible ways that Indigenous communities could be more actively engaged in the cultural heritage management process. Much could be done to promote this through local Indigenous ranger programmes and improved Indigenous employment outcomes in remote communities. However this was met with a very disinterested response.

The archaeological community in the NT is quite small and we probably need to seek the support of AAA in trying to develop a strategy to promote the management and conservation of Indigenous archaeology in the Northern Territory.

I know that there are very pressing issues elsewhere, especially on the Burrup, however, I feel that the situation in the NT has been growing worse in the last couple of years, and we need some help to start a modest strategy to get Indigenous cultural heritage issues back on the agenda before it is too late.

#### **Discussion Arising**

The Executive will write to Charles Darwin University expressing its concern regarding the loss of their archaeology programme.

The Executive will liaise with NT members to consider the best way to lobby the NT government regarding the protection of archaeological sites.

#### **5.12.2 Australian Capital Territory Report (Stephen Free)**

The ACT State Representative has not conducted any activities on behalf of AAA. Stephen reported that he is no longer living in the ACT and a new State Representative will need to be appointed.

#### **5.12.3 South Australia Report (Lynley Wallis)**

There is currently a proposed review of the SA heritage legislation. The Executive and AAA members will be asked for assistance when required.

Motion: 'that the reports presented here are accepted'. Moved: Ian Lilley. Seconded: Val Attenbrow. Motion carried nem. con.

### **6. Other Business**

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#### **6.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2006-2007 Financial Year**

No auditor was appointed at the 2005 AGM in accordance with Item 9.1 of the Constitution. The Executive appointed an auditor under item 9.4 for the 2005–2006 financial year.

Motion 'that Addition Bookkeeping Services be appointed as the auditor for the 2006–2007 financial year'. Moved: Bob Gargett. Seconded: Jill Reid. Motion carried nem. con.

### **7. Election of Officers of the Committee**

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The following AAA Officers were elected for 2007:

#### **Executive**

President – Alistair Paterson

Secretary – Fiona Hook

Treasurer – Adam Dias

Membership Secretary – Annie Carson

Public Officer – Sally Brockwell

Webmaster – Samantha Bolton

Media Liaison Officer – Kelly Flemming

Editors – Sean Ulm & Annie Ross

#### **State and Territory Representatives**

ACT – Alex Mackay

NSW – Val Attenbrow

NT – Daryl Guse

QLD – Lara Lamb

SA – Lynley Wallis

WA – Stuart Rapley

VIC – Nikki Stern

TAS – vacant

### **8. Close of Meeting**

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The President thanked members for attending the AGM. The meeting was closed at 7:15pm.