

# BACKFILL

## Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

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Coach House Marina Resort, Bateman's Bay, New South Wales

13 December 2010

### 1. Welcome

The 2010 AGM commenced at 3.28pm and was chaired by Lynley Wallis (President). The President welcomed members and observers to the meeting and acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional lands of the Walbunja people. She proposed, in order to allow all business to take place within a reasonable timeframe, that comments from the floor be restricted to 2 minutes per person, and noted that AAA had received legal advice that defamatory comments made from the floor could expose the organisation to litigation. She noted that in the absence of Secretary Andrew Border, minutes would be taken by SA State Representative Alice Gorman.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tessa Corkill, Jill Reid, Adam Dias, Stuart Rapley, Clint Hammond and Angie McGowan.

### 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2009 AAA AGM

The minutes of the 2009 AAA AGM, held at Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia on 11 December 2009, were published in *Australian Archaeology* (70:89-96).

Motion: 'That the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. as circulated, be taken and read as confirmed'. Moved: Matthew Spriggs. Seconded: Annie Ross. Motion carried nem. con.

### 4. Business Arising from Previous AGM

There was no business arising from the previous AGM.

### 5. Reports

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

My predecessor Ian McNiven and his Executive handed over the reins of AAA to a new multi-institutional team following the AAA AGM held at Flinders University in December 2009. My position as President was supported during the year by the dedication and commitment of other members of the Executive. I take this opportunity to thank Mick Morrison (Treasurer), Andrew Border (Secretary), Dan Rosendahl and Jacqueline Matthews (Membership Secretaries), Emma St Pierre (former Membership Secretary) and Sally Brockwell (Public Officer).

Following election the Executive discussed our goals for the organisation and decided there were two key areas we wanted to focus on during our term: firstly, to maintain and further build on our existing membership base so as to ensure a strong financial position for AAA in the future; and secondly, to oversee a major revamp of the AAA website to improve the organisation's public face. As is outlined below, we have made

strong progress in both of these areas and momentum will continue to gather in 2011.

One particular issue that has had relevance for our community in 2010 has been the ongoing development of the new History Curriculum for Australian schools. Throughout the year I have been in contact with Petra Vanessie, the Communications Officer (Curriculum) for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, to ensure that AAA will be included in future consultations regarding the curriculum development. I have also provided advice to Kate da Costa who was asked by the NSW Board of Studies to suggest useful archaeological case studies for inclusion in the revised curriculum. Other AAA members have also been active in lobbying for the inclusion of archaeology and I thank them for their efforts.

The trial journal rankings for ERA were released in 2009, without AAA's specific input as an organisation. After the final journal rankings were released, the opportunity arose in early 2010 for AAA to make a last-minute submission; advice from members was sought for the submission via the AAA mailing list and via telephone. As well as collating members' suggestions about the journals they believed required reranking, the AAA submission raised concerns about the lack of apparent transparency and explicit criteria during the ranking process. The ARC replied to our submission with a standard response indicating that the 2010 journal rankings would not be changed, but recording our request to be specifically consulted on future list development. In October 2010 the ARC announced their intention to revisit the ERA rankings in 2012 (see [http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era\\_2012/era\\_2012.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/era_2012.htm)). In preparation for this it is suggested that AAA work closely with other relevant organisations including ASHA, AIMA, AACAI, AURA, Australia ICOMOS and TICCIH, to ensure the ERA journal rankings are as useful as possible.

During March 2010 WAC and AAA were contacted by a concerned citizen who had noticed Dong Son armbands containing human bones being offered for sale on eBay. In response I brought the situation to the attention of staff from the Cultural Property Section of Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and discussed with them appropriate courses of action. WAC and AAA constructed a joint press release on the matter and our intervention was successful in having the objects withdrawn from sale. The Federal Department have provided assurances that they will keep an eye on the particular seller to ensure similar situations do not arise in the future or, if they do, are dealt with in a timely fashion.

During November 2010 I was contacted by the Australian Honours Secretariat seeking letters of recommendation for several of our members who had been nominated for Australia Day Honours. Letters of strong support for the nominees were

provided to the Secretariat, so fingers-crossed that some of our members will feature amongst the lists of awards announced in January 2011.

In December AAA provided advice to AECOM who are assisting the Australian Green Infrastructure Council with developing a sustainability rating scheme for infrastructure projects. They have advised that a draft document is expected to be available in early 2011 and this will be made available to AAA members for further comment.

Throughout the year the Executive also worked closely with many State Representatives on submissions to government on heritage-related legislative issues; these submissions are detailed in the relevant State Representative reports.

Members will have noticed an increased use of the AAA email list during 2010. While we do not want to create another discussion forum that takes up people's ever-diminishing time, it has proved very useful to be able to communicate with and disseminate information in this way. This represents a new level of engagement with our membership that we hope serves the purpose of keeping people informed and gives the feeling that they belong to a wider and active collegial network.

The continuing success of AAA is contingent on the efforts of a range of other office holders beyond the core Executive members. Special mention should be made of our hardworking Editors Sean Ulm and Annie Ross, who have again in 2010 produced another two high-quality issues of *Australian Archaeology*. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor we were in the fortunate position of being able to print the December issue in full colour, which resulted in a spectacular showcase of our research by and relevant to many of our members; we are investigating opportunities for continuing colour printing in future editions.

Following record membership levels reported for AAA in 2009, we have the pleasure of announcing that the AAA membership has increased again in 2010 to record high levels. As well as reflecting a general growth in heritage employment opportunities, membership growth is in no small part achieved by the consistent efforts of our membership secretaries who invest a large amount of time in recruiting new members and responding to the queries of existing members. They also offer a great deal of logistical support to the *Australian Archaeology* editorial team during mail outs, and this assistance is vital in ensuring members continue to receive their journals in a timely fashion.

Thanks also to Peter Veth and Michelle Langley for continuing to help broaden the public reach of our membership's research in their capacity as Media Liaison Officers. Another important part of our public profile and outreach is the AAA website and our Webmaster Sam Bolton continued to do an excellent job in this regard during 2010. Thank-you also to the members of the Website Redevelopment Subcommittee that was formed in early 2010 to guide the redesign of the AAA website following a suggestion outlining the need for this from the Webmaster in 2009. For taking on the important role of Indigenous Liaison Officer I thank Chris Wilson. While in 2010 the Indigenous Liaison Officer role has been relatively quiet, Chris is investigating opportunities through which the ILO role can be more substantive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairs of the following AAA subcommittees – Jane Balme (Australian

National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning), Richard Fullagar (Code of Ethics) and Michael Westaway (National Archaeology Week). On a regional level, the Executive would also like to thank our State and Territory representatives, many of whom had an extremely busy year in 2010. It is due to the commitment of all our officers and committee members that our association continues to operate successfully.

I am also particularly grateful to the hard work of Val Attenbrow (Chair) and other members of the Awards and Prizes Subcommittee. Val's efforts in particular behind the scenes in the lead up to and during the conference itself are a vital component in ensuring the recognition of the achievements of our community members throughout the year and during the conference. To the 2010 AAA Annual Conference Organising Committee from ANU I offer a special thanks for their efforts in hosting what has been the largest AAA gathering to date. To bring together so many people in the one place is no small task, and the dedication of the committee members to meeting the challenges posed by the conference is greatly appreciated. The University of Southern Queensland has generously agreed to host the 2011 AAA Annual Conference at their campus in picturesque Toowoomba, with support from the University of Queensland. More information about this will be provided to members in early 2011 as it comes to hand.

The growing membership and increased number of people attending the AAA conference has resulted in conference organisation becoming a more complicated and challenging task than it was during the early years of AAA. For this reason it has been suggested that a standing subcommittee on Strategic Conference Planning be formed, to ensure continuity in corporate memory about conference decisions and to provide ongoing support to the individual host Organising Committee. This suggestion will be discussed in more detail during the AGM.

In concluding this report I would like to thank past Executive members Ian McNiven and Bruno David for their assistance during the handover period, as well as the various senior members of AAA who have provided advice and guidance to the current Executive throughout the year.

Discussion arising: none.

### **5.2 Secretary's Report (Andrew Border)**

The majority of correspondence to AAA this year related to career advice in archaeology, information on work experience, requests for consultant services, people seeking advice on archaeological materials they had found, employment opportunities for individuals, and miscellaneous matters. Careers advice was offered, where appropriate, and the contact details for relevant people, organisations and programmes were passed on.

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

#### **Overview**

The AAA financial year (1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010) saw an overall profit of \$33,255.67 which represents a marked increase on the 2009 financial year (Table 1). The key reason for this is that \$16,932.56 of profits from the 2008 conference (University of Queensland) were not received until the beginning of the 2010 financial year, as reported in the 2009 financial report. Taking this into account, 2010 has a real profit of \$16,423.44. Expenses are in total on par with both 2008 and 2009 financial years, despite shifts

in what our primary expenses items are. Overall, AAA's total equity as of 31 August 2010 is \$116,196, compared to \$82,940 in 2009 with \$49,915 presently held in two separate term deposits.

### Income

Memberships and back issue orders continue to represent the AAA's major source of income, increasing from \$34,105 in 2009 to \$45,256 in 2010 (Table 2), or around 60.1% of our annual revenue. This can be credited to the editorial team for the continuing high quality of *Australian Archaeology*, as well as to the membership team for the efficacy of their administration. In particular, the \$11,151 increase in income through membership renewals and back issue orders represents a significant increase.

Through the efforts of conference organisers our annual conferences continue to make healthy profits and represent a second key source of income for the Association. As noted above, the figure of \$26,933 shown in Table 2 includes \$16,932.56 profit from the 2008 conference hosted by the University of Queensland. The conference hosted by Flinders University in 2009 was also highly successful resulting in \$10,000 additional income for the Association.

Other income was received from the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (AACAI) towards the operation of the Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching

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

2008-2009 \$		2009-2010 \$
40,766.30	Total Income	74,359.00
40,862.33	Total Expenses	41,103.00
-96.03	Operating Profit	33,256.00
83,036.36	Retained Earnings	82,940.00
<b>82,940.33</b>	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>116,196.00</b>

**Table 2** Summary of Income for year ending 31 August 2010.

2008-2009 \$	Income	2009-2010 \$
3948.74	External funding and sponsorships	0.00
0.00	Conference profits	26,933.00
2712.56	Interest received	1570.00
34,105.00	Subscriptions and back issues	45,256.00
0.00	Other income	600.00
<b>40,766.30</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>74,359.00</b>

**Table 3** Summary of Expenses for year ending 31 August 2010.

2008-2009 \$	Expenditure	2009-2010 \$
0.00	Advertising and promotion	954.00
770.00	Auditor's fees	770.00
735.22	Bank charges	262.00
2679.98	Insurance	2769.00
6357.20	Internet fees	1731.00
27,826.93	Journal production	31,892.00
2250.00	Prizes	2600.00
243.00	Sundries	125.00
<b>40,862.33</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>41,103.00</b>

and Learning (ANCATL) (\$500) and a reimbursement for a bank error (\$100).

Reductions in income received in 2010 include a \$1143 drop in interest earnings, resulting from less favourable interest rates as reported in the 2009 Treasurer's Report. Additionally, no external funding or sponsorships since production of AA67 (special issue) have been received in 2010.

### Expenditure

Total expenses for 2010 were \$41,103 which represents an increase of \$241 compared with 2009 (Table 3). Journal production – which includes printing, postage, graphic design and employment of an editorial assistant – has increased by \$4065 in 2010. It should be noted that in 2010 an editorial assistant was employed for the first time (see 2009 Editors' Report) at a cost of \$10,000 per annum (\$7500 in the 2010 financial year), which is a new expense on previous years. Also impacting on 2010 expenditure is a reduction in Internet costs of \$4626 (\$6357 in 2009 to \$1731 in 2010).

### Assets and Liabilities

Table 4 highlights current assets which reflect the marked increase in income and no significance change in expenditure in the 2010 financial year. Total current assets are at \$116,196 which is an increase of \$33,256 from 2009. \$41,820 remains in the CBA Cheque Account while \$35,676 is held in the University of Western Australia Electronic Funds Transfer Account, where online membership and back issue payments are deposited. A large proportion of these latter funds are transferred to the CBA Cheque Account annually.

The Association holds two high interest accounts with CBA: a Term Deposit and a Cash Management Trust Account. Income

**Table 4** Balance sheet for year ending 31 August 2010.

2008-2009 \$		2009-2010 \$
	<b>Assets</b>	
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
22,286.26	CBA Cheque Account	41,820.00
27,018.94	CBA Term Deposit	27,743.00
21,426.66	CBA Cash Management Trust	22,172.00
23,423.40	UWA EFT Account	35,676.00
94,155.26	Total Current Assets	127,411.00
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
11,214.93	Bruce Veitch Award	11,215.00
11,214.93	Total Current Liabilities	11,215.00
82,940.33	Net Assets	116,196.00
	Equity	
83,036.36	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	82,940.33
-96.03	Operating Profit	33,255.67
<b>82,940.33</b>	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>116,196.00</b>

**Table 5** Details of long-term accounts as of 30 June 2010.

Statement Date	Particulars	Amount Invested	Maturity Paid
30 June 2010	CBA Term Deposit	27,743.00	724.06
30 June 2010	CBA Cash Management Trust	22,172.00	745.22

from both accounts has reduced in 2010 as noted above and as such increased only by \$1469 with balances of \$27,743 and \$22,172 respectively.

Our principal liability remains the Bruce Veitch Award Fund which remains the same as 2008 and 2009 at \$11,215.

Net assets have therefore increased in line with 2010 current assets from \$82,940 in 2009 to \$116,196 in 2010, an increase of \$33,256.

### Considerations for 2011

During 2010 a Website Redevelopment Subcommittee was established to begin the process of reviewing and redeveloping

**Table 1** AAA members and new members, 2001–2010.

Year	Members	New Members
2010	765	165
2009	718	181
2008	650	127
2007	547	86
2006	491	78
2005	482	93
2004	560	110
2003	568	126
2002	497	83
2001	367	67

**Table 2** AAA membership types, 2008–2010.

Type	2008	2009	2010
Ordinary	395	438	484
Student	121	137	142
Overseas	20	22	21
Retiree	36	40	46
Institutional	68	69	59
Life Member	10	12	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>765</b>

**Table 3** AAA membership by state, 2008–2010.

State	2008	2009	2010
NSW	145	167	172
QLD	135	134	144
WA	79	92	91
VIC	126	129	153
ACT	51	51	64
SA	43	58	65
NT	13	13	12
TAS	10	13	11

**Table 4** New members, 2010.

Type	New Members	%
Ordinary	94	56.97
Student	56	33.94
Overseas	9	5.45
Retiree	3	1.82
Institutional	3	1.82
Life Member	0	0
Non-Member Journal	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100</b>

the AAA website. In line with increasing profits, it is moved that up to \$15,000 be allocated to redevelop and improve the website in line with recommendations of the Subcommittee which are to be presented at the AGM. This should not require any increase in subscription fees for members due to accumulated profits and the net position of the Association. Although a significant cost, improved management and administration of membership renewals, back issue orders and annual conferences will improve benefits offered to members and will potentially increase the profile of the Association.

It is further recommended that some discussion be held as to whether the two high interest-bearing accounts at the Commonwealth Bank best suit the Association's needs. It is noted from the 2009 report that these accounts were established to ensure sufficient funds to enable production of the journal for two years. Advice received from the Commonwealth Bank is that one of these accounts, the Cash Management Trust Account, is no longer offered and that there may be better ways to invest these funds. It is recommended that this be discussed at the 2010 AGM.

2011 will likely see the beginning of an increase in website hosting and membership management fees if redevelopment of the website proceeds. Hosting is presently at no cost to the Association due to the generosity of UWA, however, in order to improve the website it is necessary for it be hosted by a commercial provider. In addition, the use of a commercial service provider for online payments will involve a small surcharge being subtracted from all online transactions. This is necessary in order to improve online payment options. While both issues require discussion by the Subcommittee and the membership, and are reported elsewhere, it should be noted that these new ongoing costs may be partially offset by new lines of revenue associated with the expansion of online offerings of *Australian Archaeology* through JSTOR and Informit, as outlined in the Editors' Report.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Bruno David, the former Treasurer, for assistance and advice provided during the transition to a new Executive in 2010.

Discussion arising: In light of the healthy financial situation of AAA, Peter White suggested that AAA consider providing financial assistance to Professor Anne McGrath to produce her film on Lake Mungo for the benefit it would provide in raising the profile of the Association.

Motion: 'that AAA financially support Ronin Films for the production of the Lake Mungo film up to the amount of \$5000'. Moved: Peter White. Seconded: Peter Veth. Motion carried nem. con.

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

2010 has been an encouraging year for the membership base of the Association with a continuing increase in membership numbers. As of 5 December 2010 our total membership was 765, including 165 first-time members; this is consistent with membership growth recorded previously (Table 1).

As noted in previous years, subscribers were predominantly Ordinary or Student members (Tables 2-3). The increase in new Student Memberships (34%; Table 4), is encouraging as it is on par with last year's increase of 35%; we will continue to target new Student members in 2011.

In continuing efforts to minimise our impact on the environment an email list of past and current AAA members has been developed. This email list currently has a total of 1167 email addresses. This list is not an open forum; only the Executive are able to post updates to subscribers of news and upcoming events of relevance to list participants (e.g. changes to legislation and National Archaeology Week updates), as well as *Australian Archaeology* contents page alerts.

As suggested by previous Membership Secretaries we have targeted all lapsed members since 2000. We have posted 411 membership renewal flyers to lapsed members without email addresses and all those with email addresses were sent electronic renewal reminders. While this initiative saw the return of many lapsed members, the discrepancy between the AAA email list and our current membership base illustrates that there is still considerable potential to increase the membership base.

In 2011 the Membership Secretaries will continue to target lapsed members and develop new initiatives to retain and increase our membership base. One such initiative will be the website redevelopment, which will increase the incentive for people to remain current members (i.e. provision of news and services). Also, with the incorporation of archaeology into the new National History Curriculum, Primary and secondary school history teachers have been identified as potential members of AAA and initiatives are being developed to target them in the hope of increasing our membership base and increasing the exposure of Australian archaeology within the broader community.

Following the advice of previous Membership Secretaries (Jeremy Ash and Liam Brady) we have continued to split the increasing work load of this role. We have also been coordinating with the treasurer (Michael Morrison) to create a more efficient and completely electronic process, which we hope in time will reduce the workload of the Membership Secretaries and also remove some of the obvious flaws in the current membership database (e.g. the requirement to manually enter all membership data).

Foremost we would like to thank Emma St Pierre who was elected to this office at the last AGM but due to unforeseen circumstances retired from her position midway through the year. Thanks go to all academics who advertised AAA membership in their archaeology courses. We would like to thank Jeremy Ash and Liam Brady for their assistance during the handover process at the start of the year, as well as Ben Keys for his assistance with graphic design of the new AAA pamphlet, Cherylyn Wong for her assistance in membership processing and Linda Terry for her tireless efforts for AA. We would also like to acknowledge the colossal efforts of Sean Ulm and Lynley Wallis who provided support and guidance throughout the year.

Discussion arising: Lynley Wallis (President) also thanked Emma St Pierre for her work as Membership Secretary before her resignation in mid-2010 and replacement by Jacqueline Matthews. While the high number of new members was a welcome, she noted also the need to retain old members, of whom the records indicate there are many hundreds who have chosen for whatever reasons to not renew their membership.

Matthew Spriggs enquired about efforts made to remedy the decline in institutional membership. Lynley replied that the review of the National History Curriculum presented an

opportunity for schools to take up institutional membership in order to obtain the journal.

Peter White noted that Life Members do not show up in the database.

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

During 2010 Numbers 70 (June) and 71 (December) of *Australian Archaeology* were published. AA70 was posted in early June and AA71 in early December.

This year we reported new finds that have wide-ranging implications for understanding the past in our part of the globe. We broke the news of the earliest contact period rock art discovered in Australia, the earliest depiction of a Southeast Asian watercraft as well as the extraordinary find of the world's earliest ground-edge implement dating to around 35,400 years ago. These stories were the subject of media releases and the finds were widely reported in domestic and international media. Papers also explored issues ranging from Pauline Hanson telling 'The Truth' to archaeology as performance as well as the reporting of new pre-30ka BP sites in Victoria, the Pilbara and East Timor.

In a major milestone for the journal, in October the entire back run of *Australian Archaeology* became available online through JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)). Readers at institutions that participate in JSTOR's Arts and Sciences IX Collection are able to browse, search, download, and print the full-text PDF versions of all past articles from the first issue in 1974 up until recent issues with a three-year moving wall.

In even more exciting news, in November we announced that from the beginning of 2011 individual financial members of the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. will receive access to *Australian Archaeology* back issues on JSTOR as a benefit of membership of the Association at no additional cost to subscribers. Note that the most recent issues (the last three years) are available online as part of the Humanities and Social Sciences Collection of the Informit e-Library ([www.informit.com.au](http://www.informit.com.au)).

We also continued to make improvements to the format, content and production quality of the journal throughout the year. In AA70 we launched a new 'Comments' section (it used to be in 'Backfill') to encourage dialogue about material published in AA. Thanks to a generous donation we were able to print the entire AA71 issue in full colour. We think it looks fabulous and hope to offer colour printing to authors as an option in the future.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the 2010 Editorial Committee consisting of Linda Terry (Editorial Assistant), Lara Lamb and Catherine Westcott (Short Report Editors), Jon Prangnell and Jill Reid (Book Review Editors) and Stephen Nichols (Thesis Abstract Editor). Dan Rosendahl, Jacqueline Mathews, Jane Lavers, Karen Murphy and Janet Sykens provided support in the Editorial Offices. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the University of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and the University of Queensland Culture and Heritage Unit. In closing, we thank contributors, referees, the Editorial Advisory Board and the AAA Executive for their support.

Discussion arising: Sean Ulm noted that the December 2010 issue of *Australian Archaeology* would be out by the end of next week. An anonymous donation has enabled the production of the issue in full colour. Donations for future editions of the journal to be produced in colour were welcome, as is feedback on this edition.

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

There were no issues raised with me as the Indigenous Liaison Officer during 2010, however, some support was provided to the 2010 conference organising committee on Indigenous participation at AAA. I was also involved in providing advice during the establishment of the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association (AIAA).

In 2011, I would like to explore new initiatives that would involve the Indigenous Liaison Officer in more formal discussions with the AAA Executive, including examining better ways to serve Indigenous members of AAA; a formal collaboration between the AAA and the AIAA; increasing Indigenous participation in AAA annual conferences; and, engagement in national discussions aimed at increasing the participation of Indigenous peoples in archaeological training and employment.

Discussion arising: Chris Wilson noted that the new Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association met today and appointed an Executive, which will work with the AAA over the next year. The establishment of the organisation was a milestone. The inaugural Chair is Dave Johnston, and the role of Chair will be rotated. Lynley Wallis offered congratulations on behalf of AAA.

Peter White enquired if the new association obviated the need for the AAA Indigenous Subcommittee. Chris Wilson responded that the AIAA would have a representative on the Subcommittee.

### **5.7 Media Liaison Officers' Report (Peter Veth and Michelle Langley)**

This year media releases have been dominated by reports of three kinds: (1) the loss of archaeological material and heritage; (2) the sale of human remains; and (3) the discovery of ancient and unique rock art or ground-edge stone tools. Some 120 media enquiries were received, 40 referrals made to lead archaeologists and 10 interviews given for the print and visual media.

In March, three stories were run on the AAA website; the first outlined the call from both the Australian Archaeological Association Inc. (AAA) and the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) for Christie's auction house to withdraw from sale a human cranium and two femora being offered for sale as items once used by the Yale Skull and Bones Society. Both associations were concerned about the cultural origin of the remains (which may have belonged to Geronimo, the celebrated Apache chief), as well as the affront to human dignity resulting from the sale of human remains. The second March report again concerned the sale of human remains, this time on eBay. Two Dong Song votive bronze armlets with human arm bones, from northern Vietnam were placed on the website, and again AAA and WAC successfully called for the withdraw of these items from the website owing to concerns about their cultural origin and the sale of human remains in itself. The third story reported for March outlined the creation of a new focus group concerned with building on the understanding of past human-environment interactions in southeast Queensland. The group is based in the greater Brisbane region and includes scientists from the University of Queensland, Griffith University, QUT and Queensland Museum along with inter-state partners.

In May and June two reports were posted outlining the discovery of unique rock art both found in Arnhem Land,

Northern Territory; stencils of a honey-eater which may be more than 9000 years old and a possible image of a Genyornis – both painted/stencilled with red ochre.

The loss of colonial buildings at The Rocks, Sydney and the group of artists who set out to capture 'old Sydney' was reported in August. The details for the book resulting from these efforts and where it could be bought were provided.

Finally, in November a report detailing the discovery of the world's oldest ground-edge stone tool (dated to 35,000 years ago) by Monash University and international researchers was posted. This artefact was recovered from Nawarla Gabarnmang, a large rockshelter in Jawoyn Aboriginal country in southwestern Arnhem Land.

Michelle Langley retires as Media Liaison Officer – having moved to the UK for her doctoral studies – while Peter Veth also finishes his term having completed his 5th year in the role.

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

Following on from the trend in recent years, hits to the AAA website have risen 1.89% in the last year to an average of 110 visits per day. There has been no change in the three most popular pages over the last three years, with the top three again being (excluding the home page):

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

Again, following on from recent years, the website continues to be accessed by new visitors with 68% of total visits this year being first-time visitors. Also, once more Google was the major source of visitors at 71%. Members have continued to access the online membership renewals, although the number of members utilising this and the hits for the National Archaeology Week (NAW) website were unavailable at the time of writing.

As mentioned in last year's report, the website is due for a revamp and we have been looking into options for a new website, including a new host. As a result, the AAA Website Redevelopment Subcommittee was formed which will report separately. There has been little change to the current website, in preparation for the new site.

I would like to thank the Executive for their continued support, in particular Lynley Wallis and Mick Morrison for their assistance with the website redevelopment, and the University of Western Australia, who host the current site.

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

In addition to its continuing maintenance of the Register of Archaeology Work Experience Partners, ANCATL continues to work on its two major linked projects: 'Benchmarking Archaeology' and 'Australian Archaeology in Profile'.

#### **Benchmarking Archaeology**

We have previously reported on the 'Benchmarking Honours degrees' project that began in 2006 through a grant obtained by Wendy Beck, with the help of Catherine Clarke and funded by the Carrick Institute (now Australian Learning and Teaching

Council). A number of workshops with representatives of all Australian universities and consultation with employers generated a document at the end of 2008 that set out agreed benchmark standards for knowledge, skills, understanding and levels of achievement in archaeology honours programmes.

We have received positive feedback on how these standards have been used by universities, for example to lobby for the need for laboratory and field classes and equipment for student training and that universities are beginning to explicitly implement these standards. Indeed, Andy Fairbairn and Clair Hughes of the University of Queensland provided an example of how these may be implemented in the Archaeology and Education session of the 2010 conference.

Wendy Beck received an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Fellowship for the period 2010–2011 for a project titled 'Improving Graduate Employability by Implementing Standards [Subject Benchmarks] in Humanities'. This project, led by Wendy, is assessing the impact of the Archaeology Benchmarking Project by interviewing previous participants (from 20 universities) and surveying generalist and specialist employers of archaeology graduates about which of the existing benchmark statements are most important. Workshops to develop shared understanding of the benefits of benchmarking are currently being run for Humanities and Social Science academics by Wendy and a UK expert, Anthony Sinclair, Head of Subject Centre for History, Classics and Archaeology, Higher Education Academy.

The next step is to continue to implement the benchmark standards to improve learning for archaeology and other humanities graduates. Wendy is applying for another ALTC grant in early 2011 with a steering committee drawn from the original benchmarking team to carry out this work as our next project.

No doubt the benchmarks developed in 2008 will be modified in the future as the discipline changes, but we do think that taking charge of the discipline well before other disciplines in Australia puts us in a very good position for the new national regulatory and quality agency for higher education, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), which will require benchmarks for all disciplines.

#### **Australian Archaeology in Profile**

'Australian Archaeology in Profile 2010: A Survey of Working Archaeologists' is the second iteration of the Australian Archaeology in Profile survey. This ANCATL-sponsored survey aims to build a profile of professional archaeology in Australia and to define key archaeology learning and training issues. The survey targets demographic, employment and professional activities data. This 2010 survey builds on data collected in a similar survey undertaken in 2004/2005 to provide information on longitudinal trends in professional archaeology in Australia. Responses closed on 30 June 2010 with 399 valid responses. Preliminary results have been presented here at the AAA conference and at the ASHA conference in September.

This survey is crucial for updates of the discipline benchmarks as we largely rely on this to identify changing needs in our undergraduate programme and expect that they will be regularly updated. We also recognise that, with the increasing propensity for Australian universities to offer professional degrees, it is

likely we will need to develop new sets of standards. There is especially a pressing need for standards to be developed for the new masters degrees designed for people intending to work in Australian consulting archaeology.

Finally, ANCATL is a floating group and anyone who would like to contribute to the aims as outlined on the AAA website are most welcome to join. In the meantime I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work this year.

Discussion arising: Iain Davidson suggested that the name of the subcommittee be changed to Learning and Teaching, so that it corresponded with the name of the Australian Teaching and Learning Council. This may enable more political leverage. Sean Ulm responded a change in name would require new graphic designs with the associated cost.

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

The 2010 Subcommittee comprised Val Attenbrow (Australian Museum) (Chair), Fiona Hook (Archae-aus), Ken Mulvaney (Rio Tinto), Sean Ulm (University of Queensland), Heather Burke (Flinders University) and Lynley Wallis (AAA President, University of Queensland).

This year the Association called for nominations for

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

Notices requesting nominations for the awards were sent out on OzArch as well as the AAA, AACAI, ASHA, AIMA and WAC listservers, on several occasions, with the first notice in early June 2010. Nominations were requested to be submitted by 12 September 2010, which was extended to 19 September in the final call for nominations. Nominations were received for all for all awards.

Discussion arising: Val Attenbrow reported that the Eureka Award would continue, however, with the new name of 'Excellence in Archaeological Interpretation'. Eureka would continue to sponsor this award for the next few years. After this, it will be available for sponsorship.

Following the launch of the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association at this year's conference, and after discussion with its members, the Subcommittee proposed to establish a new prize for the best Indigenous contribution to the conference.

Matthew Spriggs enquired if the photographic competition would become an official AAA prize category from 2011. Val confirmed this, and it was also noted that it had been an official AAA award from the outset.

Val also noted that the 2010 prizes will be awarded at the conference dinner following the AGM. Val thanked members of the Subcommittee and all the judges in this year's prizes.

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

During 2010, Chair of the AAA Code of Ethics Subcommittee received no complaints and did not meet in 2010.

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

The AAA Code of Ethics can be found on the AAA website welcome page at: <http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/ethics>. Complaints may be made according to AAA Code of Ethics Section 4.3:

Any person can notify the Executive Committee of a member's conduct which they believe to be detrimental to the interests of the Association. Complaints may activate procedures outlined in Section 32 (Expulsion of Members) of the Constitution, including rights of appeal.

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

The person against whom the complaint is made must have a right of reply. Consequently, the letter should also include a statement of complaint that can be forwarded to the person against whom the complaint is made, so that the President can invite a formal response and the Code of Ethics Subcommittee can assess all the relevant issues. The Chair of the Code of Ethics Subcommittee will report back to the President of AAA, who will notify both parties of the recommendations accepted by the Executive. If a member is expelled, details are provided in our Constitution, Section 32 (Expulsion of Members) with references to notifications, appeals and voting by AAA members. Except in the event of expulsion (and only as provided for in Section 32 of the AAA Constitution), the AAA Executive and the Code of Ethics Subcommittee is legally bound not to disclose any details of a specific complaint whatsoever in any open or public forum (e.g. among the broader AAA membership, at AAA AGM or among non-members).

### ***5.12 National Archaeology Week Subcommittee Report (Michael Westaway)***

National Archaeology Week was once again successfully rolled out across Australia in May 2010. The programme continues to identify the diversity of archaeology across Australia and plays an important role in raising public awareness of what archaeology is actually about in Australia. This will continue to be the case at a time when Australian archaeology plays a minor role in history curricula and state and National museum exhibitions and public programmes. The success of the initiative is linked to the work of the different state and territory committees.

Although there is still a degree of uncertainty associated with the nature of the proposed new national history syllabus, there

would seem to be potential to link NAW activities into stages 1 to 3 of the new syllabus. At last year's AAA a proposal from Steve Nichols (DERM, QLD) identified the value of developing a national essay competition focusing on archaeology. In light of the national history curriculum developments this is an important proposal and was supported by AAA. Unfortunately it was not taken up for 2010. It should be pursued for 2011 and it may be possible to run the initiative through an educational programme at a state or national museum who could play a coordinating role.

A dedicated National Coordinator is required if NAW is going to grow and deliver more activities across Australia. Quality control of activities remains the responsibility of the different state committees and to date there has been no major issue. The coordinator role should include assisting with sharing of resources between the different state- and territory-based committees. It should also play a role in making formalised approaches to agencies and museums to assist the state committees. The position could also assist with development of support for funding applications (such as recently identified by NAW WA with the WA state lottery). Ideally the work should be done as part of someone's regular work programme, rather than simply undertaken in a voluntary capacity.

Ongoing support for NAW should be seen as a priority of the Association. It holds great potential as the public outreach wing of AAA and, if done well, will formalise stronger links between museums, consultants, teachers, universities and government heritage agencies.

Michael Westaway noted that he had been Chair of this Subcommittee for 8 years and would like to step down.

Discussion arising: Lynley Wallis called for volunteers from the floor for a new Chair. As no volunteers were forthcoming, Lynley advised she would put a call out on the AAA email list, and solicit a replacement for Michael in the New Year.

### ***5.13 Website Redevelopment Subcommittee Report (Lynley Wallis and Michael Morrison)***

One of the key initiatives for the AAA Executive this year has been overseeing the redevelopment of the AAA website. To facilitate this, a Website Redevelopment Subcommittee was appointed, comprising Sam Bolton, Luke Kirkwood, Sean Ulm, Dan Rosendahl, Andrew Wilson, Mick Morrison and Lynley Wallis (Chair). Initial meetings of the subcommittee were held in Brisbane and Adelaide during April 2010 and from this a draft briefing document was developed. This draft document was made available for comment to AAA members via the AAA listserver and a blog especially created for this purpose. The briefing document was then finalised and sent out to numerous web design companies who were asked to submit tenders for the website redevelopment. In the meantime Lynley Wallis attended a workshop on copyright issues relating to websites, run by the Australian Copyright Council in Brisbane during June 2010, in order to better position AAA to deal with such issues should they arise during the redevelopment process. The deadline for tenders was 6 December 2010, and the Subcommittee received a number of quotes ranging in price from c.\$6600 to \$45,000. Copies of the tenders were circulated to all members of the Subcommittee for consideration.

Discussion arising: There was comment on the wide range of quotes obtained for the website redesign. Jack Fenner inquired about the timeframe. Mick Morrison said it should be finalised by this time next year, and Lynley Wallis added that a decision about the successful tenderer would be made next month. However, the membership had to give the Subcommittee approval to award the tender.

Motion: 'That funds up to \$30,000 be made available for the website development'. Moved from the Chair. Motion carried nem. com.

## 5.14 State Representatives' Reports

### 5.14.1 Victoria Report (Duncan Wright)

This year has been a quiet year. A query from Rex Bank from Landmark publications was responded to, and the AAA conference was advertised at Monash University and Melbourne Archaeology Society lectures.

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

2010 has been a significant year for NSW AAA members, especially those whose interests and/or specialisations are in Aboriginal archaeology. On 25 February this year a Bill seeking to amend parts of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act (1974)* (NP&W Act), including its Aboriginal cultural heritage provisions, was introduced into NSW Parliament. This Bill was assented to by both houses of Parliament on 15 June 2010. By proclamation, those Provisions, Regulations and Codes of Practice specific to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the newly titled *National Parks & Wildlife Amendment Act (2010)* commenced on 1 October 2010. This represents the first substantive change to Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation in NSW in over 35 years. It is not the purpose of this report to detail the changes to the NP&W Act as they relate to Aboriginal heritage but it should be noted that the changes include:

- Two new Aboriginal cultural heritage offences (including a strict liability offence) relating to acts of harm and/or desecration of Aboriginal objects;
- Significant increases in the financial penalty and/or penal sentence for each offence;
- A due diligence defence for any act of harm to an Aboriginal object that is supported by both a generic and several industry/activity specific Due Diligence Codes of Practice;
- The collapse of the two-tiered Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) system with the removal of the need to obtain an AHIP for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object (s87).
- A *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* that allows for a legal defence for any act of harm to an Aboriginal object that results from the conduct of a test excavation without an AHIP.

For further information AAA members should access the following web address: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cultureandheritage.htm>.

One of the challenges faced as a NSW delegate for AAA with respect to achieving effective involvement in the current and

foreshadowed Aboriginal heritage legislation reforms has been/ is the Government agency view that AAA – and indeed the wider archaeological and cultural heritage management fraternity – is not a key stakeholder in Aboriginal heritage matters. This is the reality – and it is a significant concern. By way of illustration, a quick review of the website of the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) indicates that between April and June 2009 the agency invited public comment from a number of targeted industry organisations (e.g. NSW Minerals Council; The Property Council of Australia; the NSW Farmers Federation, Local Government and Shires Association; and the Urban Task Force) as well as from some peak Aboriginal groups, in regard to those legislative changes now made in 2010. No such invitation was provided to AAA (or to members of AACAI). Indeed in my prior capacity as a DECCW Officer it was conveyed to me that AAA was not a 'big enough lobby' to warrant such an invitation. While it is of course easy to maintain that the targeting of the industry bodies noted reflects the pro-development planning reform agenda of the current NSW government, it remains disconcerting that AAA with its clear mandate of expertise in Aboriginal cultural heritage can be so readily dismissed and/or marginalised in such a process. Do we need to more broadly consider the nature and extent of AAAs advocacy role with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation? It certainly meant that AAA was not formally involved in the planning and formulation of the current NSW legislation prior to its introduction into the NSW Parliament.

This climate of 'apparent irrelevancy' has continued throughout 2010. Thus although DECCW agreed to meet with AAA and AACAI prior to – and during – the public exhibition of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW* (Alan Williams attended a meeting on behalf of AAA in April and I participated in a meeting via telephone in July) these meetings were primarily didactic with DECCW describing the predetermined process and outcome rather than enabling mechanisms for AAA or AACAI to assist in the formulation of, or substantially alter, the Code. At the close of submissions for this Code of Practice (28 July) circumstances had arisen whereby it was agreed by AAA and AACAI that a joint letter to the Minister was required that articulated our joint concern at the lack of meaningful consultation that had occurred with the archaeological fraternity about a Code that was apparently specific to it. We also raised with the Minister our enduring concern that the Code did not specify any minimum qualifications for undertaking subsurface archaeological investigations. I am pleased to report that although an automated email response was the only communication received from the Minister on this matter, when the Code commenced in October, a minimum qualification requirement of an Honours degree in archaeology for the conduct of subsurface investigations, had been incorporated.

I note that DECCW *has* recently set up a Working Party to review the existing NSW Aboriginal heritage legislation (with the view to developing the aforementioned new stand-alone legislation). I have also been advised that Sharon Sullivan was asked and has accepted nomination to this Working Party. On behalf of the NSW membership of AAA I wish to offer both our congratulations and our thanks to Sharon for taking up such a challenging role. I also urge members to take the opportunity that her presence on the Working Party offers to articulate your

concerns and/or aspirations for the protection, conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW, particularly in 'Off Park' contexts. If we truly value Aboriginal cultural heritage, and maintain that Burra Charter principles allow the all-inclusive assessment of the multiple values and knowledge domains of Aboriginal cultural heritage then we cannot afford to be at the margins of this broader legislative reform.

In this climate of legislative flux, I wish to offer a vote of thanks (and encouragement) to the small but dedicated group of archaeologists and Aboriginal cultural heritage professionals within the Environment Protection and Regulation Group at DECCW, who despite considerable personal and time costs have continued to advocate for ethical, culturally sensitive, professionally rigorous and practical change to the Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation in NSW. I also note that the modest publication *By Degrees: Benchmarking Archaeology Degrees in Australian Universities* (Beck *et al.* 2008) was an invaluable document in my internal and external advocacy on behalf of the AAA membership for the inclusion of a minimum qualification standard for the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.

In concluding this report, I wish to make the following comments and/or recommendations. In the course of preparing correspondence on behalf of the NSW membership I found that details of NSW member numbers were not immediately available to me. Hence I recommend that:

- A formal mechanism be developed whereby state representatives are/can be provided with contact details of their constituent membership so as to better communicate with and 'lobby for' this membership. To ensure the choice and privacy of individual members, 'a permission to be contacted by State Delegate' check box could be added to the membership renewal/application form allowing limited (e.g. email only) contact details to be provided to the delegate.

With regard to the current full review of Aboriginal heritage legislation in NSW I recommend that:

- A formal 'legislative advisory committee' be established to coordinate input and responses to any queries/request that may be made by the NSW legislative reform working party. It would be beneficial if some of this advice/input was cross-jurisdictional; and to that end a broader AAA committee to enable some evidence-based review/feedback on effective legislative processes and outcomes might be useful.

Discussion arising: Colin Pardoe asked if NSW had a legislative advisory committee, as mentioned in the NSW state report. Steve Brown stated that there is a working party in NSW to look at separate Aboriginal heritage legislation, but it will not report for two years. It was proposed that AAA needed representation on the working group, or some level of involvement. Steve Brown recommended that AAA contact Sharon Sullivan, a member of the working group, about participation.

#### 5.14.3 Queensland Report (Lincoln Steinberger)

As in 2009, the major activity of AAA in Queensland in 2010 was the preparation of submissions for reviews of the state's heritage

legislation. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) review of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, to which AAA provided submissions in 2009, continued this year. The failure of the review to adequately address the concerns raised by AAA and other parties resulted in a further AAA submission, in February 2010, to a review of the recommendations made. In addition to this submission, a letter was sent to the relevant Minister in May, detailing the issues of concern to AAA and requesting an explanation of the review methodology and a meeting with the Minister. The response to this letter, received in June, was a generally disappointing reply from the parliamentary secretary, which included an offer to meet with relevant departmental officers who failed to contact AAA to arrange the offered meeting. In October DERM moved to finalise the review of the Acts with the release of an exposure draft of the *Indigenous Cultural Heritage Acts Amendment Bill 2011*. DERM is currently seeking feedback on the proposed amendments, with submissions accepted until 5 pm Monday 31 January 2011. We encourage all concerned AAA members to make a submission, and the State Representative will coordinate a formal AAA response. Nevertheless, as the 'Exposure Draft' of the legislation contains almost no changes to the Acts at all, we expect the AAA submission this time to be brief. Annie Ross has commenced meetings with DERM staff to have some input into the non-legislative review – principally the likely revision of the Duty of Care Guidelines and the CHMP Guidelines. This review is scheduled for completion in December 2011.

Additionally, in May 2010 AAA was asked to provide a submission to DERM in relation to a new set of guidelines being prepared for carrying out archaeological investigations under recent amendments to the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. A submission was prepared and sent in June after consultation with relevant members of the Association, and a revised draft of the guidelines, incorporating many of the suggestions made in the AAA submission, was released for further comment in August.

#### 5.14.4 Northern Territory Report (Trish Bourke)

This year has been a quiet year in the Top End and consequently there are no issues to report on here.

#### 5.14.5 Western Australia Report (Stuart Rapley)

Another quiet year in the west, AAA-wise at least. Samantha Bolton did approach AAA with information on proposed changes to the WA *Aboriginal Heritage Act*. I approached Fiona Hook who suggested that a subcommittee be formed to look it over. It was agreed that a meeting of people at the AAA conference to discuss it is a good idea. Fiona has asked the Conference Organising Chair to allocate a lunch time for this all to happen.

Discussion arising: Fiona Hook reported that in the light of a review of the Western Australian legislation, the DIA Registrar of Aboriginal Sites had suggested that there is a regular point of contact with AAA, preferably a Subcommittee. Anyone interested in this can speak to Fiona after the meeting.

#### 5.14.6 South Australia Report (Alice Gorman) *Threat to Burra State Heritage Precinct*

In July 2010, the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia (PIRSA) called for public submissions in response to a proposal by Phoenix Mining to conduct mining

exploration in the Burra State Heritage Precinct. Because of Burra's local, state, national and potential global significance as part of a transnational World Heritage nomination, I alerted the AAA Executive, who asked me to coordinate a response. I contacted other interested parties (e.g. TICCIH-in-OZ, the World Heritage Site Office in Truro, Cornwall, and Professor Philip Payton at University of Exeter) to ensure that they were fully informed and to avoid unnecessary overlap in the content of our submissions. I drafted a submission, which was circulated to the AAA Executive for comment, and submitted through the AAA President on the 8 July 2010.

In August, I contacted PIRSA to enquire if the submissions were to be made public as is usually the case. They undertook to contact me when the Minister made a decision about placing the submissions online. To date, the submissions have not been made public, nor has there been any public announcement regarding the lifting of the Monster Mine Reserve.

#### **Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988**

A review of the AHA 1988 was announced by the former Minister Jay Weatherill in early 2009. In September 2010, a report outlining the results of the first round of Aboriginal community consultation about the review was released ('It's Not Just About Sacred Sites': A Qualitative Analysis of the Community Consultation Process of the 2009 Review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*). New Minister Grace Portolesi has announced a further stage of consultation in 2011, leading to draft legislation. I will be attending a meeting with the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division on 20 December 2010 to discuss the application of the current *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* to research projects.

#### **Membership Recruitment**

Flinders graduate students were encouraged to join AAA by announcements at the first classes in each semester. I have also encouraged other staff at Flinders University to promote AAA membership in their classes. On 12 November 2010, I ran a masterclass for graduate students on 'Making the Most of Conferences'. It was attended by students already registered for AAA, as well as several who were unable to attend. Students came from Indigenous, historic and maritime backgrounds. While the masterclass was applicable to all archaeology conferences, it focused particularly on the AAA conference and will be run in future years.

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

While in the background there is a lot of activity, Tasmania is in a state of review in respect to heritage rather than new directions being articulated.

- Brighton Bypass archaeological investigation by Rob Paton has produced OSL dates for the levee between:
  - JR03 (65cm) 26,600±2.6 ka
  - JR04 (55cm) 34,000±2.8 ka
  - JR05 (65cm) 37,500±3.8 ka
- While the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources has agreed to not physically impact upon the site, an overpass will stretch across it. The Aboriginal community and others are not satisfied with this solution. The Minister will have the final say as per the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*. At present there is no minister due to a Cabinet reshuffle so as of 29 November there is no resolution.

- The *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* is still under review with no agreed timetable on when this will be presented to Cabinet.
- A major achievement for heritage in Tasmania is the Convict sites listed as part of the serial listing of Australian penal places – Port Arthur, Coal Mines historic site, Cascades Female Factory, Darlington and Brickendon/Woolmers. Congratulations to those members that were involved in the successful application.
- The *Historic Heritage Act 1995* is under review but again no agreed timetable for its release and direction can be provided at this time.

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

We have responded to many enquiries throughout the year from the general public as appropriate. Considerable efforts have been expended in promoting the organisation to students at the Australian National University. With the assistance of a great many people, this year the AAA Annual Conference was organised by ANU and this required a lot of work and commitment and I would like to thank my colleagues and all the students who have helped to make the conference a success.

Motion: 'That the reports as presented are accepted as read'. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded: Fiona Hook. Motion carried nem. con

Motion: 'A vote of thanks to all retiring members of Subcommittees'. Moved: Annie Ross. Seconded: Matthew Spriggs. Motion carried nem. con

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

The following AAA Officers were elected for 2011:

#### **Executive**

President – Lynley Wallis  
 Secretary – Andrew Border#  
 Treasurer – Michael Morrison  
 Public Officer – Sally Brockwell  
 Editors – Sean Ulm & Annie Ross

#### **Committee**

Membership Secretary – Dan Rosendahl & Jacqueline Matthews  
 Media Liaison Officer – Paul Taçon^ & Alice Gorman  
 Webmaster – Samantha Bolton  
 Indigenous Liaison Officer – Christopher Wilson

#### **Subcommittee Chairs**

Prizes and Awards – Val Attenbrow  
 Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning – Jane Balme  
 Code of Ethics – Richard Fullagar  
 National Archaeology Week – vacant\*

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

ACT – Sally May  
 NSW – Maria Cotter  
 NT – Trish Bourke  
 QLD – Lincoln Steinberger  
 SA – Belinda Liebelt  
 TAS – Denise Gaughwin

VIC – Duncan Wright  
WA – Stuart Rapley

Motion: 'That all the officers nominated be elected'. Moved: Matthew Spriggs. Seconded: Claire Smith. Motion carried nem. con.

- # Andrew Border subsequently tendered his resignation after the AGM and was replaced by Nathan Wright.
- ^ Paul Taçon subsequently tendered his resignation after the AGM and was replaced by Iain Davidson.
- \* This vacancy was filled in February 2011 by the appointment of Sarah Ward.

## 7. Appointment of Auditor

Vince Crow and Associates was appointed as the auditor for the 2009–2010 financial year.

Motion: 'That AAA accepts appointment of Vince Crowe & Associates as auditor for the 2010–2011 financial year'. Moved: Mick Morrison. Seconded: Peter White. Motion carried nem. con.

## 8. Other Business

### 8.1 New Conference Subcommittee

Lynley Wallis announced that in 2011 AAA would introduce a new standing Conference Subcommittee who could provide support and advice to the annual conference organising committee. It was suggested that the standing Subcommittee should comprise people with experience in conference organisation. The role of the Subcommittee would include making long-term strategic decisions about the conference, establishing a set of procedural guidelines to assist the annual conference committee, to negotiate with host institutions for future conferences and to coordinate feedback from each conference to make available to future conference organisers; they would further serve in an advisory role to answer general questions from the annual conference organising committee as might arise from time-to-time.

Discussion arising: Peter White noted the need to be clear about the division of power. For example, how would decision-making be divided between the annual conference organising committee and the AAA Subcommittee? Annie Ross offered the clarification that the new Subcommittee would establish guidelines rather than make decisions more appropriate to the conference organisers. Colin Pardoe noted that finances currently have to go through the universities, which have to float an AAA account. Lynley noted that universities take a cut of the conference budget, and that concurrent with the AAA website redevelopment, part of the plan was to establish a new conference webpage that AAA would control and that would allow registration through AAA into a dedicated conference account that could be set-up.

Bryce Barker asked if the committee would be operational in time for the 2011 conference. Lynley said that potential members for the Subcommittee would be approached in the New Year after which it should become operation, and therefore should be able to assist the 2011 conference organisers.

Andrew Fairbairn noted that there were already rules about issues such as concurrent sessions, and that they often

were not followed or were no longer practicable. Lynley commented that one task of the Subcommittee could be to review the previous minutes of the AAA AGMs to determine what decisions had previously been made with respect to the conference. Eleanor Crosby made the point that if any by-laws relating to the annual conference had been made, it would be important to have an out.

Claire Smith proposed that the new Subcommittee could also consider capping student registration at \$100. The complexity of determining registration fees was discussed. In this regard, Jack Fenner commented that predictive data about student attendance would be helpful. Colin Pardoe suggested that a percentage of conference profits could be put aside to support student attendance. Lynley Wallis noted that this was a good idea, however, the uncertainties surrounding funding for the conference each year meant that it was not possible to cap student registration as that might cause the conference to run at a loss in years when sponsorships were low. She also noted that conference organisers always subsidised the student registrations substantially.

### 8.2 New Sponsorship Subcommittee

Lynley Wallis announced that in 2011 AAA would introduce a new standing Sponsorship Subcommittee. Peter Veth, who coordinated sponsorship for the 2010 conference, has agreed to chair the new Subcommittee, and additional members will be sought in the New Year. The role of the new standing Subcommittee would be to investigate such issues as ongoing sponsorship for the Association's journal, donations from people wishing to support other AAA initiatives beyond the conference, to look into official not-for-profit status, and to investigate the possibilities of seeking funding from philanthropic funding organisations to support the work of AAA; the role of the annual conference organising committee in seeking sponsorship for the annual conference would still exist (though at some time in the future it might be prudent to join the two).

Discussion arising: Annie Ross raised the point that it would be necessary to consider how to make donations to AAA tax deductible. Richard Fullagar said that this would tie in with special funding for issues of *Australian Archaeology*.

### 8.3 Membership of FASTS and CHASS

Lynley Wallis advised that the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) is the peak body for scientists in Australia, and lobbies government at the federal level, for example at events such as Science Meets Parliament. At present AAA is not a member, though Lynley raised the issue as to whether we should become members. Membership would mean that AAA could send a representative to the annual Science Meets Parliament event, and would also afford a direct line of communication to the Prime Minister. The cost of joining is approximately \$6.00 per full fee-paying member (though FASTS is currently reviewing the costs for small organisations).

Discussion arising: Richard Fullagar also noted that AAA was not member of the Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, which served the same purpose as FASTS and suggested that AAA also join that organisation. Membership fees were less than \$1000 annually.

Lynley Wallis commented that the strong financial position of the AAA at present meant we could afford to do this and we could then review the benefits gained at the next AGM.

Motion: 'That AAA join FASTS and CHASS and supports the attendance of delegates on as needs basis'. Moved from Chair. Motion carried nem. con

#### ***8.4 Australian Research Council Excellence in Research Australia***

Lynley Wallis reported that as a result of a submission made by AAA in 2010, the ARC undertook to consult with AAA in the next round of journal rankings. This round has two years of lead-up.

Discussion arising: Paul Taçon asked whether AAA itself would have a consultative and transparent process in making journal ranking recommendations to ARC. Lynley responded that in 2010 there had been minimal time to develop a comprehensive process, however, that with the greater lead in time for the next round, it was AAA's intention to make the process as transparent as possible and to allow all members to have a say. She also noted that it was important for all members to realise that on some journal rankings it was unlikely that consensus would be reached, in which case members would have to accept the majority view. She expressed the desire that any process developed would afford the opportunity for AAA to set its own standards if they were not forthcoming from the ARC.

Motion: 'That AAA lobbies the ARC to make the journal ranking process more transparent in the 2012 round as well as to elicit objective criteria on which to make recommendations'. Moved: Sean Ulm. Seconded Annie Ross. Motion carried nem. con.

#### ***8.5 Artefact Deposition in the Australian Museum***

Judith Field reported on a worrying situation concerning the deposition of artefacts in the Australian Museum. She had wanted to deposit the Cuddie Springs collections there, but was told that once she did so the collection would immediately be culled. She was concerned that the museum staff seemed to have no context in which to assess or understand the significance of collections such as this, and predicted that such lack of knowledge could place other collections in danger. Robin Torrence, Val Attenbrow, Stan Florek and Phil Purcell all helped to make the case that the Cuddie Springs collection was important in its entirety, and the museum should not cull it.

#### ***8.6 National History Curriculum***

Andrew Fairbairn said that in relation to the National History Curriculum, Queensland history teachers were told that archaeology was supplementary to history, and the curriculum will be text-based. As an organisation, we are therefore being naïve about what we can achieve. Iain Davidson recommended a subtle approach, noting that he had received an invitation to address the history teacher's conference but the invitation was withdrawn. Lynley Wallis referred to the work Michael Westaway and Steve Nichols have done on the National History Curriculum. Alistair Paterson, a former President of AAA, made a submission of 250 pages to the government. AAA will be invited to all consultative meetings.

Motion: 'That the AAA reaffirms the importance of the archaeological history of Australia for the history and ancient

history curriculum'. Moved: Claire Smith. Seconded: Andrew Fairbairn. Motion carried nem. con.

#### ***8.7 Petitions***

Michael Strong noted the efficacy of petitions as a way of lobbying government, as politicians respond to numbers. The use of petitions to urge the protection of endangered areas such as the Burrup was something the AAA should consider. Lynley Wallis said that AAA support could be requested for a petition if members wished to plan one.

#### ***8.8 AAA Annual Conference 2011 and Beyond***

Lynley Wallis noted the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, supported by the University of Queensland, has generously offered to host the AAA conference in 2011.

Offers to hold the conference in 2012 are called for. She advised that Alistair Paterson from the University of Western Australia had indicated they would host the conference in 2014.

The new conference Subcommittee will negotiate the timing of the next triple conference with AAA, ASHA and AIMA.

Motion: 'A vote of thanks to this year's conference organising committee'. Moved from Chair. CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION.

#### ***9. Close of meeting***

Lynley Wallis thanked the members for attending the meeting and keeping to the time limit. The meeting closed 4.52 pm.