



Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGISTS INC.

www.aacai.com.au

Contents

- 2009 AACAI Annual General Meeting – Minutes

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Date: 12 December 2009

Venue: Lecture theatre NLT3 Flinders University, Adelaide

Time: 6:30pm

1. Present/ Apologies

Attendees: Jo McDonald (chair), Sean Ulm, Mick Morrison, Michael Strong, Colin Pardoe, Richard Fullager, Sam Moody, Laura Farquharson, Annie Ross, David Nutley, Jillian Comber, Harry Webber, Peter Veth

Apologies: Jenna Weston, Judith Powell, Fiona Leslie, Fiona Hook, Richard Robins, Michele Burke, Liz Hatthe, Adrienne Ellis

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were previously circulated in Newsletter. Minutes accepted.

Moved by Colin Pardoe

Seconded by Mick Morrison

3. Business Arising from the previous Minutes

Nil.

4. NEC Committee Reports

President's report

2009 has seen a steady stream of work for the NEC. After being co-opted as President for the year all positions are up for reelection this year at the AGM.

NEC Meetings

A series of teleconference meetings for the NEC have been held this year - one every quarter along with our annual face to face meeting. This year that meeting was held in Brisbane. Thanks are extended to all the Queensland members who attended that meeting and to the University of Queensland for providing us with a venue. After the meeting, members attended a lecture by Eleanor Crosby and then moved to the UQ Staff Club for drinks and nibbles.

The NEC meeting in Brisbane was not just selected as a winter get away for the NEC members from down south, there was a much more important reason. After much secrecy and planning and with great

assistance from Eleanor Crosby, Judith Powell and Sean Ulm, the real purpose of the gathering was revealed that evening in the Staff Club. The inaugural Lifetime Membership of AACAI was awarded to Laila Haglund which was a well kept secret from Laila until the presentation. This award is well deserved as Laila has been integral to the formation of AACAI and has shown great commitment in continuing to support AACAI over the years. The September 2009 Newsletter includes an article that summarises Laila's contribution to the formation of AACAI and to Australian Archaeology. A big congratulations and thank you to Laila for all her work over the years.

AACAI Financial Status

Petra Schell has again been a fantastic Treasurer this year, keeping all the accounts in order and having them audited on time. We are in a healthy financial position and the substantial increase in Full Members has assisted in this. Thanks to Jo McDonald and Allan Lance for working together to keep the membership approval process flowing and assisting Petra in tracking who has paid their dues.

Secretariat Officer

The last year has been a lot easier with the fantastic assistance of our part time secretariat officer, Georgia Meros. Keeping our post box emptied on time, assisting with all the numerous administrative tasks and collating the Newsletter has always been a challenge for our busy members and this year it has been made so much easier thanks to Georgia. A big thank you to Georgia for all her hard work in 2009.

Membership

Our Full Members have increased this year, with many associates upgrading. This is fantastic to see. Recently, work on the AACAI website has resulted in only Full Members having their contact details displayed. For all members who are still associates, remember you are required to apply for Full Membership if you have been an associate for five or more years and are consulting full time.

Website

After the launch of our new website last year we have continued to work on improving aspects of it. Luke Kirkwood has spent many hours adapting it for our uses, including posting copies of newsletters and documents on it as well as creating the members only section, for all members to access. This is still in progress as it requires substantial work to the site but is on track to be in place for 2010. Thank you Luke for his hard work and responses to numerous requests.

Publications

As mentioned earlier, Georgia has been collating our Newsletters but we would like to see more so please email Georgia with articles.

The next edition of *Archaeological Heritage* is still in progress, reviews by consultants always taking longer than expected, but it is near completion so we hope to have the 2nd volume of this journal out in 2010.

Submissions

A submission from AACAI was made to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in response to the proposed reforms of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. This submission owes many thanks to Jo McDonald who did the bulk of the hard work in collating it. The full submission is available on the official DEWHA website of submissions. It will shortly be posted on the AACAI website.

Complaints against Members

A number of verbal complaints and one written complaint about members have been received. The written complaint was not in the specified format. The process to lodge a formal complaint has been offered and to date a formal complaint has not been forthcoming.

AACAI Student Support Fund

This year the NSW/ACT State committee established the AACAI student Support Fund. The fund provides financial assistance to honours students conducting research projects that contribute to consulting archaeology and the aims of the association. We are still looking for some financial contributions from consultancies or individuals that will help maintain the fund. A big thank you to Oliver Brown and Jenna Weston for their hard work in putting the proposal for the fund together and seeing it through the numerous hoops to get it up and running.

State Chapters

NSW and Qld have been the most active this year, with other states lacking formal chapters, although some State Representatives have been attending the NEC meetings, which is fantastic. We look forward to the state members banding together to create formal chapters with state executives.

Team Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the members of the NEC for their hard work and commitment this year and especially Sue McIntyre-Tamwoy in her *ex-officio* position for providing a fantastic handover and being on call to advise when required.

After five years of holding various positions on the NEC I am standing down this year and wish the incoming NEC all the very best for 2010.

Oona Nicolson (President AACAI 2009)

Secretary's report – not presented

Treasurer's Report (attached as a separate file)

Discussion

- Next year please provide breakdown of expenses into categories.

Membership Secretary's Report (attached as a separate file)

Discussion

- Jo McDonald indicated that this year she would be instituting a teleconference facility for meetings to discuss membership assessments. Will also be refining the application form to be more explicit about competencies.

Webmaster's Report – not presented

Website Discussion

- Need for rigor on website to ensure member's accepted skill levels are clearly stated. The meeting acknowledged the efforts that Luke Kirkwood has already put into revamping the Website. The meeting also noted that the Website is our main interface with clients/public and needed to be fully functioning.

Motion: The NEC redevelop the website with full members advertised and only their formally acknowledged skills listed. A mechanism for subscriptions and other payments being done through the Website needs to be developed. Also need to list the Associate and Affiliate Members on the general interface – and need to have the contact details available for members.

Moved by Colin Pardoe

Seconded by Michael Strong

State Delegates Reports (NSW & Qld)

Laura Farquarson presented NSW report on behalf of Jenna Weston (attached to Minutes)

Mick Morrison presented Qld report on behalf of Judith Powell

Reports adopted.

Moved by Annie Ross

Seconded by Richard Fullager

5. Business Arising (from the various reports)

Discussion of value, or otherwise, of Student Membership

- General consensus is that students are not professionals and should therefore not be members. But there is access to the student support fund. Perhaps also provide access to website (but only accessible by full members) to upload interests so members could provide mentoring.

Discussion of role for regulators in promoting AACAI

- In WA the Act stipulates that heritage assessors need to be members of accredited organizations. In Victoria, the minister can make guidelines about accreditation of professionals and will require a range of standards, including membership of AACAI.

Discussion of Chapter Membership

- People should join only one AACAI chapter, but rather than stating 'can work anywhere', should be listed in the relevant states where they undertake the majority of their work. This would make it easier to identify those people available to work in each state and who have knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations in that state. In the first instance, members should be restricted to three States maximum while we trial the workability of this method.

Discussion on NSW State Delegates Report

- Attachments to emails are an issue. It would be better to upload the NSW Newsletter to the website.
- Changing membership to affiliate. Process needs to be simplified? Membership Secretary: this is already being done and will be advertised soon on the website.

6. AACAI fee scale

The need to update the Fee Scale was discussed by the meeting. It was resolved that the incoming NEC should update fee scale

Moved by Jillian Comber

Seconded by Laura Farquharson

7. Monograph Series

Jo McDonald and Richard Fullagar discussed progress with the monograph Series. We currently have a submission being refereed and are hoping to progress the publication of this in the New Year. We are also planning to institute a 'Golden Oldies' category of report (data rich and best practise at the time) to be available on line through the website as PDFs. We have one report to hand at present (Val Attenbrow and Tia Negerevich's Bardens Creek excavations) which will be the first in this series.

- Call for more people to submit reports.
- Include other reports e.g. AIATSIS reports.

8. Election of Office Bearers

National Executive Committee

Only one person nominated to each position. All positions therefore elected. The new Committee is:

President:	Richard Fullagar
Vice President:	Colin Pardoe
Secretary:	Laura Farquharson
Treasurer:	Petra Schell
Membership Secretary:	Jo McDonald
Returning Officer:	Jo McDonald

Membership Committee

Seven members nominated. All positions therefore elected. The new Committee is:

Oona Nicolson
Louise Steding
Neale Draper
Allan Lance
Paul Greenfeld
David Nutley
Peter Veth

9. Other Business

- Legislative Reviews: Plea to keep up with reviews and for the different state chapters (and AAA, ASHA and AIMA) to work together.
- Martin Carver – Editor of *Antiquity*
Keen to profile Cultural Heritage in Australia, especially engagement with Aboriginal people. People with interesting projects should approach Martin
- Profiling the Profession -- Survey coming out in 2010. Please look out for this.

10. Meeting Closed: 7:47pm.

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