

Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference 2012

Fremantle, Western Australia

The 2012 annual conference, held with the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology, was hosted at the University of Notre Dame Australia and the Western Australia Museum Fremantle on 1–4 October. The conference attracted 130 registrations from all over the world, with the ‘Surf and Turf’ conference theme offering a variety of rich subject matter in the 60 papers presented. Overall, it appeared that the people who attended delighted being in Fremantle and thoroughly enjoyed the conference.



Participants at the ASHA Conference Fremantle 2012 (photograph Patrick Baker).

There were some excellent papers presented and prizes went to the following:

BEST STUDENT PAPER

Peter Howard: The University of Sydney

The End of Trams: A Case Study in Urban Destruction

Urban tramways were a feature of most medium and large cities in Australia through the first half of the twentieth century. Tramways provided an excellent means of moving people around cities in addition to stimulating growth in new suburbs. In Sydney, trams were of additional importance in getting people to places of recreation, such as beaches and racecourses. At the system's peak it was used by over 400 million people a year. In 1961 the end came for the Sydney Tramway System and it was swift and uncompromising and remains controversial to this day.

BEST PAPER

David Steinberg, Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment Northern Territory Government

The Singing Line on the Seabed: the Remains of Australia's First Submerged Telegraph Cable to the World

The first telegraph cable linking Australia to the world was established on 19 October 1871, providing Port Darwin, a tiny remote outpost, with almost instant communication with the world, via the new telegraph station at Banjoewangi, East Java. From station to station the new cable stretched over 2000 km of

seabed, with depths up to 838 m. The overland portion of the route, crossing the continent from Port Darwin to Port Augusta, would not be completed for another nine months. The Overland Telegraph Line through the continent is enshrined as one of Australia's great nineteenth-century industrial achievements. The submerged portion tends to get lost in narrative, in part because its physical remains are hidden.

BEST POSTER

Jade Pervan and Ross Stanger: BHP Billiton Iron Ore

A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words (Coastal and Inland Photographs of Indigenous Peoples in the Pilbara)

The adage that a picture is worth a thousand words is particularly pertinent when looking at photographs of Indigenous peoples of the Pilbara. To date, Pilbara studies of past Indigenous lifeways have focused primarily on the archaeological recording of the remaining material culture, with a limited number of studies incorporating the use of historical documentation such as photographs, to inform archaeologists of the past. Whilst historical documents are used throughout the discipline of archaeology to gain a greater understanding of a certain time in the past, to understand an individual's life or group of people's lives, and to help explain and support evidence in the archaeological record, the photographs of the Pilbara provide an enthralling level of detail which may extend beyond what an individual artefact or archaeological site can provide.

SHANE BURKE, Co-convenor

2011 ASHA AWARDS

■ R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis

Naomi Woods, University of Otago

Pakeha Ceramics as Dating Tools: Creating a Chronology for the Te Hoe Whaling Station

Abstract

Very little is known about the chronology of the whaling station of Te Hoe in the Hawkes Bay region of New Zealand. This dissertation aims to shed some light on the sequence of historic occupation there through an analysis of the ceramic assemblage. To facilitate this analysis, a model was developed which characterises the typical "Pakeha" period (1792–1860) ceramic assemblage and identifies which attributes of the ceramics are useful for dating purposes. The results not only provide some much needed evidence for the occupation period for the station but prove the applicability of the created model for other, similar archaeological problems.

■ Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

Sydney Observatory Part of the Powerhouse Museum

Digging up the Past! Fort Phillip Young Archaeologists in Training Program

The program is a series of children's archaeology workshops designed to engage and communicate the processes and principles of historical archaeology. Using the Fort Phillip archaeological site the program has had proven success with over 1600 participants.

■ Judy Birmingham Award for Best Historical Archaeology Consulting Report

(sponsored by Comber Consultants)

Casey and Lowe Pty Ltd

Archaeological Investigation, 710–722 George St, Haymarket

This report covers a range of results including Australia's oldest excavated pottery site, describing the results and synthesising the findings including over 600 kg of pottery sherds. It establishes a baseline for analysis and interpretation of other Sydney potteries recently excavated, and a comparative resource for contemporary excavations that is online and downloadable.

■ Maureen Byrne Award for Best Postgraduate Thesis

Geraldine Mate, University of Queensland

Mining the Landscape: Finding the Social in the Industrial

Abstract

In this thesis I offer a fresh approach to the historical archaeology of industry, using landscape as a framework for the investigation of a mining settlement. This approach marries the study of the social with the industrial reality of mining towns, acknowledging the role of landscape in framing people's understanding of their everyday world. In particular, I examine how people made – created, constructed and understood – their landscape in the gold mining town of Mount Shamrock, in Queensland, Australia, settled in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Landscape as a theoretical perspective provides a means of articulating how people understood the place in which they lived and worked. Although landscape studies have been undertaken in historical archaeology, they have generally not extended to a holistic view that includes the construction and embedding of meaning in landscape. Instead, landscape studies in historical archaeology have tended to limit analyses to the structuring of a landscape, not taking into account the dialectic of creating meaning in and taking meaning from the landscape. Further, in historical archaeology as a whole and in Australia in particular, there is frequently a false dichotomy in the way industrial towns are approached with the separation of industry and settlement.

This study examines social influences in the establishment and layout of Mount Shamrock, identifying significant elements in the construction of the physical and social landscape of the residents. I also consider how people created landscapes of meaning and attachment as they settled in the area and how this meaning was embedded in the landscape through movement, narrative and experiences. The influence of technologies on the social landscape the residents constructed and lived in is analysed and conversely social influences on the way mining and processing were carried out.

Archaeological survey, historical documentation, maps, photographs and experiential reading were used to examine the remnants of Mount Shamrock. From the analysis of results, I argue that there was a constructed landscape at Mount Shamrock with a degree of structuring, evidenced by spatial arrangement and location of particular features in the landscape. People's social relationships were embedded in landscape, for example with kinship networks represented in the proximity of properties. However, there was also evidence of social mobility within the social landscape of the settlement, the context of Mount Shamrock as a goldmining town, situated in nineteenth-century Queensland facilitating that mobility.

Residents initially perceived their landscape as wilderness – quickly transforming the landscape into something they could know and understand. They also regarded the landscape as a resource – they conceptualised it as such, they promoted it that way and they structured it that way – as a mining landscape that was experienced in everyday activity and even through sensory perceptions. The influence of technology on the social hierarchy of Mount Shamrock was clear; technology was integral to how the residents operated and how they perceived the social landscape. Further, analysis also demonstrated the role social influences played in the adoption of particular types of technology.

The analysis of the landscapes of Mount Shamrock shows both the applicability of a landscape framework to historical archaeology and the versatility and depth of interpretation that can be gained by considering landscapes as a whole. Further, it is evident that industry and settlement are integrally linked, and all part of a meaningful and engaged landscape. At Mount Shamrock, gold mining was all pervasive in people's perceptions of the landscape, part of the lived experience and it is clear that the 'social' of everyday life was indeed to be found in the 'industrial'.

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Inc.

University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle, Western Australia
Wednesday 3 October 2012

1. President's Welcome

The meeting opened at 4.45pm. President welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies and Quorum (5) Confirmation

Apologies were received from Tony Lowe, Susan Lawrence, Aleisha Buckler, Geraldine Mate, Tim Owen, Martin Gibbs, Andrea Murphy, Maddy Maitri, Mary O'Keefe.

Committee Members in attendance: Jonathan Prangnell, Brad Duncan, Linda Terry, Karen Murphy, Peter Davies, Shane Burke.

General Members in attendance: Ian Smith, Angela Middleton, Denise Gaughwin, Gaye Nayton, Mary Casey, Lydia Sivaraman, Alice Beale, Kelly Fleming. Guest: Phyllis Coxhill.

3. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2011 AGM: Moved Mary Casey, seconded Ian Smith, motion carried.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

5. Annual Reports

Discussion of matters arising from the report postponed until Other Business

5.1 President's Report (Jonathan Prangnell)

The President's Report was tabled and the President thanked Katharine Watson for her work as Guest Editor on the forthcoming New Zealand themed issue of AHA.

The past 11 months have been busy and at times quite frustrating. ASHA has been active politically over this time by making representation:

- To the Canadian Prime Minister making the point that the historical archaeological community of Australia and New Zealand is deeply concerned by the cutting of Parks Canada's programs and urging a reconsideration of the decision. I thank Dennis Gojak for his help in preparing ASHA's submission;
- To the Queensland Minister for Heritage Protection over the process of making of essential heritage staff in both Aboriginal and built heritage redundant as part of the newly elected State governments push to reduce the size of the public service by up to 15 000 people. This is particularly alarming in the area of historical archaeology as now only two staff remain. This was a joint submission made with AAA;

- To the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities making a submission on the Australian Heritage Strategy Public Consultation Paper. ASHA said in part that the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology is an organisation devoted to increasing public and professional awareness of Australia's (and New Zealand's) historical archaeological heritage. Australia has an extensive and diverse historical archaeological resource due to breadth of the colonial expression and it covers, for example, the full range from remnants of convict establishments, industry (mills, mines, smelters etc), transport, rural practices, urban development and war experiences. The heritage of historical archaeology is the cultural heritage of ordinary Australians. ASHA strongly recommended that the Federal government take a leading role in coordinating agencies from all levels of government which have responsibility for cultural heritage, and strengthen the role of the current historic Heritage Chairs and Officials forum. ASHA also suggested that Australia should follow the New Zealand model of a general blanket protection until the significance of items and places are assessed. ASHA made the point that at present there is no consistent national plan for cultural heritage, and no adequate action by government agencies to coordinate management and share information regarding heritage, with each jurisdiction having a separate statutory basis, structures and processes for heritage management. As such, the Australian Heritage Strategy requires national leadership and commitment from the Federal government, incorporating the cooperation and coordination of all governments (State and local) and professional and community stakeholders. This level of leadership would be inclusive of aspects such as the setting of priorities in cultural heritage, funding and handling of policy, and the coordination of programs, guidelines and standards. ASHA also made the point that the Federal Government has a long and impressive track record in promoting initiatives in conservation and increasing public awareness of maritime archaeology around Australia but the same level of leadership is needed in increasing public awareness of Australia's cultural heritage and its historical archaeological heritage in particular.

- To the Queensland Minister for Environment regarding the terms of reference for an environmental impact statement on the Wongai project, a proposed coking coal mine located at Bathurst Bay in Cape York Peninsula immediately adjacent to the Lakefield and Cape Melville

National Parks. ASHA's submission concentrated on ensuring that the identification and management of historical period heritage was not neglected in the EIS process.

In addition, at the 2011 ASHA AGM in Dunedin it was decided that ASHA would make representation on the discussion paper of the Western Australian government's review of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*. Unfortunately we missed the 2 December 2011 closure date for submissions.

ASHA is a supporter of the NeCTAR funded Federated Archaeological Information Management Systems (FAIMS) project run by the University of New South Wales in collaboration with La Trobe University, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, Flinders University, The University of Western Australia, James Cook University, Australian National University and many other organisations. I represented ASHA at a four day workshop at the University of New South Wales designed to initiate the project. Many other ASHA members were also present representing numerous organisations and institutions.

Thanks to the efforts of Iain Stuart and Aleisha Buckler ASHA now has a Facebook presence.

In addition I have met regularly with Pat Faulkner, the President of the Australian Archaeological Association, to discuss issues of relevance to both associations.

As with previous years we have had a large deal of trouble getting the journal out on time. In fact the December 2011 journal was only sent to members in September 2012. This is a result of a number of factors but mainly it is because the journal is not receiving enough quality papers for publication. I am aware that there is a vicious cycle operating here where people are disinclined to contribute to a journal that is not published on time. This of course leads to even further delays as papers need to be solicited. Members of the association need to support the journal by offering papers for publication. The good news is that the 2012 journal appears to be on track for publication on time at the end of the year.

Motion to accept President's Report: Moved Ian Smith. Seconded Brad Duncan, motion carried.

5.2 Treasurer's Report (Karen Murphy)

ASHA is in a healthy financial position at the end of the 2011–12 financial year with net assets of \$106,355. The overall financial result for 2012–12 is a surplus (income greater than expenses) of \$25,919.73.

Income from subscriptions increased this year (to just under \$18,200) following the resolution of issues with the online PayPal payment system. Copyright royalties for usage and downloads of ASHA journals and publications totalled \$10,307.84 including our first payment from JSTOR. Other income was generated from conference revenue (\$16,607.32 – from the 2009 Launceston conference and 2011 Dunedin conferences), and

interest from investment accounts (\$1,458.78). The major expense for the financial year was the production (\$10,797.60) and postage (\$1,215.35) for the 2010 ASHA journal. Expenditure for the 2011 journal has occurred in the 2012–13 financial year, as it is expected will the expenditure for the 2012 journal. Despite the payment of two journals in the same financial year our current financial position is healthy enough to cover this occurrence.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

Receipts	2011–2012	2010–2011
Sales of Port Essington	54.48	0.00
Subscriptions	18,199.02	6,565.00
Grant Funding	0.00	7,000.00
Conference Revenue	16,607.32	5,641.31
Investment A/C Interest	1,458.78	1,425.87
Copyright royalties	10,307.84	7,978.46
TOTAL RECEIPTS	46,627.44	28,610.64
Expenditure	2011–2012	2010–2011
Publication – Journal	10,797.60	0.00
Publication – Other	0.00	1,588.50
Merchant Fees	412.94	284.33
Postage General	304.70	175.85
Journal Postage	1,215.35	782.05
Telephone	0.00	1,226.21
Internet/Web Page Hosting	725.40	659.40
PO Box	542.17	0.00
Insurance	0.00	615.00
Audit	0.00	200.00
Conference Advance	6,106.77	0.00
Awards	200.00	200.00
Bank Charges	34.00	60.00
Paypal Fees	222.78	125.65
Sundry expenses	146.00	567.70
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20,707.71	6,484.69
Less Unpresented Cheques	0.00	200.00
	20,707.71	6,284.69
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	25,919.73	22,325.95

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets	2012	2011
Current Assets per Cash Books		
– Bendigo Bank		
Operating A/C	77,124.05	41,109.34
Card A/C	248.70	248.70
– Investment A/C (1)	13,660.24	12,902.80
– Investment A/C (2)	12,637.74	11,936.70
– Paypal A/C	2684.27	14,354.55
Total current assets	106,355.00	80,552.09
Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	106,355.00	80,552.09

BANK RECONCILIATION as at 30 June 2012

Operating A/C Card A/C	Operating A/C	Card A/C
Credits (Deposits)	60,811.37	0.00
Debits (Withdrawals)	24,766.70	0.00
Overall transactions	36,044.67	0.00
Opening balance	41,109.34	248.70
Balance	77,154.01	248.70
Less unpresented cheques	0	0
Closing balance	77,154.01	248.70
Actual closing balance	77,124.05	248.70
Discrepancy	29.96	0.00

PAYPAL ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

as at 30 June 2012

Paypal A/C

Credits (Deposits)	7,669.02
Debits (Withdrawals/Fees)	19,222.78
Overall transactions	-11,553.76
Opening balance	14,412.81
Balance	2,859.05
Closing balance	2,859.05
Actual account balance	2684.27
Discrepancy	174.78

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: moved Gaye Dayton, Seconded Brad Duncan, motion carried.

5.3 Secretary's Report (Geraldine Mate)

Society Administration

Correspondence

The majority of correspondence with the Society occurred via email in 2011–2012. Correspondence primarily related to membership renewals and publication orders. A number of claims for missing journals were also received as a result of the delay in publishing Volume 29 of the journal. ASHA continues to receive information from various other societies reporting on their news and upcoming events, including two regular newsletters. General society administration as well as requests for ASHA to contribute feedback and advocacy on legislative reviews and other initiatives is primarily received via postal mail.

Recording Keeping

The online ASHA database and email accounts continue to be maintained and backed up to independent and secure servers associated with SmarterMail (email providers) and The Web Showroom (website and membership database providers).

The archives of the society from 2006 onwards are held with the Secretary and the Treasurer. Records previous to that are not held by the current executive. Critical documents such as our Certificate of Registration and Annual Returns for the Office of Fair Trading are clearly linked to the procedures and held in an accessible location and form.

Electronic files have been regularly backed up on a portable hard drive. Investigations have commenced to scope out sharing of regularly accessed electronic files across the Executive using a cloud based service such

as Drop Box. This will allow easier access to joint files such as reports, minutes, forms and templates.

Office of Fair Trading

The returns for both 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 were lodged as required. Reporting requirements for the Office of Fair Trading were relaxed last financial year for smaller organisations.

Membership

As the outline of membership numbers show, there has been a 20% increase in membership numbers for 2011–2012. This is attributed in part to the resolution of issues with on-line payment. Contact with lapsed members regarding updating of postal details resulted in a number of additional renewals. It was decided again this year that it would not be appropriate to send out reminders due to the delay in presenting the 2011 journal. When the journal was produced and mailed, membership forms were included as a reminder.

There were some delays in processing membership renewals for some members as a result of other commitments of the Secretary. This has led to frustrations for some members, for which I apologise. In previous years, administrative support was used by the Secretary. Although I chose not to take on an Administrative Officer, it is recommended that this role continues to be filled as the various responsibilities of the Secretary make it a fairly demanding role. The use of a paid Administrative Officer would somewhat alleviate the demands of this position.

As of 30th of September 2012 there are 67 renewals for the 2012–2013 Membership year including one new life member.

2011–12 Membership Renewals

At the end of the 2011–12 membership year (1 July 2011 to 30 Jun 2012), ASHA had 274 members (including 22 life members). This number is back to the approximate membership of previous years. Although there are still many non-renewing members, it is hoped addressing renewals will continue to improve membership numbers. There were 59 'new' members this year, although this number may be somewhat distorted by lapsed members setting up a new membership record rather than renewing on their original membership record. Wherever possible, this is identified in the database and duplicate records are melded.

Membership Type	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Individual	163	120	152
Household	11	7	5
Corporate	31	30	30
Student	29	26	30
Pensioner/Unwaged	10	11	17
Individual (OS)	4	2	3
Corporate (OS)	6	8	8
Student (OS)	1	0	2
Financial Members	255	204	247
Life	18	20	22
Copyright			
Deposit/Reciprocal	5	5	5
Total Members	278	229	274

Annual Trends

	Renewals	New members	New Life members	Total Financial	Total members
2003	195	61	1	257	280
2004	222	71	1	294	318
2005	266	40	0	306	331
2006	295	35	1	331	356
2007–08	301	63	1	365	390
2008–09	275	42	1	384	409
2009–10	236	41	1	255	278
2010–11	203	16	0	204	229
2011–12	213	59	2	247	274

Committee Meetings

A number of committee meetings have been held over the last 11 months. One teleconference for the general committee meeting was held and a further three meetings of the executive. One meeting of the Publications Committee was held.

Webshowroom

There have been a number of issues identified with the functionality, usability and reliability of Webshowroom, our back-end of the website, database, and on-line purchasing facility, throughout the 2011–12 membership year. These include unresolved problems with the on-line forms for new members, problems for members being able to access journal back issues through the website, and problems with never-ending loops in on-line forms (particularly for New Zealand members for some reason). Issues with incorrect automatic renewal dates, problems with automated sending of receipts for membership subscriptions, and issues with the automatic progressing of PayPal payments appear to have been resolved. Anomalies with on-line member prices for journals and publications have been addressed. We continue to have ongoing issues with spam bots creating bogus customers. Spam is also creating major issues with the Secretary's email account.

Webshowroom have recently made a major upgrade to the back-end appearance of the database. However, it may be timely to consider a review of the current website and database to evaluate opportunities to improve the functionality and appearance of the website. Webshowroom has capabilities that we are as yet not using and the recent upgrade offers additional tools such as website statistical analysis which could assist in driving improvements to website visits and accessibility.

Member Suggestions and Queries

Direct Debit facility to pay membership renewals via the website (numerous members).

Discussion arising: Mary Casey queried the reduction in the number of overseas corporate members. Incoming Secretary to investigate.

Motion to accept Secretary's Report: moved Brad Duncan. Seconded Angela Middleton, motion carried.

Secretary, Geraldine Mate, also tabled her resignation from the position citing work, personal and time commitments that made it impossible for her to continue in the position.

5.4 Vice Presidents' Reports

No Vice Presidents' Reports were tabled.

5.5 Journal Editor's Report

No Journal Editor's Report was tabled.

6. Election of Incoming Committee

No Returning Officer was appointed as there were no contested committee positions. Accordingly, all who nominated for the ASHA Executive & General Committee were voted in.

Declaration of the 2010–2011 ASHA Committee

The following were declared to be members of the 2012–2013 ASHA Committee:

President	Jonathan Prangnell
Vice Presidents	Brad Duncan (Web Editor)
	[vacant]
Treasurer	Karen Murphy
Secretary	Linda Terry
Committee	Rick McGovern-Wilson (Newsletter Editor), Shane Burke, Iain Stuart, Peter Davies (Publications Officer) and Aleisha Buckler (Publicity Coordinator).

State representatives – the following members were returned:

New Zealand	Rick McGovern Wilson
Northern Territory	[vacant]
Queensland	Cameron Harvey
South Australia	Adam Paterson
Western Australia	Gaye Nayton
Victoria	Andrea Murphy
Tasmania	Annita Waghorn
ACT	Richard Morrison
NSW	Lydia Sivaraman

Tim Owen tendered his resignation from the role of NSW representative, stating that although he had enjoyed undertaking the role for many years, he was no longer able to give it the time it deserved.

Brad Duncan noted that State representatives need to be mindful that the position carries responsibilities as affirmed at the 2011 AGM, to:

- solicit and pass on content for the Newsletter
- act as a conduit for matters of importance to the Committee, for example needs for advocacy at a State Government level
- act in an advocacy role for the Association within their state

Denise Gaughwin commented that the provision of information needs to be a 'two-way street' and the Executive needs to communicate with State representatives when necessary.

Gaye Nayton commented on the difficulty in getting newsletter content from members.

7. Appointment of Public Officer

Iain Stuart to continue as the Public Officer for ASHA. Moved Jonathan Prangnell, seconded Karen Murphy, motion carried.

8. Membership Fees

Given our current financial situation, there were no proposed changes to the membership fees for 2012–2013. They will remain at the rates set for 2010–2011:

Category	Fees
Individual	\$60
Household	\$70
Corporate	\$75
Student	\$40
Pensioner/unwaged	\$40
Life	\$1200
Individual OS*	\$85
Corporate OS*	\$100
Student OS*	\$60

*Overseas includes anywhere other than Australia or NZ.

9. 2013 Conference

The venue for the 2013 conference is proposed to be NSW, possibly in Parramatta. Mary Casey, Brad Duncan and Martin Gibbs to liaise.

The 2014 conference will be a multi-society conference to be held in Cairns. Geraldine Mate is currently the ASHA representative on the organising committee.

10. 2011–12 ASHA Committee retired

Jonathan Prangnell thanked the 2011–2012 Committee for their service and welcomed the new committee.

11. Other Business

Reduction in Staffing and Expertise of Heritage
 Denise Gaughwin reported that the government staffing issues occurring in Queensland, as noted in the President's Report are also happening in Tasmania. Heritage positions are not being filled by archaeologists but by people with little or no heritage knowledge or training. Gaye Nayton stated that in WA heritage architects are replacing archaeologists. General discussion indicated that this is an issue throughout all Australian states as well as federally and also in New Zealand. Kelly Fleming commented that the same issues are arising in Heritage Councils. It was agreed that State Representatives should provide information regarding appropriate people to whom the President can write to re-enforce the importance of maintaining archaeologists' expertise in these positions.

Paid Administrative Support for Secretary

Geraldine Mate as outgoing Secretary raised the necessity of support for the role. As incoming Secretary Linda Terry would like to take over the role and see what is involved before appointing an assistant.

Ian Smith moved that the meeting authorise the appointment of paid support if necessary. Seconded Peter Davies, motion carried.

Australasian Historical Archaeology

The timely publication of AHA was discussed at length, with Jon reiterating that the main issue is the lack of quality submissions. The next journal has been compiled by a guest editor and Tracy Ireland is keen to have more guest editors. Mary Casey suggested changing the editorial model to a panel, which would spread the workload and have more people to chase papers.

Ian Smith noted that rather than a panel of editors there was a need to have someone with ultimate responsibility e.g. an editor with assistant editors; this not only spreads the workload but provides succession planning. Other suggestions from the floor were to have an editorial team who take responsibility on alternating years.

Jon commented that the Editorial Board need to be active in their involvement with the journal. He will initiate an email discussion with the Board to solicit feedback on an appropriate model/approach for the future direction of the journal with an emphasis on improving timeliness as well as the amount and quality of submissions.

Newsletter

The President moved a vote of thanks to Rick McGovern-Wilson for his continued commitment to the Newsletter.

Publications

Peter Davies reported on the monograph series on behalf of Martin Gibbs and himself. Alistair Bowen's monograph is with the printer and should be out by Christmas. There are several others in the frame but production is dependent on the author as well as the editorial process. The monographs continue to be published jointly with Sydney University, being produced as E-Prints.

ASHA Member Numbers at the Conference

Denise Gaughwin commented on the small number of ASHA members at the conference and also among the presenters. She hopes that we can increase the proportion of ASHA participation at the 2014 joint conference.

The issue will be discussed at the next ASHA Committee meeting.

Website

Brad Duncan reported that the current website continues to have problems; the system is now outdated with the resulting lack of functionality. The appearance of the website is bland and cannot be improved. The Secretary's report identified several unresolved problems including loops in on-line forms especially for New Zealand members. Karen Murphy noted that the current host, Webshowroom, charges \$80 per month and that the site no longer meets the business requirements of the

organisation. General discussion agreed that the Executive Committee develop business requirements and obtain quotes for the development of a new website. Moved Mary Casey. Seconded Angela Middleton, motion carried.

12. Close of the AGM

Jonathan Prangnell closed the meeting by thanking Shane Burke and the Conference Organising Committee for an excellent conference. The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.