

## Australian Archaeology



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MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

HELD IN MELBOURNE

The Meeting was held in the Brown Theatre, Metallurgy Department, Melbourne University at 9.30 a.m. on Friday 2nd September, 20 members present.

In the Chair: Dr J. Specht

The main items on the agenda for this Meeting were :-

1. Notification of results of the recent postal ballot for the election of new officer bearers for the Association;
2. Ratification of the draft constitution as presented to members in the Newsletter for April 1976;
3. Discussion of proposal for a professional association of archaeologists. Dr R. Vanderwal to speak to this item.

### 1. Results of the Elections

The results of the elections were announced, 62 out of the 116 members having registered their vote by 26 August (closing date 22nd August) the three late voting papers which arrived in the week following are counted here).

Electorate: 65 members voted out of a total membership of 116

President: G. Connah 15; R. Jones 50

Editor: R. Lampert 65

Committee: W. Ambrose 16  
J. Clegg 4  
I. Crawford 13  
S. Hallam 18  
I. Jack 8  
C. Jack-Hinton 4  
I. McBryde 42  
D.W. Orchiston 9  
G. Pretty 6  
A. Ross 5  
S. Sullivan 22  
J. Specht 20  
A. Thorne 13  
R.V.S. Wright 15

So the executive consists of President, Dr R. Jones; Editor Mr R. Lampert and Committee Members, Dr McBryde, Dr J. Specht and Ms Sullivan. The meeting received the results, noting that the Association still lacked both Treasurer and Secretary. Dr McBryde had been acting Treasurer as well as Secretary since Dr Jack-Hinton's resignation at the end of 1974. After discussion it was decided to call for further nominations for these positions and to hold a further postal ballot rather than co-opt to these positions at the Melbourne Meeting.

Resolution: that further nominations for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer be called for and a postal ballot held. Moved Dr Vanderwal, seconded Dr Coutts. This motion was carried.

Vote of Thanks: The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Dr McBryde for her work as Secretary and Acting Treasurer during the last three years.

## 2. Ratification of Draft Constitution

This item was the subject of considerable discussion as the members present felt reluctant to pass a motion ratifying the constitution on behalf of all members of the Association, and there was pressure to delay ratification.

The following resolutions were made:-

1. Resolution: that this meeting does not ratify the draft constitution today; Moved Dr Coutts; Seconded G. Pretty; Carried with one abstention.
2. Resolution: that a document be circulated referring members of the publication of the draft constitution in the Newsletter for April 1976 and asking them to vote on its ratification. Moved Dr Coutts; Seconded Dr Ossa; Carried with one abstention.
3. Resolution: Addendum to motion 2 previously carried. That members be invited to comment on aspects of the draft constitution that might require amendment at a future date, and that such comments be circulated in a future issue of the Newsletter for discussion by members. Moved Dr Coutts; Seconded Dr Vanderwal; Carried.

Vote of Thanks: A vote of thanks was proposed to Wal Ambrose for his work in preparing the draft constitution for discussion in 1975, and in presenting the present draft which incorporates the amendments suggested at the last general meeting. Moved Dr Hallam; Seconded Dr Coutts.

## 3. Question of a Proposed Professional Association of Archaeologists

Dr Vanderwal spoke on this topic. The proposal he outlined envisaged:

1. The establishment of an organisation which would be independent of the Archaeological Association with no formal ties to it, though membership could overlap.
2. The organisation would be Australia-wide with semi-autonomous chapters in each state.
3. Membership of the organisation would be a vital question, also means of application for membership, and government of the body if established.
4. There could be two or more ways of founding such an organisation:-
  - (a) based on qualifications, experience and publications,

- (b) based on a check list of people built up on experience and expertise.

In either case selection would be based on reports from referees chosen by the applicant.

5. Government of the organisation by a committee composed of equal-number representation of university, state and museum archaeologists. It would have to be decided whether the president or secretary were chosen from full membership by all members or by the committee from its ranks.
6. The function of the organisation would include:-
  - (a) provide a body of archaeologists which could be drawn upon for survey work,
  - (b) act as an advisory body for evaluating applications for research projects and excavation permits,
  - (c) act as an independent evaluating body to discuss lines of approach for government surveys.

Dr Vanderwal concluded by suggesting that the Newsletter might serve as an avenue for developing these ideas and promoting discussion. He stressed that this presentation was primarily to circulate the ideas and problems as seen by archaeologists in Victoria.

The discussion of this proposal was varied, the Victorian archaeologists stressing the need for such a working body in their state, for a code of ethics, and for a balanced growth of archaeology there which could be monitored by such an organisation. Other commentators stressed that though there was need for wider discussion of the archaeological aspects of environmental impact surveys the Archaeological Association could provide an adequate avenue for these. Further, in other states advisory committees such as that envisaged in the proposal were laid down in the legislation relating to protection of archaeological relics. The question of the relationship of the proposed body to the Archaeological Association was discussed, with stress on the value of a wide and unrestricted membership in the Association. It was felt that this proposal needed fuller discussion than was possible at the present meeting and that the views raised could be circulated in the Newsletter in the form of a statement prepared by Dr Vanderwal and Dr Coutts, for debate by all members and full discussion by the Ethics Sub-Committee.

#### 4. Other Business

##### Elections:

1. Dr Hallam raised the question of presentation of ballot forms and this will be investigated by the executive.

##### Financial statement:

2. Dr McBryde reported on the finances of the Association which are in a healthy state as our major expenses at present are those involved in the preparation and circulation of the Newsletter. Calls for subscriptions for 1978 will be made early in the coming year. Several members have already paid advance subscriptions and these are recorded.

Field Meeting in 1978:

3. Plans are in hand for a 3-day meeting to be held in May 1978 at a field location, probably Kinchiga National Park, near Menindee in western NSW. It is hoped to hold a series of Workshop sessions on the themes of Research on Arid Lands in Australia.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

From this meeting several points arose; one, the need for final ratification of the constitution so that the Association may be formally established and then move towards legal status as an incorporated society. Ballot papers for voting on the draft constitution will be forwarded soon. This constitution is no way immutable, as its clauses provide for future amendment if this be thought necessary. The statement in the report of the meeting on subscriptions should cover the request that members be advised on this point. There have been no calls for further subscriptions since the initial one, those who have sent in further subscriptions of course have these recorded and will not need to respond to the call for subscriptions which will go out early in 1978.

Calls for nominations for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer will go out soon and I hope for a good response.

The proposal for establishing a professional organisation for archaeologists is one that requires full debate and members should use the Newsletter as a means of circulating various viewpoints on this issue, one that is the subject of much discussion in the States and in Britain at present.

Isabel McBryde

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THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY  
CURATOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Applications are invited for the position of Curator or Assistant Curator in the Department of Anthropology from middle February 1978. The Department has two curatorial positions covering Australia and the Pacific Islands, with a minor interest in Southeast Asia. The successful applicant will handle the Department's Australian activities including curation of collections, participation in display programs (particularly the redevelopment of the Australian permanent display), development of research in Aboriginal anthropology and the handling of public inquiries. A degree in Anthropology, preferably PhD level, with demonstrated research capabilities is essential. Experience in museum work, Australian Aboriginal anthropology and or the study of material culture are desirable.

Salary ranges: Curator range \$15,775 - \$17,901  
Assistant Curator range \$ 9,914 - \$15,085

Progression from Assistant Curator to Curator is based upon demonstration of proficiency.