



The Australian Anthropological Society Newsletter

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Indigenous Rights: AAS Statement

September 27, 2007

A public response to Australia's refusal to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Statement on recent policy trends in Indigenous affairs

The Australian Anthropology Society registers deep concerns at the policy direction the Australian nation is taking towards its Indigenous citizens. As a group of scholars, many with long-standing and ongoing professional experience of remote as well as rural and urban Aboriginal communities, we offer the following comments:

1. Australia has refused to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a document that was many years in the making. The Declaration does not provide an alternative set of laws to those of Australia or of any other nation. What it does do is oblige nation states to support the capacity of Indigenous populations to act. It aims to enhance the capacity of those populations, and individuals within them, to determine their modes of life within the laws and institutions of the states of which they are citizens. We and our Indigenous colleagues and friends cannot help but wonder at Australia's ungenerous response to the non-binding but uplifting principles contained in the UN Declaration.
2. Minority populations with different social and cultural histories are a feature of many modern nation-states, and the ability to treat such people honourably is a measure of the maturity and humanity of a nation. Despite the body of work produced by anthropologists, the varied Indigenous societies that have interacted with the radically different European settlers at various stages since 1788 are little understood in their own country. Even the simplest features of the classical Aboriginal traditions – the totemic and moiety divisions, the mutual dependence and reciprocity built into ceremonial and economic arrangements, the multilingualism evident among the wealth of languages – are less well known to educated Australians than is the Indian caste system or the Spanish bullfight. Without knowledge of the normal economic, political and family structures that comprised the everyday life of Indigenous people, there can be little appreciation of the radical

destabilisation and restructuring that these societies have had to manage.

3. Aboriginal people have been adjusting to their changing social conditions, in some cases for over 200 years but in others within living memory. While a long-term assimilative process may be inevitable and can be constructive and even liberating, a large body of research demonstrates that forcing established social processes into a foreign mould is destructive of individuals, families and cultures. There is no doubt that the insistent pressures and stresses resulting from radical social change, without a respectful and reciprocal relationship with the nation's authorities, have been responsible for severely destabilising family authority and informal community standards of care and protection for the young and the vulnerable. This breakdown in turn has made it difficult to maintain social control. It is the loss of a coherent community structure that has seen the emergence of some extreme examples of social pathology, which, it must be stressed, are neither typical nor representative of the majority of Indigenous people.
4. The despair, desperation and destructive violence that mars the social life of a substantial number of Indigenous communities does demand government action. Indeed action is long overdue, but dealing with social dysfunction in a clumsy and ill informed manner is likely to compound the level of disorder and add to estrangement. Anthropologists working in Australia are personally and painfully aware of real and urgent humanitarian needs. Only the most scandalous and shameful of these feature in the media; the chronic conditions that generate them are not so obvious. Effective policy responses require an intelligent understanding and respect for the conditions and the people involved. The language of aggressive assimilationism is not effective in dealing with culturally distinct and historically alienated people. Although initially time consuming, processes of negotiation with respected individuals and relevant organizations are far more effective and thus, in the longer term, more economical. Measures for which Aboriginal people have been pleading for years – more police and law enforcement, better housing, and effective implementation of alcohol prohibitions – should not appear as corrective measures imposed in a military-style operation.
5. We believe strongly that the governing of vulnerable, marginal and excluded peoples carries an added responsibility as these are people whose voices are often muted in the public arena. Rather than welfare recipients being made the target of punitive measures, there needs to be long term commitment to a stable and holistic program of providing adequate resources for these communities to come to terms with their current conditions of integration with the state's institutions and processes. A wealthy nation such as Australia surely has the knowledge, the expertise and the resources to

provide excellence in education, housing and health for the relatively few residents of remote communities, as well as for other Indigenous Australians. It is crucial that these people are listened to, and thus enabled to take responsibility for the direction of their development into the future.

Gillian Cowlshaw

President – Australian Anthropological Society

On behalf of the AAS Executive and members of the society

President's Report 2007

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the
Australian Anthropological Society

Canberra, Thursday 1 November 2007, 5.30-7.00 pm

Gillian Cowlshaw

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of
Technology, Sydney

Thanks to the executive, who I have enjoyed working with. Especial thanks and good wishes to Klara Hansen whose is leaving us. Her hard work has seen more post graduates participate in this year's conference.

Thanks to our administrator Shane Silva, whose work on our website and on streamlining various functions continues in ways that I can only marvel at. Under our joint management the membership has continued to grow. We now have 482 members with some more awaiting membership approval. More than half of these are Fellows. Also visits to the website have increased significantly. 2,200 people visited per month and made a total of 3,300 visits.

Thanks to the ANU conference team for organizing a lively and well attended conference this year.

Thanks also to John Carty, Nelia Hyndman-Rizik, Kevin Murphy for organizing the greatly-appreciated post-graduate colloquium on October 27th.

The following announcements of 2007 activities have been published in the Newsletter already so many of you will be aware of them and I will be brief:

The 2008 conference will be held in Auckland. This will be a bumper conference of the AAS, the New Zealand and the British anthropology societies. The organization will be in the hands of Auckland University but any assistance that energetic members are willing to give would be welcome; they have asked for suggestions for sponsorship. Veronica Strang will update us a little later.

Negotiations are ongoing for the 2009 conference to be hosted by Macquarie University.

Prizes

In addition to the thesis prizes, we have established a new prize this year for the best journal article. We will be calling on journal editors to nominate their best article published in 2007 for a prize to be awarded at the conference next year.

Thesis prizes. Heads of departments were slow to

nominate their new graduates for the thesis prizes this year. I urge them to attend to this more promptly next year and we will be putting out earlier reminders. While not everyone approves of prizes, they certainly have value for students in the form of money and prestige and they enhance the profile of the discipline.

In the end the field was very competitive and I congratulate all those nominated. Despite the strength of the field the decisions about the winners were unanimous.

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the prize for the best Honours thesis in Australia in 2006 is Ben Worthley of Macquarie University for a thesis entitled 'The ontological and social construction of ritual'.

The winner of the prize for the best PhD in anthropology in Australia in 2006 is Inge Kral of CAEPR at ANU for a thesis entitled 'Writing Words – Right Way! Literacy and social practice in the Ngaanyatjarra world'.

We will present the prizes at the dinner tonight, so we hope the prize winners are there or someone can receive the prize on their behalf.

Negotiation of proposal from Wiley-Blackwell. It has been accepted for some time now that we could not continue to rely on the dedication of volunteer and underpaid workers to produce the AAS journal. The future of *TAJA* has been the subject of long and complex negotiations between W-B, and the AAS executive as well as Michael Allen. As Rose Lilley's report shows, the journal is flourishing. AAS will retain editorial control, and both the AAS and the journal will benefit from being on a better financial footing, from improved international recognition and from more efficient management. We will be putting a motion up for discussion about this matter later in this meeting.

Wiley Blackwell also manages the membership files of some Societies and has offered to take that role with AAS. While such an arrangement has some attractions, we have postponed such a move for consideration at a later date.

The Federal government's NT emergency initiatives evoked many responses and some controversy on AASNet. I thank those who took part, whether their contributions were witty or weighty, insightful, trivial or misguided! Some made considered and thoughtful statements that showed insight into the complexities of social relations of governance. I believe that the presentation of different views in relation to public controversy is valuable in sharpening the focus of members and clarifying the issues. I would hope in future that such exchanges could be made without rancour, contempt or maliciousness.

As for the public statement issued by AAS, there emerged some misunderstanding of its intention. It was a statement of very general principles, attempting to indicate the value of anthropology in the public arena with dignity and authority, rather than to engage in petty point scoring or in policy formulation.

There were also a number of individual AAS members who lobbied relevant Ministers, and it might interest you to know that some of these specific representations

received detailed responses from Ministers' offices.

Distinguished lecture series: It has been agreed that we should institute a distinguished lecture series to showcase the discipline. Members were invited to make nominations but none has been received. A motion will be put later in the meeting concerning this.

Accreditation Committee: Membership application must now be accompanied by documentary evidence of qualifications.

I thank members for your confidence in my ability to fulfil the Presidential function and look forward to representing you for another year.

Gillian Cowlshaw.

**Joint International Conference
of ASA, ASAANZ and AAS
December 8 – 12, 2008
University of Auckland, New Zealand
OWNERSHIP AND APPROPRIATION**



In 2008 the ASA (Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth), the ASAANZ (Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand), and the AAS (Australian Anthropological Society) are combining their annual meetings for a joint international conference. This will be hosted by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland. The ASA organizes an international conference every five years, but has never held one previously in either New Zealand or Australia. So this conference is a 'first' both collaboratively and geographically. We hope that anthropologists from all three countries, and from many others, will join us for the event.

Centering on the core theme of *Ownership and Appropriation*, the conference aims to extend anthropological theory, by shifting the emphasis from 'property' and 'property relations' to wider notions and acts of 'owning and appropriating'. It will take a

processual approach, focusing on agency and creativity rather than on objects and property. This emphasis is highly relevant in a globalising world in which resources are being rapidly depleted and – increasingly – privatised or enclosed, and ideas about the kinds of things that can be ‘property’ are expanding.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Marilyn Strathern (University of Cambridge)

Professor Howard Morphy (Australian National University)

Professor Rosemary Coombe (York University, Canada)

... and a leading scholar from New Zealand.

Call for Workshops/Sessions

Some suggestions for possible sub-themes and panels are listed below, but we would also like to invite members of all three Anthropology associations to propose panel sessions for the conference. In essence, we hope that panels and papers will engage closely with the conference themes, to enable coherent discussion at the event, but we also want to encourage participants to approach the theme creatively.

Possible Themes and Questions

1. Changing concepts. How are cultural notions of ownership, appropriation and property changing in contemporary contexts? How does a processual view of ownership change anthropological conceptualisations of property?
2. Transformation. How are persons and things transformed through processes of owning and appropriation? How is identity shaped by people's daily engagement with, and the production and consumption of, objects?
3. Privatisation. What are the resource implications of contemporary practices of enclosure and ownership? Is there a future for the commons? How do people think about, and promulgate, the 'common good' in a world which is increasingly privatised?
4. Feminist politics and discourses. How have appropriation and ownership been conceptualised in feminist theory and practice? How might feminist notions of ownership and appropriation expand anthropological understanding of these processes?
5. Indigenous politics and discourses. How have indigenous people been affected by changing concepts of intellectual, biological and cultural property rights; and how have they engaged with these debates? How have indigenous elites appropriated aspects of the commons, and what has been the response of other indigenous people to these events?
6. Appropriation, the body and food. What are the processes through which the body can be appropriated and owned? How do the relationships between food and identity intersect with concepts of agency?

7. Anthropology and appropriation. How has anthropological research contributed to the objectification and subsequent appropriation of aspects of culture? And how have the subjects of anthropological research responded to this?
8. Ways of appropriating. What are the relationships between creativity and appropriation?
9. Nationhood, identity and ownership. How are citizenship and national identity materialised through objects? Who owns the state? Can the state be co-owned?

The **final deadline for proposals for workshops/panel sessions will be March 1st 2007** but earlier submissions are welcome. All members of the three associations are eligible to present papers at the conference. The **final deadline for paper abstracts will be May 1st, 2008**.

Conference website: www.theasa.org/asa08

Convenors

Professor **Veronica Strang** v.strang@auckland.ac.nz

Dr **Mark Busse** m.busse@auckland.ac.nz

Changing Places

From AAS Executive

Greg Acciaoli of the Anthropology and Sociology Discipline Group, School of Social and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia has been elected to the position of AAS Secretary. Greg obtained his MA in Anthropology from Stanford University in 1979 and his PhD from the Australian National University in 1990. He has taught at Stanford University, The Australian National University, Columbia University, The University of Arizona, and the University of Western Australia, and held visiting research positions at the Asia Research Institute (National University of Singapore), Asia Research Centre (Murdoch University), Southeast Asia Research Centre (City University of Hong Kong), and the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV) (Leiden University), and the Department of Anthropology (University of Amsterdam). His field research has been in Indonesia and, most recently, has focussed on the intersection of the indigenous peoples' movement and resource contestations, especially in national parks and other protected areas of Indonesia. He will be working on two ARC-funded projects for the next three years, one continuing his research on the indigenous peoples' movement and the other investigating the environmental consequences of recent development projects utilising the notion of social capital. He has co-edited two volumes, *Authority and Enterprise among the Peoples of South Sulawesi* (Leiden: KITLV Press, 2000) and *Biodiversity and human livelihoods in Protected Areas: Case Studies from the Malay Archipelago* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), as well as special issues of the journals *Social Analysis* and *Canberra Anthropology*. Some of his recent articles include "From customary law to indigenous sovereignty:

reconceptualizing the scope and significance of masyarakat adat in contemporary Indonesia” (in *The Revival of Tradition in Indonesian Politics*, ed. by J. S. Davidson & D. Henley, 2007); “Indigenous to Lindu conservation strategies and the reclaiming of customary land and resources in Central Sulawesi” (*Masyarakat Indonesia* 32(2), 2006); and “From economic actor to moral agent: knowledge, fate and hierarchy among the Bugis of Sulawesi” (*Indonesia* 78: 147-79, 2004).

Klara Hansen has completed her dual role as Chair of the Australian Network of Student Anthropologists and ex officio Postgraduate Representative on the Executive of AAS. Following a meeting of postgraduates, and an election, in Canberra during the recent AAS Conference, **Nelia Hyndman-Rizik** has assumed both positions.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **John Altman**, Australian National University, Canberra, who has been awarded an ARC Australian Professorial Fellowship, commencing in 2008, to undertake research on “Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia: Linking poverty reduction and natural resource management”.

Candid Camera

At the AAS Conference 2007



Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz presented the Keynote Address: “*Beyond Ecological and Economic Standardization*”



[L-R] **Michael Fabyini** (ANU), **John Cox** (Uni. Melbourne) & **Benjamin Smith** (ANU)



[L-R] **David Martin**, **Julie Finlayson** & **Emma Kowal** were among many who enjoyed socializing in the Beer Garden of University House



[L-R] **Yasmine Musharbash** (UWA) & **Gillian Tan** (Uni. Melbourne)



Howard Morphy (ANU) presented the ‘after dinner’ address

Photos by Tanya King & Bob Swinburne

In Memoriam

Ian Saem Majnep

Dr Ian Saem Majnep, who gained a world reputation for his writings on traditional knowledge of the biological environment among his Kalam people, died on 30 September 2007 at his home near Simbai, in Madang Province. He is best known for the books *Birds of My Kalam Country* (1977) and *Animals the Ancestors Hunted* (2007) and for the working paper series *Kalam Hunting Traditions* (1990), all co-authored with the anthropologist, Ralph Bulmer. What made Majnep unique in the world of natural history is that he had almost no formal education and was able to write about the biology of his region, not

as a western-trained scientist, but as a member of a traditional community.

Majnep was born about 1948 in the Upper Kaironk Valley, in the remote Schrader Ranges, a decade before a Government patrol post was established in Simbai. He grew up on the edge of the cool high mountain forest, hunting, foraging and gardening, and absorbing an immense body of traditional knowledge about animals and plants. His father died when he was very young, and he was brought up by his mother. Between 1960 and 1963 he attended, for two years, very early schools in Simbai and Kaironk run by the newly established Anglican Mission. In 1963 he met Ralph Bulmer, who had begun a long-term research project studying society, language, economy and perceptions of the environment among the Kalam-speaking people of the Kaironk Valley. Hearing of Majnep's expertise in bushcraft, Bulmer enlisted the 15-year-old as an informant and field guide. From 1968-1977 Majnep worked as a technician in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology (where Bulmer was the Foundation Professor) at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, doing laboratory work and fieldwork in various parts of Papua New Guinea.



Saem Majnep working on Kalam Plant Lore book, Kaironk 2003
[Photo: Jack Dumbacher]

In the 1970s he and Bulmer began to collaborate on a series of writing projects. Their first, and much acclaimed book, *Birds of My Kalam Country*, was edited by Bulmer from transcripts of their conversations. Their later works were all written by Majnep in his Kalam language with English translation and commentary by Bulmer. In these works Majnep describes the appearance, habitat and behaviour of the 200 or so species of birds and more than 50 species of mammals that live in his area and shows how Kalam animal lore is woven into the customary life of his people.

The draft of *Animals the Ancestors Hunted* was nearing completion when Bulmer died of cancer in 1988. A linguist Andrew Pawley and an anthropologist Robin Hide, of the Australian National University, then worked with Majnep to finish this book. At the time of his death Majnep had completed most of the Kalam text of a third book, about wild plants of the forest and grasslands, to be called *Kalam Plant Lore*.

In 1989 the University of Papua New Guinea awarded Majnep an honorary doctorate in science. He joked that he was the first Grade 2 dropout to be given a doctorate. His work gained international praise from biologists and anthropologists and was featured in *Time Magazine* in 1991. Over the past 30 years he made several trips to New Zealand, Australia and the United States, to give talks at conferences or to work on research projects. He is survived by his wife, Roma and five children.

Andrew Pawley, Australian National University

A review of *Animals the Ancestors Hunted* appeared in *Australian Anthropological Society Newsletter* Vol. 107: 16-17, 2007.

The AAS Thesis Prizes: 2007

In 2004 AAS instituted the award of prizes for the best thesis in anthropology, granted during the preceding 12 months, in each of two categories: Honours and PhD/MA (by research). Winners are announced during the course of the annual AAS Conference. Each winner receives \$500 and a commemorative certificate. Prize winners for 2007 were as follows:

PhD prize:

Winner

Inge Kral, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

Thesis title: 'Writing Words – Right Way! Literacy and social practice in the Ngaanyatjarra world'

Abstract:

This thesis is an ethnography of literacy. It is also a study of the social process of learning. It focuses on a remote Aboriginal group in the Western Desert of Australia. Although the last out of the desert (the first wave came out in the 1930s and the last in the 1960s), the Ngaanyatjarra encountered an unusual sequence of relatively benign post-contact experiences and were never removed from their traditional country.

A literacy perspective is used to trace the history of the Ngaanyatjarra encounter with the United Aborigines Mission and with the state. This historical perspective underpins the contemporary ethnography. A generational approach is taken to analyse the impact on literacy of differing developmental trajectories – the post-1930s mission-educated older generation, the assimilation-influenced generation who were educated by the state in the Eastern Goldfields during the 1960s and the current generation of young adults who are influenced by myriad intercultural connections.

It is proposed that literacy processes cannot be understood simply in terms of schooling or technical skills competence. Literacy is also a cultural process and cannot be analysed in isolation from circumstances and conditions that precipitate the development of literacy as social practice. Literacy also cannot be removed from the cultural conceptions and social meanings that are associated with reading and writing in historical and contemporary contexts. In this newly literate group we see how traditional oral narrative schemas and speech styles seeped into the incipient literacy practices of the older generation and how young adults are now incorporating intertextual practices drawn from eclectic influences.

The generational approach exemplifies how in just three generations a literate orientation has evolved. Some Ngaanyatjarra have incorporated literacy into social practice and literacy is being transmitted as a cultural process to the next generation. Yet not all Ngaanyatjarra are literate and many literacies do not measure up to mainstream standards of competence and this has consequences. The central argument of the thesis is that if literacy is to be maintained, elaborated and transmitted in this newly literate context it must be meaningfully integrated into everyday social practice in a manner that extends beyond pedagogical settings.

This ethnography draws on a ten year association with the Ngaanyatjarra people and over twenty years experience in Aboriginal education, literacy and linguistics. The thesis is multidisciplinary and integrates anthropology with sociolinguistics, history and literacy theory.

Honours prize:

Winner:

Ben Worthley, Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University

Thesis title: 'The ontological and social construction of ritual'

Abstract:

The thesis explores the preoccupation with 'meaning' by some of the central anthropological theorists of ritual such as Durkheim, Turner, Geertz and Rappaport. Regardless of their method, all converge in reducing meaning in ritual or ritual action to an implicit quality of its objective structure from which is elicited an underlying meaning. The thesis argues that better insights are to be found in theories of ritualization which rely on an innovative conceptualisation of ritual action. As put forward by Humphrey and Laidlaw, there is a strong distinction between everyday action and ritual action. In ritual action, they argue, the direct link between individual intention and phenomenal action is 'set aside' in favour of an attitude of 'ritual commitment'. Such a formulation, which no longer relies on conscious intentions, opens the way in the thesis to an attempt at a more phenomenological understanding of ritual based on Merleau-Ponty's work. The thesis is concerned to emphasize that the meanings of rituals as individually variable, yet also shared in ways that may cut across formal religious divisions. Based on an examination of rituals in South Asia across Hindu, Muslim, Christian and

Jain religions, and drawing in part on earlier field work in a Hindu temple in Sydney, the thesis argues for shared embodied practices and implicit understandings of bodily aesthetics which cut across more formal definitions of religion that entail intellectual differentiations and political divisions. There is a shared socio-cultural context here, albeit a contested context. However, the thrust of the thesis is not to replace a static emphasis on underlying structure as the source of ritual meaning with another static focus on shared socio-cultural context. Rather, the main emphasis is on the variability, change and contestation that is made possible in the 'meaning' of ritual if we begin to take socio-cultural context (which includes the very performances of ritual itself) as one crucial element in the various complexes of knowledge/power that produce not simply 'subjects' but an embodied experiential archive which is drawn on in variable and fresh ways by each individual in engaging with ritual action.

ANSA - The Australian Network of Student Anthropologists

AAS Conference

The AAS Conference held at the Australian National University was very hectic, but there were plenty of interesting papers and postgraduates participated across the conference as well as in their own forum.

Travel Grants and Scholarships, 2007

ANSA organised and gave out six grants and scholarships to postgraduates attending either or both the Indigenous Workshop and the AAS Conference. All recipients presented papers.

ANSA/AAS Conference Travel Grants

AAS funded – **Charlotte Setijadi**, LaTrobe University

AAS funded – **Malita Allan**, LaTrobe University

CAEPR funded – **Peter Stewart**, James Cook University

Anonymous benefactor funded – **Sarah Robinson**, University of Western Australia

AAS/ANSA Indigenous Workshop Travel Scholarships

Theresa Petray, James Cook University

Yuriko Yamanouchi, University of Sydney

ANSA congratulates all those who received awards. Thanks to the AAS, CAEPR and our anonymous benefactor for funding the ANSA/AAS grants and to the kind donors of the funds for the Indigenous Workshop Scholarships.

Postgraduate Showcase 2007

Klara Hansen ran the postgrad session at the conference (Jovan Maud and Jenny Gabriel co-convened but were unable to attend). Eleven papers were presented and all were of a high standard. Some very interesting issues were raised but, as usual, there wasn't enough time to discuss them as much as we would have liked.

The presenters and their papers were:

Malita Allan, La Trobe University: “Cultivating Guests: Tai Household Transformations in Vietnam”

Michelle D. MacCarthy, Auckland University: “Contextualizing Authenticity: Cultural Tourism in the Trobriand Islands of Papua New Guinea”

Tiffany McComsey, Manchester University: “Models of Being Models of Doing and the Dialogues Between Them: The Stolen Generations and the Re-development of Redfern and Waterloo”

Yuriko Yamanouchi, Sydney University: “‘Only Aboriginal kids go bush!’ Urban dynamics of identity negotiation in Southwestern Sydney”

Theresa Petray, James Cook University: “Towards Autonomy: Aboriginal Activism and Social Movements”

Peter Stewart, James Cook University: “Contemporary Western Desert Society: Sorrow, the State and the Dreaming in the Lands of the Pitjantjatjara and Yankuntjatjara People”

Hedda Haugan Askland, Newcastle University: “East Timorese in Melbourne: Community and Identity in a Time of Political Unrest in Timor Leste”

Charlotte Setijadi, La Trobe University: “Young and Restless: Chinese Indonesian Youth Amidst Post Suharto Identity Politics”

Keri Chiveralls, Adelaide University: “The Limits to Social Capital: Social Capital in the City of Playford”

Sarah Robinson, University of Western Australia: “Adoption and Adaptation – Professionalism in Teaching”

Penelope Moore, Manchester University: “Working, Thinking and Knowing with Audio-Visual Media in Music Worlds”

Postgraduate Workshop, AAS Conference

The Postgraduate Workshop, run by Australian National University postgraduates Kevin Murphy, Nelia Hyndman-Rizik and John Carty, was very successful and covered a range of issues of interest to postgraduates in anthropology regarding career planning and employment opportunities. The panel presenters focused their discussion on how to build an academic career in anthropology as well as in applied anthropology. Panel discussion also addressed crossing over and working for government and in the private sector. Thanks to Kevin Murphy in particular for doing most of the behind scenes work for this event.

ANSA AGM Meeting/New Chair of ANSA

The AGM was attended by students from around Australia. Klara Hansen presented her annual report and we then had an election for the new chair and new subcommittee members. Thanks to Klara for all that she’s done in establishing ANSA and raising the profile of postgraduate students in anthropology in Australia, we wish her well. Nelia Hyndman-Rizik was elected as the new chair of ANSA for 2008 and Hedda Askland, Tanya King, Rose O’Donnell and Gerhardt Hoffstaedter were elected as new members of the subcommittee.

Current Members of the ANSA Subcommittee are, therefore, as follows:

Nelia Hyndman-Rizik Australian National University: Chairperson and Postgraduate Representative on AAS Executive Committee (nelia.hyndman-rizik@anu.edu.au)

Jenny Gabriel, James Cook Uni: Deputy Chairperson

Jovan Maud, Macquarie University: Technical Officer

Klara Hansen, Australian National University

Nikola Kalamir, Sydney University

Hedda Askland, Newcastle University
(Hedda.Askland@newcastle.edu.au)

Tanya King, Deakin Uni (tanya.king@deakin.edu.au)

Rose O’Donnell, Sydney Uni (rosieodon@gmail.com)

Gerhardt Hoffstaedter, La Trobe University

Projects for 2008

Amongst other things, ANSA is planning to:

Run the travel grant scheme again for 2008. (We might need to apply for more funding for this program from the AAS executive and other sources as the next AAS conference will be in New Zealand, hence the travel expenses will be greater).

Continue work on the website and ANSA-List

Continue work with the postgraduates building a postgraduate group within the WCAA

Discuss a plan for assisted entry into the AAS for postgraduates

Join ANSA, join the Subcommittee

If you are interested in becoming a member of ANSA, membership is free to current AAS members and the benefits are great! For information on how to join please visit www.ansa.asn.au

The ANSA Subcommittee now includes students from institutions around Australia. However, some institutions are still sadly un- or under represented while others are well represented. If you would like to become a member of the ANSA subcommittee and ensure that your institution is represented, please contact ansa@ansa.asn.au

Forthcoming Conferences

New Worlds, New Sovereignities

A cross-community interdisciplinary international conference

June 2008, Melbourne

Themes include: indigenous concepts and practices of sovereignty; sovereign subjecthoods – individuals, human rights and the nation-state; sovereignty and the new global order; refugees, asylum seekers and national borders.

Represented Peoples/homelands:

Aboriginal Australia/Torres Strait Islands; Native North America; Palestine; Timor Leste; Hawai’i; Post Soviet Europe.

Further details: www.newsovereignities.org

‘Putting People First’: Intercultural Dialogue and Imagining the Future in Oceania

European Society for Oceanists

Hosted by: Dipartimento di Psicologia e Antropologia Culturale, Università degli Studi di Verona

10 – 12 July 2008

Verona, Italy

Opening keynote speech: **Margaret Jolly**

Raymond Firth Memorial Lecture: **Marshall Sahlins**

The theme for the seventh ESfO conference in Verona 2008 emphasises the pivotal role of intersubjective relations, at all levels of sociality, for contemporary islanders in their daily efforts to imagine desirable futures and ways to achieve them. The first part of the title, “Putting People First” is inspired by the motto adopted in 1993 by the Pacific Forum in the “Suva Declaration” on Sustainable Development. It reflects Pacific Islanders’ own perception of a fundamental cultural value shared within the region: that of considering the people who form a community as its primary resource. The motto thus implies the articulation of an engaged process of responding to the challenges of our time, with Pacific Islanders’ desire to insist on this cultural prerogative.

The second part of the title, “Intercultural Dialogue and Imagining the Future in Oceania”, links this fundamental theme to those of previous ESfO conferences. We propose to build upon the debate on rethinking the past and on conflicts by turning our gaze to the present challenges facing Oceanian peoples who are striving to imagine their futures. Intercultural dialogue is a crucial aspect of the promotion of peaceful cooperation between and within countries, and of effective relations at all levels of sociality. Oceania is an interesting site where conflicts, politics and ethnicities interconnect in old and innovative ways. A focus on dialogue and processes of negotiation, grounded in indigenous practice and in the visibility recently acquired, for example, by Pacific women’s groups in harnessing relations effectively, provides precious insights on the complexity of contemporary Oceania, and sparks a rethinking of similar processes in Europe and elsewhere, an antidote to the dangerous stereotypes fed by a view of culture as rigid and monolithic.

The emphasis on “Putting People First” can thus suggest an interesting perspective, weaving together intersubjective relations and the respect for biodiversity, within which to make sense of, and respond to, the controversies and contradictions of our times. Finally, the routes suggested by the “Suva Declaration” are particularly consistent with the 2008 European Union’s Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Further details: <http://esfo2008.dpac.univr.it>

Previous listings (see September 2007 AAS Newsletter)

6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities [Honolulu Hawaii, USA, 11 – 14 January 2008]

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific [The Australian National University, 31 January – 2 February 2008]

ASAO (Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania) [The Australian National University, 12 – 16 February 2008]

Is this the Asian Country? 17th Biennial Conference of ASAA [Monash Asia Institute, 1 – 3 July 2008]

Recent Theses in Anthropology

Muhammad Nadeem Malik, School of Social & Environmental Enquiry, The University of Melbourne

Title: Policy and Divergence: Decentralization in Rural Pakistan (PhD, 2007)

Abstract

The decade of the 1980s saw an increasing enthusiasm for decentralization in less developed countries. The concept itself was part of the good governance agenda. It was thought that the failure of earlier development paradigms (especially the structural adjustment program) was due to bad institutional arrangement, corruption, and lack of accountability of government institutions. It was believed that unless more inclusive, appropriate and modern market-oriented institutions were introduced in the less developed world, people’s empowerment, economic growth and poverty reduction was not possible.

The decentralization approach was based on an assumption that bringing decision making closer to grassroots communities would strengthen electoral institutions, democracy and civil society making bureaucracy more efficient and less corrupt. In addition, priority was given to more female representation in local government institutions. It was believed that decentralization would empower women as well.

The thesis based on ethnographic research conducted in rural Pakistan (April – December 2005) argues that the above expectations could not be realized given the current prevailing political economy, social relations, and cultural norms. Far from empowering people at the grassroots level, decentralization has further strengthened the power and prestige of the landowning classes in Pakistan, after impeding realization of national, regional, and local development goals.

David Paul, Anthropology and Sociology and School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, University of Western Australia

Title: Casting shadows and struggling for control: silence, resistance and negotiation in Australian Aboriginal health (PhD 2007)

Abstract

Self-determination has been recognised as a basic human right both internationally and, to an extent, locally, but it is yet to be fully realised for Aboriginal Peoples in Australia. The assertion of Aboriginal community control in Aboriginal health has been at the forefront of Aboriginal peoples’ advocacy for self-determination for

more than thirty years. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and their representative organisations have been the site of considerable resistance and contestation in the struggles involved in trying to improve Aboriginal health experiences. Drawing on some of these experiences, I explore the apparent inability of policy and decision makers to listen to systematic voices calling for change from the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector. It is government inability to act more fully on clear and repeated messages that is a source of much disquiet within representative Aboriginal organisations. Such disquiet is grounded in a belief that colonial notions continue to influence decision making at policy, practice and research levels resulting in a significant impediment to the realisation of self-determination and associated human rights in Aboriginal health matters and Aboriginal Affairs more broadly.

New Publications

Australian Aboriginal Studies 2007/1

LR Hiatt: "The moral lexicon of the Warlpiri people of central Australia"

Patrick Mullins: "Mobs and bosses: Structures of Aboriginal sociality"

Maia Ponsonnet: "Recognising victims without blaming them: A moral contest? About Peter Sutton's 'The Politics of Suffering: Indigenous Policy in Australia since the 1970s' and Gillian Cowlishaw's replies"

Bob Reece: "'You would have loved her for her lore': The letters of Daisy Bates"

Violet Bacon: "What potential might Narrative Therapy have to assist Indigenous Australians reduce substance misuse?"

Sally Brockwell & Kim Akerman: "Bone points from the Adelaide River, Northern Territory"

Liam M Brady: "A different look: Comparative rock-art recording from the Torres Strait using computer enhancement techniques"

Sarah Robertson: "Sources of bias in the Murray Black Collection: Implications for palaeopathological analysis"

Bob Reece: "Resource – AP Elkin interviewed about Daisy Bates"

June Ross & Michael A Smith: "A late Pleistocene site on Watarrka Plateau, Central Australia"

Australian Aboriginal Studies 2007/2

Linda Barwick, Bruce Birch & Nicholas Evans: "Iwaidja Jurtbirrk songs: Bringing language and music together"

Murray Garde: "Morrdjjanjno ngan-marnbom story nakka, 'songs that turn me into a story teller': The morrdjjanjno of western Arnhem Land"

Isabel O'Keefe (née Bickerdike): "Sung and spoken: Analysis of two different versions of a Kun-barlang love song"

Allan Marett: "Simplifying musical practice in order to enhance local identity: Rhythmic modes in the Walakandha wangga (Wadeye, Northern Territory)"

Lysbeth Ford: "'Too long, that wangga': Analysing wangga texts over time"

Sally Treloyn: "Flesh with country: Juxtaposition and minimal contrast in the construction and melodic treatment of jadmi song texts"

Myfany Turpin & Hans Rausing: "The poetics of central Australian song"

Aaron Corn & Neparrŋa Gumbula: "Budutthun ratja wiyinyimiri: Formal flexibility in the Yolŋu manikay tradition and the challenge of recording a complete repertoire"

Anthropological Forum

Vol. 17, Issue 2, July 2007

Special Issue: "Interrogating individuals: The critique of possessive individualism in the Western Pacific" [Guest Editor: **Karen Sykes**]

Karen Sykes: "Interrogating individuals: The theory of possessive individualism in the Western Pacific"

Eric Hirsch: "Looking like a culture"

Graeme Were: "Fashioning belief: The case of the Baha'i Faith in Northern New Ireland"

Karen Sykes: "The moral grounds of critique: Between possessive individuals, entrepreneurs and Big Men in New Ireland"

John Wendel: "Making and unmaking possessive

ANTHROPOLOGICAL FORUM

THE ASIA PACIFIC JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Routledge is pleased to announce that in 2008 Australian Anthropological Society Members are entitled to a 20 percent discount on personal subscriptions to

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Other anthropological journals published by Routledge include 'Anthropology & Medicine'; 'ethos, Journal of Anthropology'; and 'History and Anthropology'

individuals: 'Xavier borrowing' at a Catholic Mission Pacific Islands secondary school"

Keir Martin: "Your own buai you must buy: The ideology of possessive individualism in Papua New Guinea"

Joel Robbins: "Possessive individualism and cultural change in the Western Pacific"

Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology

Volume 8, Issue 3, September 2007

Lene Pedersen: "Responding to decentralisation in the aftermath of the Bali bombing"

Yoshinori Nishizaki: "The Gargantuan project and modernity in provincial Thailand"

Hedda Haugen Askland: "Habitus, practice and agency of young East Timorese asylum seekers in Australia"

Markus Pangerl: "Notions of insecurity among contemporary Indo-Fijian communities"

Contemporary PNG Studies: DWU Research Journal

Volume 7, November 2007

Roger J. Vallance: "Is there a Melanesian research methodology?"

Patrick F. Gesch: "Working out of two mind sets: Critical methodology and PNG village traditional ways"

John Donnelly: "White, Anglo-Celtic male – black, Melanesian female: A valid research situation?"

Celestine Ove: "Educational opportunities for women and girls in rural Papua New Guinea: A case study of Waroma Village, Sandaun Province"

David Songy: "Predicting success in academic achievement of major seminarians in Papua New Guinea: A comparison of cognitive test results and grade point averages"

Pactrick Howley: "Prison Fellowship International Award: Peace Foundational Melanesia Bougainville"

Tabian Ambang: "Re-defining the role of tribal leadership in the contemporary governance systems of Papua New Guinea"

Cultural Studies Review

Vol. 13, Issue 2, September 2007

Slight Anthropologies (Edited by **John Frow & Katrina Schlunke**)

Gabrielle Fletcher: "Slight anthropologies"

Martin Thomas: "Taking them back: Archival media in Arnhem Land today"

John Frow: "UnAustralia: Strangeness and value"

Ouyang Yu: "The Kingsbury tales"

Lisa McDonald: "Writing, with t/error. And calling on the body of an artist"

Paul Magee: "John Howard's body"

John Kinsella: "Poetry as means of dialogue in court spaces"

Robert Briggs: "Culture & pedagogy: On the popular art

of reviewing popular art"

Erin Manning: "Relationscapes: How contemporary Aboriginal art moves beyond the map"

Eve Vincent: "Knowing the country"

Juan Obarrio: "Postshamanism"

Andrew Munro: "The Belsunce case: Judgment, uptake, genre"

Belinda Morrissey & Kristen Davis: "Trace evidence: The uncertainty of the real"

Journal of the Polynesian Society

Volume 116, Issue 2, June 2007

Special Issue: Polynesian Art: Histories and Meanings in Cultural Contexts (192 pp., 65 figs)

Steven Hooper: "Introduction"

Adrienne L. Kaeppler: "Containers of divinity"

Steven Hooper: "Embodying divinity: The life of A'a"

Karen Stevenson & Steven Hooper: "Tahitian Fau: Unveiling an enigma"

Roger Neich: "Tongan figures: from Goddesses to missionary trophies to masterpieces"

Journal of the Polynesian Society

Volume 116, Issue 3, September 2007

Michael Reilly: "Gifts from the sea: The two iron axes of Mangaia"

Judith Binney: "Paphuriria, Pukerenga, Te Atua Wera and Te Nakahi: How many prophets?"

Anne Di Piazza & Erik Pearthree: "A new reading of Tupaia's chart"

Paul Van Der Grijp: "Tabua business: Re-Circulation of whale teeth and bone valuables in the Central Pacific"

Oceania

Volume 77, No. 2, July 2007

Naomi McPherson: "Myth, primogeniture and long distance trade-friends in Northwest New Britain, Papua New Guinea"

Eric Hirsch: "Valleys of historicity and ways of power among the Fuyuge"

Ryan Schram: "Sit, cook, eat, full stop: Religion and the rejection of ritual in Auhelawa (Papua New Guinea)"

Jeremy MacClancy: "Nakomaha: A counter-colonial life and its contexts"

Gregory Forth: "Can animals break taboos? Applications of 'taboo' among the Nage of Eastern Indonesia"

Göran Aijmer: "On making fathers in Lesu: The historical anthropology of a New Ireland Society"

Social Analysis

Vol. 51, Issue 1, 2007

Edward F. Fischer: "Indigenous peoples, neo-liberal regimes, and varieties of civil society in Latin America"

Michiel Baud: "Indigenous politics and the state: The Andean Highlands in the nineteenth and twentieth

centuries”

Daniel M. Goldstein with **Gloria Achá, Eric Hinojosa & Theo Roncken**: “La Mano Dura and the violence of civil society in Bolivia”

Suzana Sawyer: “Empire/multitude—state/civil society: Rethinking topographies of power through transnational connectivity in Ecuador and beyond”

Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld: “The power of Ecuador’s indigenous communities in an era of cultural pluralism”

Joanne Rappaport: “Civil society and the indigenous movement in Colombia: The Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca”

Demetrio Cojtí Cuxil: “Indigenous nations in Guatemalan democracy and the state: A tentative assessment”

Marta Elena Casaús Arzú: “Reformulating the Guatemalan state: The role of Maya intellectuals and civil society discourse”

Avery Dickins: “El otro lado: Local ends and development in a Q’eqchi’ Maya community”

Pedro Pitarch: “The political uses of Maya medicine: civil organizations in Chiapas and the ventriloquism effect”

Customary Land Tenure and Registration in Australia and Papua New Guinea: Anthropological Perspectives

James F. Weiner & Katie Glaskin (editors), Asia Pacific Environment Monograph 3, ANU E-Press, 2007

[From the ‘Forward’ by Lester R. Hiatt] I commend the essays in this volume to all concerned with the social and economic future of the Indigenous peoples of Australia and PNG. Combining professionalism with humanism, they seek to protect the land reforms of the late-twentieth century against over-zealous traditionalism as well as against a dissipation of cultural and natural resources in the name of modernism.

Gunyah, Goondie & Wurley: The Aboriginal Architecture of Australia

Paul Memmott with **Carroll Go-Sam, Tim O’Rourke, Shaneen Fantin** and other contributors. The University of Queensland Press and Avid Reader 2007

[From the publisher’s announcement] When Europeans first reached Australian shores, a long-held and expedient perception developed that Australian Aboriginal people did not have houses or settlements, that they occupied temporary camps, sheltering in makeshift huts or lean-tos of grass and bark. This book redresses that notion, exploring the range and complexity of Aboriginal-designed structures, spaces and territorial behaviour, from minimalist shelters to permanent houses and villages. *Gunyah, Goondie & Wurley* encompasses Australian Aboriginal Architecture from the time of European contact to the work of the first Aboriginal graduates of university-based courses in architecture, bringing together in one place a wealth of images and research. The 12 chapters include: a continental overview of architectural forms, materials, construction techniques; various

regional overviews of shelters and houses; traditional camps; domiciliary behaviour; the relation of shelter study to anthropology; Town Camps or Fringe Camps that emerged after colonization; how architects have and could apply traditional cultural ideas in design; and the symbols and meanings of shelters and houses. The book includes over two hundred specially-drawn sketches, maps and photographic illustrations in a generous, large hard-cover format. It will be the leading reference in traditional Aboriginal architecture and as such will make a pivotal contribution to our understanding and appreciation of the nation’s rich and diverse Aboriginal heritage.

Le jardin du casoar, la forêt des Kasua: savoir-être et savoir-faire écologiques [The cassowary’s garden: knowing and being in the forest of Kasua]

Florence Brunois, CNRS éditions: éditions de la maison des sciences de l’homme (2007)



The initiated cassowary
[Michel Legrand-Borderune]

[From the publisher’s announcement] En quoi les savoir-faire écologiques des Kasua de Nouvelle-Guinée seraient-ils plus à même de préserver la présence humaine et l’extraordinaire biodiversité tropicale, aussi complexe que fragile ?

Pour résoudre cette énigme, Florence Brunois nous entraîne au cœur de ce monde forestier où cohabitent plus d’un millier d’êtres vivants et d’êtres spirituels avec lesquels les Kasua entrent quotidiennement en interaction au cours de leurs multiples activités forestières.

C’est à partir d’une description systématique des relations que cette population expérimente avec l’ensemble des êtres forestiers, sur les plans de l’écologie, des techniques, de l’imaginaire, du mythe, du rituel, du rêve, et finalement des émotions, que l’auteur dresse une analyse critique de l’immense somme de connaissances naturalistes, éthologiques et écologiques mises en pratique par cette société forestière.

Ce faisant, elle propose une nouvelle manière d’appréhender les autres en révélant un savoir-être « avec » la pluralité des existants qui reconnaît que la

régénération de la vie sociale est absolument interdépendante de la régénération de la vie sous toutes ses formes et des relations qui les unissent.

Par cet ouvrage, Florence Brunois introduit l'ethnologie de la Nouvelle-Guinée au centre des débats qui animent l'anthropologie de la nature et nos propres sociétés quant aux manières de penser la place de l'homme dans l'environnement.

Florence Brunois, ethnologue, est chercheur au CNRS. Elle a mené de 1994 à 1997 une recherche de terrain chez les Kasua en Nouvelle-Guinée, et y retourne depuis régulièrement. En 2006, elle entreprend parallèlement une nouvelle recherche chez les Batooro d'Ouganda.

Writing Heritage: The Depiction of Indigenous Heritage in European-Australian Writings

Michael Davis, Australian Scholarly Publishing with the National Museum of Australia, 2007

[From the publisher's announcement] From the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, European-Australians were actively recording, documenting and collecting Aboriginal heritage. This book examines how they did this, exploring perceptions of authenticity and innovation in Aboriginal heritage and approaches to ethnographic collecting.

A Cautious Silence: The Politics of Australian Anthropology

Geoffrey Gray, Aboriginal Studies Press, August 2007

[From the publisher's announcement] This is the first exploration of modern Australian social anthropology to examine the forces that helped shaped its formation. Geoffrey Gray reveals the struggle to establish and consolidate anthropology as an academic discipline in Australia. He argues that anthropologists had to demonstrate that their discipline was the predominant interpreter of Indigenous life, leading to them being called on to assist government in the control, development and advancement of Australia's Indigenous peoples. Gray's work complements and adds to earlier publications like Wolfe's *Settler Colonialism* and the *Transformation of Anthropology*, McGregor's *Imagined Destinies* and Anderson's *Cultivating Whiteness*.

Backyard. Nature and Culture in Suburban Australia

Lesley Head & Pat Muir, University of Wollongong Press, 2007

[From the publisher's announcement] This beautifully illustrated new book uses suburban backyards from Sydney, Wollongong and Alice Springs as a window on to Australian environmental attitudes and practices. In-depth interviews with backyarders are woven into an accessible discussion of current theories about the environment and ideas of nature and change. The book challenges the divisions between cities and nature, and the argument that urban Australians are alienated from nature, by showing how we are all enmeshed with the non-human

world. The research analyses both commonality and differences in the environmental positioning of diverse groups of urban Australians. Backyards can be zones of conflict and passionate argument. They are places where we establish boundaries around which plants, animals and people are allowed to belong. Trees, lawn, cats and native plants provoke a spectrum of responses between love and hate. By contrast, there is more of a shared ethic when it comes to water and birds. These findings have important implications for how we create sustainable cities.

Childrearing and Infant Care Issues: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

Pranee Liamputtong (editor), Nova Science, 2007

[From the publisher's announcement] Child-rearing practices in every society occur in accordance with the cultural norms of the society. In most societies, however, child-rearing practices share a common value: the preservation of life and maintenance of the health and well-being of a new-born infant. In this volume, the authors bring together salient issues regarding cultural beliefs and practices and social issues regarding infant care and child-rearing and infant feeding practices as well as early motherhood in different societies. They show that traditional practices surrounding infant care and child-rearing continue to live despite the fact that many societies have been modernised. The book includes studies of child-rearing practices in Africa (Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda), Indonesia (West Papua), Italy, Nepal, Norway (Sami), Thailand and Australia (among Afghan, Hmong, Indian and Vietnamese-Australian communities).

Money: Ethnographic Encounters

Stefan Senders & Allison Truitt (editors), Berg, 2007

[From the publisher's announcement] In *Money: Ethnographic Encounters*, anthropologists tell stories of their experiences with money in the field. Through vivid fieldwork accounts, they explore the ways money has influenced their perceptions and understandings of culture. These accounts raise critical questions. How do anthropologists come to know another culture through ordinary yet unexpected experiences with money? How is anthropological knowledge produced through these interactions?

AAS Treasurer's Report

Presented to AAS AGM, 1 November 2007

As in my previous Reports to AGMs over recent years, I can advise members that further progress has been made in systematising and professionalising the Society's administrative and financial systems, in no small part because of the dedicated and expert work by our administrator, Shane Silva. His very proactive efforts in encouraging members who were overdue in their membership fees to pay, along with the better services the Society has provided to members and the profession more

generally, particularly through the website developments he has initiated, have lead to a substantial and ongoing increase in our membership base.

The very pleasing result of our efforts is that our financial situation is very sound, and that for the fourth year running, the Society has received an unqualified audit report from our auditor, George Diamond of Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros in Canberra.

The audited statement of our financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2007 is attached. As shown in that statement, we had \$27,939 in our working account, and only \$4 in unbanked funds, with \$2,760 outstanding in membership fees. The attached Income Statement shows a surplus for the financial year of \$11,304.

Income has increased significantly over that for 2006/7 with the increased membership dues agreed to in March 2006 and additional numbers joining the Society, and results since June 30 indicate that this trend is continuing. At June 30th, our membership totalled 473, an increase of 46 over the year. However, as at the time of this Report, around 80 or 17% of our members have not as yet paid their dues for the 2007/8 year. While disappointing, this is a reduction from the figure of 25% noted in last year's Report.

We are continuing to work to reduce the incidence of late payments through a range of measures. We have

successfully introduced an option for secure online credit card payment of fees through the PayPal system, a facility that has been taken up by many members. We offer discounts of 5% on membership fees for electronic payment, and a further 5% for payment within 30 days. The majority of members have taken advantage of these discounts. Nonetheless, for reasons that are difficult to understand, many members who would appear to have every intention of renewing their membership do so only after repeated contacts from our Administrator. This leads to significant costs and administrative load for the Society, and reduces our capacity to provide professional services to the Society.

Members will be aware that membership of the Society includes an annual subscription to *TAJA*, at a greatly reduced rate. As discussed in a separate agenda item at this AGM, the Society and *TAJA* have received a proposal from Wiley-Blackwell to develop a partnership for the publication of *TAJA*. The financial and other considerations arising from this proposal are under active consideration by the Executive.

The Executive will shortly be preparing a budget for the 2007/8 year, taking advantage of our financial position to resource the further improvement of services to members and the profession.

David Martin, Treasurer AAS; October 31, 2007

AAS Balance Sheet at 30 June 2007

	2006	2007
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank - CBA Cheque Account	27,939	16,127
Cash on Hand (unbanked funds)	4	439
Trade Debtors	<u>2,760</u>	<u>2,362</u>
	30,703	18,928
Non-Current Assets		
Office Equipment - at cost	<u>1,005</u>	<u>1,475</u>
Total Assets	<u>31,708</u>	<u>20,403</u>
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$31,652</u>	<u>\$20,348</u>
Members Equity		
Retained Earnings	<u>31,652</u>	<u>20,348</u>
Total Members' Equity	<u>\$31,652</u>	<u>\$20,348</u>

AAS Income Statement at 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees		
- Entry Fees	1,680	1,020
- Fellows	23,178	15,399
- Ordinary	10,922	5,588
- Unsalariated	2,848	669
- Associate	188	200
- Retired	800	969
	39,616	23,845
Newsletter Subscriptions	(39)	312
Institutional Donations	600	300
Web Advertising	1,408	350
Other Income	597	266
TAJA Subscriptions	12,477	6,930
Total Income	54,659	32,003
Expenditure		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	770	660
ANSA Expenses	1,823	-
Bank & Merchant Fees	640	631
Bad Debts Written Off	2,867	3,129
Clerical & Professional Expenses	13,605	11,930
Conference Grants	-	2,000
Discounts Given	1,956	-
Depreciation	680	3,423
Printing, Postage & Stationery Costs	793	1,358
Prizes, Gifts & Donations	1,064	1,000
TAJA Subscriptions & Other Costs	13,144	8,621
Website Costs	6,013	3,902
Total Expenditure	43,355	36,654
Net Surplus (Loss)	11,304	(4,651)
Retained Earning at Beginning of Year	20,348	24,999
Retained earning at End of Year	\$31,652	\$20,348

TAJA Annual Report
Presented to AAS AGM 2007

Publication record

I am pleased to report that the flow of material to *TAJA* has been noticeably stronger, especially during the last six months. Since the last report (August 2005), we have published three Issues (17:3, 18:1 and 18:2), and a fourth Issue is currently at the printers (18:3). Two of these have been Special Issues: 'Delimiting Indigenous Cultures: Conceptual and Spatial Boundaries', edited by Patrick Sullivan and Toni Bauman (2006 17:3, Special Issue 18)) and 'Women and Agency: Asian Explorations', edited by Anne-Marie Hilsdon (2007 18:2, Special Issue 19). In total 18 articles were published in these three Issues. The December Issue for this year (18:3) contains 6 articles.

Since the last report to the AGM, *TAJA* has received 44 papers, including two proposed Special Issues. Thirteen papers were rejected; six have been published (if we include 18:3), four have been revised and accepted, eleven are currently being revised, nine are currently with referees (including one Special Issue) and one paper was accepted subject to revision, with the author declining revision. One of these Special Issues has been accepted for publication in 2008—'Changing Pacific Masculinities', edited by John Taylor. In addition, 1 AAS Keynote Address (Kapferer), 4 obituaries, 1 book review essay and 45 book reviews were published. Two letters were published in *Letterbox*. In addition, 2 film review essays, 1 film review and 1 film note were published. I am very keen to continue, and possibly expand, the film content of the journal. So, if anyone wants to write a review of either an ethnographic film or of a film of clear anthropological interest, please contact me directly. There has been no *Soapbox Forum*; however, one on climate change is scheduled for publication in the April 2008 Issue.

We are very well placed for the year ahead. The December 2007 Issue (18:3) has a special focus on the Cronulla Riot, with three of the six papers being on this topic. All of the 2008 Issues are now full, subject to receipt of suitable author revisions on papers that have

been refereed and provisionally accepted. I remind colleagues that electronic submission is now accepted; authors may send me an attachment at roselilley@fastmail.fm. Please check the styleguide on the AAS website before submitting.

I also note with pleasure that *TAJA* received an A ranking in the recently released European Reference Index for the Humanities.

Finances

I attach the financial statement and balance sheet for the year ending 30 June 2007. For the fifteenth year in succession, we have had a small trading surplus.

Future Developments

Recently *TAJA* was approached by Wiley-Blackwell with a proposal to enter into a publishing partnership with AAS. This would commence in 2009. I am very positive about the contents of this proposal; in order to secure the future of the journal and to improve its marketing and distribution, I strongly feel that it is now time to make such a move. The Wiley-Blackwell proposal offers a number of benefits, including:

- Improved online publication
- Increased international readership
- Professional management of all aspects of production, including a cover redesign
- Digitisation of all back issues
- No increase in the cost of the journal to AAS members

Full responsibility for peer review and editorial decision-making would remain with the current editorial team. Wiley-Blackwell have a fully staffed office in Melbourne. They have publishing partnerships with RAI and AAA, as well as EASA. Anthropology journals published by Wiley-Blackwell include *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Anthropology Today*, *Cultural Anthropology* and *Journal of the RAI*. The *TAJA* Editorial Board meeting of August 2007 endorsed this proposal in principle.

Rose Lilley

Rozanna Lilley, Editor *TAJA*, October 2007

TAJA Balance Sheet, 30 June 2007

THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Formerly
Anthropological Society of New South Wales
BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June 2007

2006		2007
\$		\$
	ASSETS	
32,336	Bank Account - Commonwealth Business A/c (2021 1010 7859)	33,040
	Investments	

124,656	Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit	137,531
4,000	Stock in Hand	4,000
50	Petty Cash Imprest Account	50
	Equipment	
100	Photo Copying Machine	100
100	Macintosh Computer	50
120	Computer Keyboard	60
50	Fax Machine	50
200	Laser Printer	100
<u>161,612</u>		<u>174,981</u>
	LIABILITIES	
10,000	Provision for Unpublished Issues	10,000
12,000	Miscellaneous Creditors	12,000
<u>22,000</u>		<u>22,000</u>
<u>139,612</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>152,981</u>

TAJA Income & Expenditure, 30 June 2007

THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Formerly
Anthropological Society of New South Wales
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 30th JUNE 2007

2005-2006		2006-2007	
	INCOME		
	Subscriptions		
29,061	- Current	26,379	
143	- Next Year	286	
766	- Prior Year	1,047	
302	- Special (Back Copies)	245	27,956
<u>30,872</u>		<u>27,956</u>	
	Interest		
491	- Commonwealth Cheque Account - St James	461	
6,759	- Commonwealth Fixed Deposit Account - St James	6,116	6,578
	Other Income		
3,000	- AAS / TAJA Scheme - 2005		
5,005	- AAS / TAJA Scheme - 2006	6,626	
	- AAS / TAJA Scheme - 2007	4,179	
6,151	- Copyright Royalties	6,230	17,035
<u>51,678</u>		<u>51,569</u>	

EXPENDITURE		
423	Annual Management Dinner	359
188	Bank Charges	221
718	Book Reviews	980
193	Committee Lunch	
100	Computer Services - University of Sydney	200
3,000	Editorial Expenses (M. R. Allen)	3,000
6,000	Editorial Expenses (R. Lilley)	6,000
1,200	Editorial Expenses (P. Newton)	1,200
2,000	Editorial Expenses - Book Reviews (J. Beckett)	
	Editorial Expenses - Book Reviews .(R. Fisher)	1,500
1,826	Equipment	1,398
	Flowers - Robyn Wood	150
443	General Expenses	100
630	Preparation of Accounts	1,068
5,972	Postage	4,971
17,009	Printing	17,049
1,418	Production (Wrap and Mail out TAJA)	1,383
	Professional Services -	
636	Robyn Wood 1/7/06 to 30/6/07	
2,398	Denis Wood 1/7/06 to 30/6/07	1838
	Retirement Gift - J. Beckett	96
161	Royalties	32
637	Stationery	93
390	Travel Expenses	248
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45,361		41,885
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6,317	SURPLUS for the 12 Months ended 30 th June 2007	9,683

AAS Newsletter Contributions

The Newsletter provides a vehicle for informing members about AAS matters and other issues of relevance. We welcome items such as Conference announcements; notable appointments, retirements or honours received; titles and abstracts of MA and PhD theses in anthropology that were awarded in the past 12 months; short book reviews or brief notices regarding important new publications; short articles on issues of importance to the discipline; reports on research-in-progress; postgraduate events of significance. The current editors are Peter Dwyer (pddwyer@unimelb.edu.au) and Mary Patterson (marycp@unimelb.edu.au), both at the School of Social & Environmental Enquiry, The University of Melbourne.

Thanks to those who contributed to the Newsletter through the past year, thanks in anticipation to those who will contribute through the coming year and, to everyone, all the best for the summer season and for 2008.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published in March 2008. Some back issues are available on the AAS web site: <http://www.aas.asn.au>