

Australian

Anthropological

Society

# NEWSLETTER

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No. 58 (December 1994)



# *Australian Anthropological Society Newsletter*

*No. 58 (December, 1994)*

President: Diane Austin-Broos

Vice-President: James Weiner

Secretary: Gaynor Macdonald

Treasurer: Grant McCall

Publications Officer: Dawn Ryan

Executive Members: David Biernoff

John Gray

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## THE SOCIETY

The Australian Anthropological Society was formed in 1973 to 'promote the advancement of Anthropology as a professional discipline'. In 1987, the Society was re-structured to establish a two-tiered membership, providing a basis for the professionalisation of the discipline in Australia. The membership of the Society includes most practising anthropologists in this country, with some members overseas in, for example, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. It also includes a broad representation of persons working in related fields. The Society is incorporated under New South Wales legislation.

Subscriptions fall due on July 1 each year. Membership fees are as follows:-

Unsalariated \$10.00

Ordinary members \$40.00

Fellows \$60.00

Applications must be made on the prescribed form, accompanied by a \$5 membership admission fee. Successful applicants will be invoiced for their subscription. Subscriptions to the *Newsletter* only are also available, at \$20 for Institutions and \$10.00 for individuals.

There are two grades of membership. Any person who has completed an Honours degree in Anthropology or who has equivalent qualifications is eligible to be admitted as an Ordinary Member. Those who have successfully completed a postgraduate research degree in Anthropology at a recognised institution, or who have engaged in research, teaching, writing or other professional activities which the Society accepts as being of equivalence to a postgraduate research degree in Anthropology, are eligible to be admitted as Fellows of the Society. Further information about membership is available from the Secretary.

The Society's principal academic activity each year is the Annual Conference. Attendance at the Annual Conference is open to all interested persons, whether or not they are members of the AAS, on payment of the conference fee. Next year's Annual Conference will be held at Adelaide.

## FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

This is my first issue of the *Newsletter* in my current stint as Publications Officer, and I want to let you know something of what I hope to do.

There has been a considerable gap in the publication of the *Newsletter* and I see my first task as ensuring that it comes out with fair regularity. This issue, No. 58 (to take into account the two interim mailings earlier this year) won't reach you until January, what with the end-of-year madness and the Christmas shutdown.

For 1995, copy deadlines will be:

March 15

June 15

September 1 (to get it out in time for the Conference)

The *Newsletter* is just that: a vehicle for items pertaining to the discipline in general and the Society in particular. More than an adjunct to the Conference, but not aiming to become a journal. So, *please*, any little items - or longer pieces - to me by March 15 1995.

Dawn Ryan  
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## 1994-95 EXECUTIVE

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## 1994 CONFERENCE

Women's College, University of Sydney, September 28-30

The Women's College provided a congenial setting for the Conference: session rooms within easy reach of each other; decent morning and afternoon teas; provision for an acceptable buffet lunch at little cost.

The sessions covered a range of contemporary interests in anthropology, and most were well attended. Abstracts will be published in TAJA. A notable feature was the staging of a Plenary Session, something not seen since the 1985 Conference in Darwin. The keynote speech, by Professor Faye Ginsburg of New York University, was well received by the large audience and lent a certain panache to the opening day. Following this, the ethnographic film theme was continued in a session led by film-maker Gary Kildea which included excerpts from his own recent and current work as well as a sequence from a recent David McDougall film.

All in all, the Conference was well organised, enjoyable and stimulating -- congratulations to Neil Maclean and Jeremy Beckett!

## THE USE OF INTERACTIVE MEDIA FOR TEACHING ANTHROPOLOGY

Linda Connor

Text of a presentation as part of the panel *Teaching and Film in Anthropology*, Australian Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, Wednesday 28 September 1994.

The technology to produce non-linear digitalised information databases using laser disc technology is becoming increasingly available in universities. This technology permits the integration of various media - text, audiovisual, photographic etc - in a single database, which will resist the ravages of time and climate better than originals (such as fading field notes or disintegrating photographic negatives) may do. Moreover, the possibilities for recall of information, and the creation of indexes and catalogues, are endless.

This is a positive development from the perspective of anthropological research. The great storage power and retrievability of the information, as well as its resistance to damage, can only be welcomed by those (like myself) who spend ever-increasing amounts of time as their research careers progress just trying to physically locate, let alone safely store, organise or code, their research materials.

Another potential of the new technology which has become increasingly prominent in the mass media, and it seems, in the minds of those who control teaching development funds and the like in universities, is its use for "interactive teaching". "Interactive" has become the curriculum development buzz-word of the 90s. It evokes a warm and fuzzy feeling - after all, who wants to be "non-interactive"?

What are students interacting with? The term refers to the interaction with a data-base via a computer. How creative or productive such an interaction might be depends on circumstances such as the quality of the data-base, its appropriateness for the learning at hand, the orientation of the student and the broader pedagogical context in which the interaction takes place.

My interest in interactive media for teaching has been sparked by my involvement in a pilot project at the Center for Visual Anthropology, University of Southern California. We are transforming the book and ethnographic films on Balinese healing that

I produced with Patsy and Tim Asch into an interactive data-base for teaching. The book and films were originally designed to be used together as a teaching resource, and the translation into the new medium will allow them to be used more efficiently, we hope. Moreover, we can add more information such as extra photos or transcripts without the cost constraints of producing another film or book. The financial costs of producing the laser disc are substantial if one takes into account the equipment required, as well as the labour for entering the data, for developing a programme to access it, and for testing and revising it. The market for such a product is uncertain, but there is the hope that the laser disc can be sold as a teaching resource for undergraduate students.

As part of my involvement in this project I have been exposed to discussion with a lot of people about the future of interactive media, and this has led me to raise a number of questions about their use in anthropology and in university teaching generally.

First, in producing the interactive disc, I am painfully aware that I have the professional expertise as an anthropologist to participate, but no technical knowledge about the potentialities of the technology. Moreover, I have never been a user of this resource, unlike say, my experience as a user of books and ethnographic films before I ever came to write or make one for students. In producing the interactive disc, myself and my colleagues are very dependent on the skills of information technology specialists who are not users of the end-product, nor necessarily professionals in the field of anthropology. It appears that satisfactory results will be dependent on a time-consuming process of repeated trials and consultations with all involved parties - students, teachers, information specialists and "authors". In the interests of saving time and costs, this is a phase that could all too readily be bypassed in a lot of projects. Moreover, questions of authorship, copyright and distribution rights may need to be considered anew in the light of the issues raised by new technology and communications.

Second, what is the place of this interactive material in the full teaching programme, say, of undergraduate anthropology? Obviously, it can become another useful library resource for students' individual research. A well-designed data-base should allow students to work through a greater diversity of material in a more open-ended way than printed or video media. But the rhetoric of interactiveness seems to imply more: it promises a qualitatively different, more creative learning experience that will produce "better outcomes" i.e. cleverer graduates. The coming of the information millennium?

In this discourse, "interactive" becomes redefined in technological terms, even though all teaching is intrinsically interactive. The valorisation of technology in the new understanding of "interactive" means that other forms of teaching interaction, such as tutorials, become marginalised. This brings me to a third issue, the political implications of the technological appropriation of "interactiveness" in the present funding climate of higher education in Australia. The technical reductionism implied in current discourses suggests that students can have "interactive" learning without having to engage in face-to-face encounters with teachers or each other. Why put funding into expensive small-group teaching such as tutorials when students can have a far more "efficient" and "creative" learning experience sitting alone in front of computer monitors in the library? It is only too easy to see policy-makers' endorsement of interactive technologies as prefiguring a funding shift away from "non-interactive" modes of teaching and learning, such as tutorials and seminars (which are of course highly interactive in other ways).

Finally, we need to consider the definitions of knowledge that are implied by the valorisation of computer inactivity. Knowledge is "data", "information" and "facts". It is not difficult to detect the growing hegemony of the information sciences over the social sciences and humanities in this information-based view of knowledge. In this view, the "power" of interactive media is their capacity to extract and juxtapose slabs of information in a decontextualised way. The idea of knowledge as dialogically constructed understandings coming out of social interaction in the world, is at odds with the information-based utopia, and the designation "interactive" only serves to mask this fact.

Many less complex and less expensive media are used interactively in anthropology teaching. The discussion of the use of films in the first year anthropology programme in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at ANU, in the other papers in this panel by Ingrid Slotte and Richard Davis (forthcoming, *Canberra Anthropology*), brings this point home. Moreover, simpler and cheaper media are user-friendly **and** producer-friendly, and in these ways accessible to a larger number of students and teachers, running less risk of a divide between information technology haves and have-nots in universities.

In the rhetoric supporting the spread of interactive media that is prominent in current discussions of university teaching, it is important to remember that the social context in which these or any technology is deployed is intrinsic to the end results of their use, and is not just "noise" in the system.

**1995 AAS CONFERENCE**

University of Adelaide

September 27-29

**Organisers:** Charmain McEachern  
Lee Sackett  
John Gray

Phone: (08) 303 5735 Fax: (08) 224 0464 e-mail: [jgray@chomsky.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jgray@chomsky.adelaide.edu.au)

Those interested in organising a panel are urged to get started at once and begin contacting likely participants.

**Deadlines:** March 1 - panel title, with a short descriptive paragraph  
June 1 - names of panel members; structure of panel; length of papers; abstracts of papers.

**Note:** Send all material relating to the organisation of the Conference to the people in Adelaide.

*AUSTRALIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.*

**1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*HELD AT WOMEN'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29*

**MINUTES**

The meeting opened at 5.50 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Nicolas Peterson (Chair), Michael Allen, Diane Austin-Broos, Jeremy Beckett, David Biernoff, David Brooks, Kathleen Clapham, John Claridge, Sharon Claydon, Linda Connor, Nerida Cook, Gillian Cowlshaw, Mary Edmunds, Derek Elias, Jim Fox, John Gordon, Cynthia Hunter, Christine Helliwell, Rosita Henry, Margaret Kerans, Rozanna Lilley, Lillian Maher, Neil Maclean, Julie Marcus, David Martin, Grant McCall, Frank McKeown, David Mearns, William Newell, Janice Newton, Bob Pokrant, Deborah Rose, Dawn Ryan, Sherry Saggars, Diane Smith, Peter Sutton, David Thompson, David Trigger, Jan Turner, James Weiner.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

John Gray, Chris Healey, Margie Jolly, Lenore Manderson, Gaynor Macdonald, John Stanton, Lindy Warrell

**2. WELCOME:**

Nic Peterson welcomed members to the meeting and expressed his thanks to Jeremy Beckett and Neil Maclean for the organisation of the conference. He also thanked them for organising the visit of Professor Faye Ginsburg, the Society's keynote speaker at the conference. He also thanked Professor Ginsburg for her very stimulating address.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The President indicated that the minutes had been published in the Society's Newsletter, No 55 (Nov. 1993).

MOVED (D. Biernoff/D. Ryan) that "The minutes of the 1993 Annual General Meeting as published be accepted as a true and correct record"

CARRIED

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- i) *The issue of the journal:* The President reminded members of the two motions concerning these matters passed at the last A.G.M. and read them out. He reported that the executive had hoped that the "flagship" journal would have been in place by now. He expressed disappointment that this had not been possible. The President went on to remind members of the two options available to the Society as at last meeting. He noted that Social Analysis had later withdrawn its offer. This had left TAJA (The Australian Journal of Anthropology) as the sole contender and the executive had been keen to pursue this option, but it was decided to delay the process for several reasons. He referred to the problem of the backlog of issues which Michael Allen had been trying to overcome since he had started as editor. The executive had felt that it was essential to be sure of the exact financial situation of the journal before a final decision was made, though both TAJA's and the Society's financial situations were very healthy. It was reluctantly decided that we should postpone the process until April 1995 when a fully audited set of accounts could be provided and the journal would be back on schedule. He indicated that there had been other discussion about the take over of the journal such as having the right to appoint an Editor, the setting of editorial policy, the setting of the exact form of the relationship between the Society and TAJA and the relationship between the Society's fees and the subscription to the journal. Further negotiations needed to be had but all parties seem very keen on it and he felt sure that it would go ahead. The President went on to outline the interim arrangements which include setting up a joint office for the Society and TAJA in Sydney with a pooling of funds to employ a person on a longer term basis. The computer systems of the two organisations would be brought into parallel form to facilitate future merging. The president anticipated the development of a specific proposal to be in place by the second part of next year and that this would probably be voted on at the next AGM. He invited comment and questions. Michael Allen reinforced the

points made by the President. The President elaborated on the arrangements for the editorship, confirming the role of the AAS in the selection of the editor, should the two organisations agree to the eventual proposal.

It was agreed that the suggestion that the developments in the matter be communicated to members through the newsletter was a good one and the President expressed confidence that this would indeed happen.

- ii) The President continued the discussion by referring to the *Post Graduate Workshop*, which it had been suggested should be taken up by the conference organisers, this year, given the success of the one in Melbourne. Unfortunately, it had not happened. Linda Connor was invited to comment on the subject. She related the discussions which had taken place at the "heads of anthropology" meeting on Tuesday 27th September and MOVED (seconded D. Biernoff) that

*"The meeting affirms the importance of the Post Graduate Fieldwork Methods Workshop attached to the annual AAS meetings and proposes that the Annual General Meeting appoint a coordinator for the workshop at the time the conference hosts are known."*

CARRIED

## 5. REPORTS:

- i) *President's Report-*

The President began by thanking the Executive for their support and hard work. He added his thanks to Glennis Graham for her work in managing the mail box and the central register of membership in Adelaide.

He went on to consider the role and evolution of the Society noting the fluctuating fortunes of the Society over the last decade. He noted also the re-emergence of the Society recently and the success of the last four conferences. He raised the problem of "managerialism" emanating from DEET and the extent to which it had penetrated the lives of the anthropologists in universities. There was a need to respond to the pressures being placed upon tertiary education and to make a case

for the specific needs of our discipline. He reported the outcome of the letter to DEET on the nature of funding for PhD's, reminding members that this had been cut back to just 3 years with a further 6 months "in exceptional circumstances". We had made the case that Anthropology (and maybe other fieldwork disciplines) required four years. It had taken a long time to get a reply but in the end they did reply and were completely unsympathetic, saying that they did not wish to make any distinctions between disciplines. The President noted the efforts of Sociologists and some scientists to get DEET to extend the funding to four years. He was not optimistic, but expressed the view that we need to continue to fight.

He went on to remark on the similar problem that was emerging with regard to AIDAB scholarships as AIDAB is now letting each country in SE Asia decide which subjects would remain on the approved lists - in some countries it appeared that Anthropology had dropped off the list of disciplines for which the scholarships are available. Again representations were not meeting with much success. It may be appropriate for the Society to follow that up.

Another reason for being alert was the issue of "generational change". There were still six chairs of Anthropology vacant, the only one having been filled since last year being Adelaide. The President acknowledged Professor Weiner's presence at the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment on behalf of the Society. He noted that it was understood that an offer had been made in regard to the Monash chair. Another piece of good news was that Doug Lewis from Melbourne had indicated that Anthropology would become a separate department with effect from January 1 1995. This was particularly appropriate as the university which had employed Baldwin Spencer and Donald Thomson had never had a department of Anthropology before. That chair should be advertised in the course of 1995. Given the changes occurring, the President felt that the discipline was a little vulnerable at the moment.

He went on to reiterate his view that the relationship with TAJA would develop successfully and that this would be important in highlighting the profile of the Society.

He felt that there was room to improve performance with regard to the Directory and assured members that the matter was in hand.

He acknowledged that there had been problems in the production of the

Newsletter, but felt confident that things would improve with the incoming Publications Officer.

The president drew members' attention to the "Heads of Departments" meetings which have been held just prior to the conference for the last few years. He expressed the view that they were very useful and that there had been three hours of non stop talking on the afternoon before the conference began. It was mainly an exchange of information, though a number of issues were raised with regard to current practices. One issue he emphasised was the huge range of assessment practices for fourth year Honours theses, including the permitted length of the thesis. He said that there would be further discussion on this, though there were no specific proposals forthcoming at the moment. The proposals were those already mentioned with regard to the Postgraduate Workshop and four year PhD funding, and the continuing need to push universities and DEET on this matter.

The final thing which he wished to cover was the future of the administrative arrangements for the Society. He indicated the difficulties of managing the Society in the past year. This year we were making a big effort to consolidate the administration and by getting most people in Sydney to provide the opportunity to bring the TAJA and AAS administrations into compatibility with each other for the future and to professionalise the administration.

It was MOVED from the Chair that "*the President's report be accepted*"

CARRIED

ii) *Secretary's Report-*

The Secretary presented the following report:

"In terms of the secretariat, executive activities and membership matters, this year has been largely "steady as she goes".

There have, however, been one or two minor problems in the day to day running of the society in recent months, as Nic has said. The extreme pressure of work experienced by Glennis Graham, our part time Administrative Officer, in her

capacity as budget adviser in the Faculty of Arts at Adelaide University, coupled with subsequent illness, made it difficult for her to maintain her usual very high standards of dealing with the flow of mail through our Adelaide post office box and recording of membership details on our computer data base. As a result of this stress, I am saddened to report that she has decided that she is no longer able to function as our administrator and will pass over all relevant material after this conference. I would like, once again, to thank Glennis personally for her invaluable assistance during the last two years, and echo what Nic was saying earlier.

If members have experienced delays in response to enquiries or in receiving receipts through the mail, I apologise. The executive has reviewed administrative arrangements and will make specific recommendations to the incoming office bearers, as you have heard.

The President has reported on the major issues which arose in the course of the year. There have been relatively few problems with regard to the business of the society and these have been generally resolved through telephone link ups. Nevertheless, it has to be acknowledged that an executive spread as wide as we have been, especially when trying to liaise with a conference committee located in another city and a dispersed accreditation committee, has resulted in some delays in responding to situations requiring a decision of the full executive. The logistical difficulties of engaging in an adequate discussion with all relevant individuals can become somewhat daunting on occasions. This is exacerbated when, as necessarily happens occasionally, executive members are temporarily absent. I was very fortunate in having Chris Healey, the Treasurer, in the office next door to cover my duties when I was overseas for a couple of brief periods in the first part of this year and I would like to publicly thank him for his support. I would strongly recommend that the coupling of the treasurer and secretary roles, so that they are held by people working in the same physical location, be retained even if the practice of having a dispersed executive continues.

One continuing issue is the link between publications and the executive. The Treasurer and I received some enquiries regarding subscriptions to the newsletter, back issues, and requests for copies of the directory of members. There being no central store of such things currently active - what did happen to the Society's archive? - it is very hard to respond adequately. It was only last week that I finally

received the original hard copy of the directory and I have been unable to track down an electronic copy to date. The distance to Darwin has not helped but the problem is essentially a structural one of transmission of the society's records and properties from one location to another. I recommend that the appointment of a new Administrative Officer be made with a view to a longer term base for both computer records and archived material. This would enable the Secretary or Treasurer to respond rapidly, forwarding any material required via the administrative officer. I think that is quite critical to the credibility of AAS as an organisation."

It was MOVED (D. Biernoff/ N. Maclean) that "*the Secretary's report be accepted*"

CARRIED

iii) *Treasurer's Report-*

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read the following on his behalf:

TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT 1993 -- 94

AAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1994

This is an interim report on the financial state of the Society. A final audited report will be provided to the membership through the Newsletter within the next few months. This must await clarification of several sources of income contained in records held in Adelaide.

The Society's financial position remains healthy with a modest increase in net surplus on that recorded in the previous financial year.

The major expenses of the Society are the newsletter and annual conference. While costs of producing the newsletter remain fairly constant, conference costs vary considerably from one venue to another. The healthy income from conferences include in this statement actually includes receipts from the last two

conferences in Melbourne and Canberra.

Some explanation is needed of the high totals for 'miscellaneous' items in both income and expenditure. Miscellaneous income includes monies received through the Society's post office box in Adelaide, and banked in Adelaide by the Society's part-time administrative assistant, Glennis Graham. Recent pressure of work on Glennis (as indicated by the Secretary) has meant she has been unable to keep up with Society business as effectively as in the past. I am yet to receive itemised details of receipts banked in Adelaide, but most are likely to be subscription renewals. This will be reflected in the audited report.

The high miscellaneous expenditure is mainly due to the cost of printing the Directory of Members.

Glennis Graham has indicated that her increasing commitments in the Faculty of Arts at Adelaide University means she will be unable to continue providing part-time administrative assistance to the Society. Her help has been invaluable. I endorse the Secretary's comments that the Society should now consider a permanent office to provide an efficient administrative base.

This is my final report as Treasurer, as I am not seeking re-election. I record my thanks to other members of the Executive for their support over the last two years, and to Glennis Graham in Adelaide and Christine Edward for part-time assistance in Darwin.

**AUSTRALIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.****Income and Expenditure for Year Ended 30th June 1994**

**OPENING BALANCE, as at 1 July 1993:** \$13,520.51

**INCOME**

Membership fees & Application fees	6,570.00
Conference	5,339.34
Newsletter	80.00
Interest	346.06
Miscellaneous	700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,035.40</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

Bank fees & Government charges	17.33
Conference expenses	2,200.50
Insurance	364.50
Newsletter production	1,010.55
Postage	787.30
Telephone	172.40
Wages	728.00
Auditor's fees	150.00
Miscellaneous	1,456.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,886.71</b>

**NET SURPLUS** 6,148.69

**CLOSING BALANCE as at 30 June 1993** \$19,669.20

It was MOVED (D. Ryan/ N. Maclean) that "*the Treasurer's report be accepted*"

There followed some discussion of the use of funds and a foreshadowed motion on the possibility of regular visitors as at this conference was raised. The President clarified the increases in expenditure predicted and suggested that new plans for increased administrative assistance would make it difficult to know what our real surplus would be in the future until all outstanding matters had been resolved.

**CARRIED**

It was agreed that the suggestion of Jeremy Beckett that the Society consider instituting a regular visitor to the conference was a good one, subject to the availability of funds.

There followed some discussion of the merits of photocopied papers to be distributed before the conference being available to all participants. It was suggested that abstracts might be a less costly and more efficient way to go. It was agreed that it was a good idea to have available the facility for making copies on order at the conference itself.

Linda Connor also suggested that if funds were available, the Society should consider subsidising the Postgraduate Workshop.

The President indicated that the value of the annual subscription and the returns to members were matters under active consideration, especially in light of the mooted relationship with TAJA.

iv) *Accreditation Committee Report-*

In the absence of the Chairperson of the Accreditation Committee, the Secretary noted that the following membership changes had occurred since the last conference:

***NEW MEMBERS***

Ms Cynthia Hunter

Dr Iris Domeier

Ms Merridy Pitcher

Ms Lesley Jolly

***NEW FELLOWS***

Dr Mary Edmunds  
Dr Michael Young  
Dr John Gordon  
Dr Barbara Glowczewski-Barker  
Dr David Martin  
Ms Rosita Henry

The Secretary emphasised that this list did not include those people who had sought to join at this conference.

It was **MOVED** (P. Sutton/ L. Connor) that "*the report be accepted*".

**CARRIED**

v) ***Publication Officer's Report-***

There was no report. It was noted by the President that there had been considerable difficulties with the newsletter, given the fact that outgoing Officer had been in Perth and then gone overseas on Study Leave. He expressed confidence that things would improve next year.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

The Secretary reported as follows:

"There was the usual overwhelming response to the call for nominations for office bearers of the Society. At the close of the first date for nominations there were no properly documented nominations, though we had had a couple of informal and more or less reluctant expressions of possible interest. With the approval of the executive I extended the date for nominations and began serious lobbying with the help of the President.

The rather desultory results of these efforts to date are as follows:

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	One nomination, Dr Diane Austin-Broos - <i>Elected unopposed.</i>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	No nominations to date
<b>SECRETARY</b>	No nominations to date
<b>TREASURER</b>	No nominations to date
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Two nominations only: Dr John Gray and Dr David Biernoff - <i>Elected unopposed</i>

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

One nomination only for Convenor: Dr Lindy Warrell - *Elected unopposed*

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

No nominations to date

In addition to the unfilled executive positions, therefore, we still require Fellows to fill the two remaining positions on the Accreditation Committee and a Member or Fellow to agree to be Publications Officer.

I therefore move that nominations be called from the floor for all these unfilled positions."

It was **agreed** that the President be permitted to read nominations from the chair for the unfilled positions

The President nominated the following people:

Professor James Weiner - Vice president

Dr Gaynor Macdonald - Secretary

Dr Grant McCall - Treasurer

Dr Dawn Ryan - Publications Officer

Dr Jeffrey Clark and Dr Sandra Pannel to continue with Dr Lindy Warrell as the Accreditation Committee

**CARRIED**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The President reported that it was hoped that the next edition of the Directory would be produced from Canberra thanks to resources being available there. All members would be contacted to update their records and include such things as Email addresses. He also indicated that there would be attempt to include a list of departments, disciplines and schools where Anthropology is taught.

The Secretary raised for consideration of the incoming Executive the possibility of making available the Directory in electronic form for the World Directory of Anthropologists run from the University of Buffalo, New York.

Concern was expressed by Linda Connor on the ready availability of Email addresses and the possible result of being inundated by a lot of junk email. The President conceded that the Directory was a public document which was available to anyone who purchased it and that this might result in some unwanted mail though not a lot had arrived at ANU in the two years that their addresses had been readily available.

## **8. VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT CONFERENCE:**

The President reported that Adelaide University had agreed to host the next conference and it was **agreed** that the conference would be held in the last three

days of the second week of the common break in the second half of the year. It was noted that a Convenor would need to be appointed and that, following our previous resolution, we should also seek to appoint the P.G. Workshop coordinator. Professor Weiner indicated he would be in a position very shortly to announce the two positions.

It was further noted that the rules required the appointment of the conference committee. It was agreed that the executive would be empowered to endorse the appointment of the conference committee on the advice of Professor Weiner.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS:

The President introduced the matters arising from the Native Title sessions and workshop and called on Mary Edmunds to talk on the matter. She introduced the following motion and spoke to its merits in light of the fast pace of development of the Native Titles Tribunal:

that

*"The Society establish a native title committee to monitor developments from the National Native Title Tribunal and provide a regular anthropological response for the period during which the Tribunal is developing its practices and procedures.*

*The Society will authorise the Committee to carry out the following functions:*

- i) After consultation with the President of a delegated executive member, to provide regular written submissions to the Tribunal that represent a professional response from the Society.*
- ii) To circulate copies of those submissions through the AAS from time to time to interested members*
- iii) To liaise as part of the submission process with anthropologists employed by the Tribunal*
- iv) To be a point of contact for members to provide comments, suggestions and responses for the Tribunal and, where appropriate, to coordinate this material.*
- v) To report to the AGM of the Society*

MOVED M. Edmunds/ D. Biernoff

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that Email addresses and Fax numbers would be provided through the newsletter.

Discussion followed on the merits of setting up a separate committee and the best way of doing so. Clarification was sought on what specifically would be the sort of matters to be covered by this committee. The "sunset clause" was noted by the proposer. The President spoke to the motion recalling problems that had confronted Anthropologists in the past in similar matters and expressed the view that this was a very appropriate way for the Society to be represented in these matters.

Further brief discussion of some of the implications followed.

It was **agreed** that the fax and email address of the convenor of the committee would be provided in the next Newsletter.

The motion was read a further time

**CARRIED**

*COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE:*

It was moved from the Chair that

*"the composition of the Committee be:*

*Mary Edmunds*

*Peter Sutton*

*Francesca Merlan*

*David Martin*

*Patrick Sullivan (to be confirmed)"*

The President outlined the qualifications of each of the proposed members.

**CARRIED**

The President went on to introduce the idea of a group to discuss the wider issues of Native Title and called on David Brooks to speak. David Brooks introduced the concept as one of providing a means to organize dialogue and a workshop for the Society in the near future. He moved the following motion that:

*"The Society establish a working group on the broader issues raised by*

*anthropological involvement in native title claims. The group will be responsible for:*

- i) organising a dialogue among anthropologists on the full range of issues and*
- ii) convening a workshop in the near future*

**MOVED** D. Brooks/ J. Marcus

The President indicated that the dialogue might be facilitated by setting up a bulletin board on an ANU server. A brief discussion followed of how this would work.

**CARRIED**

The President **MOVED** from the Chair that "*David Brooks be asked to convene the working group and to form a Committee to be put to the incoming Executive for ratification.*"

**CARRIED**

Gillian Cowlshaw indicated to the meeting that she would provide a paper discussing the possibilities for employment of anthropologists as an outcome of the establishment of the Native Title Tribunal. She would circulate this on the following day.

Rosita Henry indicated that James Cook University was making a firm offer to host the 1996 conference. The President placed this on notice for the incoming executive to take up in correspondence with JCU

The President expressed the meeting's best wishes to the incoming executive.

**The President closed the meeting.**

**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR MARY EDMUNDS CONVENOR NATIVE TITLE COMMITTEE:**

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