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Once again thanks to all members for your support this year – we have enjoyed ourselves, learned about a range of interesting topics from our speakers and helped to promote and protect archaeological sites as our Society's constitution states our aims.

My thanks in particular to the committee who have helped keep the show on the road this year. Special thanks to outgoing Secretary Sue Aylen and member Faye Powell; we hope they both keep their interest in CAS although their paths lead them elsewhere. Treasurer Wendy Lees also bids us farewell in a tornado of submitting her PhD thesis and getting married – all the best to her and Josh as they take up new lives in the USA.

Katarina and friends set up our sign in O Week to offer students discounted membership and the ranks swelled nicely. This is an opportunity that could be extended to the University of Canberra – we just need more student members to help by being there on the day to promote CAS to their peers.

This year we joined with CAR to cast our nets wider in promoting our lectures. This has been an excellent working relationship and has secured our venues on campus through the support of Adam Black. Speakers this year took us through the intricacies of 'geophysics', the effects of conflict on cultural heritage, Vikings, nostalgic views of African archaeology and we finish with discussions of tsunamis. We certainly cater for eclectic tastes. For those of us chained to jobs and family commitments, these monthly transportations into exotic locations and brain challenging theories

CAS can be justifiably proud for taking the lead in organizing the inaugural ACT Historic Archaeology Workshop in May in National Archaeology Week and following up with another workshop in October. We were ably supported by the National Trust ACT in organizing these workshops, with special thanks to Dianne Dowling whose efficient money handling kept us straight and solvent.

Issues raised at these workshops included interpretation of ACT's deserted space tracking stations and the fate of rural historic sites in the path of the proposed North Weston development. The space history theme will be taken up again next year. Letters were written to the Chief Minister raising concerns about the North Weston sites. The response was that every confidence was held in the capability of the ACT Heritage Unit and the consultants to identify and advise on the sites; bearing in mind that these responses are drafted by the Unit staff, we do not necessarily share this confidence and will keep asking for information on the progress of conservation and interpretation.

After the second workshop we wrote with more general concerns of sites reminding us of our rural heritage which seemed to be overlooked in the centenary of Canberra theme for 2013. A presentation from Eric Martin, President of the National Trust (ACT) raised the possibility of developers and the government sharing the costs of adaptive reuse, conservation and interpretation of historic places and spaces for the

benefit of the surrounding new communities. This idea was passed on in our letters but as yet no response has been received.

Another presentation from Pam Swaffield reminded us of the legacy of the Sidney Nolan art collection lent to the people of Australia on condition that it was displayed in the purpose built Lanyon Gallery, a rural setting that Sir Sidney found ideal for his works. Sadly the present ACT administration has moved the works to the Canberra Museum and Gallery where only some paintings are displayed in a hotch potch of other art and craft. We wrote to the Prime Minister to alert him to this unsatisfactory situation and the very real threat that Lady Nolan will take back another series of Nolan paintings on loan to Australia if the ACT continues to thwart the artist's wishes for the collection to be displayed cohesively with complementary works by other artists in the collection. No answer yet!

Our ability to raise and follow issues such as these has been strengthened by the support of our colleagues in heritage in the National Trust (ACT).

This year also saw the completion of several projects under the welcome funding of ACT Heritage Grants: an analysis of the artefacts from Crinigan's Hut and a summary history of Gungahlin as well as contributing the cultural heritage notes for the booklet 'Gungahlin's Treasures' in conjunction with the Conservation Council of the SE Region and ACT. The booklet has been very popular and we have been encouraged to apply for further funding next year to do a reprint.

CAS was also fortunate to receive a Community Grant from the Department of Environment etc to cover our administrative costs.

And our efforts in National Archaeology Week are further cause for congratulations. For the past few years we have been the coordinators for ACT and the only Canberra organization holding anything to promote this *cause célèbre*. If only our colleagues at ANU and the National Museum would join the party! This year we again held a riotous trivia night thanks to the organizing skills of Katarina, and Dr Jo Macdonald gave a very interesting talk on "The Slaying of the Narrabeen Man" which attracted new faces through the national advertising opportunities. We also coincided with Seniors Week in the ACT and welcomed a wider audience to a topical talk by Dr Peter Dowling on the battlefield remains at Gallipoli.

A busy year for us all and some good alliances forged which we hope to continue next year.

Helen Cooke

18 November 2009