

Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria

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Christine
Williamson
Heritage
Consultants



Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria
Volume 10, 2021

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Front cover:

Participants at the zoom webinar panel discussion by Traditional Owners at the 2021 Colloquium. Top row: Darren Griffin, Liz Foley, Dave Wandin—Wurundjeri Woiwurrung; bottom row: Racquel Kerr—Dja Dja Wurrung, Tammy Gilson—Wadawurrung, Ben Muir—Wotjobaluk and Jardwadjali. (Screenshot by Caroline Spry)^e

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Editorial note

The papers included in this 10th issue of *Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria* were presented at the annual Victorian Archaeology Colloquium held on-line via zoom webinar between 1 and 4 February 2021. This allowed even more than our usual number of people to register as participants, including some from interstate and overseas: their commitment and involvement testifies to the importance of this fixture within the local archaeological calendar. Many were fortunate to be able to meet in person, under appropriate protocols, for an outdoor boxed lunch at La Trobe University on 5 February.

We have taken the opportunity of celebrating our 10th anniversary by looking back over the last decade, both through a more formal analysis and through a less formal panel discussion of the history of the Colloquium and this publication. Another panel discussion transcript allows space for some Traditional Owners to reflect on particular examples that they feel have been of value in the complex process of cultural revival through a form of experimental (perhaps better experiential) archaeology.

The other papers published here deal with a variety of topics and approaches that span Victoria's Aboriginal and European past. While some papers report on the results of specific research projects others focus on aspects of method, approach, education and the social context of our work and approach. These all demonstrate how our Colloquium continues to be an important opportunity for consultants, academics, managers and Aboriginal community groups to share their common interests in the archaeology and heritage of Victoria.

In addition to the more developed papers, we have continued our practice of publishing the abstracts of other papers presented at the Colloquium, illustrated by a selection of the slides taken from the PowerPoint presentations prepared by participants. These demonstrate the range of work being carried out in Victoria, and we hope that many of these will also form the basis of more complete studies in the future. Previous volumes of *Excavations, Surveys and*

Heritage Management in Victoria are freely available through La Trobe University's institutional repository, Research Online <www.arrow.latrobe.edu.au:8080/vital/access/manager/Repository/latrobe:41999> and through Open at La Trobe (OPAL) <<https://doi.org/10.26181/601a321a11c0d>>. We hope that this will encourage the dissemination of ideas and information in the broader community, both within Australia and internationally. We have also now set up a website for the Colloquium <<https://victorianarchaeologycolloquium.com>>

For the first time we have included an obituary to mark the passing of a member of our community: David Rhodes of Heritage Insight, a long-time supporter of our activities. Here we should also mention that we have also lost Ron Vanderwal who made important contributions to archaeology and the curation of heritage, although he was unable to participate in the Colloquia.

Once again we have been fortunate in the support given to the Colloquium by many sponsors: ACHM, Ochre Imprints, Heritage Insight, Biosis, ArchLink, Christine Williamson Heritage Consultants and Extent, while La Trobe University continued to provide facilities and a home for our activities, even if this year it was a virtual one. We would like to thank them, and all others involved for their generous contributions towards hosting both the event and this publication. Yafit Dahary of 12 Ovens was, as always, responsible for the catering, despite the limitations on her usual spread.

All papers were refereed by the editorial team. This year Deb Kelly managed this process and the sub-editing of this volume. Layout was again undertaken by David Frankel. Preparation of this volume was, like so much else in the last year, undertaken during the severe restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that 2022 will be a better year for all.

The presenters, editors and authors acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and heritage discussed at the Colloquium and in this volume, and pay their respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

10 years of the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium: A retrospective panel and oral history of archaeology and cultural heritage management in Victoria

Caroline Spry¹, Ilya Berelov^{1,2}, Shaun Canning^{1,3}, Mark Eccleston^{1,2}, David Frankel¹, Susan Lawrence¹ and Anita Smith¹

Abstract

The Victorian Archaeology Colloquium was established in 2012 with the primary aim of bringing together people involved in different ways with the archaeology and cultural heritage of the state of Victoria, Australia, including representatives of Indigenous communities, academic researchers, heritage managers, and heritage advisers. The Victorian Archaeology Colloquium 2021, held via zoom webinar, marked the 10th occasion of the Colloquium. To celebrate this occasion, a series of special presentations revisited the Colloquium's role, its evolution over the past decade, and its broader impact in archaeology and cultural heritage management. This paper provides a transcript of the first of two panel discussions: the first by past and current members of the Colloquium organising committee, and the second by Traditional Owners representing different Traditional Owner groups of Victoria. The panel discussions were recorded as Zoom webinars, and transcribed using Otter (2021). Caroline Spry edited the transcript of the first panel discussion. The first panel discussion, presented here, touches on the original aims of the Colloquium, its evolution and impact over the past decade, Colloquium highlights, and future aspirations. This panel discussion provides and archives an oral history of archaeology and cultural heritage management in the State of Victoria over the past decade, following previous examples (Spry et al. 2020), while also generating insights into the broader discipline and industry in Australia.

Transcript

Caroline Spry:

I'd like to introduce everybody from our Retrospective Panel. We've got six discussants. These are all people who were involved in the first [Victorian Archaeology] Colloquium, and helped to establish the Colloquium. Because our panel is quite big, I'm going to do some

quick introductions, and then we'll get into our questions [for the panel]. First of all, we've already heard from Emeritus Professor David Frankel from the Department of Archaeology and History at La Trobe University [during the introduction to the Colloquium]. We also have Professor Susan Lawrence and Dr Anita Smith, who are also from the Department of Archaeology and History at La Trobe University. We're happy to have Dr Mark Eccleston, who is Senior Manager, Cultural Heritage and Native Title for Major Road Projects Victoria, and also Dr Ilya Berelov, who is the Manager there. And Dr Shaun Canning, who's the Managing Director and Principal Heritage Advisor [at Australian Cultural Heritage Management]. I'm the panel host, and I'll be asking everyone questions.

The first question: I guess this is really directed at Ilya and Anita, and Mark—are you able to tell us how the Colloquium first started, and what the aims were when the Colloquium was first established?

Anita Smith:

Okay, I'll go first! Hi, everyone, and thank you to Uncle Dave [Wandin] for his Welcome to Country. Lovely to be here. So, the aims... we talked about this in the [archaeology] department [at La Trobe University] for quite a while, about connecting more with industry, with consultants, and also recognising how siloed the whole professional area was in different parts, particularly between Aboriginal and historical archaeology. We really wanted to bring people together to break down those silos, and to have a look at how great Victorian archaeology was. There has been so little published about Victorian archaeology, and not many research projects in the universities, but so much work going on through [archaeological] consultancies—a real aim was to get that work out for everyone, to meet each other, and to break down those silos.

Caroline Spry:

Thank you, Anita. Ilya, Mark, and Shaun, do you have anything you'd like to add?

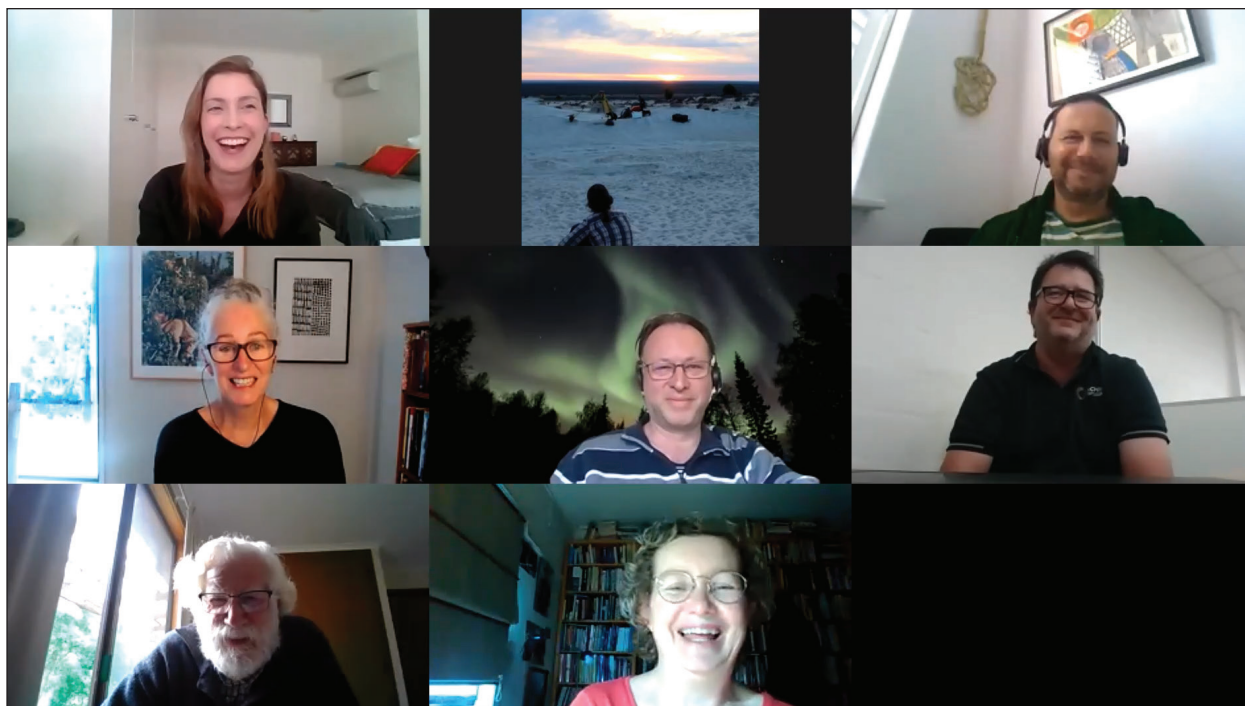
Ilya Berelov:

My memory of it is that I had worked overseas in various cultural heritage management contexts, and I was used

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Participants in the zoom webinar discussing the first 10 years of the Victorian Archaeology Colloquium Top row: Caroline Spry, Liz Foley, Ilya Berelov; middle row: Anita Smith, Mark Eccleston, Shaun Canning; third row: David Frankel, Susan Lawrence. (Screenshot by Caroline Spry)

to seeing publications that came out of non-academic archaeological investigations. I workshopped it [the idea for the Colloquium] with Shaun—I was working with Shaun at the time. And I approached David with this idea of publishing, I suppose getting out the grey literature—this wealth of information that was being produced by consultancies that was just sitting there in people’s computers or in boxes. I said to David, “Maybe we should look at trying to put together a journal that captures some of this work that’s been going on?” And that turned into a discussion of “Well maybe what we should actually do is get everyone together, one day a year—have people present their findings, and that could become the journal” [*Excavations, Surveys and Heritage Management in Victoria*]. So that’s, from my recollection, how it started, and then it just kept growing. I went and spoke with Mark about it, and Mark thought it was a great idea. And he spoke to people at AV [Aboriginal Victoria], and it just developed from there. That’s how I remember it anyway.

Mark Eccleston:

I think it [the idea for the Colloquium] came from that, and Ilya, Shaun and I had done PhDs on various aspects of it [archaeology], and work here and overseas, in academia, or consulting or whatever. And we were cognizant of the idea that was being put forward by lots of people, that there was a lot of information in the grey literature that wasn’t getting out very well. And that there was an opportunity, maybe, to use relationships that a

few of us had across academia, consulting, government, and with Traditional Owner corporations, like RAPs [Registered Aboriginal Parties in the state of Victoria], to try and get people together, and bring together a variety of people and create, in some ways, a safe space for students to present. AAA [the annual conference run by the Australian Archaeological Association] can be an intimidating place to do your first paper. And this [the Colloquium] may be a safer space. And similarly, with Traditional Owner collaborative research. So, I think that [idea] evolved as a way of trying to bring people together, and get some information out of grey literature and into more accessible literature.

Caroline Spry:

David, and Shaun and Susan, anything to add?

Shaun Canning:

I think Mark’s nailed it there with the grey literature comment, because that was something that’s always been a criticism in archaeology, that the overwhelming majority of things [projects] live in the grey literature and never see the light of day. I remember Ilya and I spoke about that very early on, 10 or more years ago, trying to come up with a way of getting that stuff out, and the Colloquium and the publication obviously turned into exactly that.

David Frankel:

I would echo what everyone has said, and Ilya’s

recollections match with my discussions—looking at other countries where there is an encouragement, if not an insistence, on heritage management work at least appearing in some [published] form or note, or notes. I think the other important aspect—Mark mentioned safe spaces—is that, for many people, it is difficult to talk in public, to stand up and deliver presentations, and to write in a critical academic context. And I think there's a reluctance, unfortunately, in many ways. And we can discuss the reasons for this, which are both personal and psychological, but also practical, in terms of time, structures, and other limits—to get people into the habit of writing up. And everyone in the heritage industry is busy writing, they write reports all the time for their clients. But somehow there's then a reluctance, and maybe a fear of writing for a more critical academic audience. And that's something which I've always felt we need to try and overcome, as well as breaking down the general barriers between different facets of the discipline: the academics, the heritage consultants, and others. So, I think it was really that idea that Anita alluded to as well, of bringing people together, and linking people between different aspects. Those are all the core elements for setting up both the publication and then seeing it as evolving from the conference, which differentiates it from other journals like *Australian Archaeology*, or *The Artefact*, where people are writing, if you like, cold And then being able to present it was an important component—less intimidating, we hope, than some of the standalone journals.

Caroline Spry:

Thank you, David. I'll move onto another question now, which is what everybody thinks about how the Colloquium has changed over the last 10 years, and how this reflects changes in the discipline and industry. And perhaps I might start with you again, David. You've been involved in the Colloquium from the beginning. But also, you've got a long-standing history at La Trobe University.

David Frankel:

I think your graphics that you started with [Caroline's preceding presentation, which provided a quantitative analysis of the last 10 years of the Colloquium] show some of this quite clearly—one of the aspects is that fluctuation between university-based researchers and heritage management in terms of [the number of] presentations. That fluctuates depending on individuals and how active they are, and how much they perceive this as an important part of their work. My feeling was always that the academics should keep, if you like, a little bit in the background. There's plenty of opportunities for academics to publish, and to present in different fora. I felt this was an opportunity more for people outside the universities. But that fluctuates on an individual,

and perhaps contingent, basis. But the other important thing: there's always been Indigenous participation, but to see that growing is something quite clear in the graphs you showed—the number of involvements of both individuals and Traditional Owner organisations as partners in preparing work and presenting work. I think those are the key differences, and key developments that we can see. It's really where people are coming from, and what their aims are. In a way, there are people getting different things out of the presentations. Academics might want to count them towards their work output, and towards a career output. For people in the heritage industry, it's a desire to participate generally in a research culture, and the sharing of information. And that's, I think, something that's really important to foster—an important component is that people see what they're doing as relevant, interesting and important for everyone. And not just the clients they work for on the specific projects, but this will actually be information, arguments and evidence that people can use more generally in understanding the more longer-term global perspectives of the Victorian past.

Caroline Spry:

So, putting everything together in context, and building a bigger picture as well, I guess?

David Frankel:

And it's the sharing of information that's a core in all of this. And the encouragement of people to talk to one another, and to write, to get into the habit of writing and publishing, which is a difficult thing—we know that.

Caroline Spry:

Alright, thank you. Would anyone else like to add anything—Ilya?

Ilya Berelov:

I think they were great points that David made. Very early on, no one really understood what the possibilities were. Very early on, we saw a lot of papers presented that were really: "This is what I did, and this is what I found"—quite a straightforward presentation of findings. And I think that, over time, as David suggested, where people have seen what other people were doing, and started these conversations and these discussions, we started to see some more sophisticated sort of thinking around what we were finding out there [during archaeological/cultural heritage investigations]. And some long-term studies, such as what you mentioned earlier, Caroline, around dating, and some of the work that David Thomas has done [compiling lists of radiocarbon age determinations for the state of Victoria]. There are definitely more long-term studies that we're actually seeing now. We're actually seeing, from year-to-year, presentations or updates to studies that have been

happening. Some of them are collaborations between Traditional Owner communities and universities, and consultancies, and the government sector. I think that's been really heartening to see, that growth and sophistication of what's actually going on out there. I would say that that's what I've noticed the most as a change.

Caroline Spry:

Thank you. Mark, do you have anything to add?

Mark Eccleston:

Yes—Traditional Owner collaboration and Traditional Owner-driven research, where the questions are driven by the Traditional Owners or Traditional Owner groups, have increased. Maybe it's because of the conference, maybe it's an evolving partnership approach with Traditional Owners—I'm sure this will be addressed more in the next [Traditional Owner] panel. I think your [Caroline's] graphs showed that, and the [list of the] most popular [Colloquium publication] downloads [showed that] as well. I didn't snap the screenshot [of the top 10 downloads]. But I think a good proportion of those were collaborative papers that were co-authored with Traditional Owners, and presented some pretty interesting and unique results that may not have been published in the same way 10 years ago, [or] 15, 20 years ago. It's a more business-as-usual approach now, that Traditional Owner-driven approach that a lot of institutions are using, and those who haven't traditionally participated as much in this conference use a lot, as well as some others. I think that is one of the big changes over the years, and that's a good change.

Caroline Spry:

And [Mark] would you like to add anything from a government perspective as well?

Mark Eccleston:

Yes—[from when I was] at AAV [Aboriginal Affairs Victoria] as it was when it started, and AV [Aboriginal Victoria]—I know the initial comments from Heritage Victoria [were] that there were too many Aboriginal heritage papers. Your graph showed that [number] fluctuated and, at times, the [number of] historical papers did [fluctuate too]. I think it's [the Colloquium] created a platform for government to engage better. I personally always found it a good way of more openly engaging with people. When you were the regulator [i.e. working at Aboriginal Victoria], you had to establish a particular relationship or approach in dealing with things bureaucratically. But that's not always who you were in your non-work context—the Colloquium maybe made some more bureaucratic discussions between the government and heritage consultants and Traditional Owners go a different way over the years. I don't know, some of the panellists may be penning questions as I

speak to the contrary on that, but I would certainly hope that was one of the outcomes.

Susan Lawrence:

I would just add to that too. I think the conversations that happen around the Colloquium are one of the most interesting and important things. When we started, it was very much about the papers, and presenting things that were in the grey literature, and so on. What I've really noticed over the years is how it [the Colloquium] has grown. The number of people attending has really... well, it's almost doubled. Yet, the number of papers that are offered actually has stayed pretty much the same. And [that's] partly [because] we have constraints on the time—we want to keep it [the Colloquium] to a single day. But if we were overwhelmed with offers of papers, we'd find ways to accommodate them. That's kind of remained the same, but the audience has expanded hugely, and that has just really told me that there's a real demand to hear about things, even if people don't want to share what they've been doing, there's still that desire to know. And what's really, really important is the networking and the socialising that happens between the papers. We have increasingly realised how important it is to facilitate those discussions. So, we do consciously keep the sessions within bounds so that those break periods are long enough to include that socialising, because it's been clear how important that is. And it does facilitate the kind of conversations that lead to the longitudinal studies that Ilya talked about, and the kind of people coming back to papers a couple of years in a row, that they're doing a project and seeing how it develops, and new partnerships and collaboration starting.

Caroline Spry:

Alright. Does anyone else have anything to add to that?

Anita Smith:

Can I just say, Caroline, that—building a bit on what Ilya said—the papers have moved from very descriptive of what people are doing to more interpretive and a more general kind of framework about the significance of the work they're doing. But another observation—and I don't know whether it's borne out in statistics or not—would be that there's been an increasing willingness to question and share questioning about methodologies that people are using, and to openly talk about limits in the way that people have been working, and to share those, and to try and improve professional practice. That's been really important, and that's not only in relation to relationships with Traditional Owners, which have been fantastic—the way that we've seen that evolve and questions be framed—but also particularly in the way we do CHMPs [Cultural Heritage Management Plans], and the way we do things, and that's a really vital role, if people come together at the Colloquium and share those things, that's really great for everyone and

for the discipline.

Caroline Spry:

And that gets into the next question as well, which is: what impact has the Colloquium had on the discipline and industry? Thinking about things that change practice, that change the way we work together, or collaborate and whatnot. So, I might open that up to everybody else for their thoughts. What contribution has the Colloquium made to the archaeology and cultural heritage management sector in Victoria?

Shaun Canning:

If I can jump into that one—when we first started doing this, I think 10 years ago, the focus on Victoria was almost non-existent. There was a paper here and there in [the] AAA's [Australian Archaeological Association's] journal [*Australian Archaeology*], or something in *The Artefact* that was on Victoria, or some of the historical papers [in historical archaeology journals] as well, of course, but everything was about the Northern Territory, or Western Australia, or Queensland. It was all the Pleistocene, glamorous sites up north, and there was virtually nothing happening in the publication space in Victoria. So, the Colloquium, first-time around, was a bit of a 'see what happens, and if it works, we'll see where we go next'. Then the publication came along, and all of a sudden, it's all about Victoria. Now, we've got two hundred-odd people coming along every year with a journal coming out almost purely about Victoria. There have been some conversations at the last one about Western Australia, which was kind of nice because Caroline Bird turned up [at the Colloquium in 2019] and we could talk about something [else], but the focus [on Victoria] now, having this [the Colloquium and publication] in Victoria, is so important. Nowhere else is doing this. We've got other national fora, but nothing like this one. Is any of this happening anywhere else? I think it's been tremendous that we can really sharpen the spotlight on Victoria.

Susan Lawrence:

Yes, I would totally agree with that, Shaun. I think it's been really exciting to see Victorian stuff being talked about like that. And related to that comment, there's nothing like it anywhere else, and that's true. Sydney has a similar thing for historical archaeology that they've been doing for a very long time. But it's only about historical archaeology. And that's the other thing, I think, that's really important and special about the Colloquium: it's all branches of archaeology. It's historical, and Aboriginal, and maritime [archaeology], and the heritage management, and legislators, and regulators, and Traditional Owners, and academics, and students, and consultants, and everybody is all there. So those conversations are not happening in separate little silos. They're happening amongst all of us at the same

time. And the opportunity for cross-fertilisation and learning from each other has been tremendous.

Caroline Spry:

Just add to that briefly as well, Susan—I think there is going to be a sort-of Colloquium that will begin this year in New South Wales, which is exciting, but it's going to be purely on Aboriginal archaeology. So, they'll have the SHAP [Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners] workshop that's [focused on] historical archaeology, and the [inaugural NSW Aboriginal Archaeology Future Forum on] Aboriginal archaeology—but they'll be separate. I think that someone else had started to talk?

Ilya Berelov:

I was just going to add—on the back of what Susan said—that right from the beginning, we were very clear that it needed to be about heritage management, and not just about archaeology. And that, I think, is what it [the Colloquium] has become. And that's what's special about it, because it's not just a discussion about archaeology, it's a discussion about all sorts of things that relate to what happens with the heritage that we're constantly uncovering and consuming. So, I think that's what really is unique about this whole thing [the Colloquium].

Susan Lawrence:

And it provides the opportunity for people to really share stuff that's new and emerging and is going to be really important, like the paper that the Barengi Gadjin group [Barengi Gadjin Aboriginal Land Council Aboriginal Corporation] offered about intangible cultural heritage [McMillan et al. 2019], and what they've been doing up there [i.e. within their Registered Aboriginal Party boundary]. And I mean, that's internationally groundbreaking stuff. That's real leadership, and the Colloquium is the opportunity to talk about it.

Caroline Spry:

Anyone else? No? Well, moving on to another question: [what have been] the Colloquium highlights, and does anybody have any funny recollections or surprises that have happened in the last 10 years that were unexpected?

Mark Eccleston:

It has to be Michael Lever, I think.

Caroline Spry:

Any specific instances, or just all of them [i.e. Michael Lever's Colloquium presentations]?

Shaun Canning:

Every paper that Michael gave!

Ilya Berelov:

Pretty much!

Mark Eccleston:

The one in character of Arthur Dougwell! (Panellists

laughing)

Caroline Spry:

I wonder if Michael is with us today?

Susan:

No, I don't think he is.

Caroline:

Well, he gets a shout out, and a hello!

Mark Eccleston:

I think the most pleasantly surprising thing, which was a good thing—I don't know if it's funny, but it was definitely good—was the first time [we held the Colloquium] we really had no idea who would turn up until the day. People were turning up, or registering, up until the day, and I think we were very pleasantly surprised. Collectively, the people on this panel were literally stuffing name tags and things, and didn't really have any help—it was between 100 and 150 [attendees at] the first one [Colloquium], which was great because it launched it into what it is now. I think people were absolutely hedging their bets to see what would happen. I think that was the best outcome: [that] people bought into it [the Colloquium] from across all those sectors early. Otherwise, we would have had one [Colloquium], and that would have been it.

David Frankel:

I think Mark's point is right. When we designed the first one [Colloquium] and set it up, anticipating maybe four or five dozen people—not so many—we were really surprised to see well over 100. And I think that did launch something. But part of what I really wanted to relate that back to, and thinking of aspects which we haven't otherwise considered—and zero declared family interest—I think everyone has always appreciated the catering, and if nothing else that encouraged people to come back for the second or third or fourth one [Colloquium]. (Panellists laughing—the catering is provided by David Frankel's daughter-in-law, Yafit.) So, I think we need to acknowledge the importance of the catering provided by Yafit of 12 Ovens [Catering].

Caroline Spry:

For sure! And—it's not so much a surprise—but we've always been very fortunate that it [the day of the Colloquium] seems to be a good weather day.

Susan Lawrence:

I was actually going to say what I remember, very clearly, is the year it was so hot that the AV basically melted. We had to run over to the [archaeology] department and get all the laptops and so on to connect up because the system in that building [Seminar Hall, Institute for Advanced Study, La Trobe University, Bundoora] had literally just given up in the heat.

Caroline Spry:

Any other comments from anyone? We've got one more question, and then I might open up and see if anyone in our general audience has any questions. If you do, please start writing them into the Q&A now, and we'll hopefully have time for a couple more questions to discuss. So, the last question is: where does everybody see the Colloquium going in the future? What are our future aspirations, and what might happen down the track?

Susan Lawrence:

Well, I'll start! The biggest future aspiration at the moment is that next year we will be face-to-face [at the Colloquium], again! It is a very big aspiration. But, having said that, I think we've seen some great advances this year with our new website, and thank you to Liz Foley, especially, for managing that. I hope we'll be able to take what we learned this year, and find ways next year of making it a more hybrid conference so it is more accessible to people who aren't able to actually be there on the ground in Melbourne, and that people will be able to be involved from regional Victoria, and from interstate, and [that] it will be more inclusive in that way.

Caroline Spry:

And I'll just pop in with one thing as well: I think that, if we continue to have a lot of presentations, we have floated the idea of having posters as well. So, maybe presentations and posters, especially for people who might not want to present, but want to share something they've been doing—there might be the opportunity there [by doing a poster] as well.

Ilya Berelov:

I think that we're gradually seeing a change in who wants to lead the Colloquium, and who wants to really drive it. In the beginning, it was a few of the characters here on the panel. And then, over the years, you've got more involvement with people like yourself, Caroline, and Liz [Elizabeth Foley], and I think we're going to see that evolve over time. And, to go back to some of the points that the others have made about the involvement of Traditional Owners—if that continues to strengthen and gain momentum, it would be good to see more and more leadership from that sector. So, I think the mix is going to change organically, and hopefully it will grow from there.

Caroline Spry:

Great. David, or Mark, or Shaun, Anita—anything to add?

David Frankel:

I think one of the things we have to maintain—rather than thinking about new developments—is that it's [a] one day [Colloquium], and that means lots of people

can set aside one day. But—keeping it both low-cost and to one day is really an important aspect of actually getting it to work. Once you go beyond that, it starts to be a whole different thing, and then you need high costs, like AAA [the Australian Archaeological Association], for example, is now extremely expensive. It was interesting that, when AAA was in Melbourne a couple of years ago [in December 2017], there were far fewer—comparatively few really—Victorian-based archaeologists attending. Far more [people] would come to the Colloquium a month and a half later than [the number of those who] went to the AAA [Conference], because it's [the Colloquium is] more relevant. So, it's keeping it relevant to keep people involved. I just saw a little comment from David Thomas in the chat, saying the supportive environment [of the Colloquium] is extremely important. I think maintaining those aspects is really a critical factor.

Caroline Spry:

That's a good point.

Mark Eccleston:

Yes, I definitely agree with that aspect that David Frankel describes, [and] that David Thomas did [mention]: the supportive environment for presenting papers, and the relevance to people here [in Victoria]. But I think one thing that COVID has shown—and I've certainly taken advantage of interstate and international Zoom-seminar or conference-style presentations during lockdown—is that if that [accessibility] can be somehow built into business-as-usual, so that people who are joining from interstate or even overseas—if they're interested—can access and participate and be involved, and can help with other people accessing around other commitments—I mean, a year ago, we wouldn't have dreamed of that as a future kind of aspiration—to still run a face-to-face conference when we can would be great, because that social aspect and that ability to chat under the trees on the lawn outside the building at La Trobe [University] is very nice. But the ability to engage if you're in Perth or Sydney, or in London if you happen to be there working—then that would be good as well.

Anita Smith:

Caroline, I'd like to support Ilya again with this: I'd

like to see it [the Colloquium] continue to grow to be a platform for younger practitioners, for newer consultants, for our students and graduates to really take more of a lead, to feel confident now taking a lead and directing it. And, alongside that is the really necessary support that we do get, and we thoroughly appreciate, from employers in the industry who will give their junior staff—the younger practitioners—the time to go to the Colloquium and to present papers. And because, you know, life gets pretty boring if it's just work and work and work every day. And this is really an opportunity for younger people, and young practitioners, to be able to share what they're doing, and to meet other people. And it's certainly added value and, in fact, professional development for young people. So, I would like to see that happen more into the future.

Caroline Spry:

Yes, that's great. All right, we might see if anybody has any comments or queries or questions from the audience before I hand over to Darren Griffin [for the Traditional Owner Panel]. Does anybody have any questions? I haven't seen any come through the Q&A, but now's the time if there's anything you'd like to ask anybody, or any comments about what's been discussed today? All right. Well, we'll first of all say thank you to our six panelists: Ilya Berelov, Mark Eccleston, David Frankel, Susan Lawrence, Shaun Canning, and Anita Smith. Thank you very much for your time, it was great to hear from you! And we're so happy that the Colloquium is continuing as it is, and is getting better every year.

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