



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies AGM 2017

Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of **The Australasian Society for Classical Studies** was held in the Grand Space of Rydges Hotel, Wellington, on 2 February 2017, commencing at 5.30pm.

The meeting was attended by the President, Anne Mackay (Chair), the Honorary Secretary, Kathryn Welch, the Honorary Treasurer, William Dolley, and 90 members.

1. **Apologies were accepted from** Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides; Fred Bendich; Eleanor Cowan; Robert Cowan; Geoffrey Dunn; Trevor Evans; Thomas Flynn; Stephanie Golding; K.O. Chong Gossard; Dexter Hoyos; Marguerite Johnson; Clemens Koehn; Chris Matthew; Nathan Leber; Scot McPhee; Alanna Nobbs; Lara O'Sullivan; Patrick O'Sullivan; Elodie Paillard; Ian Plant; David Pritchard; Babette Puetz; John Ratcliffe; Anne Rogerson; David Runia; Enrica Sciarrino; Roger Scott; Gillian Shepherd; Greg Stanton; Elizabeth Stockdale; Wesley Theobald; Robyn Tracey; Jonathan Wallis; Lindsay Watson; Patricia Watson; Heiko Westphal; John Whitehorne; Naomi Wolfe; Sonya Wurster; Marcus Wilson
2. **Minutes of the Meeting of 4 February 2016**
The Minutes of the meeting in Melbourne were accepted as a correct record of the 2016 AGM: proposed: John Davidson; seconded: Tom Stevenson. Passed unanimously.
3. **Business arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Conference Program Review Committee: Elizabeth Minchin, the chair, circulated a report to members. She added thanks to the committee members and the convener Kathryn Welch
 - b) Commemorative Volume (Anne Mackay): the volume has been published with a date of 2016. Please buy a copy; please contact your contributing museum so that the copies can be distributed, as we need to recoup as much of the cost as we can.
 - c) ASCS Outreach: Taylors College (Miriam Bissett). Miriam Bissett circulated statistics for the number of students choosing humanities topics, and especially Classics and Ancient History topics, for their tertiary studies. The numbers are still strong but there is a slight decline. She proposed a coordinated response targeting career advisers so that they could encourage students and parents that the Bachelor of Arts is a valuable and worthwhile program and that Ancient World Studies is a great choice within the Humanities and Social Studies suite. The first and most important project is to produce a pamphlet that can be given to careers advisers. The reports were accepted.
4. **Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence**
 - a) FIEC subscription and donation: International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies is responsible for several important initiatives, including the maintenance of *L'Année Philologique*. The President commended the continuation of our subscription and donation to maintain our affiliation. Approved Tom Stevenson; seconded Roger Pitcher.
 - b) FIEC Congress Invitation: Amelia Brown and Han Baltussen have volunteered to attend on behalf of the Society.

5. Obituaries were read for four members who passed away during 2016

- a) Geoff Adams (Graeme Miles)
- b) John Jory (John Melville-Jones)
- c) Minor Markle (Greg Horsley)
- d) Roger Sworder (John Penwill)

A minute's silence was held in memory of these members.

6. President's Address 2016

- Code of conduct and new areas of policy will need to be developed in 2017.
- Major changes in a number of universities; downsizing by attrition. President wants to know who is under threat.
- Further valuable information will emerge from the questionnaires of the Postgraduate representatives and Maxine Lewis from Auckland University.
- Need for reps to keep the president informed of issues arising at their campuses.
- ASCS never meant to be just about Ancient History: put some pressure on literary and object minded colleagues to offer panels or submit papers to the ASCS general meeting as well as to specialist conference programs.
- We need to look for opportunities that enable Australasian Classics students to combine their studies with those at other centres.
- Digital archive to be placed at ASCS members' disposal? 2018
- Thanks to members who have helped, especially Alison Griffith and Kathryn Welch who are leaving their roles on the committee.

7. Secretary's Report 2016

- a) The report will be included in the first newsletter of 2017.
- b) Accepted: Elizabeth Minchin/Roger Pitcher

8. Financial Matters

- a) Treasurer's Report for 2016 and Budget for 2017

Report:

- Auditors approved the report of ASCS finances.
- Incoming invoices from McPhersons and CUP will exhaust the funds in credit. It is vital to expand the membership and that current members pay their subscriptions.
- Membership: 452 (figures for the previous year). Figure deceptive. As of October 100 members had not responded to requests for payment; after a lot of effort, this is down to 35. CUP has advised that late payers do not receive a printed copy of the journal. A handful of copies will be retained by the Society to cover this contingency. In fact, the 452 embraces those who have not paid but it also indicates a healthy number of new members. Student registrations and concessional rate members have increased. All in all, this means less money in the Society's coffers.
- Administration and the publication of *Antichthon*: no invoice for volume 50 yet so the figure is an estimate. Some revenue has come in from CUP.
- Lack of applications for casual conference support.

Budget

- Advertising in *Antichthon*: should we reinstitute it?
- Receipt from CUP: return to us of 10% of earnings
- Fortunate in term deposits: no funds needed to be removed
- No proposal to increase the awards; budget is based on current information but there is provision for a rise in percentage price for CUP.

Discussion:

- HB one item: p. 3: item 10.2: difference between 2016 and 2015 is substantial.
 - WD: Figure of current receipts is down because people haven't paid and some have resigned. Figure for the previous year was high because the fees increased and there were probably more people taking out the five year rate, student rate and the supermembers. 2015 was a spike, and not typical.
- b) Membership Dues 2017 will not change.
- c) Appointment of Auditor and Honorarium: Davidsons will act again for the Society in 2017.

Ron Ridley, seconded Phoebe Garrett, proposed that the report, budget and recommendations be accepted. Passed unanimously.

9. *Antichthon*

a) Editors' Report:

- Sad that the volume was not ready for the conference but it is being printed.
- 2016 was Bruce Marshall's last year as production manager. The Editors thanked him and noted his successful struggle with CUP over the issue of the images in this volume.
- Next issue will be a special issue. Guest editors are Jeremy Armstrong and James Richardson;
- Successor to Bruce Marshall is Gina Coulthard, a professional editor. We will now have a deadline for articles to be delivered.
- Editors have set up a pattern of communication whereby skype sessions take place at least four times a year.
- There is an improved version of the spreadsheet.
- New instruction sheet for reviewers has improved consistency in the review process.

The proposal that the report be accepted was put by Arlene Allan, seconded by Tom Stevenson. Passed.

b) The *Antichthon* Board: Most members of the Board have agreed to continue: Frances Muecke has stepped down and will be replaced.

10. Special Resolutions (notes are attached):

- a) to create a position entitled Membership Secretary: passed unanimously
- b) to remove the position of Business Manager and replace it with that of Publications Manager: passed unanimously
- c) to include an AWAWS representative on the ASCS Executive Committee (Committee of Management): passed unanimously
- d) to register the decision to include a second postgraduate representative passed at the AGM in Palmerston North 2014: passed unanimously
- e) to register the decision to rename the Committee of Management the Executive Committee passed at the AGM in Palmerston North 2014: passed unanimously

11. Matters for discussion

a) **The ASCS Code of Conduct (attached)**

Four members commented on the proposed code.

- Maxine Lewis: spoke of encountering harassment at a conference and read testimonials from others who had similar experiences. She made the point that members should be able to present their work and engage in academic discussions without fearing being harassed and without being called upon to protect friends, colleagues and students from bad behaviour.

- Ron Ridley: asked about implementation. The president responded by saying that the code enshrined what we expected. The committee will deliberate and consult about what the Society should do in the event of a breach. She reminded the meeting that almost everyone attending an ASCS conference is already bound by a campus-based code of conduct.
 - Roger Pitcher: spoke as a senior male academic, endorsing Maxine Lewis' comments that the conference needs to be a harassment and bullying-free zone.
 - Mark Masterson had witnessed uncertain responses from people in power. The ineffective response was due to a lack of articulation of standards. The code will act as a guide to well-meaning persons who need to know how to respond.
 - The President invited members who had concerns about the code or who disagreed with the wording to express their views. As no-one wished to do so, the proposal to adopt the code was put to the meeting. The code was passed unanimously. Acceptance of the code is now a condition of ASCS membership.
- b) Questionnaires to ASCS members (Lewis) and PGs (Brennan McMahon/ Hancock)
- Lewis: Wishes to collect information on ethnic diversity (or the need for it); as no data is readily available, she will be setting up an ethics-approved survey and inviting ASCS members to take part. In addition to ethnic diversity and issues of gender, it is also important to understand the extent and impact of the casualisation of our labour force. Our information is anecdotal, not statistical. During 2017 the survey will be administered to AWAWS and ASCS members.
 - Discussion: Alison Griffith asked whether the survey could be published. Maxine Lewis replied that data needs to be widely available. The place and form can be discussed.
 - Brennan-McMahon: feedback form was circulated after ASCS 37: Three main messages: 1. Concerning issues of harassment; 2. Money: the PGs are grateful for what is provided but ASCS conferences (and especially the dinner) are still a big expense. 3. Overwhelmingly everyone enjoys the meeting and the PGs love the opportunity to present their papers and interact with the scholarly community.

12. ASCS Competitions

- a) Appointment of assessors and coordinators for 2017 will be the task of one of the Vice-Presidents.
- b) Panels and conveners for 2016
- Early Career Award: Coordinator: Alison Griffith. Judges: Jeremy Armstrong (Auckland); Amelia Brown (UQ)
 - Australian Essay Competition: Coordinator: Peter Davis (Adelaide); Judges: Graeme Miles (UTas) and Michael Champion (ACU).
 - New Zealand Essay Competition: Coordinator: Arlene Allan (Otago); Judges: Enrica Sciarrino (Canterbury), Jonathan Tracy (Massey) and Mark Masterson (VUW).
 - Translation Competitions: Coordinator: Amelia Brown; Judges: John Davidson (VUW), Jane Bellemore (UON)
 - OPTIMA: Coordinator: Matthew Trundle (Auckland); Judges: Lea Beness (Macquarie); Gwyneth Macintyre (Otago); Roger Pitcher (Sydney)
- c) John Barsby New Zealand Essay Competition Winners:
- 1. Roswyn Wiltshire (Canterbury) 'The Value of Ancient Literary Sources for Understanding Greek Art.'

- 2. Lilly MacDonnell (Auckland) ‘The Function of Aphrodite in the *Iliad*.’
- d) Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition Winners:
 - 1. Konstantine Panegyres (Melbourne), “Like a Snowy Mountain”: *Iliad* 13.754-755 Reconsidered’.
 - 2. Aileen Westbrook (Macquarie) essay ‘The Handprints of Herodotus’
 - 3. Rodney Harvey (ANU) ‘Childhood in Roman Greece: the Story of Daphnis and Chloe’
- e) Latin and Greek Translation Competition Results:
 - Winner, Latin: Grant Kynaston (Sydney)
 - Honourable mentions: Ruth Burden (ANU); Joseph James Parkinson (Sydney), Patrick Henning (Melbourne)
 - Winner, Greek: Grant Kynaston (Sydney)
 - Honourable mentions: Timothy Young (Sydney) Emma Steffensen (ANU), Octavian Catrinei (Melbourne); Timothy Waugh (Melbourne)
- f) Early Career Award 2016 Winner:
 - Winner: Dr Camilla Norman (University of Sydney): Project: Ritualized Behaviours in Pre-Roman Italy: RTI photography, X-ray fluorescence and the Daunian Stelae
- g) OPTIMA Award: will be announced at afternoon tea on Friday 3 February 2017.

13. Election of Office-Bearers, Editorial Committee and AAIA Representative

The President declared all positions vacant and stepped down while elections were conducted by Alison Griffith. The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for 2017:

- President: Mackay, Anne (Welch/Rogerson)
- Vice-President: Stevenson, Tom (Davenport/Brown. A.)
- Vice-President : Welch, Kathryn (Roche/Rogerson)
- Secretary: Salapata, Gina (Welch/Mackay)
- Treasurer: Dolley, William (Penwill/Mills)
- Editor, *Antichthon*: Pomeroy, Arthur (Baltussen/Welch)
- Editor, *Antichthon*: Baltussen, Han (Pomeroy/Welch)
- Publications Manager: John Penwill (Dolley/Mills)
- CPR Committee Chair: Minchin, Elizabeth (appointment)
- Web Manager: Morrell, Kit (Welch/Brown, B.)
- AAIA Liaison: Hillard, Tom (appointment)
- Membership Secretary: O’Sullivan, Lara (Westphal/Melville-Jones)
- Messages Secretary: Hancock, Megan (appointment)
- Rep. ACU: Matthews, Chris (Welch/Pitcher)
- Rep. Adelaide: Baltussen, Han (Clarke/Davis)
- Rep. ANU: Londey, Peter (Minchin/Burton)
- Rep. Auckland: Lewis, Maxine (Bailey/Wilson, M.)
- Rep. Champion College: Flynn, Thomas (Welch/Pitcher)
- Rep. Canterbury: Morrison, Gary (Griffith/Parker)
- Rep. La Trobe: Shepherd, Gillian (Evans/Midford)
- Rep. Macquarie: Beness, Lea (Keegan/McKechnie)
- Rep. Massey: Richardson, James (Salapata/Welch)
- Rep. Melbourne: Chong-Gossard, K.O. (Stephenson/Turner)
- Rep. Monash: Anagnostou-Laoutides, Eva (Connor/Welch)
- Rep. Newcastle: Johnston, Marguerite (Baynham/Welch)
- Rep. Notre Dame: Dennett, Bruce (Welch/Pitcher)

- Rep. Otago: McConnell, Sean (Hall/Osland)
- Rep. Sydney: Brown, B. (Kindt/Roche)
- Rep. Tasmania: Wallis, Jonathan (Miles/Welch)
- Rep. UNE: Taylor, Tristan (Lawrence/Koehn)
- *Rep. UNSW *vac.*
- Rep. UQ: Brown, Amelia (Stevenson/Davenport)
- Rep. UWA: Westphal, Heiko (O'Sullivan, L./O'Sullivan, N.)
- Rep. VUW: Kierstead, James (Puetz/Perris)
- PG Rep (Aust): McKenzie, Dustin (McTavish/VanDerBoor)
- PG Rep (NZ) Brennan-McMahon, Sinead (Gordon/Crowhurst)
- Rep (AWAWS): TBA

14. Future General Meetings and Conferences

- a) ASCS 39 2018 Brisbane (UQ)
- b) ASCS 40 2019 Armidale (UNE)
- c) ASCS 41 2020 Dunedin (Otago)
- d) Amphorae 2017 University of Sydney (Natalie Mendes, Elisabeth Slingsby, Daniel Hanigan conveners). The conveners reported that the dates are fixed (12-14 July 2017), the call for abstracts has been issued and the conference website is available (<https://amphoraesydney.com/>).

15. Delegation of Authority

Maxine Lewis proposed (seconded Roger Pitcher) that the Executive Committee be tasked with conducting the Society's business for the next 12 months. The proposal was accepted by the meeting. The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.

Kathryn Welch

ASCS Honorary Secretary