**The Australasian Society for Classical Studies AGM 2018**

The Annual General Meeting of The Australasian Society for Classical Studies was held in Llew Edwards Room 212, University of Queensland, Brisbane, on 1 February 2018, commencing at 5 pm.

The meeting was attended by the President, Anne Mackay (Chair), the Honorary Secretary, Gina Salapata, the Honorary Treasurer, William Dolley, and 56 members.

1. **Apologies were accepted from:**

Dexter Hoyos; Gillian Shepherd; Bruce Marshall; Anne Rogerson; Lara O’Sullivan; Megan Hancock; James McLaren; Sean McConnell; Gary Morrison; Bob Milns, Jacqueline Clarke.

# Minutes of the Meeting of 2 February 2017

With one correction (addition of apology of Marcus Wilson), the Minutes of the meeting in Wellington were accepted as a correct record of the 2017 AGM.

Proposed: Anne Mackay; seconded: Tom Stevenson.

# Business arising from the Minutes

None

# Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence

* 1. FIEC subscription and donation

The International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies is responsible for several important initiatives. The continuation of our subscription and donation is recommended to maintain our affiliation.

Proposed: Han Baltussen; seconded: Lea Beness

FIEC congress attendance

Amelia Brown and Han Baltussen attended last year. Han reported about the importance of the congress which represents a whole range of Classics associations and speaks up for Classics. In 2018 there was only an administrative meeting; the next conference is in July 2019 in UCL and is open to everyone. The formal call for papers will be sent in April 2018. In 2022 the conference will be held in Mexico City.

* 1. FIEC Congress Invitation

Anne Mackay noted that we cannot afford to pay to send someone, so if anyone is already going to be in London in July 2019, they can think about sending an abstract in and attend. For further information, see Han, Amelia or Anne.

* 1. Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission

The Kommission has expressed a great interest in establishing formal ties with Australia and New Zealand Classicists. We have received an invitation by Prof. Kathy Coleman to join the Kommission. The only condition of membership is vigorous support for the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae. The financial implications involve an annual contribution. There is also the option for a representative to travel to Munich in July every 3 years (can be taken up by someone already travelling there and funded accordingly by a university; accommodation with be provided). We may also wish to set up a fellowship for a young scholar or new lecturer to learn lexicography for a year and contribute to the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae (TLL).

The Executive recommends that we agree to the membership requirements and join the Kommission. A yearly contribution of 110 euros is suggested.

Proposed: Arlene Allan; seconded: Bronwen Neil

# President’s Address 2017

The retiring President, A/P Anne Mackay, commented on the likely impact on the Humanities, and thus on Classics and Ancient History Departments in Australia, because of the AUS$2.2 billion clipped from the Federal budget for Tertiary Education. Conversely, the recent change of government in New Zealand seems likely to mean more future support there for education, including tertiary.

Having warned for several years of the increasing pressure on our disciplines in line with international trends, she noted that this is now beginning to manifest as budgetary and staffing cuts, most seriously at present affecting the U of Newcastle, and also the U of Auckland. If ASCS is to be able to lend any support to threatened departments, it is essential that the President be informed at the earliest sign of any impending problems. To be proactive, it would be desirable for the incoming President to establish a working group of colleagues with rhetorical skills and experience in dealing with University administrations, tasked with developing a set of persuasive responses on the value of Classics and the desirability of maintaining departments.

She next congratulated those members on whom major national or international honours had been conferred in 2017 in recognition of their services and scholarly standing:

* **Dr David Daintree**, Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday 2017 Honours, recognised for service to education, particularly to tertiary colleges, and as a scholar.
* **Dr Jennifer Webb**,Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday 2017 Honours, recognised for services to education and archaeology.
* **Professor Emeritus Ronald T. Ridley**,DLitt. *honoris causa*, conferred by Macquarie University.
* **Professor Emeritus Samuel Lieu**, elected to the Presidency of the Union Académique Internationale.
* **Dr Meaghan McEvoy**, elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (UK).

In reference to matters from past meetings of ASCS:

The jubilee celebratory volume, *Fifty Treasures*: selling well, but we need to continue to sell copies in order to recoup the cost of production.

* On-line digital photograph repository of sites and objects: as only two members had responded to the suggestion at the 2017 AGM of establishing such a resource, and as good photos are increasingly available through Google Images, the effort involved in setting up such a resource does not at present seem worthwhile.
* Code of Conduct Implementation Policy: further to the acceptance of the Code in 2017, the Implementation Policy was drafted for the 2018 meeting; this had involved the input and critical engagement of many members in various capacities. The undertaking was to present to the Meeting a document that would represent the intention and will of the membership, while recognising that the Society would still need formally to engage a specialised legal consultant to ensure that the policy be expressed in watertight terms, so as to ensure the indemnity of those taxed with implementing it for the future.

A/P Mackay then appreciatively acknowledged the unstinting support afforded her as President by members of the Executive over the past 3 years; she ended by encouraging members, especially younger members, to give thought to standing for office in the Society in future years, as it would be a most rewarding personal experience to serve ASCS as an office-bearer, and also a vital contribution to the future of ASCS and of our discipline.

1. Discussion

K. Welch suggested creating a repository only for less well-known items, e.g. from museums like the Hermitage.

T. Stevenson suggested calling on one another within ASCS to help each other; and stressed that the president has an important advocacy role.

D. Baltzly stressed that we need to gather a good body of evidence about the vocational value of Classics before the need arises; this can be used to support departments in danger.

M. Lewis: ASCS and individuals should try to attract a more diverse range of students, especially ethnically.

# Secretary’s Report 2017

The report will be included in the first newsletter of 2018.

Proposed: Dan Osland; seconded: Elizabeth Minchin

# Financial Matters

* 1. Treasurer’s Report for 2017

The treasurer presented his report.

1.2: There was an operating loss, attributable to the one large item that was incurred in 2016 but billed in 2017 for printing of 50 Treasures. 35 unpaid memberships account for the remainder of this deficit.

1.4: 467 members. Similar to before, but some have lapsed and new members have been added.

1.4.2: We have maintained the number of 5-year memberships over several categories, and 32 paid at the super member rate. It is helpful for cash flow if members make these kinds of multiple subscription payments.

1.4.3: Subscription numbers very similar, which is encouraging.

1.4.4: In 2017 we had over 60 new members, which is extraordinary--thanks to the departments and the staff for generating this new membership group.

2.1: The cost of *Antichthon* to us from CUP has dropped over the 3 years--directly attributable to the number of members who are not paid up and so don’t receive the journal. Print run is down to 309. Correspondingly, there are more people taking the online copy. 2017 is lower again. Another reason is that CUP has not increased the cost per copy; but it has indicated it will make a modest increase maybe next year. CUP continues to provide *Antichthon* (print & electronic) to the Society at a much lower cost than it does to institutions.

2.3: The copy-editing subsidy from CUP matched the copy editor cost--that’s encouraging.

5.2: Last year we had no applications for Small Department Grants and 3 for Occasional Conference Support; this year so far we have no applications for Small Department Grants and 2 for Occasional Conference support.

9: Cost to the society was $9746 for printing of 50 Treasures, but we have only recovered $4000, so there’s still a good way to go.

* 1. Discussion

5.2.2: E. Minchin’s seminar at ANU should read "Homer IX".

The conference titled "Once and Future Kings, 5-7 July 2017” was held at UQ.

Proposed: Tom Hillard; seconded: Roger Pitcher

* 1. Membership Dues 2018

The treasurer suggested an increase in fees, since it has been 3 years since the last one. The income generated would not entail the entire income for 2018, since some have already paid 3-year and 5-year subscriptions. It would raise $25000 as opposed to $23000. About $2000 difference.

* 1. Discussion

Super members subscription is not being increased because the amount is substantial enough already and it still needs to be an attractive option.

Proposed: William Dolley; seconded: Elizabeth Minchin

* 1. Budget for 2018

We have maintained our traditional set of awards and prizes and similarly for income--not too much has changed from last year.

* 1. Discussion

K. Morrell objected to her honorarium for maintaining the website. The Treasurer responded by acknowledging the Society's appreciation for Kit's expertise and the continuing need for appropriate remuneration.

Proposed: William Dolley; seconded: John Davidson

* 1. Auditor and Honorarium

The appointment of an auditor by the treasurer will happen later in 2018.

**Item deliberately left off the agenda:**

The president surprised the treasurer by reading a citation awarding him honorary life membership in the Society.

*It is now twenty years since William Dolley took on the role of Honorary Treasurer in 1998, and since then he has been balancing the books, making sure that ASCS remained solvent, disbursing funds equitably and efficiently: these undertakings one might reasonably expect of a treasurer, but William has gone far beyond: he has been an active and valued member of the Senior Executive, with a profound institutional knowledge and a sound understanding of the rules and laws that must govern our workings, and a mound of wisdom and also common sense, appealed to often for advice and always forthcoming; he has saved us from many an error, and in all his dealings, always, with graciousness and humility, has he served the Society most excellently well. Accordingly, the Executive, who managed to consult on this without William’s knowledge, recommends and proposes that Life Membership be conferred upon him forthwith.*

William received a standing ovation by all members and, deeply moved, expressed his appreciation for this great honour.

1. ***Antichthon***
   1. Editors’ Report (tabled)

Art Pomeroy reported that we have once again produced *Antichthon* within the year and this is our intention in the future. One small correction from the previous report. We have plenty of material to have a full issue by July. Usually 8 papers is our desired minimum but we might have more, since we’ve had already 15. As a Cambridge journal *Antichthon* is now available to 2000 institutions worldwide, reaching a much wider audience than it has before. Art will be concluding his term at the end of this year and we will be looking for a replacement.

* 1. Discussion

None

Proposed: James Kierstead; seconded: Alanna Nobbs

* 1. Journal Copy Editor 2018

The copy editor whom we announced last year has fallen through and Heiko Westphal will now take on that role.

* 1. The *Antichthon* Board

Paul Burton, John Davidson, Bob Cowan.

The editors are tasked with renewing the board and finding a diversity of members to reflect the women and men of ASCS

* 1. Discussion

None

**8a.** Conference program review committee report (tabled)

Elizabeth Minchin reported on the process of anonymously checking the abstracts, the quality of which is improving. She thanked the 11 colleagues who helped with the reviewing and Kathryn Welch who coordinated the programme and contacted everyone.

Discussion

K. Welch asked everyone to proofread their abstracts and number their choices for panels (not simply put an x)

E. Minchin asked both supervisors and postgrads to check their abstracts properly.

Proposed: Kit Morrell; seconded: Bronwen Neil

# Matters for discussion

* 1. The ASCS Code of Conduct—Implementation Policy (circulated earlier)

The president said that some adjustments were made after circulation of the policy: in 3b, rewording from line 4 onwards. We need to ensure that our policy document is legally watertight, so we will be sending it to a lawyer. The wording will probably change further, but the premise needs to fit with our principles.

We have tried to produce a ‘principle’ document that reflects our views and us. We cannot do the legal bit until we have a document we are happy with. We move to accept this document so far in principle since it still has to go to the lawyers.

Tom Hillard thanked the people putting it together.

Proposed: Tom Stevenson; seconded: Kathryn Welch

* 1. Change (clarification) to the guidelines for small conference grants

The following change to the guidelines will be made:

“The occasional conference support is for seed funding for Australasian conferences (i.e., convened and held within Australasia), to help with (but not cover) such aspects as the participation of a notable keynote speaker, the participation of postgraduate and postdoctoral speakers not in full-time work, in the expectation that there will be an open call for papers and a registration fee”.

It was also suggested that we change the rules for the translation competition so that the deadline is earlier.

# ASCS Competitions

* 1. Appointment of assessors and coordinators for 2018

The 2017 assessors and coordinators will continue in 2018.

* 1. Winners 2017
     1. **Early Career Award**

Coordinator: Alison Griffith

Judges: James Richardson (Massey) and Peter Keegan (Macquarie)

Winner: Phoebe Garrett (Newcastle): Project: “Structure and Persuasion in Suetonius’ Caesars”

* + 1. **Essay Competitions**

**New Zealand John Barsby Essay competition**

Coordinator: Patrick O'Sullivan (Canterbury)

Judges: Arlene Allan (Otago) and Mark Masterson (VUW)

1st place: Kiri Lenagh-Glue (Otago): “How did the *Constitutio Antoniniana* and Caracalla’s military policy affect the Roman Empire?”

2nd place: Nicholas Ringwood (Auckland): “Herakles’ bow and the evocation of Pity in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*”

**Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition**

Coordinator: Peter Davis (Adelaide)

Judges: Graeme Miles (Tasmania) and Michael Champion (Australian Catholic University)

1st place: Samuel Wessels (Macquarie): “ΜΙΣΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ: Timon of Athens and the Evolution of the Misanthropic Tradition”

2nd place: Janek Drevikovsky (Sydney): “*Eloquar an sileam*? The Characterisation of Aeneas in *Aeneid* III”

* + 1. **Translation Competitions**

Coordinator: Amelia Brown (Queensland)

Judges: Jane Bellemore (Newcastle) and John Davidson (VUW)

**Latin**--Winner: Declan Noble (Sydney)

Honourable mentions: Clare Pryor (Sydney); Liam Maldoni (ANU)

**Greek**--Winner: Liam Maldoni (ANU)

Honourable mentions: Patrick Henning (Melbourne); Emily Kerrison (Sydney)

* + 1. **OPTIMA Prize**

Convener: Matthew Trundle (Auckland)

Winners will be announced on Friday at afternoon tea

# Election of Office-Bearers, Editorial Committee and AAIA Representative

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for 2018:

• President: Stevenson, Tom (Welch/Salapata)

• Vice-President: Beness, Lea (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Vice-President: Welch, Kathryn (Minchin/Baltussen)

• Secretary: Salapata, Gina (Stevenson/Welch)

• Treasurer: Dolley, William (Penwill/Mills) till June

Neil, Bronwen (Welch/Salapata) from June on

• Editor, *Antichthon*: Pomeroy, Arthur (Baltussen/Mackay)

• Editor, *Antichthon*: Baltussen, Han (Pomeroy/Mackay)

• Publications Manager: Champion, Michael (Dolley/Salapata)

• CPR Committee Chair: Minchin, Elizabeth (appointment)

• Web Manager: Morrell, Kit (Salapata/Welch)

• AAIA Liaison: Hillard, Tom (appointment)

• Membership Secretary: Garrett, Phoebe (Neil/Beness)

• Messages Secretary: Hancock, Megan (appointment)

• PG Rep (Australia): Ernst, Nicola (McKenzie/Brennan-McMahon)

• PG Rep (NZ): Wyeth, Helen (Brennan-McMahon/ McKenzie)

• Rep (AWAWS): Lewis, Maxine (Beness/Burton)

• Rep ACU: Matthews, Chris (Matthews/Salapata)

• Rep Adelaide: Baltussen, Han (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Rep ANU: Londey, Peter (Minchin/Pertsinidis)

• Rep Auckland: Mackay, Anne (Armstrong/Trundle)

• Rep Campion College: Flynn, Thomas (Salapata/Welch)

• Rep Canterbury: Morrison, Gary (Sciarrino/O’Sullivan)

• Rep La Trobe: Shepherd, Gillian (Evans/Mackie)

• Rep Macquarie: Davenport, Caillan (Beness/Plant)

• Rep Massey: Richardson, James (Salapata/Tracy)

• Rep Melbourne: Chong-Gossard, K.O. (Turner/Mountford)

• Rep Monash: Connor, Andrew (Salapata/Mackay)

• Rep Newcastle: Lindsay, Hugh (Baynham/Bellemore)

• Rep Notre Dame: *vac*.

• Rep Otago: McConnell, Sean (Hall/Osland)

• Rep Sydney: Cowan, Bob (Welch/E. Cowan)

• Rep Tasmania: Wallis, Jonathan (Knight/Lewis)

• Rep UNE: Taylor, Tristan (Horsley/Koehn)

• Rep UQ: Brown, Amelia (Stevenson/McWilliam)

• Rep UWA: Westphal, Heiko (O’Sullivan, L./O’Sullivan, N.)

• Rep VUW: Kierstead, James (Pomeroy/Salapata)

1. **Future General Meetings and Conferences**
   1. ASCS 40 2019 Armidale (UNE)
   2. ASCS 41 2020 Otago
   3. ASCS 42 2021 (to be arranged)
   4. Amphorae XII 2018 University of Auckland (conveners: Sinead Brennan-McMahon, Ashley Flavell, Christina Robertson, Robert Drummond and Luke Ellery)

# ASCS Conference guidelines

Gina Salapata has compiled a set of guidelines for future conference conveners so that they don’t have to reinvent the wheel. The guidelines will be passed on to the next conference conveners, to make the task easier. It is a living document and further items can always been added. Anne thanked Gina for that.

# Delegation of Authority

That the Executive Committee be tasked with conducting the Society’s business for the next 12 months.

Proposed: K.O. Chong-Gossard; seconded by Maxine Lewis

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

February 2018 Gina Salapata

ASCS Honorary Secretary

(with thanks to Miriam Bissett)