



From the CHASS Secretary

Welcome to the February CHASS Newsletter.

At its most recent board meeting on January 25, CHASS board members earmarked time to discuss the value of CHASS to its membership, and how we can best serve you as advocates.

It was a spirited discussion that yielded a lot of ideas and impetus for the year, and years, ahead. Like a lot of advocacy organisations, it seems 'obvious' what our job is, but the values driving our work are as varied as our membership. The current board includes representatives from a wide variety of HASS practices and disciplines, and with their input, we believe we have identified some clear pathways for CHASS in a changing political and cultural landscape.



CHASS Secretariat staff also participated in this discussion and provided their perspectives on the day-to-day responsibilities of CHASS headquarters in Canberra. While the work is varied, it continues to take forward the four organisational objectives of the 2004 CHASS Constitution: representing the sector, promoting the sector, providing a forum for discussion, and building up the innovative capacity of Australia.

Recent examples of CHASS's work across these four categories include:

- Formalising an ongoing relationship with peak non-government national science community organisations and the Inspiring Australia initiative
- Meeting with Tanya Lynch, Manager, Research Agencies and Strategic Partnerships Section, DIISTRE, to discuss sector-wide challenges
- Planning CHASS events for the year, including pre-election sessions on 'hot' topics relevant to our membership
- Fielding regular emails and calls from CHASS members for advice and support on matters ranging from HERDC requirements and the value of journal editing, to the implications of open source, to the challenges of being the only HASS professional in a bioscience unit.

Welcome to Minister Bowen

I would like to welcome the incoming Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, and Small Business, the Hon Chris Bowen. CHASS was fortunate to have had a positive relationship with the previous Minister, the Hon Chris Evans, and we look forward to meeting with Minister Bowen soon. We wish Senator Evans the best for the future.

Regards

Associate Professor Rhian Parker

Share Your Story!

In 2013, we are inviting you to share your HASS story with other CHASS members and supporters through our monthly e-newsletter. Editorial contributions (maximum 300 words) should be sent to [us](#) by the 7th of every month. We're happy to include a photograph or logo and the final publication is subject to format and space constraints. For more information, please email the [CHASS Secretariat](#) or call (02) 6201 5996.

Reader Contribution



Truckies Life Behind The Wheel ~ Dr Jann Karp, released December 2012

Well-respected academic and former police officer, Dr. Jann Karp, spent four years travelling with and writing about interstate truck drivers to discover the truth about life on the road. The result is Truckies, a rare passenger eye's view of the drivers' world that tells their story with sympathy and insight.

Trucks generate strong emotions. Few people, it seems, cannot generate an astonishing level of eloquence, most of it negative and ill informed, on the subject of trucks. I know as I've heard many a tirade on their failings in the course of writing this book. Experiences abound, often contradictory. The 'problems' with trucks are almost invariably explained through heart-felt personal anecdotes about how trucks impinge upon individual personal existence. The story is often a retelling of being in fear of the truck driver's activity on the road. The 'near death' incident: the 'nearly swiped' off the road narrative is often an expression of a growing fear of the size of trucks. The advent of the B-Double has increased this anxiety enormously. They are denounced alike by car drivers and passengers, motorbike riders and cyclists, as a danger to others on the roads—whether this involves speeding or going too slow, depends on the incident. Seeing a truck bearing down on a car in the rear vision mirror is intimidating for the slower driver. Seeing a truck proceeding slowly up or down a steep road is infuriating for the opposite reason if the driver finds their car stuck behind it. They are too noisy and too numerous, unnecessarily polluting the atmosphere. They are condemned for breaking up the road surfaces and the drivers themselves for their lack of responsibility—an accident is automatically seen as being the fault of their negligence. They are accused of wantonly generating enormous Carbon Footprints that endanger the environment. The drivers on Australian roads, it would seem, would be far better off without trucks or would we?

Member and Sector Updates

[Music Board, Australia Council for the Arts Grant - Expressions of Interest close 18 February](#)

The Music Board of the Australia Council invites expressions of interest (EOI) from leading music organisations to apply for a grant under the Key Organisations - Emerging category in 2013 (for 2014-2016). This category supports leading artistic ensembles and groups, presenters or service organisations. Organisations interested in applying for this funding must first submit an EOI of no more than two pages. The Music Board will consider these submissions and subsequently issue invitations to selected organisations to develop a full application. Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their application. For more information, contact: [Trish Ludgate](#) or call (02) 9215 9044.

[So, what? Lecture 'Building a culture of nonviolence: The legacy of Mahatma Gandhi', Faculty of Arts - UNSW, February 26](#)

Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of nonviolent resistance, social justice, and respect for the environment is only increasing in its relevance given our current global challenges. His granddaughter Ela Gandhi's lecture will discuss the importance of strategic interventions in education to promote positive action on nonviolence at various levels of academia by building networks of educators with a similar vision and commitment. Ela is a renowned peace activist and author, and has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards for her work in promoting nonviolent political change. She is a former Chancellor of the Durban University of Technology, and member of the South African parliament where she was aligned with the ANC. She is currently Hon International President of the World Conference on Religions for Peace, and Vice chairperson of International Centre of Nonviolence, South Africa. This lecture will be introduced by His Excellency Mr. Biren Nanda, High Commissioner for India. To register, please [click here](#). For more details, contact [William Balfour](#) or call (02) 9385 8512.

[Awards for Excellence in Innovation 2013 - Applications close February 28](#)

The Board of the CRC Association invites applications for Awards for Excellence in Innovation, both for the uptake and use of research and in education and training and public outreach activities. The Awards for Excellence in Innovation 2013 will be presented at [Collaborate | Innovate | 2013](#). The aim is to showcase the CRC Program's unique and influential role in the Australian innovation system. CRCs accelerate innovation delivery for the benefit of Australia through collaboration between researchers and the users of research. The awards also showcase innovative education and training and public outreach activities. Up to four Awards are available: Category A - Innovation arising from the application and use of research (up to three Awards) and Category B - Innovation in education and training and/or public outreach activities (at least one Award). Applicants must be members of the CRC Association. For more information, contact [Pauline Quinane](#) or call (02) 6270 6524.

[Perth International Arts Festival, The University of Western Australia, till March 2](#)

The Perth International Arts Festival is the oldest annual international multi-arts festival in the southern hemisphere and annually offers some of the world's best theatre, music, film, visual arts, street arts, literature and free community events. No single art genre, concert, performance or exhibition series can cover the breadth of intellectual and imaginative territory of the Festival, nor reach as broadly into the community. For two generations of locals, summer in Perth without the Festival is simply unimaginable. UWA is proud to support the Perth International Arts Festival 2013 program for the 61st consecutive year. As the founder of Festival, the University welcomes one and all to join in the celebration of creative arts excellence. The Festival began as a community arts experiment of the then Adult Education Board and has developed into the most wonderful, creative partnership between The University of Western Australia and the community.

[TASA Public Lectures 2013 – Expressions of Interest closing March 8](#)

TASA Public Lectures are designed as significant public events that aim to foster a positive public perception of sociology as a profession and to create links between sociologists and the broader community. They aim to showcase sociological scholarship, provide a forum for communication between TASA members, and they are also an important opportunity to promote sociology in your community. TASA Executive is calling for expressions of interest for the hosting of Public Lectures for our 50th Anniversary Year in 2013. Expressions of interest are due in the [TASA office](#) on or before 8 March 2013. The final decision on the selection of the public lecture event(s) will be made at TASA's Executive Meeting in March. On the provision of a budget from the convenor and signed MOU, TASA will provide support for public lectures in the amount of up to \$1000. For more information, contact [Associate Professor Katie Hughes](#).

[Museums Australia National Conference 2013 Canberra - Early bird registrations close March 15](#)

The ACT Branch of Museums Australia (MA) is very pleased to be hosting the MA National Conference in Canberra's centenary year 2013 from 17 to 20 May 2013. The theme is: *How museums work: people, industry and nation*. The Conference will reflect on how museums and galleries work in the 21st century and what ideas will drive them in the future. For more information, contact [MA ACT](#).

[Showcasing Early Career Researchers 2013, Cooperative Research Centres Association \(CRCA\) – Applications close March 28](#)

We want to hear about your project. Tell us in 30 seconds and you could win a trip to Melbourne to present your work at [Collaborate | Innovate | 2013](#), CRCA's annual conference, 15–17 May 2013. The five best entries will get a trip to Melbourne with airfares, transfers, conference registration and all social events; a sum of \$1,000; the opportunity to give a 5-minute presentation on your work at Collaborate | Innovate | 2013 for the chance to win \$5,000; and Personal coaching in presenting to the public and the media. To be eligible to apply you must be, or have been, a PhD or Masters student by research in a CRC Association member organisation, and be two years either side of submitting your thesis. For more information, [contact the CRCA office](#) or [Apply online now](#).

[Australian International Design Awards 2013 – Entries close March 28](#)

The Australian International Design Awards, Australia's most prestigious design awards is now aligned to Vivid Sydney, a festival of light, music and ideas, to create the inaugural Australian International Design Festival. The Design Festival will take place in Sydney from 30 May to 10 June 2013 and will feature the awards presentation ceremony, a high profile design conference, public product showcases and a series of VIP celebrations. The Australian International Design Awards is calling for entries to feature in the inaugural Design Festival. Enter during the month of February and receive 20% off. Entry starts from \$360 + GST. Promo Code: EARLYBIRD. For further details, call (02) 9237 6090.

[Journalism Education Association of Australia Inc \(JEAA\) Journalism Research Grant – Applications close March](#)

As part of its overall charter to support journalism academics, the JEAA has initiated two \$6000 grants to be offered annually to mid-career journalism academics, to support them in conducting research about a journalism-related topic. The grant will assist the successful applicants to conduct a small-scale research project, with outcomes that can be delivered by mid-2014. The aim is to help the academics to illustrate their capacity to design and manage a project, boost their research profile, and increase their leverage when applying for future research funding. Members of the JEAA who have reached Lecturer or Senior Lecturer level (or equivalent) and have commenced or completed studies at doctoral level can apply.

[NTEU's National Teaching Conference, April 4-5, Melbourne](#)

The conference is structured around the key themes of 'Learning and teaching in a mass higher education system', 'The digital revolution and tertiary learning and teaching' and 'Autonomy and authority in higher education courses and curriculum'. It aims to deeply consider the national policy directions and political discourse on tertiary learning and teaching, including the distinguishing characteristics of higher education pedagogies, university autonomy and intellectual freedom; analyse the current research and commentary on the future of the 'university' and the academic role; and canvass the views and experiences of members engaged in learning and teaching. It is open to any NTEU member. However, participants must register online [here](#). For more information, contact [Tracey Coster](#).

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