



From the CHASS Executive Director

Although the lead-up was breathtakingly short and the budget tight, last month's CHASS National Forum was a resounding success. Almost two hundred delegates gathered in Parliament House Canberra to discuss *civility* - in government, the arts and international relations.

Speakers included academics, lawyers, arts professionals, journalists and politicians past and present. *The Australian* covered the Forum, as did the *ABC* and *The Conversation*. Because of the large interest shown in the arts and humanities, *The Conversation* plans to establish a dedicated section for our sector. This will provide a good outlet for CHASS members to present their views.



Many people contributed to the Forum's success—the speakers, of course, the sponsors, the CHASS board and many members. I would like to particularly thank Divya Das and Joyce Webb from the CHASS office without whose good sense, diligence and persistence, the Forum would never have taken place.

The CHASS Forum was a good opportunity to showcase our sector; now what comes next? At a meeting held before the Forum, the CHASS board authorized a series of new initiatives.

First, CHASS will develop a new communication strategy designed to get relevant announcements and policy news to members more quickly. We also want to freshen up our newsletter and make our website more interactive.

After the coming election, we will ramp up our campaign for a chief social scientist. Thank you to those who wrote to me supporting this initiative. I hope to hear from any member who would like to be involved.

CHASS is also examining the possibility of offering an arts and humanities prize. This prize would not be limited to scholarly work; it could go to an idea or achievement, which advances the arts and humanities. Again, your views would be welcome.

It is also time to start thinking about our next Forum. Members have suggested that it would be easier for them to attend if the Forum was held somewhere other than Canberra, and I would be grateful for your opinions on the best venue.

One possibility for the next Forum is to hold an "ideas" event in which speakers address a topic (one possibility is "What makes us human?"). The Forum would be broadcast on the Internet and the best idea - as judged by the audience, both live and remote - would be offered a prize. Please let me know what you think of this idea as well.

My email address is director@chass.org.au. My mobile number is 0499 499 566. Please feel free to contact me with your feedback, ideas and suggestions. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Steven Schwartz

Civility in Australia
expanding the boundaries
'being open to learn, to teach, to hear and to change'

21 Speakers & Chairs
3 Plenary Sessions
2 Keynote Addresses
1 Roundtable Discussion

The CHASS National Forum 2013 brought together representatives from the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) sectors. It provided an opportunity for researchers, parliamentarians, policy makers and practitioners to interact with one another around the issue of civility, and debate the broader implications for Australian society and beyond.

Eminent speakers from across the country shared their views on topics including 'The Borders of Civility', 'Civility and Democracy', 'Civility and the Arts' and 'Soft Power and Public Diplomacy'.

[Photographs](#) from the event are available online.

If you were there, please click here to [share your valuable feedback](#) with us; we promise it will only take a few minutes and all responses will be kept confidential!

Coming soon: Videos from the day will be made available on our [YouTube](#) channel, please follow us on [twitter](#) for updates.

For more information, please contact us: (02) 6201 5996 / membership@chass.org.au



Member Profiling - Macquarie University

Macquarie University Researchers Changing History

Macquarie University's Ancient History researchers have had an exciting year of discoveries that are rewriting history.

Touching History

Department of Ancient History's Dr Jaye McKenzie-Clark and Australian School of Advanced Medicine's Professor John Magnussen have combined their expertise and transformed the field of non-destructive analysis of ancient pottery.

Using modern medical imaging Dr McKenzie-Clark and Professor Magnussen have uncovered secrets hidden in envelopes of clay that have remained unopened for up to 5000 years. These sealed Cuneiform tablets, dating from the Third Millennium BC, preserve fragments of the oldest known form of writing and the Macquarie University Museum of Ancient Cultures is privileged to hold 24 examples in its collection.



In the past the only way to see what lay hidden inside was to destroy the outer shell. Now, with state-of-the-art CT scanners and the use of 3D printers, Dr McKenzie-Clark and Professor Magnussen have reproduced ancient artefacts and are able to analyse their composition without even removing them from their box. This new technique could revolutionise the approach to archaeological science – and leave behind a growing rather than shrinking resource for future study.

Oldest boat in Egyptian history discovered by Macquarie team

Since 2008, Macquarie University in conjunction with the Institut français d'archéologie orientale (IFAO) has been studying Cemetery M at Abu Rawash and its large mud-brick

tombs assigned to the elite of the 1st Dynasty (3150 – 2900 BC) near Giza Plateau. During the 2012 season, led by Department of Ancient History's Dr Yann Tristant, the team uncovered the oldest funerary wooden boat ever found in Egypt.

Measuring 6.54m long and 1.3m in width, the boat is believed to have been stored intact in the pit, along with the planks. Carbon14 dating has confirmed that this funerary boat dates to the reign of King Den (c. 2950 BC).

The boat has been transported to the conservation laboratory of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GM) at Giza and will be exhibited in the galleries of the future museum. Its study will provide a better understanding of the development of shipbuilding techniques in the Early Dynastic period over 400 years before the famous boat of Khufu (c. 2550 BC).

To learn more about Macquarie University's Department of Ancient History, visit anchist.mq.edu.au.

Photo credit: Museum of Ancient Cultures and Yann Tristant, IFAO

Member and Sector Updates

Concert - The New Chamber Music Society, 31 July, Brisbane

Featuring third year students from the String and Jazz Department of Queensland Conservatorium, this concert will feature a collaboration between classical chamber music and improvised jazz, to create lyrical contemporary music. Repertoire will include original student work, arrangements of songs by great jazz and contemporary artists, and arrangements of jazz standards. Tickets - \$10 Concession, \$15 Adult

Call for papers: Theology and Philosophy - Post Graduate Research Conference 2013, 2 August 2013

This conference is a collaborative project sponsored by Australian Catholic University, Australian College of Theology, Charles Sturt University, MCD University of Divinity and Sydney College of Divinity. Paper proposals are due by Friday 2 August 2013. Topics are invited across all relevant disciplines to Bible Studies, Ministry, Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology. Please send all proposals as a word document to james.mclaren@acu.edu.au. For more details, please see link: [CALL FOR PAPERS flyer](#).

Registrations open: Addressing the Sacred through Literature and the Arts Conference and Post-graduate Seminar, 2-3 August, Australian Catholic University, NSW

You are invited to attend 'Addressing the Sacred through Literature and the Arts', the second conference presented by The Sacred in Literature and the Arts (SLA), a community of interest that aims to bring Australian and international writers, artists, musicians, academics, religious and members of the public together for a fruitful dialogue about the interplay between the arts and the sacred. Bookings are essential. Keynote speakers are novelist, essayist and winner of the 2012 Patrick White Literary Award, Amanda Lohrey; poet, literary critic and philosopher of religion, Kevin Hart; and artist, curator and art historian, Rosemary Crumlin RSM. An on-campus seminar for post-graduate students from ACU and other universities will be held on 2 August, with input from Kevin Hart, Angela McCarthy and Dermot Nestor. The seminar will encourage interdisciplinary discussion and networking for researchers in the arts, religion and spirituality. The conference is supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Australian Dance Awards 2013, 5 August, Canberra

The Australian Dance Awards are held annually to acknowledge and reward the wonderful work of our professional dance artists. It is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends in an atmosphere of joy and celebration. The 2013 Awards will be hosted by Ausdance ACT in Canberra, Monday 5 August at 7.30pm. [Book now online](#)/02 6275 2700.

For more details, visit the [Australian Dance Awards website](#).

[A Sign of the Times\(The Follies Company\), 9 - 22 September, NIDA, NSW](#)

A man who stands changing the "STOP/SLOW" traffic control sign outside a construction site takes the audience on a funny, philosophical and completely unexpected journey to find the meaning of his existence. It is a story of comedy, tragedy and redemption.

Originally developed as part of the NIDA Independent Creative Development Program.

[XIX National Conference Australian Society for Music Education, 29 September - 1 October, Canberra](#)

ASME is holding its 2013 conference in Canberra with the overarching theme - *Redefining the musical landscape: Inspired learning and innovation in music education*. Conference Perspectives include: *Creative Synergies*: New thinking and sustained changes in school music education, *At the Cutting Edge*: Research changing trajectories for future music innovation, *Impacting Communities*: Changing lives through music projects of difference, and *Transforming the landscape*: Using 21st century technologies for music creation & social connections. Keynote speakers include Professor Gary McPherson, Robyn Archer AO, Simon Tedeschi and Professor Andrew Brow. For more information, email mailasmeconference2013@gmail.com or visit www.asme2013.com.au

[AIMA Conference 2013 – Towards Ratification, Australia’s underwater cultural heritage, 4-6 October, Canberra](#)

The Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology 2013 Conference will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from October 4-6, 2013. An expert panel meeting will be held on October 3 to discuss legal issues around ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage with specific reference to Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific Region. Conference themes will highlight the variety and significance of our underwater heritage in Australian waters and overseas, and the significant positive value that Australia’s ratification would have in the region. Keynote speakers include Professor of Public International Law Mariano J Aznar-Gomez. Early bird registration closes on 26 July. For queries and submissions, contact: AIMAconference@aima-underwater.org.au.

[The International Music Council’s World Forum on Music, 21-24 November, Brisbane](#)

The International Music Council’s World Forum on Music comes to Australia. Join MCA at this conference in Brisbane from 21 – 24 November. More info: www.worldforumonmusic.org

[Drama Victoria’s 2013 Conference ‘CoLLABor8’, 28-29 November](#)

How do we collaborate to develop our understanding of drama and performance making? How do we navigate the future possibilities of drama education? How do we create an effective learning environment that nurtures confidence, problem solving and creative thinking? How do we evaluate the benefits of Drama as a vital part of our curriculum? And how do we celebrate the work of Arts practitioners and educators? Our 2013 Conference will be a truly collaborative experience where these questions will be explored and developed. Delegates will participate in workshops and share thoughts and ideas that will challenge our understanding of Arts Education. Our four sub-themes for this year’s conference (NAVig8, INVESTig8, SPECul8; CRE8, INiti8, FACILIT8; eVALU8, GENer8, INTERROG8; and CELEBr8, inVIGOR8, ACTiv8) will further extend the professional learning focus of each workshop.

[AARE 2013 International Conference ‘Shaping Australian Educational Research’, 1-5 December, Adelaide](#)

You are invited to the 2013 International Conference of the Australian Association for

Research in Education (AARE). We warmly invite all education researchers and educators from Australia, the Asia-Pacific and around the world to join us in Adelaide for a very significant and unique conference event. Keynote Speakers: Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE and Michael A. Peters. Early bird registrations close 16 September.

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