



From the CHASS Executive Director



CHASS has now completed the journey from Canberra to Melbourne. We are grateful to RMIT University for providing a home for CHASS right in the heart of the city. Our new contact details are included in this report. Although CHASS will remain active in Canberra, our new location gives us easy access to many of our member organisations and vastly increased resources to support members throughout Australia.

CHASS Forum

The 2014 CHASS Forum will be held at the University of Melbourne on 8-9 October. The 2014 Forum will bring together an international group of speakers, policy makers, political leaders and performers to share results, ideas, and to build coalitions. If there is an interest, the Forum will also include Master Classes. If you wish to conduct a Master Class, or nominate a topic, please send me an [email](#).

The Australia Prizes

For the first time, HASS will award yearly Australia Prizes for achievements in HASS subject areas. These cash prizes for authors, performers, policy makers and students will honour those who have advanced the HASS areas as well as draw publicity to the value of HASS. The prizes will be awarded at a gala dinner to be held on the night of 8 October. Details and a call for nominations will be released early in 2014.

The Conversation launches HASS section

In response to a CHASS initiative, The Conversation website has added a HASS section called *Arts + Culture*. This is the first time that The Conversation has had a section dedicated to HASS and it has taken off. There are thousands of unique visitors per day. I hope that all CHASS members will publicise the *Arts + Culture* section to their members, and also consider contributing articles. *Arts + Culture* has the potential to become an important communication channel for the HASS sector.

Membership Drive

It is a great pleasure to welcome the following new members to CHASS: Edith Cowan University Faculty of Arts, the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Charles Sturt University Faculty of Arts, Flinders University, University of New England, University of Queensland, Hawke Research Institute, University of Southern Queensland. If you know of organisations that could benefit from HASS membership, please let us know and we will invite them to join.

CHASS Lectures in cities and towns across Australia

As foreshadowed in my last newsletter, CHASS's first event in Melbourne was a lecture delivered by Professor Anthony Elliott FASSA, Director of the Hawke Research Institute. The talk, titled *Makeover Mantras: Reinvention and its Global Transformations* was delivered as part of Melbourne University's Festival of Ideas 2013. Professor Elliott's fascinating lecture attracted a large crowd and set a high standard for CHASS events. Further talks, panel discussions and other events are planned for all Australian capital cities. With the support of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, we will also be holding CHASS events in regional cities in 2014. If you are interested in hosting a CHASS event or giving a presentation, please let me know.

CHASS on the Hill

Whenever there is a new government, all lobby groups seek to present their case to the new ministers. CHASS is no exception. I have already introduced myself, and CHASS, to the Minister for Education (Christopher Pyne) and renewed our relationship with the Minister for the Arts

(George Brandis). Clearly, these communication channels will be important as we seek to have input into government policy.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM

Save the Date

CHASS National Forum 2014 and Australia Awards Dinner

8-9 October 2014

University of Melbourne

Australia Prizes - Judges Needed

CHASS is currently seeking nominations for judges who would be willing to assess potential prize winners. Experts in every HASS area are needed. If you are interested, or know someone suitable, please let us know by sending us an email. We would be grateful if you could disseminate this request to your organisation's members as well as your own professional networks.



Campaign for Chief Social Scientist

Although government policy and legislation often claims to be based on social science research (in child care, climate change, social cohesion, ageing crime prevention, and many other areas), there is no central office tasked with analysing and assessing the value of the relevant research. A senior social scientist trained in research methods and in touch with the profession on the latest thinking could assess the value and the risks of social science research and ensure that the research is used appropriately. This is why Australia needs a chief social scientist. The Academy of Social Sciences in Australia has joined CHASS in the campaign for a chief social scientist, but this is not enough. We need everyone interested in better government to join in the campaign. Please let us know if your organisation wishes to participate.

Poet Laureate of Australia

Governor Macquarie had one and so do Britain, Ireland, Canada and the USA but Australia lacks a poet laureate. Some say it's just as well, official poetry is almost always bad poetry. Others think we are missing an opportunity. What do you think?

Australian Heritage Strategy

On 1 November 2013, the Government announced the re-starting of the Australian Heritage Strategy as one of Australia's key heritage priorities and is calling on heritage practitioners and experts across Australia to come forward with their ideas and suggestions. The Australian Heritage Strategy will provide a common framework and priorities for Australia's heritage and help ensure our heritage is recognised and protected for future generations. The Strategy will address the Commonwealth's role in heritage, partnership opportunities, and community engagement with heritage. A draft Strategy will be released for public comment during Australian Heritage Week in April 2014. CHASS is compiling a response from its members and supporters and we invite you to send your ideas and recommendations to us on membership@chass.org.au.

HASS Your Say - Reader Contribution

Carol-Anne Crocker writes about her experience while performing as a comedian and standing up for mental health in Australia:

The need for more inter and cross-disciplinary research funding in HASS disciplines is imperative to ensure our disciplines can be adequately represented within Federal Government Competitive Research Grants. In certain HASS disciplines, there currently exist opportunities for research projects with our STEM colleagues also.



As a PhD student in Creative Writing, my exegetical focus is the nexus between and representations in popular culture of mental illness and creativity. In 2012 I was a Graduate Bursary Scholar speaking at the International Research into Bipolar Disorder Forum in Nice, France. After this Conference I was able to make contacts with medical and science researchers with an interest in utilising performing arts and creative arts practices to empower individuals with mental illness, and indeed become activists to de-stigmatise mental illness in the Community.

Through a partnership with WISE Disability Employment Services in North Melbourne and a professional comedian/therapist I am delighted to be one of ten Australians taking part in Stand Up for Mental Health (Australia). This is the first time this program has been sponsored outside North America. David Granirer, aka the happy neurotic is working with ten Australians of differing demographics, including age, gender, ethnicity and geographic locations to learn the craft of Stand Up Comedy. The routines bring the familiar aspects of mental illness to a broader audience in an accessible manner which allows people to see that mental illness is actually a continuum from what is considered 'normal'.

Our one-off performance at Deakin Edge Theatre, Federation Square on October 25 was sold out four days in advance, and it was an inspiring evening for everyone. The comedians are now being booked by corporations and for conferences, particularly where the organisations are concerned with the health and wellbeing of their staff and communities.

As part of my participation as a comic with Bipolar Disorder, I have been keeping a reflective journal. This material is for my presentation as International Bursary Scholar at the 2014 IRBD Conference in Athens, Greece. My experience of working with members of the organisation [CREST.BD](#) auspiced Toronto and Vancouver Universities has demonstrated to me just how effective and dynamic research projects can be when STEM and HASS disciplines unite for academic research and public advocacy.

As a PhD student it has been almost impossible to interest Australian universities and academic researchers in similar inter-disciplinary, cross sectoral research. The time and structures in place with the ARC do not facilitate such projects that literally cross boundaries.

It is my hope that propelled by the successful performance together with media coverage, my own reflective data will create momentum for such arts-based research to integrate with more traditional research practices across disciplines in the future, especially in the area of mental illness research and advocacy.

Links to more information:

<http://www.wiseemployment.com.au/en/community/wise-stand-up-for-mental-health/#meet-steve-bedwell-ambassador-for-wise-stand-up-for-mental-health>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/193448054159971/>

Member and Sector Updates

[Fundraising exhibition 'Out of the shadows', 4 December 2013, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne](#)

You are invited to a fundraising one night exhibition, showcasing about 25 works by photographer [Shelley Morris](#) at ACU Melbourne Gallery on Wednesday 4 December 2013. *Out of the shadows* is a charity fund-raising exhibition to support the centre for holistic healing. The exhibition presents images and voices of the Sri Lankan war trauma. The event will feature an address by Professor Damien Kingsbury, Director of the Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University, and a visual performance by Melbourne based actress Holly Grace. For enquiries, please contact John Bottomley on (03) 9827 8322 or [RSVP here](#).

[2013 NTEU Annual Lecture by Professor Marian Baird 'A Positive Tension: The Academic and Policy Debates', 5 December 2013, University of Technology, Sydney](#)

In this lecture, Professor Marian Baird will examine the question of what is the role of the academic in contemporary Australia. She will reflect on the past decade of work on gender and public policies and consider the implications for academic life, union responses and work more broadly. Consideration is given to the inherent tensions between active policy involvement and involvement in the modern university, including workload, academic freedom and intellectual integrity. Professor Baird is one of Australia's leading voices in the fields of women, work and family. She was recently named among Australia's most influential women in the *Australian Financial Review* and Westpac 100 Women of Influence awards winning the Public Policy category.

[Museums Australia National Conference 2014 'Connecting the Edge: within and beyond the Museum' – Call for Abstracts closes 6 December 2013](#)

Museums Australia Tasmania Branch and the National Council are keen to create a conference that will energise and challenge people to maximise the impact of their work and to look to the future of the museum sector. We are seeking proposals that are fresh, proven, experiential, practical and filled with new thinking and ideas from the edge, that push, gain, maintain and draw the edges together. It is an opportunity to examine creative links, collaborations and communities. Proposals are welcomed that explore how museums can push the edge into active and relevant futures; gain or maintain the edge where competition for resource, time and energy is increasing; examine what it takes to draw the edges of community and museums together; and how those 'out on the edge' can be included in a very complex world. Earlybird registrations open till February 2014.

[Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Conference 2013 'Inter-discipline', 7 – 9 December 2013, Melbourne](#)

Calling a broad set of practitioners, independent scholars, interdisciplinary artists, curators, museum educators, students and higher degree researchers across the fields of Architecture, Design, Art, Art History & Theory, Curatorship and Museum Studies, to participate in key issues of concern and points of intersection between these disciplines. 'Inter-discipline' will explore the past, present, future of Art, including its practices, threats and histories. The conference theme encourages critical perspectives that challenges the term, 'inter-disciplinary', inviting innovative research on the practice of art.

[The Sylvia Walton Equity And Diversity Annual Public Lecture, 10 December 2013, La Trobe University, Melbourne](#)

Professor Jane Long, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of La Trobe University invites you to celebrate International Human Rights day at the inaugural Sylvia Walton Equity and Diversity Annual Public Lecture at the State Library of Victoria. We are pleased to have The Honourable Catherine Branson QC to be our keynote speaker and will present on the topic of '*Can one have too much of a good thing? Reflections on freedom of speech in a diverse society*'. For further details, please email [Marilyn Hall/Violetta Valajcovski](mailto:Marilyn.Hall@violetta.com.au) or call (03) 9479 2900.

[Panel discussion: 'A Human Rights Century: Commitment or continuing resistance?', 10 December 2013, National Library of Australia, Canberra](#)

Canberrans will have a rare opportunity to hear from some of Australia's most prominent players in Human Rights, when they come together to debate the state of Human Rights in the ACT. In a joint celebration for International Human Rights Day and Canberra's Centenary, the ACT Human Rights Commission will host a public panel discussion, followed by a Q&A session at the National Library. Distinguished speakers include The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG, Dr Tom Calma AO, and Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM. Free event, prior [registrations](#) required.

[National Visual Art Education Conference 2014 'Connecting Classrooms, Curriculum & Collections', 21 – 23 January 2014, Canberra](#)

The program will include national and international keynote speakers reflecting the broad interests and key issues in the visual art education. This conference is for pre-school, primary, middle school, secondary and tertiary educators, plus artists and educators from the museum and public gallery sectors. The program includes keynote papers, panel sessions, conference papers and studio workshops.

[VALA2014 'Streaming with Possibilities', 3-6 February 2014, Melbourne](#)

The 17th Biennial Conference and Exhibition is the must-attend event for specialists, managers and leading edge thinkers working in information and technology in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sectors. VALA2014 sets the stage for innovation; promoting the use and understanding of cutting edge information and communication technologies across GLAM sectors. Our vision is of a future where networks enable almost instant access to digital resources, a world where technology better facilitates business, collaboration, research and learning. In this future filled with big data and big ideas, our cultural institutions have already begun the transformation into places rich in creativity and imagination, where makers, hackers, gamers, crafters and readers are all welcome.

[Synapse::2014, Applications close 7 February 2014](#)

ANAT is calling for applications from artists and scientists/researchers for the prestigious Synapse Residency program. Now in its eighth round, the program is a core element of the Synapse initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts and ANAT, which supports collaboration between artists and scientists. The residencies are open to Australian artists working in any discipline and/or medium. Residencies shall take place over 16 weeks full-time (or part-time equivalent) during the 2014 calendar year. For further details, [email](#) ANAT Director Vicki Sowry or call (08) 8231 9037.

[Positive Psychology & Well-being Conference 'Developing a Sustained Impact', 7 – 9 February, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne](#)

The Fourth Australian Positive Psychology and Well-Being Conference marks an important milestone for the growth of positive psychology in Australia and is a testament to the rapid expansion of researchers and practitioners who are engaging with positive psychology in our country. The overall conference theme is 'Sustained Impact' as we pose the question of how positive psychology can continue to grow as a discipline. The conference provides an opportunity for psychologists, educators, performers and artists, organisational and community practitioners, policy makers, scholars and students to examine recent developments and evidence-based research across the discipline.

[Public Talk: Mark Seymour, 12 February 2014, RMIT University, Melbourne](#)

Australian musician Mark Seymour is best known for his work as singer and songwriter of rock band Hunters & Collectors, yet he has also successfully pursued a solo career, releasing a number of albums of his own, gaining fame as a nominee for two ARIA Awards. In this informative and frank public talk, Mark addresses a range of issues affecting musicians that are also revealed as key themes in the exhibition *Music, Melbourne and Me: 40 years of Mushroom and Melbourne's Popular Music Culture*. Free event with allocated seating, bookings essential, please call (03) 9925 1717.

[2014 ANZATS Conference 'The Eclipse of God: Theology after Christendom', June 29 – July 2, 2014: Call for Papers closes 28 February 2014](#)

The Conference Planning Committee is pleased to invite all members of ANZATS, ANZSTS, and the theological and wider academic community to submit the title of their proposed presentation at this conference, together with an abstract of 250-300 words by February 28. This should be accompanied by the applicant's contact details. Please [email](#) submissions to Dr Matthew Malcolm or call (08) 9228 9067.

[The Bragg UNSW Press Prize for Science Writing - Entries close 31 March 2014](#)

To recognise the best of the best, NewSouth Publishing has established an annual prize for the best short non-fiction piece on science written for a general audience. The Bragg UNSW Press Prize for Science Writing is named in honour of Australia's first Nobel Laureates William Henry Bragg and his son William Lawrence Bragg and is supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. First prize is \$7000 and two runners up will each receive a prize of \$1500. Winning entries will be included in NewSouth's anthology, *The Best Australian Science Writing*. Click [here](#) for the 2014 entry form.

[Fellowship of Australian Society for Music Education – Nominations close 1 April 2014](#)

Fellowship of the Australian Society for Music Education is one of the highest honours that the Society can award, and should be seen by ASME members and Fellows and by the wider

education community to be a recognition of outstanding and distinctive contributions to the advancement of music education. The proforma nomination form to be used for nominations is part of the Fellowship Guidelines document. Nominations to be considered for 2014 must be received by the 1 April 2014 at Fellowship Award, ASME National Secretary, PO BOX Box 7184, West Lakes SA 5021.

[Australian Youth Dance Festival, 10 – 16 April 2014, Renmark, South Australia](#)

AYDF Renmark SA will connect local, state and national youth dance communities through an exciting program of masterclasses, workshops, rehearsals, talks and performances. Young dancers aged 15 – 26 will work with leading dance artists from around the country to explore the festival theme of 'REGENERATION'.

[Ongoing exhibition: 'Vikings - Beyond the legend', Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney](#)

The fascinating world of Vikings is revealed in the international blockbuster *Vikings - Beyond the legend* open for a limited season. This must-see exhibition draws on recent archaeological discoveries and nearly 500 rare artefacts to shed new light on the Viking way of life while challenging stereotypes of Vikings as ferocious, plundering pagans in horned helmets. Many of the artefacts have never been seen in Australia such as the oldest known Scandinavian crucifix, finely crafted bronze and silver jewellery, exquisite gold and silver pendants, small statuettes of Norse gods, and Viking swords dating from 700-1100AD. Visitors can also see an eight metre replica of the Viking boat Krampmacken, and step on board the Jorgen Jorgenson - a newly restored reconstruction of the late 9th century Gokstad ship. *Vikings - Beyond the legend* comes direct from Sweden and is produced by The Swedish History Museum and MuseumsPartner.

[Ongoing exhibition: Ngarluma Ngurra: Aboriginal Culture on the Map, FORM Gallery, Perth](#)

FORM is a recipient of the Google Earth Outreach grants program, which rewards organisations with outstanding mapping ideas to support the technical development of maps. The Google Earth map was launched in the exhibition, Ngarluma Ngurra: Aboriginal Culture on the Map, an enterprising and inspiring collaboration between FORM and the Ngarluma community in the Pilbara that explores the intersection between traditional Aboriginal culture and twenty first century cartography through digital mapping.

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CHASS
what makes us human

