



From the CHASS Executive Director



After a long period of neglect, the arts, humanities and social sciences are once again in the public eye. A lively debate about the future of HASS disciplines, involving academics, politicians and business leaders, is spreading around the world.

In the USA, the discussion has focused on defending the traditional undergraduate liberal arts curriculum. Last year's Harvard University report, "Mapping the Future" sets out the continued value of studying HASS, even in a utilitarian age. Reinforcing this message are several widely cited books: Martha Nussbaum's "Not for Profit"; Harry Lewis' "Excellence Without a Soul" and Anthony Kronman's "Education's End: Why our Colleges and Universities have Given up on the Meaning of Life". The Heart of the Matter, produced by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, records prominent people saying why they support HASS research and teaching.

American HASS advocates are becoming increasingly assertive. Peter Brook's new edited volume "The Humanities and Public Life" takes the debate into the policy realm. HASS's relevance to public policy is also the purpose of The National Humanities Alliance's National Advocacy Day, which will take the debate directly to politicians in Washington later this month.

In England, where the government no longer provides teaching subsidies for most HASS subjects, the debate surrounding the future of HASS subjects is particularly poignant. Stefan Collini's "What are Universities For?" is a plea for the intrinsic value of HASS subjects. Collini has now been joined by Helen Small, whose book, "The Value of the Humanities," takes a critical look at the arguments used by HASS defenders—HASS is a force for democracy, HASS contributes to happiness, and HASS is valuable for its own sake. Unlike most polemical books, Small's goal is to analyse these arguments and assess their value to the present debate. This is also the goal of the British Academy's Prospering Wisely, in which leading thinkers and policy makers describe how HASS research and study enrich our lives.

The future of HASS is also becoming part of our national debate here in Australia. The Future for the Humanities and Social Sciences in a Global Era symposium will be held at Melbourne University on 18-19 March. The University of Melbourne, Harvard University, CHASS and the University of Western Sydney are sponsoring the event. Humanities 21 is putting HASS on the agenda by sponsoring talks and seminars. The Australian Academy of the Humanities and The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia are both actively involved in the debate as well as in policy development.

This is a good start, but it's not enough. We need you to become involved in promoting HASS. One way to do this is through becoming involved in HASS activities. For example, this year CHASS will offer the [CHASS Australia Prizes](#), which are not only designed to honour high achieving HASS writers, practitioners and students but also to bring public attention to the value of CHASS.

Nominations are now open, and I encourage you to become involved by submitting applications. The CHASS Australia Prizes will be awarded at the annual [CHASS National Forum](#), which will be held 8-9 October in Melbourne. This year's forum will focus on the intersection of HASS and the public good. We have a great line-up of speakers for the Forum, a 3-minute speed dating competition for senior researchers, performers, poets and policy makers—and a few surprises as well. So, mark your calendars for 8-9 October in Melbourne.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM

Key Dates



CHASS Australia Prizes - Nominations close on 30 June 2014
Student Poster Competition - Entries close on 31 July 2014
2014 CHASS National Forum - 8-9 October 2014, Woodward Conference Centre, University of Melbourne
The CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner - 8 October 2014, Queen's Hall, Parliament House Victoria, Melbourne

Your imagination can be your ticket to the 2014 CHASS National Forum

The CHASS National Forum Student Poster Competition is an opportunity to showcase your creative skills and understanding of how the humanities, arts and social sciences can help us deal with contemporary social problems.



Theme: Investing in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences for Public Good

'Public Good' may be broadly defined as 'the benefit or well-being of the public', or even as 'the cultural and ethical values essential to the success of free societies'.

All you need to do is send us your interpretation inspired by the theme and you could score yourself a free pass to attend the 2014 CHASS National Forum. Entries from university or TAFE students from any discipline will be accepted. The winning poster will be displayed at the National Forum venue over the two days of the program.

As the winner, you will be entitled to:

- A **free pass** to attend the 2014 CHASS National Forum
- **Acknowledgment** of your name in all related printed and digital material
- **Publicity** of your poster on CHASS's Facebook and twitter pages
- **Letter of reference** from the organisers

Entries close 31 July 2014. For more information (including terms and conditions), please [click here](#).

Draft ERA 2015 Journal and Conference Lists Consultation

The public consultation phase (Phase 1) of the Draft ERA 2015 Journal and Conference Lists Consultation (JACCI) closes on **21 March 2014**. All submissions for new outlets that meet the eligibility criteria for consideration in ERA 2015 must be submitted during Phase 1 of the public consultation (via the Journal and Conference Consultation Interface). ERA stakeholders can contribute to the ERA Journal and Conference list consultation process in any capacity – that is, as an individual researcher, as a representative of a university department or faculty, or as a representative of a peak body or society. The ARC strongly encourages all stakeholders who wish to contribute any comments or any new recommendations to please do so in this first phase of the consultation process.

In Phase 2, following the close of this public consultation period, the ARC will only seek to consult with select peak bodies/disciplinary groups as part of the process of consolidation of feedback gathered during the public consultation phase. This second phase will largely focus around examining new recommendations that were submitted in Phase 1 of the public consultation and making recommendations regarding the field of research assignments. Phase 2 will not involve adding new recommended outlets. Stakeholders should not assume that this targeted process with these peak bodies/disciplinary groups will be a substitute for the formal public consultation that is currently underway.

For further information on the Draft ERA 2015 Journal and Conference Lists consultation, please refer to the [Draft ERA 2015 Journal and Conference Lists Consultation Fact Sheet](#).

Member and Sector Updates

[2014 Museums and Galleries National Awards \(MAGNAs\) - Entries close on 21 March](#)

The MAGNAs are presented by Museums Australia, the national association for Australian museums, galleries and sector professionals. The Awards encourage excellence and recognise the significant impact of Museums Australia's museums and galleries. The Awards are only open to Museums Australia members and are free for them to enter. Non-members may join Museums Australia to enter the Awards. The MAGNAs will be announced at the Museums Australia National Conference Awards Ceremony on 17 May 2014 in Launceston, Tasmania.

[Special registration discount for DIA members - Look Upstairs \(Design Matters Melbourne International Design Week 2014\), 2-4 April, Melbourne](#)

The Design Institute of Australia is a *Look Upstairs* Supporting Organisation. This three-day design forum will showcase the journey of inspiration and ingenuity from some of the world's leading original thinkers, using state of the art technology and informative multimedia; over 40 speakers from 20 nations will share their insights and experiences on how design is explored, developed and interpreted. The DIA has negotiated a special rate for its members - Use the promo code 'DIA' when booking your tickets and receive a discount of \$40 off the early bird price for the 3-day General Admission pass. The early bird discount, and the further DIA discount is only available until midnight on March 17.

[Community Heritage Grants 2014 - Applications close on 2 May](#)

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible including artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio visual material.. The types of projects supported include Significance Assessments of collections; Preservation Needs Assessments of collections; conservation activities and collection management; and training workshops.

['Beyond Authorship' Symposium, 24-27 June, Callaghan](#)

This symposium seeks to move beyond authorship as the primary focus of corpus-based studies in early modern literature, to consider broader questions of language and style, genre and form, influence and adaptation; to interrogate the new literary histories enabled by electronic text corpora, and the new methods of analysis they make possible. The symposium is sponsored by the Australian Research Council, the Centre for Literary and Linguistic Computing at the University of Newcastle, the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities, and the University of Western Australia.

[2014 ANZATS Conference, 29 June- 2 July, Fremantle](#)

The 2014 ANZATS Conference will be held at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle WA. The theme is '*The Eclipse of God - Theology after Christendom*' and Professor Graham Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity, Oxford University and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, is the keynote speaker. For further information, please contact [Dr Michael O'Neil](#).

[2014 Australian Association of Philosophy \(AAP\) Conference, 6-11 July, Canberra](#)

Registrations are now open for the 2014 AAP conference, which will be hosted by the Australian National University. The Conference will commence on Sunday 6 July with an address by the AAP President and a welcome reception. The cut off date for submission of abstracts and for early bird registration is 1 May 2014. For details, please contact [AAP admin](#).

[2014 Australian Historical Association Conference, 7-11 July 2014, Brisbane](#)

The conference will be hosted by University of Queensland's School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics. Given the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, the conference theme is '*Conflict in History*'. Keynote speakers and panelists include Professor Chris Clark, Cambridge University and Professor Karen Hagemann, University of Northern Carolina. The conference will feature involvement from a range of University and other cultural institutions, including the Fryer Library and the University Art Museum at the University of Queensland, and the State Library of Queensland. The conference will also include streams from affiliated associations such as the Women's History Network, the Religious History Association and the Australian Society for Sports History and Professional Historians Australia.

['Canberra: Then & Now' at National Library of Australia, till 31 August, Canberra](#)

Since the site for the national capital was chosen in 1908, Canberra has unfolded on the Molonglo River flood plain and become part of the landscape. In 2012, the National Library set out to capture the transformation of some of Canberra's key sites. These photographs are displayed here alongside historic images from the Library's collection, and highlight the stark changes and surprising similarities of Canberra then, and Canberra now. Free entry.

[New publication by Future Leaders - A Love of Ideas](#)

How can we look to the future with optimism and courage, when so many problems seem insurmountable? *A Love of Ideas* draws together the proposals of a diversity of thinkers and their solutions to the difficulties we face. This is a book that will inspire, motivate and educate the reader. Young award-winning writers are also presented in the second part of the book. Free copies are available for schools, universities and libraries, please contact [Dr Helen Sykes AM](#).

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