

CHASS Newsletter

Issue 83 January 2015

From the Executive Director's Desk

On 6 August 1945, an American bomber detonated an atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb devastated Nagasaki. Two hundred thousand people died and countless numbers were injured. At present, at least nine countries have nuclear arsenals and others are seeking them.



The creation and detonation of an atomic bomb requires access to nuclear material, a deep understanding of physics and sophisticated engineering. Superficially, at least, it does not seem to have much to do with HASS disciplines. But, scratch beneath the surface, and the intersections between HASS and the bomb become obvious. For example, *politics* played an important part in the decision to drop the bomb. The war in the Pacific was dragging on and pressure was building for a quick end. *Philosophy*, especially *ethics*, is also clearly relevant. Although 70 years have past since the bombing of Japan, there is still little agreement on whether the devastation was necessary or ethical. The bombing of Japan influenced *art* and *literature*, and continues to play an important role in *international relations*. In many ways the *history* of the past 70 years has reflected the “fallout” produced by the atomic bomb.

Integrating science, philosophy, engineering and history, Colgate University in New York has produced an online course called [The Advent of the Atomic Bomb](#). The course, which is offered to current students and also to alumni online, examines how science is influenced and shaped by forces emanating from traditional HASS disciplines.

The intersections between HASS and other disciplines will be the underlying theme of the 2015 CHASS National Forum. The Forum, which will be held at the University of Melbourne on 15 and 16 October, will explore how HASS subjects influence environmental policy, communications, industry development and much more. Also, the four CHASS Australia Prizes for 2015 will be awarded at the Forum.

So, mark your calendars and reserve the dates and keep on eye on our website for updates; this will be the most important CHASS Forum yet.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM

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CHASS Board Updates

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Blatchford (Routledge/Taylor & Francis) and Professor Tim Dunne (The University of Queensland) as our newest [Board](#) members.

We would like to thank outgoing members Associate Professor Peta Ashworth and Dr Camilla Couch for their strong support of our work and for being a constant source of encouragement and ideas.

Get Social!

For regular updates about us and the HASS sector, please follow/like us:



Feel free to connect with us, take part in the online discussion and share updates from our pages with your social media networks. Have something interesting about the humanities, arts and social sciences to share? Let us know and we can help spread the word around!

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is a gentle reminder to pay your organisation's annual membership subscription for 2014-15, if not already paid. Should you have any queries or would like to discuss your membership status, please contact us on (03) 9925 3935.

HASS Your Say: Self-confidence of Young Writers Bodes Well for the Humanities

I consistently listen to people (older adults, of course) despairing about the deterioration of young people's spelling and grammar due to the 'new world' of emails, texts and one hundred and forty characters (twitter).

However, I do not join them in their despair.

Each year when I receive many hundreds of entries for the [Future Leaders Writing Prize](#), I delight in the self-confidence of the young writers. By definition these seventeen and eighteen year olds (some a year younger) are confident in their 'powers and abilities'. More precisely, they are confident enough to submit their creative writing to be judged for a national writing prize.

It is apparent that many teachers in Australian senior secondary schools diligently encourage young people to submit their writing for various awards, including the Future Leaders Writing Prize: 'I have printed the notice for 2014 writing comp to give to HT English to encourage an early start on work and timely entry to the competition'.

Entering an award is one thing, winning another. Success can be affirming and powerful. A previous winner wrote, '... winning the Future Leaders Writing Prize allowed me to realise the effect my writing has on others; the power the written word has to inspire connection, shift perceptions and ignite passion. This is something I remind myself of each time I write'.

Further confidence building for winners of the Future Leaders Writing Prize is having their work published in printed books and online. Such published writing also assists other students and teachers: 'We have used some of the earlier publications to demonstrate a model of what constitutes a good short story' an English teacher advised. Another wrote, 'Just love the books and being able to read them before sharing with teenagers. The student writing is always outstanding'.

Thankfully the self-confidence of Australian young writers, as experienced by the Future Leaders Writing Prize, bodes well for the future academic quality of the Humanities.

Dr Helen Sykes AM
Director, Future Leaders and CHASS Vice-President

New: Job listing

Position: Head of Heritage, Sydney Living Museums
Closing date: 11 February 2015

Sydney Living Museums cares for 12 important historic houses, museums and their collections in NSW: Elizabeth Bay House, Elizabeth Farm, Government House, Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Justice & Police Museum, Meroogal, The Mint, Museum of Sydney, Rose Seidler House, Rouse Hill House & Farm, Susannah Place Museum and Vacluse House. All are listed in the NSW State Heritage Register.

The Head of Heritage provides operational leadership and expert advice in conservation, heritage management, collections care and capital works across Sydney Living Museums, to conserve and

present the properties, collections and landscapes to the highest standards for the access, enjoyment and education of all visitors.

[Read more](#)

Member and Sector Updates

[36th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies, 28 – 30 January, Adelaide](#)

The Australasian Society for Classical Studies (ASCS) aims at the advancement of the study of ancient Greece and Rome and related fields. ASCS 36 will be held at the University of Adelaide from 28th to 30th January.

[AARE Theory Workshop, 30 January - 1 February, University of Tasmania, Launceston](#)

The AARE theory workshops are held in different locations across Australia each year and they provide opportunities for novice researchers to be immersed in theory, to consider how theory applies to their research, to learn from expert researchers, and to network with experienced researchers as well as other novice researchers.

[National Dance Forum 2015, 19 – 21 March, Melbourne - Early bird registrations closing 31 January](#)

Forum partners Ausdance National and the Australia Council for the Arts are pleased to announce the third National Dance Forum (NDF2015). We invite Australian dancers, makers, researchers, writers, directors, producers, advocates and educators to participate in the most significant platform for dialogue across the Australian contemporary dance sector. Facilitated by Andrew Morrish, NDF2015 is framed by three lines of focus: Transforming the form: Changing structures and their effects; The subtleties and nuances of innovation; and Discourse: How is dance written about, spoken about and communicated.

[Australian Literary Studies Convention 2015, 7 - 11 July, University of Wollongong - Call for papers closing 31 January](#)

The inaugural Australian Literary Studies Convention is a landmark literary studies event that is being organised under the auspices of the Australasian Association for Literature (AAL), Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL) and Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association (AULLA). It will bring together members of all the major Australian literary studies organisations to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of literary studies in this country. The convention will serve as the 2015 annual conference for AAL, ASAL and AULLA and the theme is *Literary Networks*. We invite papers that engage with literature and literary criticism as a network where a network, is understood very broadly as a group or system of interconnected people or things.

[Video Games: Violence and Beyond, 3 – 4 March, Griffith University, Brisbane - Early bird registration closing 2 February](#)

Adopting a multidisciplinary approach to the question of violence and videogames, this two-day conference program considers the impact of video games from a range of perspectives. The program will explore the following themes: Research evidence for and against the role of violent games in fostering aggressive attitudes and behaviours and violent crime; the appeal and pervasiveness of games; the role of games in everyday life; and ways in which games are approached and used in a variety of contexts. Foregrounding thorny questions about education or regulation, with a line up of internationally and nationally recognised researchers, this conference will offer a rich array of information and viewpoints on the hotly debated issues.

[Exhibition - Bimblebox: art - science – nature, till 8 February, Flinders University Art Museum](#)

The Bimblebox Nature Refuge, located in central-west Queensland, is currently threatened by a massive new coal development. In response, a diverse group of artists spent 10 days on the sanctuary developing new work that bears witness to the unique semi-arid desert uplands at risk. Informed by scientific research, historical texts and the land itself, the resulting exhibition includes installation, works on paper, painting, artist books, digital storytelling and sound. Bimblebox is a catalyst for discourse on land protection, management and use. *Bimblebox: art – science – nature* is a touring exhibition partnered by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Redland Art Gallery in association with Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

[Symposium: God is in the Detail: Making Architecture and Art for Catholic Worship, 11-13 February, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne](#)

The National Liturgical Architecture and Art Board and Australian Catholic University are pleased to announce a symposium on the process of church design. The symposium is intended for architects, artists, liturgists, clergy, church design consultants, theologians, academics, researchers, diocesan

property officers, architecture and theology students, and all who are interested in church design today. The symposium aims to facilitate conversation about the essential relationship between liturgy and architecture in designing new churches and redesigning existing churches. The symposium welcomes as keynote speakers the architect and liturgist who were instrumental in the design and inauguration of the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, California: Mr Craig Hartman of Skidmore Owings & Merrill in San Francisco and Rev Dr Paul Minnihan of the Diocese of Oakland.

[The Association for the Study of Australian Literature Annual Mini Conference, 11-13 February, The University of New England](#)

This conference is held annually by the Association for the Study of Australian Literature as one of its key forums for the presentation of research in the discipline. ASAL is the premiere international association for the study of Australian literature and runs the journal JASAL. UNE have been invited to host the conference in February 2015 and the inaugural Judith Wright Lecture will be delivered as part of this event on 12 February.

[Australian Interior Design Awards 2015 - Nominations closing 12 February](#)

Co-presented by the DIA in partnership with Diversified Communications Australia and Architecture Media (publisher of ARTICHOKE), the Awards are widely recognised as reflecting the highest standards of Australian professional interior design achievement. Awards are offered for all areas of interior design practice including workplace, retail, public, hospitality, installation and residential design, residential decoration, sustainability advancement, excellence and innovation, best of state, best international and emerging interior design practice – plus a new award for Interior Design Impact, which considers the effect of interior design on the organisational objectives of its client. DIA members receive 33% discount on entry fees and winners of state-based DIA Awards (for interior design/decoration) are automatically short listed for the national awards, on re-submission of their project.

[Paula Dawson - Hologram Tour, 13 February and 13 March, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney](#)

In 2009, Macquarie University Art Gallery in partnership with Newcastle Region Art Gallery and the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Macquarie University produced a major exhibition *Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson – Holograms* highlighting the work of internationally acclaimed hologram artist Paula Dawson. Dawson's holograms, rarely seen on public display, offer the broader community a unique opportunity to engage with the symbiotic relationship between art, virtual reality and science. Registration is essential.

[ANZATS Conference 2015: A Life Worth Living, 29 June - 1 July, Sydney - Call for papers closing 15 February](#)

The Conference Planning Committee is pleased to invite all members of ANZATS 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 15. This should be accompanied by contact details: Name, institutional affiliation, postal address, phone number and email address. Please address submissions to [Dr Jacqui Grey](#).

[Symposium - New Forms Of Discovery For Policy Making: Widening The Use of the Social Sciences for Policy Innovation, 19-20 February, University of Canberra](#)

This two-day workshop will provide a showcase of new forms of discovery for policy-making. It will draw on the expertise of some of the world's leading authorities in public policy analysis. It's not just econometric analysis, cost benefit or surveys that can do policy work. Social science has a range of other methods that can provide evidenced based policy insights and the aim of this workshop is to showcase what is on offer and how they can help facilitate progressive policy outcomes. Policy makers and students would benefit from greater use of these techniques and so we as social scientists need to increase awareness of them and demonstrate their value. Staff from University of Canberra are free to attend, fees apply for other attendees.

[Perth International Arts Festival, 19-22 February, University of Western Australia, Perth](#)

Founded by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival and its attendant Perth Writers Festival and Lotterywest Festival Films are a chance for all Western Australians to participate in a wide range of experiences. The Perth Writers Festival Precinct will offer interviews, debates, readings, performances and workshops from a range of people including Bob Brown and TED speaker Bryan Stevenson. Author of *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert, appears live from the Perth Concert Hall in a double bill with twice Man Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel in an exploration of creativity. A UWA-based Perth Writers Festival Family Day will enable children to meet some of their favourite authors and illustrators and to enjoy the fun of a passport designed to activate literacy skills.

[Performance Now, till 01 March, QUT Art Museum](#)

Performance Now brings together work by some of the most significant artists of today to explore the

ephemerality of live performance and how this is captured by artists and transformed into new work that contains the power and content of the original. Together the selected works are an indication of the extent to which visual artists use performance as part of their creative process; how that process produces objects, installations, video, or photography; and how these mediums have been enlivened by the demands of recording performance in innovative ways. Artists include Marina Abramović, William Kentridge, Clifford Owens, Santiago Sierra, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, and Jérôme Bel, among others.

[AAP Prize for Innovation in Inclusive Curricula – Nominations closing 30 March](#)

The Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) awards an annual prize of \$1,000 for the development of innovative approaches to teaching philosophy. The prize is offered with a view to exploring ways in which undergraduate courses in philosophy can build the understanding and practise of an inclusive discipline, concerned to foster equal participation in the profession. The aims of the prize are to encourage professionals developing and improving their teaching portfolios to consider critically how philosophy is presented, and to be innovative in implementing practices of teaching that off-set well-known disparities of participation in the discipline, for instance along race and gender lines. The prize is open to individuals, or groups of individuals, teaching undergraduate philosophy courses in Australasian Universities (in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore).

[Urban Ecology Symposium, 30 March-01 April, RMIT University, Melbourne](#)

The symposium will bring together experts, researchers and industry practitioners to address a growing need to enhance liveability, encourage biodiversity and reduce impact on the natural environment. Join international urban ecology specialists and national thought leaders as we define our most liveable cities into the future. By taking a holistic approach to life in a built environment we may better define our cities as urban ecosystems. This symposium will challenge future stakeholders to devise practical solutions.

[The Bragg UNSW Press Prize For Science Writing 2015 – Nominations closing 31 March](#)

Good writing about science can be moving, funny, exhilarating or poetic, but it will always be honest and rigorous about the research that underlies it. To recognise the best of the best, UNSW Press has established an annual prize for the best short non-fiction piece on science written for a general audience. The Bragg UNSW Press Prize is named in honour of Australia's first Nobel Laureates, William Henry Bragg and his son, William Lawrence Bragg. With the support of the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, UNSW Press will award a first prize of \$7000 for the piece of non-fiction writing that best communicates science to a general audience. Two runners-up will each receive a prize of \$1500. Winning entries will be included in NewSouth's anthology, *The Best Australian Science Writing 2015*.

[ATOM Awards 2015: Nominations closing 05 June](#)

Since 1982, the ATOM Awards have been celebrating the best of Australian and New Zealand screen content from the education sector and screen industry professionals. They are the second-longest-running film and media awards in Australia, behind the AFI/ACTA Awards. Entries close at midday AEST, Friday 5 June 2015. Entry fees apply.

[Exhibition - James Turrell: a retrospective, till 8 June, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra](#)

James Turrell: a retrospective explores the artist's work over almost 50 years, bringing together Projection pieces, built spaces, holograms, drawings, prints and photographs. It celebrates *Skyspaces*, viewing chambers that affect our perception of the sky, and surveys Turrell's life work, *Roden Crater*, a naked eye observatory in an extinct volcano on the edge of the Painted Desert, Arizona. The exhibition follows three highly successful shows throughout 2013—at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Guggenheim in New York—with works from LACMA's tour and spectacular installations purpose-built for Canberra.

[Free exhibition - Keepsakes: Australians and the Great War, till 19 July, National Library of Australia, Canberra](#)

To mark the centenary of the First World War, *Keepsakes* explores the diaries, photographs, letters and mementos kept and treasured as reminders of the Great War. Discover how the very personal, as experienced by soldiers, nurses, politicians, artists, writers and families on the home front, becomes our collective memory. Sourced entirely from the National Library of Australia's collections, this exhibition highlights the private experience of war and the objects that evoke our memories. On display is Norman Lindsay's original artwork for his most famous propaganda posters, Prime Minister Billy Hughes' handwritten notes from the Paris Peace Conference and Stan Cross' cartoons of wartime Australia.

[Nominations open: Museums Australia National Council Elections 2015-2017](#)

The National Council provides a vital representative platform for leadership of Museums Australia, and its members are the recognisable interface with the sector, on behalf of the hugely dispersed footprint of MA membership around the country. Institutional members of MA include the largest institutions,

and the very smallest, the most dependent on volunteer service, and most dispersed museums/collections located rurally and regionally. Council members bring expertise and experience, source opinion, listen to needs, develop and implement policy, and in particular garner the intellectual and human resources that help Museums Australia continue to put together informed submissions to public inquiries affecting the sector, and continuing to provide effective advocacy to government on issues and conditions vitally affecting our museums and the communities they serve.

Council for the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

*PO Box 12226, Franklin Street Post Shop, A'Beckett Street, MEL VIC
8006*

T: +61 3 9925

3935 E: membership@chass.org.au www.chass.org.au

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