



From the Executive Director's Desk

Sometimes it seems as if the world is spinning very fast. The National Program for Excellence in the Arts is about to make its debut. Funding for the Australia Council has been cut, and there are also reductions ahead for research.

Just when it seems we have reviewed every aspect of our work, new inquiries have been announced: one on research training and another on research funding. Copyright laws, big data, open access publishing, national research priorities, GST on imported books and school curricula are all up for debate.

How are we expected to keep up with these developments? How do we identify the important themes amidst all this cacophony? One way is to attend the CHASS Forum.

The theme of this year's Forum is *Inspiring a Creative Australia*. Over two days, delegates will hear from professional artists, heads of granting agencies, members of government departments, museum directors, researchers and leaders of charitable bodies. [Speakers include](#): The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial; Tony Grybowski, CEO of the Australia Council; Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO of The Smith Family; Sally Warhaft from the Wheeler Centre and the ABC; Claire Spencer, head of the Arts Centre Melbourne; Professor Ian Chubb AC, the Chief Scientist, journalists from print and online media, and many more.

Speakers will engage with all of the major issues facing the arts and social sciences—funding, teaching, researching and performing. Following on from last year, the Forum will also feature poetry (from Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM) and music.

The winners of the four [CHASS Australia Prizes](#) will receive their awards at lunch on day one. These prizes include a prize for a book in the arts or social sciences (more than 90 were nominated), distinctive work, future leadership and a student prize. Indigenous opera singer and distinguished academic, Deborah Joy Cheetham AO, will be the guest speaker.

If this is not enough, the Forum will contain a display of the latest work in the digital humanities, a reprise of our speed dating for HASS researchers and much more.

If you only attend one meeting this year, it should be the [CHASS Forum](#). The dates are 15 and 16 October, and the place is the University of Melbourne. [Discounted early-bird registration](#) is open until 31 August. Last year, places filled up fast so don't procrastinate. Register now and ensure your participation in this year's Forum.

[discounts to attend the 2015 CHASS National Forum](#), which will take place in Melbourne on 15 and 16 October.

So be sure to renew your membership and continue to remain part of an essential network for communication and collaboration across the diverse disciplines and institutions operating in the HASS sector.

[Why be a CHASS member?](#)

The Future of Cities in the Global Age: Views from Australia and Singapore, 9 July, Geelong

We would like to thank the Academy of the Social Sciences (ASSA) and the Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia for partnering with us for this successful event held on 9 July in Geelong, Victoria.



We would also like to thank Deakin University's Vice Chancellor Professor Jane den Hollander for welcoming the attendees and Professor Brenda Cherednichenko, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Arts and Education, for hosting us.

Thanks also to speakers Dr Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore, Dr Michele Lobo, Deakin University, and Professor Peter Spearritt, University of Queensland/ASSA.

Please [click here to view the event's photos](#).

To continue our series of events in regional Australia, we are inviting members to contact us with their suggestions. Please feel free to [email Steven](#) or call us on 03 9925 3935.

Sector and Member Events

Early bird registration closing 20 August: [Australian Association for Research in Education \(AARE\) Conference 2015](#) 29 November, Fremantle

[2015 Robotronica Festival](#) QUT, 23 August, Brisbane

Applications close 31 August: [Australian Rural Leadership Program](#) Australia Council for the Arts

Applications close 1 September: [Final round of 2015 Grants Funding](#) Australia Council for the Arts

[Music Talks: Live Music Frontiers](#) Music Council, 6 September, Sydney

[MAEd New Term 3 - Building Relations with Schools: Projects and Promotions](#) Museums Australia, 7 September

[Child, Mission and Education Symposium](#) University of Divinity, 11 September 2015, Melbourne

Registrations close 11 September: [Symposium: Ecology, War and Religion 'Ecological Aspects of War: Religious Perspectives from Australia'](#) University of Divinity, 28 September, Melbourne

[The Story of Lustre: Shedding light on how a community-based exhibition evolved](#) UWA, 12 September, Fremantle

[Hot topics in healthy ageing: Research evidence, clinical skills and tools to manage an ageing population](#) Monash University, 21 September, Melbourne

[Interprofessional Health, Education & Practice International Conference](#) Victoria University, 5-7 October, Melbourne

Exhibition: [Heroes and Villains - Strutt's Australia](#) National Library of Australia, till 15 November, Canberra

[Cultural Studies Association of Australasia Annual Conference 2015 Minor Culture](#) University of Melbourne, 1-3 December

[Australasian Society for Classical Studies \(ASCS\) 37 Conference](#) 2-5 February 2016, The University of Melbourne

Note: While we take due care to list correct information about events listed here, all listings are subject to change and we advise that you reconfirm details before making bookings. Please like our Facebook page for more updates on available grants and sector events.



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