Hello readers, and welcome to the first CHASS newsletter of 2017

We hope you've had a great start to the year. A new year is a good opportunity to reflect on the previous 12 months and plan out the next 12. These are challenging times. Political upheaval isn't news, the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2016 is 'post-truth' – an adjective defined as 'relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief', Orwell's *1984* is a bestseller on amazon.com, 'alternative facts' are ubiquitous, and 'fake news' is Macquarie Dictionary's Word of 2016. It often seems as though the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS), the core of what makes us human, are taking the maximum hit, creating a palpable sentiment of dread and disappointment. However, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The HASS sector continues to be resilient amid turbulence, and we continue to advocate for and support sound funding and policy decisions.

We are gearing up for a busy year ahead and look forward to your continued support. And if you would like us to collaborate with you for an event in your city, please contact us via phone or email.

Right after our AGM in October 2016, we invited nominations for vacancies on the board. The response to our call-out was terrific, which is a sign of a robust organisation; however, it also means that the committee had to turn away excellent candidates. We are pleased to announce that Professor Barbara de la Harpe (University of Southern Queensland), Professor Jo Lindsay (The Australian Sociological Association), and Professor Julian Meyrick (Flinders University) have been elected to the Board. Special thanks to all the others who had applied. Putting your hand up for a place on our board indicates a strong willingness to support the HASS sector and we really appreciate your offer of leadership. The new Board met in Melbourne earlier this month and decided on an action plan for this year, more details will be revealed soon.

We have received fantastic feedback on our latest publication, '*Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: It's everyone's business*'. If you haven't already done so, please read this compilation of essays that illustrates the diverse ways in which HASS disciplines provide essential services to citizens in all walks of life. It is aimed at the public, not only to promote CHASS's aims but also to illustrate how HASS is everybody's business. When we started thinking about putting this book together, the premise was that the essays would strongly suggest that the matters of deep interest to HASS practitioners and professionals are, in fact, the same interests that matter deeply to everyday people, including the political establishment whose polices and funding directly impact the HASS sector; the media, which provide the

electronic and print space for our national dialogue; and, the everyday person whose curiosity and patronage support the various endeavours of the HASS community.

Nominations for our 2017 Australia Prizes will open in March. We are thankful to our sponsors for their continued support. Please subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on Twitter and Facebook for related announcements.

We look forward to seeing you at the next CHASS event and hearing about your HASS story.

CHASS Book - Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences *It's everyone's business*

Published by Routledge with essays collated and edited by CHASS President Professor Joseph M. Siracusa, *Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: It's everyone's business* is a must-read. In producing this pocket book featuring a range of essays by prominent Australian and international researchers, CHASS's goal is to illustrate the diverse ways in which the humanities, arts and social sciences provide essential services to all citizens in all walks of life.
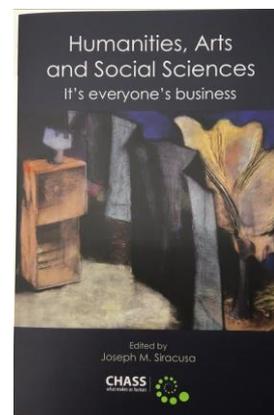
The book was officially launched by our distinguished dinner speaker Robyn Archer at the 2016 CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner on 20 October 2016 in Melbourne. Robyn has also written the book's Foreword. We have distributed over 1500 copies nationally since the launch. If you haven't received a copy, please download it here.

Image caption (L-R): CHASS President Professor Joseph M. Siracusa, Dr Jason Flanagan, Robyn Archer AO, Professor Paul Gough, and Dr Sarah Engledow (representing Dr Ann Moyal AO)

Renewing your annual CHASS membership for FY 2016-17

This is a friendly reminder for all those who have yet to pay their membership dues for the current finanical year. Membership renewal letters and invoices were sent out in July 2016. If your organisation's staff or billing details have changed, please contact us. Membership subscriptions can be paid via EFT/cheque/credit card (Visa and MasterCard only, merchant fees apply).

As a CHASS member, your organisation is part of an essential network for communication and collaboration across the diverse disciplines and institutions operating in this sector. A unified voice for the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) sector and revitalised advocacy are of increased significance as we face new challenges and reform processes in the coming period, and we hope to have your continued participation in our work.

CHASS members have access to various services such as the daily media monitoring update, event listings on our website and newsletter, profiling opportunities in our newsletter, and social media support and promotion. This year, members took advantage of discounted tickets to attend the 2016 CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner, which was held in Melbourne on 20 October. We also co-host events and workshops with members in their respective cities.

Why become a CHASS member?

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Our mailing address is:
PO Box 12226, Franklin St Post Shop, A'Beckett Street, VIC 8006

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