



From the Executive Director's Desk

I joined CHASS almost three years ago. In that time, we have moved from Canberra to Melbourne, created the CHASS Australia Prizes, expanded our focus to include regional events and conducted the Forum three times. The Forum is now a regular part of the yearly calendar with significant sponsorship and support.

Recently, I started hearing the celestial clock ticking and my biblical allotment of three score and ten years is looming closer. I realised that, if there is anything else I want to do in life, I had better start right away. As Seneca advised a close friend, procrastination is a "foolish forgetfulness of mortality". Fortunately, my new role as Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority will keep me involved in education. You can think of me when NAPLAN testing time rolls around each year.

As you get older, W. H. Auden said you should "Let all your thinks be thanks". I agree. I am grateful to the Board for the opportunity to lead CHASS and to the President, Professor John Simons, for putting his trust in me. I am thankful to the Board for its support and to CHASS members for keeping their faith. Most of all I am indebted to the incredibly smart, loyal and dedicated Divya Das. Without Divya, there would be no CHASS.

As everyone knows, the world has changed since CHASS was founded just over a decade ago. As Thomas Friedman says, "ten years ago Twitter was still a sound, the cloud was in the sky, 4G was a parking space, LinkedIn was what happens in prison, applications were what you sent to university and Skype was a typo". I have no crystal ball, but one would have to be pretty complacent to ignore the potential for new technology to "disrupt" the arts and humanities. Still, I am optimistic about the future. University enrolments in the HASS disciplines remain high, one-third of PhDs awarded each year are in the humanities and social sciences, and there is no shortage of excellent candidates for the CHASS Australia prizes.

HASS subjects focus on life, death, love, beauty, and courage--when it comes time to sum up our lives, these are the only things that ever really matter to anyone. As long as human beings seek to find meaning in their lives, they will continue to turn to HASS.

CHASS has a new president, Professor Joe Siracusa. I wish him and the Board well. As for my work, I will let T. S. Eliot have the final word: "For what is done, not to be done again. May the judgement not be too heavy upon us".

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA

2015 CHASS National Forum *Inspiring a Creative Australia*, 15 and 16 October, Melbourne

We would like to thank all presenters, delegates, sponsors, partners, and supporters of the 2015 CHASS National Forum for making the event such a success!

Congratulations once again to all the winners and other shortlisted nominees of the 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes, and heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors. Nominations for the next edition of the Australia Prizes will open in early 2016, watch this space for more.

We have uploaded photographs and some videos from the proceedings on our [Facebook](#) page, please feel free to tag yourself and also forward them to your networks.



[View event photos & videos](#)

Reminder to renew your annual CHASS membership

In July this year, membership renewal invoices were sent to all current members via email. Thank you to all those who have paid their dues. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do it now.

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 promotion. This year, members were also able to take advantage of additional discounts to attend our annual National Forum in Melbourne. 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.

Membership subscriptions can be paid via EFT, cheque or credit card (Visa/MasterCard, merchant fees apply). Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to arrange payment.

[Why be a CHASS member?](#) |

HASS Your Say: Macquarie documentary research project highlights Indigenous soldiers' war service



Macquarie University's research into humanities, arts and film is exploring an often overlooked aspect of Australian history. **The Other War: Representations of Indigenous Soldiers in WW1** project, led by Dr Tom Murray, brings together visual anthropology-based research techniques to investigate Australian frontier histories and Indigenous soldiers' WW1 service. Based in the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, Dr Murray's research aims to provide a forum for non-Indigenous understanding of Indigenous cultural and political perspectives.

This project investigates audio and image records captured by German artists and social-scientists in German WW1 POW camps. It tracks the history of anthropological concern with capturing Indigenous cultural and physical materials, including bodily remains of Indigenous people, and relates their motivations to colonial imperatives. The remediation and repatriation of these records, and the examination of the circumstances of their capture, form the basis of an upcoming exhibition and documentary film that is being made in collaboration with relevant Indigenous communities.

When asked about the relevance of this project to modern day society, Dr Murray hopes the research will, "... inform current understandings of frontier conflict in Australia, contextualise motivations for Australian civil and international conflict and the part played by scholarly communities in these conflicts, and address the ongoing impacts of colonialism in Indigenous communities."

"Ideally this research will also offer possibilities for meaningful local and national remediation and reconciliation with these histories. The upcoming exhibition in regional Queensland is the beginning of this outreach aspect to my work as part of this project.", explains Dr Murray.

This project is reflective of the scope and depth of research currently being undertaken by staff and students at

Macquarie University, particularly in the arts and humanities disciplines. See the [full story](#) including the motivation behind the research and current stage of the project on the [Faculty of Arts news page](#). More about [Dr Tom Murray](#).

Sector and Member Events

[Arts Learning Webinar](#) 2015 Arts Learning Forum, Australia Council for the Arts, 24 November

Free public event [Game Changers: The Future of Festivals](#) Victoria University, 25 November

Free public lecture [Why Torture is Wrong: Always; Everywhere](#) Murdoch University, 26 November

Free event: ECU Presents [Music Under the Stars 2015](#) Edith Cowan University, 28 November

[Australian Association for Research in Education \(AARE\) Conference 2015](#) University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle, 29 November–3 December

[Elliott Johnston Memorial Lecture 2015 *Why First Laws Must Be In*](#) Flinders University, 1 December

[Cultural Studies Association of Australasia \(CSAA\) Conference: *Minor Culture*](#) The University of Melbourne, 1–3 December

Free public event [Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research Public lecture *Towards Women's Security: Local and Global*](#) Monash University, 3 December

[2015 DIA \[WA\] Design Awards](#) State Theatre Centre of WA, 3 December

Free public lecture [Uncomfortable Collaborations](#) The University of Melbourne, 4 December

[Warlpiri Art Market Day](#) Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, 4–5 December

[12th Biennial ANZALS Conference *Leisure as a Human Right*](#) 9–11 December, University of South Australia

[41st International Conference on Social Theory, Politics and the Arts](#) 10–12 December, University of South Australia

[Personal Histories International Artist Book Exhibition](#) till 11 December, UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Free exhibition [Portraits of the Famous and Infamous, Rex Nan Kivell Collection](#) till 13 December, National Library of Australia

Free ongoing exhibition [Nineteen Sixty-Five: Dadang Christanto](#) QUT Art Museum, Brisbane

Inviting participation [Drama Australia Archive Project](#): DADA (Drama Australia's Data Archives) and MAMA (Memories And Memorials Archive)

[The Australasian Society for Classical Studies \(ASCS\) 37th Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration](#) 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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