



From the President's Desk

It is at once an honour and privilege to lead CHASS, representing the best and brightest representatives in the Australian community of humanities, arts and social sciences. It is also humbling, as I stand on the shoulders of the likes of John Simons and Steven Schwartz and those who came before them. People who know me know that I am a “half-glass full” person, an optimist by nature. What they don’t know is that I was born the same year that Johnny Mercer’s classic record, *Accentuate the Positive*, reached number 2 on the Billboard magazine charts. The lyrics, which bear repeating, have guided my professional career for 40 years:

*You’ve got to accentuate the positive
Eliminate the negative
And latch on to the affirmative
Don’t mess with Mister-In-Between*

It is this spirit I intend to serve, beginning with a commitment to agitate for the inclusion of the domain of the humanities, arts and social sciences into the renewed debate for greater STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education at every level – in short, contributing to the building of the case for the inclusion of STEAM into the national dialogue. I will also continue the lobbying effort to assist CHASS stakeholders in persuading the Government to appoint a Chief Social Scientist, comparable in rank and standing with that of the Chief Scientist. To provide examples where the HASS sector can engage the public, as well as facilitate the Government’s broader goals of inspiring a more creative and innovative Australia, I have been commissioned by Routledge to edit a collection of CHASS-themed essays to be published in mid-2016. ‘HASS: it’s everyone’s business’ will be launched at the Australia Prizes ceremony in October 2016. To give a preview, the collection will be bookended by essays by artist and leading Banksy scholar, Paul Gough (“Banksy: What’s the fuss, and why does it matter?”) and Ann Moyal, a leading historian of Australian science and telecommunication (“Does Australia need a Chief Social Scientist?”).

There are other plans afoot, but I do not want to get into all before the onset of the Silly Season when Australians take that much deserved break from their labours. Top of the Season to all, and the best of everything to you and yours in the New Year.

Joe Siracusa

Highlights from the 2015 CHASS National Forum *Inspiring a Creative Australia on ABC Radio National*

Highlights from sessions 'Speed Dating for HASS Researchers' and 'Does Australia need a Chief Social Scientist?' were broadcast on ABC Radio National's Big Ideas program earlier this week. If you missed the broadcast, you can listen to the audio by [clicking here](#) or the links provided below.



[Speed dating for HASS researchers](#)

Humanities, arts and social science researchers each get three minutes to pitch their work to a panel of judges explaining clearly and concisely what they do and why it's interesting and important.



[Does Australia need a Chief Social Scientist?](#)

In Australia, is there an unhelpful division between science and the humanities? Could the creation of a new Chief Social Scientist position help bridge that gap? Dr Ann Moyal AM argues that just as Australia has a Chief Scientist, the country would be well served by also having a Chief Social Scientist who would advise government and policy makers, contribute to achieving national goals, advocate and promote the social sciences and act as a knowledge broker across disciplines.

Text and images courtesy ABC Radio National

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 only, fees apply). Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to arrange payment.

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

THINK.CHECK.SUBMIT

The **THINK.CHECK.SUBMIT** campaign was launched in Frankfurt in October 2015. It is designed to guide journal authors and prospective journal authors on the selection of trusted publishers and journals for submission of their manuscripts.

The goal is to encourage awareness, to help ensure that authors submit to *bona fide* journals that are trusted and proven to have a strong reputation, applying best practice in their peer review processes, since this in turn will uphold and enhance the author's reputation, and that of his/her institution.

THINK.CHECK.SUBMIT is the result of a joint effort by stakeholders across the academic publishing industry, including scholarly, university and institutional library associations LIBER, SPARC and UKSG, institutions INASP and ISSN, publishers BioMed Central, Springer Nature and Ubiquity Press, publisher associations OASPA, ALPSP and STM, and the Directory of Open Access Journals. The campaign is fully endorsed by the Australian Publishers Association (APA). APA urges all stakeholders in the Australian academic ecosystem to spread knowledge of this campaign. For more information, [please click here](#).

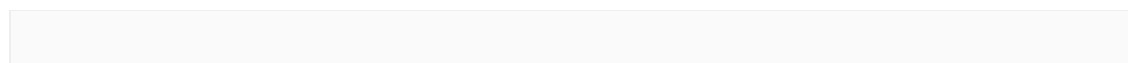


Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2016.

Thank you for your support in 2015 and we look forward to working with you in the year to come.

The office will remain closed from Wednesday, 23rd December till Monday, 4th January.
The daily media update service will resume on Monday, 4th January.



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Our mailing address is:

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

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