

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014

Thursday 4th December 3:30-5:30pm,  
Building 67 107, University of Wollongong.

Prepared by the President and Secretary of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia

For circulation to Members of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia

---

**Present: Timothy Laurie, Chris Healy, Katrina Schlunke, Emma Kelly, Timothy Neale, Rob Cover, Jess Carniel, Rebecca Olive, Baden Offord, Lisa Slater, Jenny Kennedy, John Tebutt, Elizabeth Stephens, Jessica Kean, Grace Sharkey, Liam Grealy, Michelle Lobo, Susan Luckman, Mark Gibson, Camille Nurka, Rob Garbutt, Daniel Marshall, Andrew Hickey (Chair).**

## **Objectives of the Meeting**

The President opened the meeting by noting that the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia uses the forum of the Annual Conference to convene the Annual General Meeting. Current members (including all conference delegates) were invited to attend. The CSAA AGM provides the principal forum for the reporting of the Association's recent initiatives, financial position and future directions, with members encouraged to contribute to the dialogue and shaping of the Association's ongoing development.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

An acknowledgement of Country was noted by the Chair, and respect given to the Dharawal people, and their elders past and present, upon whose land the meeting was conducted. The impact of settler colonialism and recognition of the resilience and living culture of Dharawal peoples was noted.

## **Schedule of Items**

Members present were asked to sign-in to the meeting, and permission sought by the Chair to record the meeting for purposes of preparation of these Minutes. This recording has since been destroyed, with these Minutes standing as a record of the Meeting.

### *Standing Reports*

1. Opening Address and President's Report

The President's report is attached as an Appendix for Reference.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report is attached as an Appendix for Reference. The Treasurer's report was delivered by the Chair in the absence of the Treasurer.

### *Discussion Items*

### 3. New Initiatives

The Chair broached a discussion regarding new initiatives the Executive have contemplated for 2015 and invited comment from the membership. Discussion on the following was raised

#### a. Review of the 'Rules of the Association'

The Chair noted that ongoing review and updating of the Association administration was being undertaken. The next stage in the development of process for the Association included updating the Association's current registration. Although current and valid, the Association is currently registered as an incorporated entity in South Australia (reflecting earlier constitution of the Executive). Once the position of Treasurer is confirmed, moves will be made to renew the registration of the Association.

In conjunction with renewal of registration, the Chair also noted a review of the current Rules of the Association. The current Rules, drafted in 1992, do not accurately reflect the current status of the Association. Once renewal of the Association's registration is complete, a review of the Rules will be conducted, and input from the membership sought.

#### b. Proposal: CSAA Book Award

The Executive has suggested the development of a CSAA Book Award initiative to recognise high quality scholarship in Cultural Studies. It was recognised that such an award system should also extend to teaching and learning and service/administration to cover the gamut of tasks undertaken by academics and those working outside of academia. Similarly, the ethical aspects of an 'award' system were discussed, and it was agreed that a logic of 'competition' should not stand as indicative of this initiative. Any award initiative by the CSAA would stand on principles of *recognition of work of high quality and impact in the field of Cultural Studies*.

The organisers of the 2015 Conference noted that such an initiative was being considered for inclusion in the 2015 event, and the membership resolved to use the 2015 event as a forum for convening the awards.

#### c. 2015 CSAA Mentoring Scheme

Elizabeth Stephens, coordinator of the CSAA Mentoring Initiative, provided an overview of the 2014 round. It emerged that the initiative was well-regarded by mentors and mentees alike, and that the initiative should continue. Comment from PG/ECR members present suggested that the initiative was an invaluable way of forming connections within the field and seeking 'inside' understandings of the workings of academia.

Prof. Stephens also noted that she will be stepping down from the position of coordinator due to her recent new appointment. The membership acknowledged Elizabeth's significant work over the last two years in convening this initiative. A call for Expressions of Interest to take on the role of convenor of the mentoring initiative will be called from within the Executive membership.

### 4. Call for Nominations for Appointment to the CSAA Executive

Due to the end of term of appointment, the following positions will be vacant through 2015:

- a. General Web Editor
- b. Treasurer
- c. PG/ECR Committee General Members

The Chair noted that an Expression of Interest process will be enacted to call for nominations from within the membership for these positions. Expressions of Interest will be sought through the first quarter of 2015. In the case that more than 1 nomination for each position is received, a ballot process will be deployed.

The Chair noted that special attention to gaining membership for the PG/ECR sub-committee will be given in order to continue the work of the sub-committee. Emphasis will be given to using this sub-committee as a point of advocacy for the Association's PG/ECR members.

Further to the above positions, the Chair also noted that the term of the President is due for expiry at the end of 2015. A process of transition will occur in order to ensure the smooth hand-over. The Chair noted that calls for Expression of

Interest in the role of President of the CSAA will be called in the first half of 2015, with a process of handover to culminate at the Annual Conference 2015.

The Membership offered its thanks and appreciation to outgoing members of the Executive. Thanks and appreciation to Camille Nurka, former General Web Editor, Sarah Cefai, former Secretary, Ben Dibley, former Treasurer and PG/ECR Sub-committee members Kev Dertadian and Tim Neale were offered. Considerable involvement in the Association marked each of these members' terms and appreciation for this work was recognised by the membership.

The Membership also welcomed Jess Carniel as incoming Secretary of the CSAA. Dr Carniel's term as Secretary is current as of January 2015 and will extend to the end of 2017. Dr Carniel's appointment is strategically important, as the Secretary will play a central role in assisting the new President to transition into the role through 2015-16.

#### 5. Other Business: Open Discussion and Questions from the Floor

Discussion from the floor extended from the earlier points. Advice on engaging the membership and maintaining cohesion of the Association provided a prominent point of discussion, with members identifying the role of regionally based social events and small symposia as a significant mechanism for generating collegiality. The Association was receptive to further events such as this, and suggested that investment by the Association in these events provided a useful means of supporting Cultural Studies. The Chair resolved to work with the Executive to codify further initiatives for the CSAA.

Questions regarding the viability of Annual Conferences were raised, following discussions from earlier AGMs. The Association is currently in good shape with regard Annual Conferences, with the 2015 conference confirmed, and arrangements underway to co-sponsor the 2016 event with the ACS/Crossroads. The Chair offered some points regarding the details on this.

#### 6. Transition of Presidency for 2015/16

As noted above, details on how the transition of the Presidency will occur were detailed. The membership considered the strategy to be a suitable means for ensuring a smooth handover of the Presidency.

### *Future Events*

#### 7. Announcement of the 2015 CSAA Conference

The Chair handed over to Chris Healy to formally announce that the School of Communication and Culture at the University of Melbourne will host the 2015 event. Working under the theme of 'minor culture' the event will run from November 30 to December 3 2015. Details will follow as the Conference website and promotional materials emerge.

#### 8. Close of Meeting

As no further points from the floor were raised, the meeting was closed at 5:25pm.

## APPENDIX A: President's Report

**President's Report****2014 CSAA AGM**

*Prepared by Dr Andrew Hickey*

*President of the CSAA*

**Major Events for 2013-14**

*The CSAA initiated a number of events through 2013-14, under the view of providing tangible opportunity for networking and collegiality. The focus of the Association over this last 2 years has been to enable colleagues to connect. Via the formation of these connections, Cultural Studies will be more readily recognised and opportunity for collaboration emerge.*

*To this end, a major initiative of the CSAA was the 'Intermezzo Symposia Initiative'. The CSAA resolved to sponsor 3 symposia designed to explore and invigorate discussion in Cultural Studies. Events included:*

***Mobile Cultures: Migration, Movement and Society***

Dates: 29th November 2013

Host Site: University of Western Australia (Crawley Campus)

Organisers: Rob Cover, Farida Fozdar

***Doing Cultural Studies: Interrogating Practice***

Dates: 3rd December 2013.

Host Site: Swinburne University of Technology (Hawthorn Campus)

Organisers: Jenny Kennedy, Emily van der Nagel, James Meese

Contact: Jenny Kennedy (doingculturalstudies@gmail.com)

Outcomes include a planned special issue of *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*

***Cultural Studies and the New Uses of Literacy***

Dates: April 4-5 2014,

Host Site: University of New South Wales (Kensington Campus)

Organisers: Jane Mills, Kath Albury, Tom Apperley, Nasya Bahfen, Ramaswami Harindranath

Outcomes: Issue 5 of *fusion*, an international open access online scholarly journal for the communication, creative industries, and media arts, is now live;

Edited by Associate Professor Jane Mills (UNSW, Australia) and Dr Nasya Bahfen (Monash University)

This issue comprises papers from the New Uses of Literacy Symposium initiated by the Cultural Studies Association of Australia (CSAA) and staged by the School of the Arts and Media at the University of New South Wales, and other specially commissioned contributions.

These events were considered highly successful and have resulted in a number of outcomes. In all, these events met the brief of the initiative perfectly.

### ***CSAA Mentoring Initiative***

The CSAA Mentoring Initiative was again run in 2014, and was again a success. Thanks go to Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Stephens for firstly conceptualising and enacting this initiative in 2013, and continuing to administrate over this last couple of years.

This has been a valuable initiative for the Association, and from my own experience I can attest to the value it has provided for not only those mentored, but the mentors too. As a mechanism for provoking dialogue, and encouraging connections between members, it has been invaluable.

Due to the commencement of a new position at Southern Cross University, Elizabeth has noted that she will be looking to hand over leadership of this initiative in 2015. I seek your interest to be involved in administrating this valuable initiative- particularly current Executive members.

### ***Personnel***

#### **Executive Position End-of-Term**

We unfortunately had to say good-bye to our Secretary, Dr Sarah Cefai earlier this year. Sarah returned to the UK to pursue employment and research opportunities. Sarah came on board with the Association in 2012, and was a very active Secretary- she ably steered us through the reformation of the Association's administration and assisted immensely in activating process around the membership database. I would like to formally offer the Association's thanks to Sarah.

It is with great pleasure however that we welcome Dr Jess Carniel, who also happens to be my colleague in the School of Arts and Communications at USQ, to the position of Secretary. Please join me in welcoming Jess. Following a call for nominations, I was delighted to confirm Jess as Secretary- she will provide an active voice to the Executive.

Due to the completion of the terms of appointment we also say farewell to our General Web Editor, Dr Camille Nurka. Camille's term as General Web Editor commenced in 2012, and it was virtually single-handedly that she steered the redevelopment of the Association's web presence and established protocols around our electronic communications. Camille worked closely with the developers of our web site- Sauced Out- and was invaluable in her leadership. I would like to formally offer the Association's thanks to Camille.

Dr Ben Dibley's term has also come to a close, after his appointment to the role of Treasurer in 2012. Ben too has been an invaluable member of the Executive and has very capably seen the re-emergence of the financial status of the Association during his tenure. He was active in ensuring that not only did we remain financially buoyant, but also that we were using membership money effectively; for instance, in establishing a process of investing Association funds in term deposit accounts that have provided further income to the Association. I would like to formally offer the Association's thanks to Ben.

### **Call for New Positions**

The positions of Treasurer and General Web Editor on the Executive are consequently currently open, and I encourage you to consider lodging a nomination to join the Exec. Membership on the executive provides direct input into the governance and steering of the association's direction, and a number of advantages in terms of one's own

career development. Added to this, the workload requirement is modest- I suggest that no more than 2 hours per week during busier times is indicative of the requirement.

If you would like to nominate for these positions, by all means contact me.

### **PG/ECR Group**

One more note of thanks: I would like to thank Kev Dertadian and Tim Neale for their work in steering the PG/ECR committee. Unfortunately, Kev is stepping down from the committee to focus on the impending completion of his Doctorate, whilst Tim has successfully negotiated the transition to employment! Both Kev and Tim very actively contributed to the group, and I would like to formally acknowledge their leadership. Both will of course stay on as members of the CSAA.

The Committee includes Jenny Kennedy, Soenke Biermann, Fiona Andreallo, and Kim Barbour, but we always welcome interest from further members. Again, if you would like to be involved in this group, please contact me.

### **Administration**

We are financially buoyant, have our site working well, and underlying membership processes functioning.

There are further developments we could make with the visual presence of the site and a more active social media presence, but perhaps we can talk about this points shortly when discussion is opened to the floor.

But, in short, we are in a good position. Ben Dibley's 'Treasurer's Report' will attest to this also.

### **Where to in 2015-16**

- Renewal of the Rules of the Association
- Further refinement and codification of our processes
- Appointment of a new President of the Association
- 2015 Conference
- 2016 Crossroads

Discussion on these points will occur in a few minutes.

APPENDIX B: Treasurer's Report

**Treasurer's Report**

**2014 CSAA AGM**

*Prepared by*

*Dr Ben Dibley*

*Treasurer of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia*

<b>Opening Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014:</b>	\$28,013.04
<b>Balance as at 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014:</b>	\$12,826.37
<hr/>	
<b>Membership Income Jan- Nov 2014:</b>	\$14,527.71
<b>Outgoings Jan-Nov 2014:</b>	
-Web Hosting and Domain:	\$150.00
Paid to Sauced Out 20/05/14	
-CSAA Member Newsletter and Announcement Mail Out:	\$161.38
Paid to Sauced Out	
-‘Continuum’ Subscription:	\$23,254.00
Paid to Taylor and Francis 05/06/14	
-Commonwealth Bank Fees:	\$149.00
Paid to Commonwealth Bank	
- Intermezzo Symposia	\$6,000.00
3 events	
<b>Forecast Income Jul-Dec 2015</b>	
-2014 CSAA Conference:	\$~12,000.00
<b>Forecast Expenses Jul-Dec 2015</b>	
-‘Continuum’ Subscription- Taylor and Francis:	\$5709.00
-CHASS Membership Renewal:	\$330.00

-Stage 2 Website Development:	\$1500.00
(quote received from Sauced Out for enhanced video/visual presence)	
-Web Hosting and Domain:	\$150.00
-Commonwealth Bank Fees:	\$149.00

**Report:**

Beyond the regular major expenses (Taylor and Francis 'Continuum' subscription and CHASS membership) the Association has maintained a positive balance.

The 2014 and subsequent 2015 Conferences are expected to generate a strong income for the association. Although firm attendance lists are yet to be calculated, it is expected that the conference will generate (conservatively) in the order of \$12,000.00. As such, the Association will commence 2015 in a strong position.

The Association has successfully rebounded from its significantly precarious financial position of 2009-10, and providing membership base continues to grow as it has in the previous 3 years, the Association can expect to remain financially buoyant and in a position to activate a greater range of services for members.

**Dr Ben Dibley**

Treasurer- CSAA

29<sup>th</sup> November 2014