

**Association for the Study of Australian Literature
Annual General Meeting, ANU Canberra
Hall, University House
1-2pm, Thursday 5th July 2018**

MINUTES

Welcome

Attendees: Brigid Rooney, Fiona Morrison, Sue Martin, Roger Osborne, Demelza Hall, Lachlan Brown, Adelle Sefton-Rowston, Joe Cummins, Ellen Smith, Mandy Treagus, Katie Hansord, Melissa Thorne, Christina Spittel, Lyn McCredden, Catherine Noske, Megan Mooney Taylor, Matilda Grogan, Tony Simoes da Silva, Maurice Alexander, David Carter, Brigitta Olubas, Nicole Moore, Imogen Mathew, Bill Ashcroft, Elizabeth Webby, Rachel Fetherston, Philip Mead

Apologies: Keyvan Allahyari, Penny Holliday, Elaine Lindsay, Tanya Dalziell, Chris Lee, Rob Clarke

Item 1 - Minutes of ASAL AGM July 2017

Accepted: Sue Martin

Seconded: Bill Ashcroft

Item 2 - Matters arising from minutes

2.1 Mini-Grants Scheme: **See Item 12 below.**

2.2 ASAL Website: **See Item 4.4 below**

Item 3 – Correspondence In

3.1 Reply from Lyndall Foster, Executive Director, Curriculum Standards, NESA on behalf of NSW Minister, dated 4 February 2017 (providing relevant contacts should we want to liaise further).

3.2 Email from Helen Hagemann 26 May 2018 raising questions about Mary Gilmore Award eligibility rules and protocols (See AGM Attachment 1). Discussed in item 10

Item 4 - President's report (2017-18 activities; 2019 plans)

4.1 Thanks: ASAL would like to formally thank Julieanne Lamond for all of her work on this year's literary studies convention. ASAL would also like to thank Adelle Sefton-Rowston and Christian Bok for their work at the ASAL mini-conference which was held in Darwin in February this year – it was a real privilege for ASAL to come to Darwin

4.2 Patrons Lectures 2017. Two highly successful Copyright Agency funded events were held in 2017:

- Patrons Lecture by Omar Musa. This was held at the University of Sydney on 17 October 2017 and attended by over 130 people. The event was audio-recorded and uploaded to the Sydney Ideas soundcloud, shared on Facebook via ASAL's page, website and CA social media streams.
- Patron's Lecture by Kate Forsyth. This was held as part of a historical fiction symposium held at Melbourne's LaTrobe university, on Thursday 2 November, and attracted 40 attendees. The lecture was very well received by participants and attendees.

- Patrons Lectures forthcoming in 2018: Two regional Patrons Lectures this year will balance last year's metropolitan-focused events. Copyright Agency funding was secured on the basis that we would organize events in regional as well as metropolitan areas
 - Patrons Lecture by Ellen van Neerven, Mununjali woman, poet and writer, will be given on Friday 13 July, from 6pm to 8pm at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga – organized by Lachlan Brown, Charles Sturt University: (Registrations at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/asal-patrons-lecture-tickets46704577649?aff=efbeventtix>)
 - Patron's Lecture by Alexis Wright, Waanyi woman and author, will be given on Tuesday 7 August in Townsville and on Friday 10 August in Cairns as part of the Tropical Writers Festival and the Roddrick foundation. The format for Wright's talk will be 'in conversation' with Roger Osborne. For more information, contact Roger at roger.osborne@jcu.edu.au

4.3 Future Conferences

- ASAL 2019 – Report by Tony Hughes d'Aeth. Next year's ASAL main conference will be at the University of Western Australia from 2-5 July. The organising team is Tony Hughes d'Aeth, Tanya Dalziell, Kate Noske, Kieran Dolin, Alison Bartlett and Dennis Haskell. Conference theme is "Dirt", signalling a broadly environmental approach with correlated issues of the Anthropocene, Dirty Work, Disavowal, and encompassing dirt in the sense of 'earth' (ecology), 'land' (contested Title), 'ground' (materialisms old and new) and 'the unclean' (the abject, the real, the marginal, the impolite).
- Mini ASAL 2019: Brigitta Olubas and Liz McMahon are convening the mini conference "New Australian Modernities: Antigone Kefala and Australian Migrant Aesthetics" at UNSW on 15 March 2019. The call for papers has been circulated and abstracts are due 30 September.
- Hydra Conference 2018 – Report from Paul Genoni. Everything is on track for the "Writers, Dreamers, Drifters and the Aegean" conference at the end of September. There is a full two day program, with approximately 25 likely to attend. While the last conference was almost exclusively Australian this one will involve a more international cohort (including from USA, UK, Greece, Norway, and Poland). It is supported and promoted as an ASAL conference.

4.4 ASAL communications

- ASAL Website: The Executive decided to invest effort and funds into developing a more user-friendly and dynamic design for the ASAL website, currently hosted on the AustLit platform. The available models are limited, but Roger Osborne, Penny Holliday and Katie Hansord worked together with the AustLit team to come up with an excellent revamp. Susan Lever in consultation with Julian Croft and Elizabeth Webby provided a narrative about the history of ASAL for the new site and Roger plans to incorporate a Flickr slideshow of images from past conferences and events. The work is ongoing. If you have good photos from previous ASAL conferences and events to contribute to the site, do get in touch with Roger (r.osborne@jcu.edu.au). Great moment at 40th anniversary to look back and reflect

- Newsletter and social media (ASAL Facebook and Twitter): Thanks to Katie Hansord, Susan Lever, Penny Holliday and Melissa Thorne for all their efforts with ASAL communications. Penny is unable to continue in her role and we thank her for her able management of the ASAL twitter account. Volunteers to join the Twitter team are sought and welcome. Thank you to Penny for all her work in the twitter world

4.5 Prizes and Awards

On behalf of the Executive and the membership at large Brigid formally thanks all the judging panels for their excellent work this year, and to note the huge amount of unremunerated time they have given to support the field. We appreciate your efforts. Also congratulations to the winners

- ALS Gold Medal Shortlist: Shastra Deo, *The Agonist* (UQP), Sofie Laguna, *The Choke* (Allen & Unwin), Peter Carey, *A Long Way from Home* (Penguin), Eva Hornung, *The Last Garden* (Text), Gerald Murnane, *Border Districts* (Giramondo), Stephen Lang, *Hinterland* (Penguin)
 - Winner: Shastra Deo, *The Agonist* (UQP).
 - Judging panel: Bill Ashcroft (Chair), Bernadette Brennan and David Gilbey
- Magarey Medal for Biography (jointly with AHA) Shortlist: Bernadette Brennan, *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work* (Text); Judith Brett, *The Enigmatic Mr Deakin* (Text); Suzanne Falkiner, *Mick: A Life of Randolph Stow* (UWA Publishing); Cathy McLennan, *Saltwater: An Epic Fight for Justice in the Tropics* (UQP); Alexis Wright, *Tracker* (Giramondo).
 - Winner: Alexis Wright, *Tracker* (Giramondo).
 - Judging panel: Chris Lee (Chair), Fiona Paisley, and Gillian Whitlock.
 - The judges' report and recommendations (provided by Chris Lee, as per AGM Attachment 3) will be discussed in concert with AHA's executive to develop a more streamlined and hassle-free administration and to support the work of future panels.
- Mary Gilmore Award for Best First Book of Poetry 2017 Shortlist: Shastra Deo, *The Agonist* (UQP); Quinn Eades, *Rallying* (UWA Publishing); Susan Fealy, *Flute of Milk* (UWA Publishing); Amanda Joy, *Snake Like Charms* (UWA Publishing); Nguyễn Tiên Hoàng, *Captive and Temporal* (Vagabond);
 - Winner: Quinn Eades, *Rallying* (UWA Publishing)
 - Judging Panel: Toby Davidson (Chair), Marcelle Frieman and Mark Read.
 - Matters issuing from correspondence to be discussed via AGM Agenda Item 4.
- A.D. Hope Prize for Best Postgraduate Essay 2017
 - Winner: Valérie-Anne Belleflamme for "Moving on metaphorical silk roads of intellectual trade": Chinese aesthetics in Gail Jones's *Five Bells*" – from CEREP Postcolonial Research Centre, English Department, University of Liège, Belgium
 - Highly commended: Li Lu, for "A Study on Chinese-English Translation of Modern Poems from the Perspective of Adaptation Theory", Shanghai University of International Business and Economics
Judging Panel: Sue Martin and Fiona Morrison (IPP and VP)

Item 5 – Treasurer’s Report for Financial Year Ending 2018, Roger Osborne

It is my pleasure to report that ASAL remains in a good financial position. The various ASAL balances are listed below.

Bank Balances as at 3 July 2017.

Operating Account:	\$49,082.86
Barry Andrews:	\$18,057.00
Term Deposit:	\$71,680.00
ALS Gold Medal:	\$40,000.00
PayPal:	\$ 534.73
ASAL Public Fund	\$ 1,288.80

The Statement of Accounts for Feb 2017 – Feb 2018 prepared by Geraghty Accountants shows an \$8383.80 loss. That is due to Copyright Agency Payments for 2016 and 2017 falling within that timeframe, and \$8620 paid for deposits to hold hotel rooms (Quest) for the Literary Convention. The Quest hotel is scheduled to return \$6870. The remainder is covered by the 2018 Copyright Agency grant now received.

At \$5,400, membership income remains low. In the next 12–24 months, the Executive should review membership fees, and membership recruitment.

Copyright Agency Acquittal

See President’s Report for full details of 2017 Activities.

In the 2017-2018 review period, ASAL distributed \$26,041.05

- Postgrad bursaries—\$7269.98
- Events—\$9725.97
- Writers—\$9045.10

Other Events Managed via ASAL Operating Account

- Australian Literary Studies Convention: The convention is being managed through the ASAL operating account with monies collected via EventBrite. Income will be transferred to ASAL Operating Account for expenses to be paid. See Julieanne Lamond’s conference report.
 - This might need to be a model for the future – as far as I am concerned it works quite well if there is something like EventBrite through which money comes in in one big amount – flag to the conveners of Perth, if they would prefer to not go through their institutions
- ASAL Vets: Income and expenditure for ASAL Vets was once again managed via the ASAL Operating account, leaving a \$393.60 profit.
- 2018 Hydra Conference: The 2018 Hydra Conference will be managed via the ASAL Operating Account.

- ASAL Mini Grants: \$20,000 has been set aside for ASAL mini grants, 2018/2019. See President's Report for further details. But note that we will follow up on that at July 2019 conference.

Annual Review

- Peter Geraghty Accountants reviewed the ASAL accounts in May 2018.

Discussion: Philip Mead enquired about membership numbers, Demelza Hall reported on figures and Roger Osborne asked that all who were present at the AGM remember their membership obligations, reminding that income for membership has dropped and we hope to increase it over the coming years, that we need to be mindful that we may not always get Copyright Agency funding. Hence the need to review new initiatives and use of funds. Bill Ashcroft asked how ASAL actually targets membership renewal. RO responded that this was one of the questions we discussed in the last executive meeting and that we think (aside from email reminders and prompts) state reps can potentially increase membership numbers by organizing events in home states.

Motion: RO proposed that if any members, not just state reps, have an idea about an event in your location please get in touch with RO and BR with a proposal and we can consider to help support small events.

Accepted: Fiona Morrison

Seconded: Elizabeth Webby

Item 6 - Secretary's Report, Demelza Hall

- Total members: 287
- Financial members: between 100 and 150 (but we are still in process of reconciling after conference).

Item 7 - ECR Report, Joseph Cummins

- Over the last 6 months I have contacted ECRs to find out what ASAL could do to assist (if I missed you please get in touch).
 - A lot of people have said that a mentorship is needed
 - people discussed the possibility of free membership to AusLit
 - there is enthusiasm among ECR for the mini-grants scheme.
- We are going to set up a facebook group which include profiles of ECRs on the ASAL website, to promote what they are doing.
- We had an ASAL funded ECR breakfast this morning and I am organizing an event in December – a round table with ECRs and postgrads. I will also organize another event for ECRs at the Perth conference in July 2019.

Item 8 - Postgraduate Report, Keyvan Allahyari and Imogen Matthews

- Imogen Mathews reported that the conference masterclass went well with 30-40 participants

Item 9 – JASAL Report: Change to editorial team

9.1 Thanks: ASAL wishes to thank to Brigitta Olubas who, with Tony Simoes da Silva, has edited JASAL for many years. ASAL also wishes to thank Tony for continuing on in his role as editor.

9.2 We have been talking about the editorial team at JASAL for some time and the conversation “is still ongoing.” Let it be noted that there is a space here to express interest in joining the editorial team at JASAL and that we are looking at expanding the team with a range of people at different stages of their career. If you would like this experience come and speak to Tony or Brigid.

Item 10 – Prizes

10.1 Committees for 2018-19

We already have a number of chairs for committees but I want to encourage people to express their interest in joining now if they are interested.

- ALS Gold Medal 2018:
 - Chair: Michael Farrell
 - Panel: Catherine Noske, Megan Mooney Taylor
- Walter McRae Russell 2017-2018 Judging Panel:
 - Chair: Elizabeth Webby
 - Panel: Maggie Nolan, Brigitta Olubas
- Alvie Egan Award 2017-2018
 - Judging Panel: The award will be judged by the Walter McRae Russell panel.
- AD. Hope Prize for Best Postgraduate Essay 2018
 - Judging Panel: VP and IPP
- Mary Gilmore Award for Best First Book of Poetry 2018
 - Chair: Lachlan Brown
 - Panel: TBC

10.2 Clarification of Eligibility for Mary Gilmore Award: Email from Helen Hagemann 26 May 2018 raising questions about Mary Gilmore Award eligibility rules and protocols (See AGM Attachment 1)

First of all I thank Toby and the judges for their work on the Mary Gilmore award and the winners. But we need to address the concern expressed in the email and look at ways to make eligibility for the award as transparent as possible. Those who were at the 2017 AGM would remember that we discussed what constitutes a first book and whether a chap book would rule out an entry, the upshot of the conversation last year (note that minutes were lost) was that this was up to the judges’ discretion

Discussion: Lachlan Brown, in his capacity as chair for the next round of the Mary Gilmore award clarified the situation for the AGM. LB outlined the decision that Toby Davidson (last year’s chair) and the judges made with regards to eligibility (that only writers with less than 40 pages of poetry previously published were able to enter). Lachlan, along with the ASAL executive, proposed that we maintain the ruling of the 2017 chair and judging committee and formalize this model by voting on it at the AGM and then placing the final decision on the website (making the guidelines much transparent). Brigitta Olubas suggested that when placing the formal entry guideline on the website it might be useful to state – “from this time onwards.” Brigid Roney supported this and also flagged the importance of recognizing that there have, for example, been changes in the publication of poetry, with its online circulation, that have impacted on definitions, and that the final determination of

eligibility rests with the judges. Michael Farrell stated that we need to make it explicit in the guidelines that it is 40 pages of poetry, or digital equivalent. The problem of defining what constitutes a self-published work was raised along with the query about whether we should accept self-published works at all. Elizabeth Webby responded to this by stating that it is very difficult to tell if something is self-published or not in poetry and that we should not worry too much about self-published as a category. Lachlan Brown supported this, stating that, according to Toby, the 2017 panel were not overwhelmed by self-published nominations anyway.

Motion: that we maintain the ruling of the 2017 chair and judging committee and formalize this model by voting on it at the AGM. Also proposed that we create a working group (to be headed by 2018 chair, Lachlan Brown) who will draft the guidelines before placing the final wording on the website.

Accepted: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Fiona Morrison

Item 11 – ASAL Patrons: Proposal

Patrons for ASAL: The Executive will propose to the AGM the desirability of acting on a previously mooted idea of inviting/appointing one or two Patrons to ASAL. Previous ASAL Patrons have been distinguished by both their outstanding critical and creative contributions to Australian literary culture: A. A. Phillips, A. D. Hope (both appointed in the 1978 conference), Judith Wright and Dorothy Green (life member). (See AGM Attachment 2).

Discussion: we need to dig out information about precedent, ensuring that we learn from how it worked in the past when ASAL had several Patrons. We have established a working party on the exec – if anyone else would like to join this working party please sign up here. Noted that Lucy Sussex has asked to join the working group, along with Demelza Hall, Katie Hansord, Ellen Smith and Christina Spittel, who will report back at next AGM.

Item 12 – ASAL Mini Grants: Launch of Initiative

Mini-Grants Scheme: As agreed at the 2017 AGM, and as per the Treasurer's report, Roger Osborne has led the initiative to establish a pilot round of ASAL's Mini-Grant Scheme. This is designed particularly to support ECRs or scholars of Australian literature who may be without permanent positions and therefore lack access to institutional funding schemes. The first round of application will fall due in September this year, date to be confirmed and advertised shortly (See AGM Attachment 5). If anything occurs to people about how this pilot scheme could work please let us know – but otherwise we will announce this in a couple of weeks. The pilot round will be chaired by the VP and state reps

Item 13 – Election of 2018/2019 ASAL Executive

President: Brigid Rooney
Nominated: Fiona Morrison
Seconded: Brigitta Olubas

Vice-President: Fiona Morrison
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Brigitta Olubas

Secretary: Demelza Hall

Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Christina Spittel

Treasurer: Roger Osborne
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Demelza Hall

Communications: Katie Hansord
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Christina Spittel

Victorian Representative: Ellen Smith
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Demelza Hall

NSW Representative: Lachlan Brown
Nominated: Adelle Sefton-Rowston
Seconded: Brigid Rooney

ACT Representative: Christina Spittel
Nominated: Nicole Moore
Seconded: Brigid Rooney

Tasmanian Representative: Robert Clarke
Nominated: Demelza Hall
Seconded: Adelle Sefton-Rowston

Queensland Representative: Victoria Kuttainen
Nominated: Roger Osborne
Seconded: Brigid Rooney

South Australian Representative: Mandy Treagus
Nominated: Demelza Hall
Seconded: Brigid Rooney

West Australian Representative: Tanya Dalziell
Nominated: Elizabeth Webby
Seconded: Demelza Hall

Northern Territory Representative Adelle Sefton-Rowston
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Melissa Thorne

ECR Representative: Joseph Cummins
Nominated: Fiona Morrison
Seconded: Kate Noske

ECR Representative: Kate Noske
Nominated: Joseph Cummins
Seconded: Sue Martin

Postgraduate Representatives: Imogen Mathews

Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Christina Spittel

Postgraduate Representative: Matilda Grogan
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Melissa Thorne

Social Media Representative: Melissa Thorne
Nominated: Brigid Rooney
Seconded: Elizabeth Webby

Social Media Representative: Rachel Fetherston
Nominated: Melissa Thorne
Seconded: Brigid Rooney

Meeting close 2pm