



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue:	Via Zoom Meeting
Date:	Wednesday, 15 November 2023
Time:	1:30–3pm AEDT 10:30am–12pm AWST 12:30-2pm AEST (QLD) 1-2:30pm CDT (SA)
Approved:	

PRESENT

Fellows

Neal Ashkanasy	Nick Enfield	Kevin McConkey
Eileen Baldry	Mark Finnane	Gary McGee
Janeen Baxter	Renee Fry-McKibbin	Kate McGregor
Joan Beaumont	Adam Graycar	Felicity Meakins
Linda Botterill	David Gruen	Adam Possamai
Kathy Bowrey	Jane Hall	John Poynter
Lisa Brophy	Brian Head	David Rowe
Verity Burgmann	Richard Holden	Timothy Rowse
Kate Burridge	Terry Hull	Kim Rubenstein
Don Byrne	Muireann Irish	Jane Simpson
Wai Fong Chua	Kanishka Jayasuriya	Stephen Taylor
Catharine Coleborne	Fleur Johns	Frans Verstraten
Fang Lee Cooke	Anne Lillis	Angela Woollacott
John Cordery	Stewart Lockie	Lyn Yates
Kate Darian-Smith	Andrew Markus	

National Office

Chris Hatherly
 Anna Dennis
 Bonnie Johnson
 Clare McHugh
 Zoe Perry (Minute Taker)

AGENDA ITEM

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Professor Richard Holden President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, opened the meeting at 1.32pm.

He noted that he had received proxies from Diane Stone and Martin Parkinson.

Apologies were received from 21 Fellows:

Sharynne Aggleton
Heather Arka
Meredith Edwards
Glenn Geffen
Jane Goodall
Marilyn Haakonssen
Lorraine Lake
Diane Leder

Peter Mazerolle
Peter McAdam
Wayan McGaw
Knud McLeod
Martin McSherry
Gina Parkinson
Sharyn Rimmer
Richard Roach-Anleu

Amin Robison
Garry Rodan
Gilah Saikal
Barry Spence
Bernadette Stone
Sue Withers

2. Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair recognised the traditional owners of the lands from which Fellows were joining the meeting and recognised and paid respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders past and present.

3. Minutes

The Chair moved that the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2022, having been circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved : Don Byrne

Seconded: Catherine Coleborne

Carried

4. Acknowledgment of new Fellows & recipients of Paul Bourke Awards for Early Career Research

The Chair acknowledged and congratulated 21 new Fellows elected in 2023.

- Professor Nicholas Aroney
- Professor Michelle Arrow
- Professor David Bissell
- Professor Lisa Brophy
- Professor AJ Brown
- Professor Jonathan Corcoran
- Professor James Curran
- Professor Maureen Dollard
- Professor Billie Giles-Corti
- Professor Jenny Gore
- Professor Stan Grant
- Dr David Gruen
- Professor Muireann Irish
- Professor Terry Irving
- Professor Natalie Klein
- Professor Katharine McGregor
- Professor Philip Mendes
- Professor Sharon Naismith
- Professor Adam Possamai
- Professor Helen Skouteris
- Professor James Stellios

The Chair noted there were no Jubilee Fellows in 2023.

The Chair also congratulated the 2023 winners of the Paul Bourke Awards for Early Career Research.

- Dr Denise Angelo (ANU)
- Dr Arjuna Dibley (UoM)
- Dr Lise Lafferty (UNSW)
- Dr Ruben Loaiza-Maya (Monash)

5. President's Report

The Chair moved that the President's Report as published in the 2023 Annual Report be accepted.

The Chair thanked and acknowledged the extraordinary service of Jane Hall who concludes her term as Immediate Past President at the end of 2023. He noted Jane was a wonderful leader of the Academy during her term as President.

Furthermore, the Chair thanked Academy Treasurer Wai Fong Chua who also concludes her term at the end of 2023. He noted that Wai Fong has overseen substantial improvements to the Academy's financial management and reporting, and thanked her for her contribution.

Moved: Wai Fong Chua

Seconded: Joan Beaumont

Carried

6. Treasurer's Report

The Chair introduced the Treasurer, Professor Wai Fong Chua, to deliver the Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer gave a verbal report introducing the Audited Financial Statement. Noting:

- The Academy in a strong financial position, with net assets of \$1.62 million and secure revenue from our government block grant and membership fees
- The full year result was a statutory loss of \$35,950.
- However, this reflects a combination of operating revenues and expenditures, as well as strategic investments that had been determined in advance by the Executive Committee.
- Specifically, the Academy achieved an operating surplus of \$44,542 during the year, which was in line with our budget.
- This was offset by a net investment of \$80,492 from our Strategic Initiatives Fund in the Seriously Social podcast and communications platform and the development of our new school education program.
- Note also that the Academy took receipt of a \$300,000 donation last financial year for the establishment of the *Rechnitz Fund* for Indigenous researchers and scholarship. The first grants from this program have been awarded in September this year, so next year's financial statements and those in future years will reflect additional expenditures as this bequest is allocated in the form of grants.

The Treasurer referred Fellows to the Audited Financial Statements published in the 2022-23 Annual Report.

The Treasurer moved that the 2022/23 Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Eileen Baldry

Seconded: Neal Ashkanasy

Carried

7. Appointment of External Auditor

The Office of Regulatory Services requires the Academy's Financial Statements to be audited by a registered company auditor. To meet this requirement, the Executive Committee recommends the re-appointment of Anthony Wilson of AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd for the 2023/24 financial year.

The Treasurer moved that the current auditor, Anthony Wilson of AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd, be re-appointed for the 2023/24 financial year.

Moved: Eileen Baldry

Seconded: David Rowe

Carried

8. Confirmation of 2024-25 Fellowship Fees

Wai Fong Chua announced that at the 2022 AGM, members approved a change in the structure of membership fees to bring the Academy in line with other learned Academies, to improve equity across the Fellowship and to support the costs of running the organisation.

A new fee category with a 30% discount was introduced for Fellows working part-time (<20 hours per week) and it was agreed that the full fee rate would increase by \$50 p.a. (approx.) for three years.

Resolution

It is proposed that membership fees for 2024-25 will be set at:

- Full-time Ordinary Fellows – \$650 (inc. GST; 2023-24 rate \$600)
- Part-time Ordinary Fellows – \$455 (inc. GST; 2023-24 rate \$420)
- Retired/Overseas Fellows – \$325 (inc. GST; 2023-24 rate: \$300)
- Honorary Fellows – no fee
- Emeritus Fellows (opt in from age 80) – no fee.

Moved: David Rowe

Seconded: Terry Irving

Carried

9. Special resolution to transition to a company structure and to adopt a new constitution

The President spoke to the resolution detailed in the meeting papers. He summarised the context to the resolution, noting the Academy was incorporated as an Association under ACT legislation more than 50 years ago. He noted that with a growing and national scope of operations, including several interstate staff and coordination of events and activities outside the ACT, this association entity structure is no longer fit-for-purpose, and the Executive Committee wish to migrate the structure to that of a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee.

The primary impacts of this change will be the adoption of a new company constitution and a transfer from regulation under the Associations Act to ASIC (although still under the umbrella of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission).

In making this change, the Executive Committee has proposed a new Company Constitution, incorporating the existing Academy objects and membership processes into the appropriate model constitution provided by the ACNC.

This has been reviewed by the Executive and by a legal team, who deem that it is an appropriately structured and 'future-proof' document for the Academy in its next phase. The President advised there are further notes in the papers on the amendments from the ACNC template terms, as well as a brief discussion of some of the items, such as processes for committees and election of President, that will move to By-Laws.

Special Resolutions

In order to proceed with the migration, the Executive Committee proposes the following special resolutions.

- a) That the Academy migrate from an Incorporated Association to a Not-For-Profit Company Limited by Guarantee
- b) That in making this migration, the Academy adopt the proposed company constitution as circulated to members.

The President moved that the special resolutions be accepted.

Moved: Kevin McConkey

Seconded: Adam Graycar

Carried

10. Election of President Elect

Current Academy President, Richard Holden, advised the Academy President serves a three-year term, preceded by one year as President-Elect and followed by two years as Immediate Past President. He noted this his current term as President concludes on 31 December 2023.

As advised in a notice to all Fellows on 24 October, 2023, the Academy's Executive Committee's has nominated Professor Kate Darian-Smith for the role of President-Elect. No other nominations were received.

Therefore, it is proposed that Kate Darian-Smith is elected President Elect of the Academy commencing January, 2024.

Moved: Joan Beaumont

Seconded: Neal Ashkanasy

Carried

11. Election of Committee Chairs

The Chairs of the Academy's Committees comprise the Executive Committee: effectively the Board. The President advised three vacancies were to be filled during the AGM.

The President informed of one nomination for each of these vacancies:

- **Treasurer** – Professor Stephen Taylor, as advised with the meeting papers.
- **Panel C (History, Philosophy and Law) Committee** – Professor Nick Brown as confirmed at the recent Panel C meeting.
- **Panel D (Education, Psychology and Public Health) Committee** – Professor Don Byrne, continuing as Chair as confirmed at the recent Panel D meeting.

It is proposed that these individuals are endorsed as Chairs of Committees, and in that capacity as members of the Academy's Executive Committee.

Moved: Nick Enfield

Seconded: Linda Botterill

Carried

12. CEO's Report

The CEO, Dr Chris Hatherly, acknowledged his National Office colleagues and the many Fellows who contributed to the Academy's success in the past year. He then spoke to his report as published in the 2023 Annual Report, noting highlights of the reporting period of the 2022-23 financial year including:

- The award of the inaugural Rechnitz Fund grants to three outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars. These awards were presented at a gathering of the Parliamentary Friends of Social Science at the beginning of SSW in September to outstanding early-career researchers who stand to make a very significant impact through their research.

- President Richard Holden gave an address to the National Press Club in November, in his capacity as President of the Academy.
- The Academy's Policy Program is building momentum. On the day of the AGM, the Office of the Chief Scientist and ACOLA launched a major report on Modernising Research Assessment that was led by chair of our Policy Committee Kevin McConkey. Also on the same day as the AGM, the Academy is concurrently leading a policy roundtable and parliamentary launch event on Youth Policy with departmental, ministerial and community stakeholders.
- Conclusion of the Academy's very successful Seriously Social Podcast that has brought the expertise and insights of Fellows and other social scientists to new audiences for over 60 episodes and more than 115,000 downloads. The Academy looks forward to continuing this important engagement work in new forms over the coming years.
- Lastly, the CEO thanked Wai Fong Chua and Jane Hall who have contributed enormously to the Academy through their roles on the Executive Committee over the past years. He further thanked Richard, other Executive members, all of the many Fellow's who've contributed to and supported the Academy's work in so many ways, and colleagues in the National Office.

13. Highlights

Policy

Chair of the Policy Committee, Professor Kevin McConkey, thanked the committee, the policy team at the National Office and the Fellows who contribute to the Committee's work, and spoke on:

- The participation of the Academy in a number of relevant reviews including the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Australian Universities Accord.
- The Youth Policy Roundtable facilitated by the Academy.
- The launch of a report '*Research Assessment in Australia: Evidence for Modernisation*' in collaboration with ACOLA for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

Communications and RAP

The CEO spoke on the Communication Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), noting:

- The conclusion of the Seriously Social Podcast after 60 episodes.
- Social Sciences Week, which the Academy assumed responsibility for 3 years ago. Events across Australia are organised by other organisations, professional associations, universities, schools and departments. SSW in 2023 was the largest yet, with the Academy itself running 8 events in this years program including the Parliamentary Friends Breakfast, The Great Debate and two improv theatre adaptations of Fellows' research.
- In 2021 the Academy launched its *Reflect* RAP, and the Academy has now progressed to the *Innovate* RAP. An outcomes report for the *Reflect* RAP is currently being developed.
- The Academy took a strong stand in supporting a 'Yes' vote in the Referendum. The Academy released a statement after the outcome confirming its ongoing support and priority of promoting reconciliation.

International Program

Chair of the International Committee and International Secretary, Professor Fleur Johns, spoke on the work of the international program at the Academy:

- The Academy played a key role in the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) 25th biennial conference, held in Korea in June 2023. This was also the 50th

anniversary of AASSREC. Michelle Bruce was re-elected as Secretary General and Academy Fellow Professor Hugh White presented at the conference.

- The Academy has received a grant of CAD\$1.2M from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of the Canadian Government to support a program of social science research capacity building and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region. The program will run for 3 years and be administered by the AASSREC Secretariat currently administered by the Academy.
- Both the ASSA-CASS Joint Action Program and the Australia-France Collaborative Research Program are continuing.
- The Academy remains involved in the International Science Council (ISC) and has supported Fellows to be involved in various ISC Committee's, including the Honourable Mr. Robert French, Emeritus Professor Ray McLeod and Professor Fang Lee Cook.

Grants and Awards Committee

Chair of Grants and Awards Committee, Professor Neal Ashkanasy spoke on:

- The four Paul Bourke Award winners for 2023, Dr Denise Angelo, Dr Lise Lafferty, Dr Arjuna Dibley and Dr Ruben Loaiza-Maya.
- Each year the committee allocates \$72,000 in funding for workshops. This year saw nearly 30 applications, with 8 of those being awarded workshop funding.
- The Committee will also oversee the Rechnitz Award currently being finalised.

The Chair thanked the Committee Chairs and representatives for their reports and the AGM **noted** the reports.

14. Panel Committee Reports

Panel A Committee: People, Place, Culture and Communication

The Panel A Chair, Professor Nick Enfield, gave a report on the activity of Panel A, noting that at the Panel meeting before the AGM the following was discussed:

Panel A Committee membership update:

- Acknowledged Roland Bleiker, Yi-chong Xu, Emma Kowal and Robert van Krieken who are renewing their terms on the committee; and acknowledged other current serving committee members.

8 New Fellows in Panel A:

- David Bissell (Human Geography), Lisa Brophy (Social Work), AJ Brown (Political Science), Jonathan Corcoran (Human Geography), Philip Mendes (Social Work), Adam Possamai (Sociology), Stan Grant (Communication & Media), Billie Giles-Corti (Built Environment and Design)

The Paul Bourke Award winner in Panel A for 2023 was Dr Denise Angelo.

The Panel Chair reported on issues raised by Fellows in the recent Panel meeting, including:

- Members asked what the Academy had been doing to engage with Government around research funding and changes to student fees for Humanities and Social Science subjects
- The Academy's response to the Voice referendum outcome
- Potential action to reverse the decline in languages education in Australian schools

- A hope that the Academy may be able to continue producing the Seriously Social podcast, given its value in helping to promote understanding and awareness of the social sciences in contemporary society

Panel B Committee: Business and Economics

The Panel B Chair Professor Renee McKibbin, gave a report on the activity of Panel B, noting that at the Panel meeting before the AGM the following was discussed:

Panel B Committee membership update:

- Acknowledged members of the Panel Committee who have concluded their terms: Lisa Cameron, Pauline Grosjean & Carol Kulik
- Acknowledged Neal Ashkanasy will renew his term on the committee; and acknowledged other current serving committee members

1 New Fellow in Panel B:

- David Gruen (Economics)

The Paul Bourke Award winner in Panel B for 2023 was Dr Ruben Loaiza-Maya.

The Panel Chair reported on issues raised by Fellows in the recent Panel meeting, including:

- Members discussed the substantially lower number of nominees elected in panel B this year compared to previous election rounds. It was noted that the overall number of Fellows elected in 2023 was lower than in previous years, and that election criteria were becoming more stringent as a result. The importance of strong assessor reports was noted, along with the new option for proposers to suggest assessors as part of the nomination process.

Panel C Committee: History, Law and Philosophy

The Panel C Chair, Professor Kate Darian-Smith, gave a report on the activity of Panel C, noting that at the Panel meeting before the AGM the following was discussed:

Panel C Committee membership update:

- Kate Darian-Smith concluding as Panel Chair in December 2023
- Acknowledged members of the Panel Committee who have concluded their terms: Helen Irving & Nathalie Nguyen as well as Chair Kate Darian-Smith, and acknowledged continuing members as well
- Welcomed new committee members Catherine Coleborne, Kate McGregor, Michelle Arrow and James Curran
- Acknowledged that Nicholas Brown will be commencing as Panel Chair from January 2024

7 New Fellows in Panel C:

- Nicholas Aroney (Law), Michelle Arrow (History), James Curran (History), Terry Irving (History), Natalie Klein (Law), Kate McGregor (History), James Stellios (Law)

The Paul Bourke Award winner in Panel C for 2023 was Dr Arjuna Dibley

The Panel Chair reported on issues raised by Fellows in the recent Panel meeting, including:

- Discussion about the need for better support for mid-career researchers; noting the new SHAPE Futures network that had been established by the Academy in partnership with the Australian Academy of the Humanities
- The intent of several Fellows to arrange a conference on AUKUS with an offer of support from the Academy secretariat. There was strong support for this topic from Panel members

- A suggestion for the Academy to consider a symposium or other activities on the nature and importance of activism
- A suggestion that the Academy may wish to engage with and counter the narrative that emerged during the referendum campaign disparaging elites

Panel D Committee: Education, Psychology and Public Health

The Panel D Chair, Professor Don Byrne, gave a report on the activity of Panel D, noting that at the Panel meeting before the AGM the following was discussed:

Panel D Committee membership update:

- Noted that Anne Castles and Kim Cornish will renew their terms on the committee for an additional 3 years, and acknowledged other current serving committee members.
- Acknowledged that Don Byrne has agreed to renew his term as Panel Chair.

5 New Fellows in Panel D:

- Maureen Dollard (Psychology), Jenny Gore (Education), Muireann Irish (Psychology), Sharon Naismith (Psychology), Helen Skouteris (Health Sciences)

The Paul Bourke Award winner in Panel D for 2023 was Dr Lise Lafferty

The Panel Chair reported on issues raised by Fellows in the recent Panel meeting, including:

- An issue of concern regarding the increasing militarisation in Australian universities, with funding from defence for research on things such as weapons manufacturing, and a desire for there to be checks on the ethical and humanitarian outcomes of the research, just as there are ethical guidelines around human research. This was supported amongst the Panel members present.
- In response, some members cautioned against censorship and questioned where the boundaries may be regarding moral boundaries and unintentional consequences of research. Some members also warned against inappropriately restricting the actions of Fellows and the importance of ensuring that advice does not reflect any particular political perspective.
- Members attending raised question of whether the Academy should have a formal position on research ethics, extending beyond formal guidelines and addressing issues such as fee-for-service research and partnerships with defence industry.

The Chair noted the sad passing of Academy Fellows in Panel D, Ron Taft age 103 and Norm Feather age 97.

The Chair thanked the Panel Chairs and CEO for their reports and the AGM **noted** the Panel Chair reports.

15. State Convenor Reports

The Chair invited the State Convenors to report on the activity in their states during the year.

South Australia

Academy CEO Dr Chris Hatherly gave the report on behalf of convenors for South Australia, Professor Sharyn Roach Anleu and Professor Marika Tiggemann, who were unable to attend the AGM. He noted:

The SA Chapter of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia held four very successful dinner meetings during 2023. Each was held at the the Vileroy restaurant, in Norwood. They enjoyed the vibrant discussions, the stimulating presentations and each other's news.

The Convenors thanked Anna Dennis, ASSA Events Manager, for liaising regarding these events, especially managing the registration process, and the reimbursements. They also expressed appreciation for the

work and attention of Grant and Kimberly at the Villeroy.

We appreciate the Academy's support of these meetings and look forward to the 2024 calendar of events.

- The SA Chapter held four successful dinner meetings during 2023, each being held at the Vileroy restaurant in Norwood:
 - 26 April: Margaret Davies on Law, Life, and the Normativity of Nature
 - 21 June: Claire Williams on adventures in work research
 - 16 August: Martha Augustinos on the social psychology of hate speech
 - 18 October: Wilf Prest on the Wakefield Companion to South Australian History: What makes SA different?

Victoria

Academy CEO Dr Chris Hatherly gave the report on behalf of convenors for Victoria, Professor Greg Bamber, Professor Dennis Trewin and Professor Beth Webster, who were unable to attend the AGM. He noted:

The Victorian Branch hosted an event for Fellows on 12 October. They were very fortunate to have a very thoughtful presentation by President Richard Holden on the potential of artificial intelligence for improving national productivity. A lively discussion was led off by Prof Fang Lee Cooke of the Department of Management at Monash University. About 25 Fellows attended and enjoyed chatting over canapes and drinks as well as Richard's presentation.

Queensland

The convenor for the Queensland, Professor Neal Ashkanasy, provided an overview of activity in that state. He noted:

The Queensland Branch held a dinner addressed by Professor Leon Mann on the topic of the Rechnitz Fund, with Ralph O'Brien in attendance also. Fellow Bronwyn Fredericks gave a moving talk about the Yes campaign. Fellows in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Australian Capital Territory

The convenor for the Australian Capital Territory, Professor Linda Botterill, provided an overview of activity in that territory. She noted:

The ACT branch held two events in 2023. The first at Daana Indian restaurant with Professor Stewart Ward from Copenhagen giving a talk on his newly released book and what the end of Britain means to Australia. The second dinner held at Wild Duck saw David Kalisch speaking on opportunities for working with government and evidence-based policy. The evening was filled with stimulating debate, and plans for next year's events are underway.

Western Australia

The convenor for the Western Australia, Professor Kanishka Jayasuriya, provided an overview of activity in that state (on behalf of his co-convenor Garry Rodan). He noted:

The Western Australian branch took a different approach this year to promote social sciences in secondary schools. They organised a SSW event on the theme of *Making Social Change Happen*. The event involved a senior established social scientist and EMCR to give presentations with Geoff Gallop leading the panel, and the event attracted a good audience of school teachers and students.

The Chair thanked the State Convenors for their reports and the AGM **noted** the State Convenors reports.

16. Other Business

Fellow Kanishka Jayasuriya raised the issue of Academic freedom in Australia and the region, suggesting there are new threats to academic freedom and the legitimacy of certain subject areas. He advised of targeted intimidation and harassment by more conservative political movements and proposed that the Academy hold a joint symposium with the Academy of Humanities to discuss and address these issues and show solidarity with those in the region who are suffering, particularly those in India and Indonesia.

17. Closure

With thanks to National Office and attendees for a successful meeting the Chair closed the meeting at 2:49pm