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### 2017 Annual General Meeting

The 2017 AGM was held in the New Law Theatre Room 106, University of Sydney, on Thursday, 6th July, at 4.00pm.

**Attendance (financial members):** Chika Anyanwu; Renée Barnes; Felicity Biggins; Diana Bossio; Chris Chesher; Katrina Clifford; Caryn Coatney; Cate Dowd; Kate Fitch; Janet Fulton; Gerard Goggin; Elizabeth Goode; Elizabeth Gray; Lelia Green; Roxanna Holdsworth; Travis Holland; Brett Hutchins; Christina Koutsoukos; Terence Lee; Fiona Martin; Donald Matheson; Kerry McCallum; Phillip McIntyre; Colleen Mills; Marilyn Mitchell; Kyle Moore; David Nolan; Caitlin Parr; Michelle Phillipov; Anna Potter; Scott Rickard; Usha Rodrigues; Mary Simpson; Frank Sligo; Jolyon Sykes; Margaret Van Heekeren; C Kay Weaver; Rowan Wilkin; Michele Willson; Lucia Wursch (40)

**Attendance (unfinancial members):** Jonathon Hutchinson; Pita Shelford; Lisa Waller (3)

**Attendance (non-members):** Trudy Aile(?); Holly Randell-Moon (2)

### Minutes

1. Phillip McIntyre opened the meeting, welcomed those attending and asked for apologies.  
Apologies: Stephanie Brookes, Terry Flew.
2. Confirmation of minutes of the 2016 AGM.

**Motion:** that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted.

Moved, Margaret Van Heekeren, Seconded Mary Simpson. Carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes. Any business arising will be dealt with in the reports and in general business.
4. President's report: After acknowledging the first custodians of Sydney University's land, Phillip McIntyre thanked members for the opportunity to be president and speak on ANZCA's behalf. He then spoke to his report, a written version of which will soon be available from the website. Phillip McIntyre reported on the legal advice he obtained from the UON Legal Centre regarding the failed conversion of the website. The matter was resolved in the NSW Small Claims Tribunal. This will be mentioned in the website report.  
Regarding the need to increase membership, Phillip McIntyre said that a number of things are in train. They will come through in general business and might necessitate amendments to the constitution. Phillip McIntyre and Jolyon Sykes are to model the financial implications of any changes.

Phillip McIntyre thanked Diana Bossio and her team for their social media contribution and suggested that all members communicate through Facebook page,

@ANZCAAnnualConference for all ANZCA matters, not just the annual conference.

He thanked Liz Goode, Kyle Moore and Pita Shelford for the pre-conference program, which is proving to be a very valuable event. As one of the reviewers, he commented on the high quality of the post-grad papers at this conference.

Phillip McIntyre acknowledged the work of the IAMCR representative, Chika Anyanwu, as well as the ICA representative, Colleen Mills, in keeping ANZCA's external focus.

Phillip McIntyre said that our ongoing relationship with the journals, *MIA* and *CRP*, is vital for publishing research and both journals have gone ahead significantly under the editorships of Terry Flew and Rowan Wilkin. The figures on world-wide scholarly engagement are spectacular and both local editors deserve a round of applause. Phillip McIntyre also thanked

the reviewers for their support and said that both journals are now looking for editors. He thanked Bridget Griffen-Foley for her role in organizing the new MIA board. Phillip McIntyre also thanked Elizabeth Gray for maintaining our presence in the Royal Society.

Given the ongoing changes in higher education in Australia, Phillip McIntyre is curious as to whether CHASS is lobbying effectively on our behalf. He intends to discuss this issue with CHASS during the next two months and after the transition to Gerard Goggin's presidency. Lastly, he thanked Gerard Goggin, Jonathon Hutchinson, Fiona, Fuchsia Sellars and the entire team for this conference.

**Motion:** that the president's report be accepted. Moved, Diana Bossio. Seconded, Colleen. Carried.

5. Secretary-treasurer's report, including the auditor's, financial, budget and website report: Jolyon Sykes spoke to these reports, which have been available on the website. This year, the auditor accepted his bookkeeping without amendment or question, possibly for the first time.

**Motion:** that the 2016–17 auditor's report be accepted. Moved, Janet Fulton. Seconded, Diana Bossio. Carried.

**Motion:** that Gorrell Long Robertson be reappointed as auditor for 2017–18. Moved, Janet Fulton. Seconded, Diana Bossio. Carried.

5. Secretary-treasurer's report: Jolyon Sykes reported that the membership remained stable and is now at 135 as people joined or renewed ahead of the conference. Ten percent of the total are student members and there are six life members.

The Annual Return was lodged on time by the Public Officer, Kerry McCallum.

Moving to the financial report, Jolyon Sykes said that the trend towards Paypal is continuing, with over 80% choosing that method. He said that ANZCA finished the year with a surplus of \$24,000, mainly because of conference income. In addition, expenditure was less than budgeted, because the invoice from Sage for publishing *MIA* didn't arrive until after the end of the financial year. If that is taken into account, the surplus is approximately \$8,500.

Next year, Jolyon Sykes said he is expecting a deficit of \$9,500 after allowing for a lower surplus of \$5,000 from this conference, the costs of publishing the two journals and website costs of \$5,000 (\$1,500 for hosting and support, and \$3,500 for 100 hours of Jolyon Sykes's time, updating and minor trouble-shooting). This deficit will reduce ANZCA's cash at the bank from \$88,000 to \$78,000 but hopefully in future years the journals and conferences will generate more income, enabling a return to annual surpluses.

Discussion: It was suggested that we put a short questionnaire on the website asking new members what attracted them to joining ANZCA. While the journals are expensive, they are central to what ANZCA does and financial considerations should not override that issue.

5. Website report: Jolyon Sykes reported that, after a tumultuous year, the website has now returned to its primary role of facilitating communication with and between members. ANZCA-Announce is now working properly after being out of service for over a year. Neither the website host Internet Thinking, the author of the component Mailster, nor Jolyon Sykes understands why it went down or why it has apparently repaired itself.

The website's content management system is still Joomla, despite Jolyon Sykes's efforts to have it converted to Wordpress. At the last AGM, he expressed concern at the lack of progress, which turned out to be the result of the company, Ontopseo, contracted to do the work not possessing the necessary expertise and grossly underestimating the work. Jolyon Sykes gave Ontopseo the opportunity to terminate the contract but it elected to proceed at the same price. Ontopseo then commenced invoicing ANZCA for the full value of the work at an inflated hourly rate. Phillip McIntyre obtained advice from the University of Newcastle Legal Centre and Jolyon Sykes took the matter to the NSW Small Claims Tribunal, which caused Ontopseo to cease working on the conversion and to cease invoicing ANZCA.

In the meantime, there was a major upgrade of Joomla and third party components, making the conversion unnecessary in Jolyon Sykes's opinion. He obtained one further quote of \$4,290 but he decided that expenditure would be difficult to justify. He is holding the quote as a back-up and suggests remaining with Joomla at least in the short term.

Jolyon Sykes noted that we still don't have the availability of different forums or blogs for students and for the executive but he believes this facility will become available shortly. The website is still blocking people for no apparent reason and is still open for people to register with amusing names but Jolyon Sykes says he is managing these issues.

**Motion:** that the 2016–17 secretary-treasurer's and website report be accepted.

Moved, Diana Bossio. Seconded, Jonathon Hutchinson.

Discussion: It was agreed that, when any new website is commissioned, it needs to include all existing information, previous conference papers, Steven Maras's dossier, as well as past award-winners. Carried.

6. 2016 conference final report: Janet Fulton said there were 151 people attending the conference. It made a profit of over \$30,000, which has gone to ANZCA. There were only ten conference papers uploaded to the website this year because arrangements had been made to publish papers in *CRP*, *MIA* and *Global Media Australia*. *Platform* published a special ANZCA 2016 edition organized by Elizabeth Goode and Caitlin McGregor. The conference also produced a book, *Creating Space in the Fifth Estate*, edited by Janet Fulton and Phillip McIntyre. Janet Fulton's report is available on the website.

Discussion: It was suggested that a list of publications be included on the website. Agreed.

**Motion:** that the 2016 conference report be accepted. Agreed.

7. 2017 conference preliminary report: Gerard Goggin thanked people for attending and said that he, Fiona Martin, Jonathon Hutchinson and organizer Fuchsia Sellars, together with a number of colleagues from the department had a great time organizing the conference. He thanked past conference organizers for their advice. There were around 240 abstracts, fifteen panels, and the opening plenary, which will be matched by a closing plenary tomorrow. The annual Mayer Lecture will follow, the first time it has been included in an ANZCA conference. Kyle reported that around fifty people came to the postgrad event out of 82 registrations in two rounds. It was a long day but very enjoyable, with Fuchsia Sellars's help.

Gerard Goggin said they had around 55 submissions for publication and he hopes to emulate Newcastle's success in publication. Feedback is due at the end of July, feedback in August, and publication before the end of the year. Sue Jarvis is helping with that process and there are other publications being organized, including *CRP*, *Platform* and a *MIA* special issue.

Gerard Goggin raised the issue of supporting sessional academics to attend conferences. There are obvious financial difficulties but if a concessional rate is offered to just a few people, there will be an equity problem. This adds to Phillip McIntyre's discussion paper, to be discussed later.

The approach taken was everyone paid for the full conference, with no day rate or concessions. This decision was not popular but the budget was based on full registrations.

The conference management system used was Easy Chair, and the conference paid the full fee required. Gerard Goggin raised the possibility of using a standard system for all conferences. Easy Chair has no manual but it could be developed in successive conferences. Emerald is another possibility.

Gerard Goggin suggested that ANZCA considers formal agreements or memoranda of agreements with host organizations and that we obtain additional sponsorships from book publishers.

The social media presence needs to be maximized.

The streams are another issue. The number seems to be growing and might need to be rationalized. Stream co-ordinators do a lot of the work but some streams are artefacts from earlier conferences and don't really hold up. Comment: Renée Barnes in Perth used keywords rather than streams. There are still issues around getting it right and getting referees. Gerard Goggin organized the streams using Easy Chair but there could be fewer of them. Perhaps people could bid for streams in emerging areas.

International visitors should be spread between panels.

**Motion:** that the 2017 conference preliminary report be accepted.

Moved, Chika Anyanwu. Seconded, Scott Rickard. Carried.

8. *Communication Research and Practice* report: Terry Flew was not present but his report had been available on the website. Phillip McIntyre commented that the figures appearing in the report are spectacular. For example, downloads in 2016 had trebled the 2015 number. Almost 2,500 institutions world-wide have access to *CRP*, and 70 percent of downloads are to countries outside Australia and New Zealand. Terry Flew has added to the editorial board and to the reviewing process and Phillip McIntyre congratulated him on the journal's achievements. Phillip McIntyre said that these journals are central to what ANZCA does and, as Terry Flew's agreed term has expired, he asked for expressions of interest for editing what has become a very good journal.

Colleen Mills said that she had edited a special issue using the website and would not be interested in a term as editor unless the website was working properly. She confirmed that the special issue will be appearing as a book at no cost to ANZCA and that ANZCA would be paid a royalty of three percent.

**Motion:** that the 2017 *CRP* report be accepted. Moved, Chika Anyanwu.

Seconded, David Nolan. Carried.

9. *Media International Australia* report: Rowan Wilkin said that *MIA* has been through a process of renewal and transformation. There is a new board in place; a new editorial advisory group; and the maximum wordage is now 5–8,000 instead of 5,000. There has been a lot of hard work by a lot of people and Rowan Wilkin expressed his thanks to all of them. He thanked Bridget Griffen Foley for driving the process through the interim executive as well as Gerard Goggin and Brett Hutchins and ANZCA for ongoing support. He is pleased with the current exciting state of *MIA*.

Themed issues are now locked in until 2020, which seems like a long time but Sage's processes require long lead times. The May bumper issue on children's television is now out; the issue based on last year's conference is coming out in August; there will be an issue on the Canberra Press Gallery; the issue coming from this conference on indigenous communication and social media; one on controlling children's data; another on apps; and one on the Chinese policy diaspora.

Rowan Wilkin reported that other highlights are the 43,000 full-text downloads last year and over 31,500 so far this year, indicating a good level of scholarly engagement. Downloads of the back catalogue are also healthy as the journal gets better known through Sage's network. The acceptance rate is 54% and the average decision time is around 38 days. In common with other journal editors, Rowan Wilkin is finding that securing referees to be quite difficult and thanked those people who had helped with refereeing.

He denied the rumours that it is taking two years to get an article published. If an article is being considered for a policy experiment themed issue coming out in 2020, that is the case but general articles take 38 days for a decision and 28 days for production, just over nine weeks.

Rowan Wilkin confirmed that he is calling for expressions of interest in the position of editor. Those interested should contact either Brett Hutchins or Rowan Wilkin directly.

A suggestion was made that anyone interested in a term as editor of either journal might talk to the president who could ask the candidate's institution for institutional recognition or reciprocity. Some institutions may be able to support their staff as editor of either journal and ANZCA might acknowledge that support.

There was an expression of gratitude to Rowan Wilkin from the floor for his editorship. Carried.

**Motion:** that the 2017 *MIA* report be accepted. Moved, Diana Bossio.

Seconded, Donald Matheson. Carried.

10. Social media report: Diana Bossio said that the main change in the Facebook presence is that she has merged the ANZCA Official and the ANZCA Conference handles. Unfortunately, the conference page had more Likes so we have ended up with the Conference handle. She has been trying to get a student to help with content but the problem is that content dries up once the conference flurry has finished. Diana Bossio asked for people to send her publication details and short profiles for publication on Facebook.

**Motion:** that the 2017 social media report be accepted. Carried.

11. IAMCR representative report: Chika Anyanwu said that the annual IAMCR conference will be held in Cartagena, Colombia from 16th to 20th July but the ANZCA panel suggested last year did not eventuate because no members plan to attend. Next year's conference will be in the USA and it would be good to organize an ANZCA panel if a few of our members are going. Once the call for panels is issued, Chika Anyanwu will circulate it and find out who might be going.

Chika Anyanwu is chair of IAMCR's Committee for Academic Life, which is conducting a global survey of academic working conditions. Unlike some other countries, Australian and New Zealand academics do not face sanctions for travelling and attending conferences. The executive has agreed that ANZCA be part of the survey, which will be done through ANZCA-Announce so as to avoid identifying institutions.

**Motion:** that the 2017 IAMCR report be accepted. Moved, Travis Holland. Seconded. Carried.

12. ICA representative report: Colleen began by reporting that ICA did not support the proposed link with the 2018 ANZCA conference in Auckland because the criteria were not met.

Marilyn continued, announcing that Bond and the Brisbane universities have won the bid to host ICA in May 2020 on the Gold Coast, an initiative of Gold Coast Tourism and Terry Flew (QUT). ICA will be at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from 21st to 25th May (Memorial Day) and ICA is proposing that ANZCA hold its 2020 conference as a two-day preconference. The host institution for ANZCA 2020 is yet to be decided.

Discussion: the three options were discussed: have ANZCA at the usual time (July 2020), have ANZCA as a two-day ICA preconference or do both. It was felt that our members will be expecting a normal ANZCA conference at the normal time because of teaching commitments, that doing both was impracticable, that two-days would not be adequate, that it would be difficult to compete with the other preconferences, that very few people attend both and so the combined travel would not be an incentive, and that ANZCA does not stand to gain. The combined conference attempted in 1994 was described as an unsatisfactory shemozzle. The meeting decided to run ANZCA 2020 as normal in July and not to attempt the preconference. As there is an ANZCA panel at ICA 2018 in Prague, any response will be taken into account. It was suggested that we set up a working group to liaise with ICA before 2020 to explore any opportunities.

**Motion:** that the 2020 ANZCA conference be moved and become an ICA preconference.

Moved, Marilyn Mitchell. Seconded, Caitlin McGregor. Discussion: there are three options: One, leave things as they are; two, we establish a working group to encourage a closer relationship with ICA but not necessarily through a preconference; three, we move the 2020 conference and it becomes a preconference. Option two was carried.

- Colleen Mills confirmed the 2018 ICA conference in Prague presents an opportunity for ANZCA to include one panel. The usual format is four papers, which can be multi-authored, a chair and a respondent but there are other models. She called for ideas.

**Motion:** that the 2017 ICA report be accepted. Carried.

13. Postgraduate and early career researchers report: Liz Goode affirmed the value of this event and hopes that it continues. She also called for postgrads and ECRs to post their profiles on Facebook in order to gain recognition. The other issue is that there is a low number of postgrad members of ANZCA.

Discussion: It was suggested that supervisors promote postgrad membership.

**Motion:** that the 2017 ECR report be accepted. Moved, Felicity Biggins.

Seconded, Scott Rickard. Carried

16. Announcement of 2018 and 2019 conference venues (out of order by agreement). Mary asked members to spread the word that the 2018 conference will be in Auckland, hosted by the University of Auckland, and distributed flyers she had had printed ahead of the executive decision. Mary Simpson said that Elizabeth Gray will be organizing the conference but does not want to be president in the following year. Mary Simpson has agreed to accept that position, with the agreement of the meeting. A team is in place and has started work.

**Motion:** that the 2018 conference report be accepted and that the 2018 conference be held in Auckland. Moved, Phillip McIntyre. Carried

14. Regional Representatives' Reports. Michele Phillipov (WA rep) spoke briefly to her report, which was available on the website. WACCM, a coalition of four WA universities, held an inaugural event in January, which included a panel discussion on feedback. A WACCM Facebook page was started and was well-received. Another event, Gender and the Everyday, has been organized for late September. All enquiries should go to [wacclist@gmail.com](mailto:wacclist@gmail.com).

**Motion:** that the 2017 WA report be accepted. Carried

15. Phillip McIntyre said that the winners of the Anne Dunn, Christopher Newell, Grant Noble and President's service will be announced at 2.00pm tomorrow (Friday).
17. Election of office bearers for 2017–18. Phillip McIntyre said that, after September 1st, Gerard Goggin will be President, Mary Vice-president, and he will be Immediate Past President. The two journal reps will remain until they are replaced. Jolyon Sykes read out the other positions. Colleen Mills nominated Kay Weaver for the vacant NZ rep position. Roxanna Holdsworth volunteered as NZ student rep.

**Motion:** that these appointments be accepted. Moved, Jonathon Hutchinson.  
Seconded Rowan Wilkin. Agreed.

18. Other business, brought forward from the executive committee. Phillip McIntyre's discussion paper on formalizing the membership of sessional and casual academics has been available on the website. He added that a website has been set up for contract, adjunct and sessional academics (CASA) (<https://actualcasuals.wordpress.com/casa/>). Phillip McIntyre noted that CASA's campaign has relevance for ANZCA in terms of conference registration fees and membership fees.

Discussion: At least two early career researchers dropped out of the Newcastle conference because they could not afford the fee. There was general agreement that ANZCA does need to address this problem, firstly, by finding out how many sessional academics are members, how many attended Newcastle and Sydney, secondly, how many more might attend and then to model the effects of any proposed changes. We should clarify the issues for sessionals and consider offering bursaries or scholarships for conferences as well as discounted membership fees. It has been found that application criteria are difficult to formulate and to apply. If we decide to add a new type of membership, its name could be contentious. The term "exceptional membership" was suggested, as used by the ICA. Application criteria need to be agreed and how to present any changes to potential members so that they can make a case for exceptional membership. Another suggestion was to charge more for full-time professors and associate professors with continuing (tenured) appointments but without becoming greedy. The difficulty presented by some institutions not funding conference attendance and membership fees while others do also needs to be addressed. If we decide to make changes to conference fees, it will have to be done well ahead of the 2019 conference because of publicity lead times.

Phillip McIntyre will write another discussion paper with more detail across a number of scenarios.

**Motion:** that the ANZCA constitution be amended if necessary to accommodate the recommendations of the executive regarding classes of membership.

19. Other business. None.

20. Next meeting. In conjunction with the 2018 conference in Auckland.

Phillip McIntyre thanks those members attending and the meeting closed at 6.15pm.