



Australian
Historical
Association

Annual General Meeting

5.00–6.00pm

Thursday 6 July 2017

Newcastle

Room UNH416, University House, cnr King
Street and Auckland Street, Newcastle NSW

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Executive reports
 - 3.1 President's report (Lynette Russell)
 - 3.2 Vice-president's report (Joy Damousi)
 - 3.3 Secretary's report (Alison Holland)
 - 3.4 Treasurer's report (Paul Sendziuk)
 - 3.5 Prizes and awards report (Tim Rowse)
 - 3.6 Membership report (Karen Downing)
 - 3.7 Teaching and learning report (Martin Crotty)
 - 3.8 *History Australia* Editors' report (Melanie Oppenheimer, Matt Fitzpatrick, Catherine Kevin)
 - 3.9 Postgraduate student representatives' report (Daniel May, Melanie Burkett, Annemarie McLaren)
 - 3.10 Early career researcher representatives' report (Carolyn Holbrook, Margaret Hutchison)
 - 3.11 HTAA representative's report (Rosalie Triolo)
 - 3.12 Executive Officer's report (Ann Standish)
4. AHA conferences
 - 4.1 AHA Conference 2018: Australian National University (Sam Furphy)
 - 4.2 AHA Conference 2019: University of Southern Queensland (Catherine Dewhirst)
6. Other business

**Your presence at this meeting is welcome and needed.
Please bring this agenda with you.**

3.6 Membership report, Karen Downing

2017 AHA survey

The first survey of AHA members was conducted this year. We initially closed the survey in February but we were disappointed with just 72 responses from our approximately 900 members. We reopened the survey to both members and non-members with a deadline of the end of April and 417 people completed it. I would like to personally thank all those who responded.

A summary of the findings is available on the [AHA website](#) and a [detailed report](#) can be downloaded.

We are heartened to know that the AHA successfully creates a sense of community among historians. Our weekly email newsletter is highly valued by members for its role in this community building as well as the useful information it contains. Similarly, the annual AHA conference is valued not only for its intellectual stimulation but for its networking opportunities and general collegiality. We also received frank comments on areas in which the AHA can improve. The Executive Committee takes this data seriously. It will inform our planning and our communications with members in the future.

Encouraging use of the AHA website

The 2017 survey indicated that many members are unaware of the value of logging into the AHA website to access member-only content. To explain the benefits and give some guidance for using the website, I produced a website ‘tips’ flyer for inclusion in conference satchels and a YouTube ‘tutorial’.

Website development

We made an improvement to our online events calendar with the addition of a filter that allows users to find events by location, type and date and makes the calendar far more useful to members.

Membership statistics

	September 2016	December 2016	March 2017	June 2017
Individual	424	415	382	334
Student	252	242	299	226
Concession	217	211	185	137

Teacher	10	12	8	13
Low income			11	28
Affiliate	14	15	12	13
Affiliate (5 years)	2	2	2	2
Life	5	5	5	4
Total	924	900	834	757

Social media statistics

	September 2016	December 2016	March 2017	June 2017
Facebook	840	856	888	940
Twitter	1428	1502	1599	1651

3.7 *History Australia* Editors' report (Melanie Oppenheimer, Matt Fitzgerald, Catherine Kevin)

The year from July 2016 has been one of settling into and taking full advantage of Taylor and Francis and the ScholarOne system. After a complex transition process, we can now report that the *History Australia*/Taylor and Francis publishing wheels are moving swiftly and smoothly.

PERSONNEL

The editorial team would like to thank Dr Karen Agutter and Dr Annmarie Reid who have been our Editorial Assistants in this period. Karen worked with us until early 2017 seeing us through the transition to Taylor and Francis with a great deal of skill and professionalism. Annmarie took the baton from Karen, found her feet quickly and has been an invaluable support this year. We gratefully acknowledge the crucial financial assistance provided by the School of History and International Relations and the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Flinders University that has allowed us to employ an Editorial Assistant. We also welcome Dr Meggie Hutchison (ADFA, UNSW) and Dr Romain Fathi (Flinders) to the editorial team. Meggie has replaced Dr Nathan Wise (UNE) as a book reviews editor and Romain has come on board as an editorial trainee. We take this opportunity to thank them, Dr Andrekos Varnava (book reviews editor) and Dr Laina Hall (exhibition reviews editor) for all their hard work.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Last year we reported on changes to the Editorial Board, including eight new members. We are pleased to report that since then we have also welcomed Professor James Beattie (Victoria University), Dr Shino Konishi (UWA), Professor Sandra Wilson (Murdoch) and Professor Angela Woollocott (ANU) to the Board with a view to further extending its geographical reach and range of expertise. At our annual meeting with members of the Editorial Board, we discussed a set of protocols, including a review of the Editorial Board every three years and opportunities for more structured and regular communication between the editorial team and Board.

TAYLOR AND FRANCIS PRIZE

It was with great pleasure that we recently awarded Dr Laura Rademaker the inaugural *History Australia* Taylor and Francis prize for the best article published in 2016. ““Only

cuppa tea Christians”: colonisation, authentic indigeneity and the missionary linguist’ was published in issue 13(2).

SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE RATES

Due to the fact that we have been working in a hybrid online-offline system, the figures Taylor and Francis have provided do not exactly represent submission and acceptance rates. We can say that we are pleased to report we are regularly receiving submissions and with the crucial assistance of reviewers, maintaining the high quality of published articles that the AHA has come to expect from *History Australia*. We look forward to providing a clearer picture at next year’s AGM.

For an account of current figures supplied by Taylor and Francis, please see the Appendix following this report.

METRICS

The process of linking the journal to Scopus & other associated citations / impact indicators is well underway. Taylor & Francis has indicated that this is best done carefully and incrementally. There is no way of knowing precisely what these metrics will indicate about the position of the journal, given it is a (hitherto) regional journal only now plugging into international ranking systems. Its wider availability with the T&F stable should assist in this.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have strengthened our social media presence in the last year via twitter and Facebook. Many thanks to Annmarie Reid, Meggie Hutchison and Ann Standish for regularly tweeting and posting on the AHA Facebook pages. We extend that thanks to other AHA members who have retweeted, shared and liked *History Australia* on these platforms, it seems that there is a direct relationship between this activity and the number of people viewing the articles online.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

2018 will be our third and final year as editors. The AHA Executive Committee will shortly be advertising for a new editorial team to commence in January 2019 for a three-year period. Please consider putting together an editorial team at your university. The hard work of editing *History Australia* is well worth the effort and our successors will

enjoy an established relationship with Taylor and Francis systems and personnel. Please don't hesitate to talk to us here at the AHA or get in touch afterwards if you're considering putting together a team.

We thank the wider AHA community for its support in the recent year, your work as authors, reviewers and promoters for the journal is indispensable. We look forward to continuing our work with *History Australia* through 2018.

Appendix

Submission and Acceptance Rates

You can see in Figure 1 (p.4) that since *History Australia's* move to Taylor and Francis, we have received 103 article submissions through ScholarOne. While this suggests a rate of just over 75 per year (compared to 65 in 2015), in fact the numbers are concentrated in the first half of 2017. This weighting towards the current year also reflects the 2016 transition process when we had intermittent access to the ScholarOne system. This year, articles that were submitted offline in the old system have been submitted to ScholarOne in their second or third version. It should also be noted that the majority of book reviews have been handled outside of the ScholarOne system so the '2' in Figure 1 (p.3) does not reflect the number of reviews received or published.

Figures 2 and 3 (p.5) show that the rate of acceptance in ScholarOne since January 2016 has been 53.7%. Again, it is important to note that some entire editions have been prepared offline until the final stage, at which point they are being recorded by the system as new acceptances. These figures also fail to account for those manuscripts that have been managed offline, received a result of 'revise and resubmit' and then resubmitted to *History Australia*, this time via ScholarOne, and been accepted.

The rejection rate of 46.3% includes outright rejections, 'revise and resubmits' (but only those sent from ScholarOne) and those manuscripts that the editorial team deemed a mismatch with the journal's aims and expectations. It cannot capture the real rate of rejection in this period, which is higher than 46.3%.

Figure 1

Information based on all manuscripts with a submission date of on or after 01/01/2016:

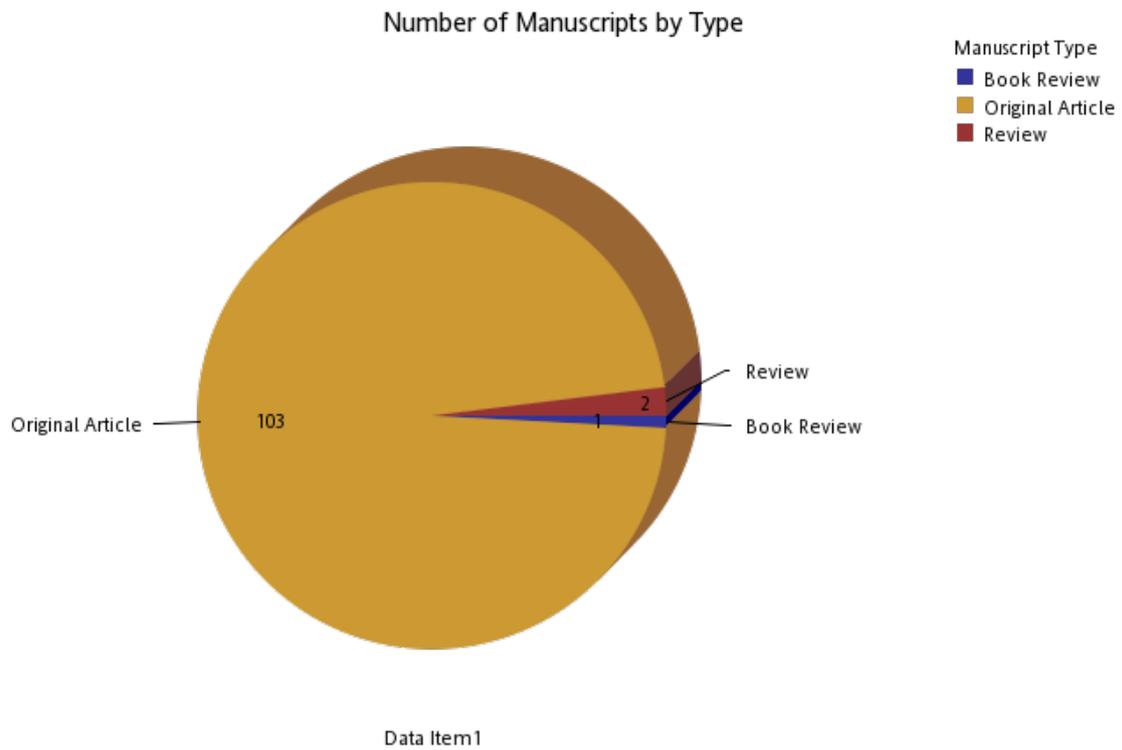


Figure 2

Information based on all manuscripts, grouped by manuscript decision, whose submission date is on or after 01/01/2016:

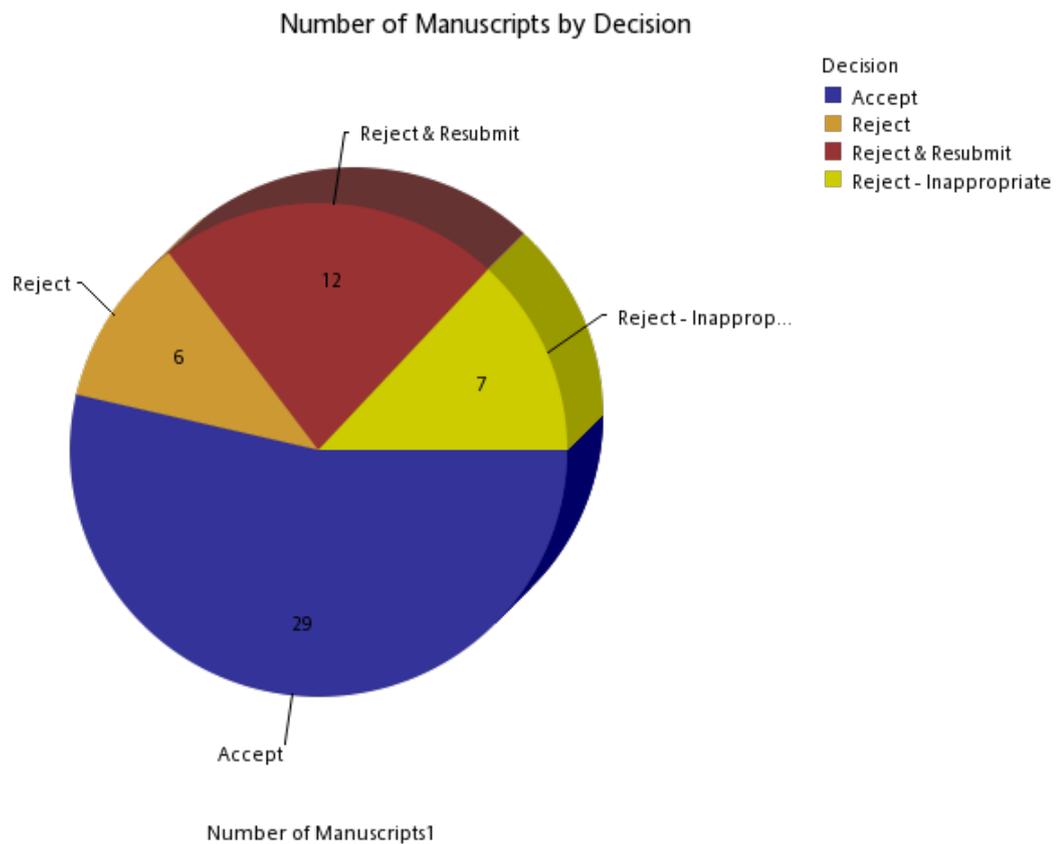


Figure 3

Information based on all manuscripts with a decision date of on or after 01/01/2016:

Country	Accept	Reject	Total	Accept Ratio
Australia	27	23	50	54.00%
New Zealand	2	2	4	50.00%
Total	29	25	54	53.70%

3.8 Postgraduate student representatives' annual report 2017, Daniel May, Melanie Burkett, Annemarie McLaren

Since joining the Executive Committee a year ago, the postgraduate representatives have focused on several key initiatives:

- **Outreach:** In order to familiarise ourselves with the diverse needs of the post-grad community, we have had one-on-one conversations with postgrads at 13 institutions across Australia. We also contributed postgrad-focused questions to the AHA member survey.
- **Conference:** We worked with the conference organisers on programming aimed at postgrads. The conference program includes the annual postgrad social event, a panel on publishing while a PhD candidate, a panel on early career pathways, and themed lunch tables to promote networking within subdisciplines. Once the draft conference program was released, we sent an email to all postgrads members, highlighting these events and encouraging postgrads to attend the conference.
- **Social media:** To facilitate cost-sharing, we started a thread on the AHA Facebook group for those who wanted to coordinate ride- and accommodation-sharing. Following the success of the AHA ECR Facebook group, we launched an analogous group for postgrads which we've used to promote the conference and share articles that provide advice on effective networking at conferences.

3.9 Early career researcher representatives' annual report 2017, Carolyn Holbrook, Margaret Hutchison

Introduction

Following on from the fantastic work of our predecessors Ruth Morgan and Cath Bishop, our aim over the past year has been to provide a voice for Early Career Researchers in history. We seek to maintain and enhance a sense of community, provide a forum for constructive discussion and extend links with the broader academic history community, given this is often a precarious and transient time for early career historians. We also aim to inform ECRS of developments and opportunities within the industry, and to help them develop the skills required to find employment.

Major Initiatives

Below is a list of the major initiatives we have introduced since becoming the AHA ECR representatives in July 2016.

AHA ECR Mentorship Scheme

Over the past year we have been developing the idea for an AHA ECR mentoring scheme. In April 2017 we applied to the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund for an AHA ECR Mentorship Scheme and are delighted to announce that in June we were awarded \$27,000 over three years to support 6 awards for Early Career Researchers in history.

An AHA-Copyright Agency Early Career Researcher Mentorship Scheme will extend the support already offered by the AHA to postgraduate students to historians in the first stages of their career (within 2 years of completion of their PhD) who are establishing themselves in academic and public history. The award will support early career researchers to develop an innovative journal article through a six-month mentorship program. Awardees will also be asked to publish a shorter piece about their research for a general readership. Mentors will guide awardees through the development of these articles and provide in-kind support from their institutions for awardees. Awardees will have the opportunity to attend a career development workshop at the AHA annual conference which will focus on the professional skills important for ECRs and will be themed around key issues, including grant applications, book proposals, job applications and journal publications.

AHA ECR Blog

In October 2016, we launched the [AHA ECR Blog](#). This major initiative has enabled us to greatly increase a sense of community amongst ECRS and expand the reach of the AHA.

We have created four series on the blog:

1. Our series of *Q&As with Australian Historians* has proved very popular and highly informative, thanks in large part to the generous responses of our guest historians. The series seeks to offer advice to ECRs through exploring the careers of senior historians in academia and public history. Interviewees to date include Clare Wright, Libby Stewart, Anna Clark, Christina Twomey, Tom Griffiths, Peter Stanley, Andrekos Varnava, Ann McGrath and Stuart Macintyre.
2. The *Emerging Historians* series has proved a runaway success and provoked intense and constructive discussion about the ECR experience. The series features AHA members who have completed their PhDs within the last five years (the ARC definition of ECR), describing to readers their research and their experiences of ECR life. In providing emerging historians with a forum in which to showcase their work, the series seeks to enhance their professional profiles and create networking and collaborative opportunities. Simultaneously, the series serves to highlight in personal terms the challenges of precarious, casual academic employment. To date, we have featured profiles of Jayne Persian, Effie Karageorgos, Laura Rademaker, Pete Minard and Ben Jones.
3. The *'How To'* series provides advice to ECRs from industry professionals, such as academic publishers, grants officers, print and radio journalists, human resources managers, academics and museum curators about specific skills required to succeed as an academic or public historians. The commissioning editor at New South publishing, Philippa McGuinness, has provided the first *'How To'* column, which pertains to *'How To... Write a Book Proposal'*.
4. Most recently, we have begun a series called *The Book that Changed My Life*, wherein historians describe a history book that has significantly affected their intellectual trajectory. Zora Simic has provided the first instalment of this series with a fascinating reflection of life-changing articles and we have a contribution from Richard Scully for July.

We have managed to build a substantial, enthusiastic and loyal audience for our blog in a short time. The number of people viewing blog posts has increased almost every month. Posting more regularly (approximately one post per week) and advertising blog posts in the AHA newsletter, has increased the figures rapidly. In May we had over 1,000 views and over 700 visitors and in June this increased to over 1,700 visitors with over 2,660 content views. This is a dramatic improvement on the previous months during which we averaged approximately 250 visitors. The blog now has over 258 followers via email and 37 Wordpress followers.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those historians whose considered and insightful contributions have made the blog a great success; a success that we will continue to build upon in the forthcoming twelve months, in order to enhance the reputation of the AHA and its support of ECRs.

Social Media

Facebook

We have established an AHA ECR Facebook Group which has 164 members. The aim of this group is to provide a forum for ECRs to discuss the issues that face them today, and to share ideas, experiences and employment and fellowship opportunities. It has proved a very popular forum with rich discussions, including a very constructive conversation about the price and format of the AHA annual conference. See attachment for more details.

Twitter

The AHA ECR Twitter account (@AHA_ECRs) has also proved a highly effective means of distributing the content of the AHA ECR Blog and AHA ECR activities to a wide audience. It has proved to be a popular platform with ECR members of the AHA and functions as a public extension of the AHA ECR Facebook Group where ECRs can share and information and seek advice. We have accrued more than 242 followers in a short space of time.

Events

At the request of several ECRs, we have organised a roundtable at the Newcastle conference on how to write a winning grant application. The session will feature Joy Damousi, Stuart Macintyre, Mark Edele, Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen and Chris Wallace. The panel session will be followed by drinks especially aimed at ECRs (though everyone is welcome!).

Plans for 2017-2018

- Launch the AHA ECR Mentorship Scheme;
- Organise another panel and social event for 2018 AHA conference in Canberra;
- Continue expanding the blog. We are particularly interested in pursuing the idea of podcasts discussing the major issues affecting ECRs.

3.10 HTAA representative's annual report 2017, Rosalie Triolo

AHA's Relationship with the History Teachers' Association of Australia, 2017

The AHA and HTAA enjoy a positive and mutually beneficial relationship through:

- shared understandings of, and advocacy for, each other's work
- shared promotion of each other's major events and membership benefits
- AHA being updated in quarterly meetings on developments in Australian and State/Territory History curriculum developments, policies and professional teaching standards, as well as HTAA prizes and competitions
- HTAA being updated on the latest historical research, including which researchers may be possibilities for keynotes and papers at HTA conferences or at Year 11-12 senior student history lectures
- each being able to easily seek information from the other as needs arise.

AHA Conference 2019, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba

Catherine Dewhirst, Libby Connors, Jayne Persian, 29 June 2017

1. Summary

We are delighted to have USQ Toowoomba confirmed as the location for the 38th AHA Conference by the AHA Executive Committee (April, 2016). Although in the preliminary stages, we will be guided by the updated AHA Annual Conference Protocols (June 2016) and drawing from the Final Reports, including those of the most recent hosting universities. There has also been a precedent set at USQ by two past large association conferences, hosted and convened by our Literature and Archaeology colleagues, respectively, in the School of Arts and Communication (Australian and New Zealand Shakespeare Association, 2014; Australian Archaeology Association, 2011), which is proving informative. Some preliminary details are:

Title: Empire, Conflict and Migration

Convenors: Dr Catherine Dewhirst, Assoc. Prof. Libby Connors, Dr Jayne Persian

Dates: 8-12 July, 2019

Venue: The Empire Theatre, Toowoomba (see below)

Keynote speakers: TBA

Anticipated numbers: 300-350 delegates

Working party: Call sent out; small party of USQ colleagues forming

Catering: 'Encores' conference packages, set on the Empire Theatre grounds

Conference dinner: Picnic Point Lookout/Function Centre

Anticipated costs: See below

External Conference Organiser: TBA

Registration: TBA

Funding: See below

Conference partners: TBA

2. Venue

The Empire Theatre is a heritage-listed building, constructed in 1911 around the Church Theatre, dating back to 1877. It is known as the 'jewel of the Darling Downs' for its classic 1933 art deco architectural refurbishments, completed after a fire, with further restorations before it was reopened in 1997. It offers three theatre spaces, one of which can be divided into two separate sound-proof rooms, as well as two smaller session rooms, and an auditorium. The auditorium would be unnecessary as more session rooms can be sought from the surrounding churches, Masonic Temple, and other buildings from the heritage trail quarters. This venue is central to the city of Toowoomba, within walking distance of accommodation and public transport, as well as restaurants, cafés, parks, galleries, museums and memorials.

3. Budget

Anticipated costs:

- **Venue hire:** approx. \$24,000
- **Catering:** approx. \$45 p/p per day
- **External Conference Organiser:** TBA

Funding: We will seek seed funding from both the AHA and USQ's Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts (based on the previous two USQ-hosted conferences). In addition, we expect to apply for internal and external funding in 2018, such as through USQ's Office of Research and The Ian Potter Foundation.