



AUSTRALIAN  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

**ANSA**  
**Australian Network of**  
**Student Anthropologists**

## **ANSA 2014 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Over this past year, the ANSA Executive team has concentrated its attention on strengthening and building upon the foundations established in the previous year. Key focus areas have included encouraging postgraduate and early career Anthropology researchers to engage and collaborate with their peers and the anthropological community as well as with similar communities; sharing knowledge, resources, and opportunities within the ANSA community; providing a voice for student/ECR interests and issues; and encouraging participation within the Australian Anthropological Society and the broader Anthropological community at large.

### **1. Membership and communication**

At the time of writing this report, membership numbers are as follows:

ANSA members	217
Facebook "likes"	483
Twitter followers	47

As at this time last year, we had around 140 members and 200 Facebook "likes". The Twitter account was only established a couple of months ago. The Facebook page regularly reaches some 1,000 people per week, sometimes exceeding 2,000 page views, in comparison with between 400-600 "hits" per week a year ago.

### **2. Community**

This year the ANSA Executive worked on strengthening and expanding the anthropological postgraduate community, both nationally and internationally. First, we forged a partnership with The Australian Sociological Association's postgraduate group, and have been sharing news and information of interest to each other's group members. We also established a working relationship with postgraduate students in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Some of this group have participated in the monthly profile feature on the ANSA website. The overall aim has been to foster a more engaged, collaborative network of Anthropology undergraduates, postgraduates, and early career researchers in Australia and with our peers across the Tasman and, while the initiative is in its early stages, the future looks promising.

### **3. Travel grants**

ANSA extends its sincere appreciation to the AAS for its continued support in assisting postgraduate students to attend the annual conference to present on their research. With airfares being higher than usual due to the annual conference being held in Queenstown, ANSA appreciates the additional funding given this year. Furthermore, we advocated for and the AAS Executive supported an expansion to the category of students eligible to apply and those undertaking a Masters by research are now also eligible.

As in previous years, two kinds of travel grants were awarded. First, the Robyn Wood Travel Grant—ordinarily awarded to one person annually, however this year the AAS kindly extended it to two recipients, given the higher cost in travelling to Aotearoa/New Zealand. This grant particularly considers students' financial needs. The second kind of travel grant is the AAS/ANSA Postgraduate Travel Grant.

Although ANSA received a number of strong applications this year, we were sadly not in a position to be able to award grants to all applicants. This year's winners of the travel grants were:

***Robyn Wood Travel Grant***

Thomas McNamara (The University of Melbourne)  
Channa, Abdul Razaque (Australian National University)

***AAS/ANSA Travel Grant***

Rose Butler (Australian National University)  
Aaron Jackson (The University of Melbourne)  
Thu Le (Australian National University)  
Yen Le (Australian National University)  
Naomi Offler (The University of Adelaide)  
Kara Salter (The University of Western Australia)  
William Skinner (The University of Adelaide)  
Thomas Wright (The University of Queensland)

**4. Photography competition and exhibition**

This year was the second time the AAS supported the photography competition, providing a \$300 prize for the winner. The competition was opened up to current and recent students from Australia as well as Aotearoa/New Zealand, due to this year's conference being jointly held in Queenstown. The winner was Elaine Donovan of Massey University for her photograph "Watching You Watching Me". The 15 photographs selected as finalists are being displayed online and throughout the annual conference, in the Atrium of the Millennium Hotel (Queenstown):

Channa, Abdul Razaque, 'The Gaze is Alert Everywhere'  
Channa, Abdul Razaque, 'Say No to Religious Extremism'  
Elaine Donovan, 'Watching You Watching Me'  
Hannah Gibson, 'When Species Meet'  
Roxana Heath, 'Reflections of a Curious Mind'  
Sally Jarvis, 'Framing Progress'  
Michael Main, 'Fleeing the Darkening Storm'  
Alice Neikirk, 'For My Facebook Feed'  
Alice Neikirk, 'Welcome to Oz'  
Naomi Offler, 'Ngarrindjeri Reburial. Cleansing in the Smoke of Ti Tree'  
Naomi Offler, 'Ngarrindjeri Reburial. Laying the Old People to Rest'  
Naomi Offler, 'Ngarrindjeri Reburial. The Delivery of the Old People Back to Country.'  
Concetta Scarfiello, 'Farewell to the Anthropologist'  
Tayyaba Batool Tahir, 'Celebrating Difference'  
Thomas Wright, 'Archie the Ding Doctor'

ANSA sincerely thanks both the AAS Executive and Natasha Fijn, who judged this year's competition, for their firm support of this event. We also wish to

thank the conference organising committee for their support in putting on the photography exhibition.

**5. Conference**

ANSA Secretary Lara McKenzie and I worked with this year's conference organisers to ensure a continued postgraduate presence at the conference. The organisers agreed to put on this year's graduate panel, which is convened by Molly George of The University of Otago. ANSA arranged the two discussants for this panel, Dr Carolyn Morris of Massey University and Dr Benedicta Rousseau of Waikato University. In addition, ANSA worked with Patrick Chu of 99Scholars in arranging for a prize for the best paper in the group. The prize is a short animation based on the student's research. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the presentations and the animation will shortly be able to be viewed on ANSA's website and Facebook page as well as the 99Scholars website (<http://www.99scholars.net>).

Aside from the photography exhibition, the postgraduate panel and best paper prize, ANSA has also arranged for a postgrad social event following the ANSA AGM on the Tuesday night at 7pm at the Millennium Club Bar. This will be a great opportunity for Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand postgrads and early career researchers to meet and chat. Finally, ANSA will be Tweeting throughout the conference.

ANSA has had a good year, in which we've consolidated processes and continued to develop the network. Once again, on behalf of the ANSA Executive team, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of the AAS Executive and to our university representatives and members for their ongoing support for the network. It has been a great pleasure to work with people who have such enthusiasm for both the discipline and its emerging scholars.

Michelle O'Toole  
ANSA Chairperson  
31 October 2014