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## ANSA 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year the ANSA Executive has worked with the aim of building upon the foundations laid in previous years, and focused upon building more strength into the team, roles, and processes. By strengthening the core of the Network, we hope to leave it in good shape for future executive team members so they can focus their efforts on other areas.

In this report, I provide an overview of each key area of activity that the ANSA Executive has worked on since being elected in December 2015.

### 1. **Membership**

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

ANSA members	327
Facebook "likes"	788
Twitter followers	158

As at this time last year, we had around 278 members, 681 Facebook "likes", and 99 Twitter followers.

The Exec has also seen an increasing in the number of undergraduate members. These members have been noted on the ANSA membership spreadsheet, and have been emailed to inform them that they are not eligible to participate in competitions run by ANSA, or to apply for grants and scholarships offered to ANSA members. It is hoped that going forward there may be some contingency for updating the ANSA constitution and regulations to be more inclusive of undergraduate membership.

### 2. **ANSA monthly newsletter**

The format of the ANSA newsletter to members has changed from a basic single page rtf to a more visually styled multi page newsletter. The Exec has worked hard to incorporate varying aspects in the new News format including; updates about ANSA, the monthly profile, current news and events articles written by ANSA members, job and scholarship opportunities, and notices of upcoming events. This has been received well by members and though takes some time each month to put together shows a more sophisticated and professional side of ANSA. The ongoing challenges of the new format have included; reliance on student submissions of current news and events articles, as well as students being proactive in forwarding event details to ANSA with enough foresight to make it into the News. Any overflow or late submissions have been sent out via social media, specifically Facebook as it is seen as this is the fastest way of connecting with members in relation to day to day activities and events. An ongoing challenge has been in procuring ANSA member profiles, in 2016 the Exec implemented a new strategy of inviting all new ANSA members to submit a profile as part of the 'welcome to ANSA' emails.

**3. AAS/ANSA 2016 Travel grants**

A number of applications were received for this year's travel grants, which are funded by the AAS to support postgraduate students attending the annual conference to present their research. ANSA distributes the grants, which are approved by the AAS Executive.

The Remote Area Travel Grant, which was introduced in 2015, was offered again this year, as was recommended by the previous ANSA executive committee. One student applied and was awarded this Grant as the recipient indeed had to travel extensively to reach the Sydney conference. I recommend that this category be maintained in future years as it clearly fills a need.

Like last year, the Robyn Wood Travel Grant was awarded considering students' financial needs.

A refinement to the general Grants was made by adding a category for students living in the same state as the location of the conference, but who live in other cities or rural areas. This year, we thus offered a Grant for students in Wollongong and rural areas of NSW. With the exception of last year when a student from the same state as the conference location was awarded the Robyn Wood Travel Grant, in previous years students living in the same State/Territory as the conference being held were not eligible for an AAS Travel Grant. I recommend that in future years, such a (smaller) Grant will be available for students.

Furthermore, ANSA received two requests from non-Australian students who were not studying at Australian Universities but who are AAS and ANSA members and presenting at the conference to apply for the Grant. We had to turn them down since according to the eligibility statement of the Grant, only students studying at Australian Universities can apply for the Grant. However, I want to recommend that this issue will be discussed as this point of eligibility may be in need of adjusting, especially given the international character of next year's conference. To this end, the current ANSA Exec would recommend allowing an international travel grant up to a maximum of \$500 towards travel and participation. This would be on the condition that it is awarded pre-conference, and paid post-conference to ensure attendance.

The 2016 travel grant funds were distributed to students from different institutions who will be presenting at the conference:

Robyn Wood Travel Grant:

Muhammad Kavesh, The Australian National University

Remote Area Travel Grant:

Tamar Cohen, The University of Queensland

AAS/ANSA Travel Grants:

Andrew Whalley, La Trobe University

Annie McCarthy, The Australian National University

Joanne Byrne, La Trobe University

Justine Chambers, The Australian National University

Sidrah McCarthy, La Trobe University

**4. Postgraduate panel at AAS2016**

This year's postgraduate panel is organised into four sessions of three papers each. Various themes aim to cover the wide range of papers received and accepted. We are pleased to be able to host presenters from a range of universities, and support postgraduate students as they

begin their academic careers. A special thanks goes to those who are kindly giving their time and energy to serve as discussants in the sessions:

Youth- and Subcultures:	Dr Yasmine Musharbash, Sydney University
Relationships:	Dr Lara McKenzie, The University of Western Australia
Environment & Change:	Dr Ute Eickelkamp, Sydney University
Place Making :	Dr Patrick Guinness, The Australian National University

#### **5. Workshops at AAS2016**

ANSA organised some pre-conference workshops for postgraduate students and early career researchers on publishing, networking, and grant writing. There is no cost for the workshops, thanks to the generosity of a number of people. My heartfelt thanks for facilitating these events goes to:

- A/Prof. Martha Macintyre and Dr Eve Vincent: Grant and book review writing
- Dr Julie Finlayson: Presenting and professionalism

My thanks also go to conference organizer Neil MacLean for assisting with arranging facilities and catering.

#### **5. Photography competition**

Following the success of the AAS/ANSA photography competitions held in previous years, the AAS and ANSA were very pleased to announce another competition this year. We encouraged submissions of photo essays (3-5 images) and short descriptions of what the essays were depicting and why this their essays were anthropological. Unfortunately, due to a very small number of entries (4), the competition had to be cancelled. I recommend thinking about ways in which photography can remain part of the conference, other than through a competition.

Last of all, I would like to say thank you to all those people I have had the pleasure of working with over the past year. I would like to especially thank members of the current ANSA executive team and all the committee members who have worked so hard to build up the network, as well as the AAS executive for your support of postgraduate students and early career researchers.

Henrike Hoogenraad  
ANSA President  
22 November 2016