



ANSA 2017 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	340
Facebook "likes"	854
Twitter followers	231

As at this time last year, we had 327 members, 788 Facebook "likes", and 158 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 2017 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 2017 travel grant funds were distributed to students from different institutions who will be presenting at the conference:

Robyn Wood Travel Grant:

Matthew Mabefam, Melbourne University

AAS/ANSA Travel Grants:

Buddhi Chaudhary, University of Western Australia

Kirsty Wissing, Australian National University

Gina Hawkes, RMIT University

Bibiana Huggins, University of Melbourne

Violet Cho, Australian National University

Michelle O'Toole, La Trobe University

Emily Graham, Swinburne University of Technology

4. Postgraduate panel at AAS/ASA/ASAANZ 2017

This year's postgraduate panel is organised into five sessions, totaling a number of 18 papers. 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:

Health:	Barbara Andersen
Religion:	Anthony Redmond & Simon Correy
Environment:	Graeme MacRae
Politics:	Gerry Groot
Moving/on:	Jaap Timmer

5. Workshops at AAS2017

ANSA organised some pre-conference workshops for postgraduate students and early career researchers on doing fieldwork; job applications, jobs and gender issues, and presenting. 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:

- James Scott: Doing fieldwork
- David Martin: Getting that job
- Helen Lee: Jobs and gender issues
- Julie Finlayson: Presenting and professionalism

My thanks also go to all the conference organizers for assisting with arranging facilities and catering.

5. The future of ANSA

As all members of the ANSA exec committee are stepping down this December, ANSA is looking for a whole fresh committee. We are looking forward to welcoming them and

assisting where necessary. Some key points we encountered over the last years and feel need attention are:

- Improving student interaction with ANSA
- Improving communication with University Representatives
- Reaching out to new Postgraduate students throughout Australia

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 years. I would like to especially thank members of the current ANSA executive team, Ainslee Hooper and Sarah Cameron, all the University Representatives, and the previous executive committees 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
28 November 2017