



## *The Australasian Society for Classical Studies*

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2005**

It has again been another successful and active year for the Society.

Membership numbers have continued their steady increase. There are now just under 400 members, up from the 350 at the same stage last year. This means that the membership of the Society has more than doubled in the last five years. A very considerable proportion of that increase are postgraduate and honours students. Unfortunately there are still too many members who have to be chased up for overdue subscription; in October I had to chase up no less than 25% of our members who had not paid their 2005 subscription. On the other hand it is pleasing to report that some 20% of members have now chosen to pay their subscription at the five-year rate.

The conference and general meeting held at the University of Otago in Dunedin in February created yet another record for the number of papers given and for the number of persons attending; all credit must go to the Convenor, Professor Bill Dominik, and his team for this outstanding achievement. The practice of funding a keynote speaker continued, with Professor Alan Cameron, from Columbia University, attending the Dunedin conference, and with Professor Barbara Gold, from Hamilton College, attending the present conference. Professor Gold will also be delivering the Trendall Lecture, funded by the Australian Academy of the Humanities, during this conference. There is increasing demand for the funds available to subsidise student travel to attend these conferences, with up to AU\$4000 being divided between 28 students to enable them to attend this year's meeting.

The new initiative begun in 2004 – the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject – was continued in 2005. Two grants were made: AU\$1000 to the Australian Catholic University (McAuley Campus) to help fund the visit of Professor Rousseau in July, and NZ\$590 to Massey University for some of the expenses of a Year 13 Classics Day for schools. Two grants have already been approved for 2006.

A new initiative for 2005 was the setting up of an "Early Career" Award of AU\$2000. There were three applicants, and a decision on the recipient is expected very soon.

The Newsletter was sent out twice during the year, in April and October, and is welcomed as a means of keeping members in touch with what is happening with the subject in the various universities. With the happy amalgamation with our New Zealand colleagues, there are now 20 university departments which are represented on the Executive Committee. Contacting members by email continues to be a convenient way of disseminating information: some 89% of members now receive communications in this format. This allows for the regular sending out of interesting or useful messages, as well as matters relevant to the running of the Society.

The executive committee met once at the Australian National University in November, and covered a very full agenda, some items of which will be considered at today's meeting.

Bruce Marshall  
Honorary Secretary, ASCS  
2 February 2006



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#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Membership is up to 400, an increase of 50 since the last report, with a further increase expected from the present conference.
- ASCS 26 at the University of Otago created a record for the number of papers given (140) and persons attending (170, from 38 institutions and 12 countries).
- AU\$3000 available for subsidising student conference travel divided between 22 applicants.
- Two separate Essay Prize Competitions held in 2005, with prize money totaling AU\$600.
- An “Early Career” Award of AU\$2000 established.
- Two grants were made under the scheme for the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject:
  - ◆ AU\$1000 to ACU (McAuley) to help fund a visit by an overseas scholar
  - ◆ NZ\$590 to MasseyU for a Year 13 Classics Day for schools