The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

THE ASCS OPTIMA PRIZE
("**O**utstanding **P**ostgraduate **T**alk **I**n a **M**eeting of **A**SCS")

1. The name for this competition is the ASCS OPTIMA Award ("Outstanding Postgraduate Talk In a Meeting of ASCS")

2. Those eligible for the competition are postgraduate students
    (a) who are enrolled at an Australian or New Zealand tertiary institution, and whose paper has been accepted on the programme of the annual ASCS Conference;
    (b) are members of ASCS;
    (c) who will not have received their postgraduate degree prior to or at the time of the annual ASCS Conference;
    (d) who have submitted to the OPTIMA organiser a complete text of the paper to be presented, at least ten days in advance of the official opening date of the ASCS Conference. The purpose of this copy is to enable the committee of judges to arrive at a short list before the conference begins; therefore the text should be as close as possible to the finished product. The text should be rendered anonymous.

3. Of the short-listed applicants, there are two essential criteria for evaluation and awarding of the Prize:
    (a) The quality of the (written) scholarly argument: e.g. its contribution to scholarship, its organisation and presentation, how well it places the subject in a scholarly context, and how well it demonstrates why the subject is of interest;
    (b) The quality of the (oral) presentation: e.g. how well the paper is presented, how effective the presentation is in engaging audience interest, how successful the presenter is in answering questions and / or discussing the paper in "question time".

4. First prize in the competition is AUD$400. The winner will be announced at the ASCS annual general meeting (or soon thereafter if judging time is not sufficient). Up to two runner-up prizes of AUD$100 each may also be awarded at the judges' discretion. The prizewinner(s) and short-listed candidates will be announced at the same time. The judges reserve the right not to make an award if, in their opinion, no paper is deemed to be of sufficient merit.

Dr Lea Beness (Macquarie University) will chair the panel which adjudicates the OPTIMA prize for ASCS 37 in Melbourne. Any postgraduate student whose abstract has been accepted by the conference conveners may submit to Dr Beness (lea.beness@mq.edu.au) a complete text of their paper (along with the official coversheet) by Monday 18th January 2016 for consideration in this competition.