## **The Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition 2017**

In 2017 the Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition attracted a field of twenty entries, drawn from six Australian universities, with seventeen essays coming from three universities and one each from the other three.

The quality of entries was very high and the scope of subject matter admirably diverse: the judging panel of Dr Graeme Miles (University of Tasmania) and Dr Michael Champion (Australian Catholic University) was required to adjudicate on submissions ranging from Homer to the emperor Theodoric.

The winner was Samuel Wessels (Macquarie University) with an essay entitled ‘ΜΙΣΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ: Timon of Athens and the Evolution of the Misanthropic Tradition’. The judges observed that this entry was ‘well written and thoughtful, well acquainted with the relevant sources, and showed a good command of the classical languages’. The runner-up was Janek Dreikovsky (University of Sydney) whose essay ‘*Eloquar an sileam?* The Characterisation of Aeneas in *Aeneid* III’ was also excellent, displaying ‘an individual and distinct perspective on the chosen text’ and an ability to ‘read the text with an eye for nuance’.

One issue which arose is the definition of the competition’s scope. At the moment the rules stipulate that ‘the subject of the essay may reflect any aspect of Classical Studies: the languages, literature, history, thought and archaeology of the ancient world’. In correspondence with one ASCS representative, I made it clear that I interpret the rule generously and that I am willing to accept essays on non-Greco-Roman topics. If the Executive endorses that view, it might consider whether we need to be more explicit on that subject.

As the competition co-ordinator, I would like to commend all the entrants on the quality of their work and encourage all those still eligible to consider submitting an essay again in 2018. I also extend my warm thanks to the two judges for generously giving of their time and for supporting this competition.

Peter Davis

24 January 2018