

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10th AGM (2016)

Venue: Room 2, Level 1, Flinders in the City, 182 Victoria Square, Adelaide

Time: 4.30pm, Thursday 1 November: Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ISAANZ)
Annual General Meeting

Present: Brad Patterson (Chair), Fidelma Breen, Angeline O'Neill, Stephanie James, Katrina Wilson, Max Vodola, Peter McNerney, Jeanette Mollenhauer, Elizabeth Malcolm, Dianne Hall, Anastasia Dukova, Simon O'Reilly, Val Noone, Peter Burke, Patrick McNamara, Philip Bull, Malcolm Campbell, Pamela O'Neill, Dymphna Lonergan, Eamonn McNamara, Evan Smith,

Apologies: Gemma Clarke, Ronan McDonald, Attracta Brownlee, Chris Watson, Sophie Cooper, Robin Sullivan, Rod Sullivan, Sharon Crozier-De Rosa

1. **A Motion to change the Rules of ISAANZ** (see attachment A), Moved by Brad Patterson, and seconded by Elizabeth Malcolm.

Before the motion was put, Philip Bull spoke to the following amendment:

- **Foreshadowed Amendment:** To withdraw the proposed new clause 33.3 and giving notice of a motion to amend the existing clause 33.2 to read:

All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by TWO OUT OF THREE DESIGNATED members of the Committee OR, FOR BANK TRANSACTIONS ONLINE, THE APPROVAL OF ANY TWO SUCH MEMBERS.

Philip Bull moved that the amendment should be accepted; Di Hall seconded this. Carried. Then the motion to change the Rules, with the above amendment in place, proposed by Brad Patterson and seconded by Elizabeth Malcolm, was put and carried.

2. **Confirmation of the minutes** of the previous Annual General Meeting (18 June 2015) (Attachment B)

Moved by Philip Bull and seconded by Patrick McNamara. Carried. Secretary noted misspelling of Kevin Molloy's name.

3. **Reports** from the officers of the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year, 2012/2013.
 - a. President's Report (Ronan McDonald). Brad Patterson moved it be accepted. Carried.
 - b. Treasurer's Report (Philip Bull - see Attachment C) Brad Patterson moved it be accepted. Carried.
 - c. Secretary's Report (Frances Devlin-Glass see Attachment D) Brad Patterson moved it be accepted. Carried.
 - d. The President's Report was tabled at the meeting. Brad Patterson moved it be accepted. Carried.

4. Election of the officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee.

President: Ronan McDonald, nominated by Brad Patterson and seconded by Fidelma Breen. Declared.

Vice- President: Brad Patterson, nominated by Fidelma Breen and seconded by Val Noone. Declared.

Secretary: Fidelma Breen, nominated by Philip Bull and seconded by Di Hall. Declared.

Treasurer: Philip Bull, nominated by Fidelma Breen and seconded by Di Hall. Declared.

Committee Members:

Malcolm Campbell, nominated by Brad Patterson and seconded by Val Noone. Declared.

Anastasia Dukova, nominated by Fidelma Breen and seconded by Brad Patterson. Declared.

Sophie Cooper, nominated by Frances Devlin-Glass and seconded by Di Hall. Declared.

Eamonn McNamara, Post Graduate Rep., nominated by Fidelma Breen and seconded by Brad Patterson. Declared

5. Any Other Business

Brad Patterson spoke to the motion that the Association express its thanks to the outgoing Secretary, Frances Devlin-Glass. Di Hall seconded it. Passed.

Attachment A

ISAANZ

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES OF ASSOCIATION

As requested by the Management Committee, the appointed Sub-Committee has carefully reviewed the Rules (or Constitution), as originally drafted and incorporating the amendments of July 2008, with a view to identifying anomalies and/or obscurities, also with the specific intent of regularising the current composition of the Committee. Disappointingly, despite a call for submissions from the membership, only two were received.

In a number of instances (sections 5,10-11, 18 of the Rules) perceived peculiarities were considered to be so insignificant that no action was required.

By far the greatest debate was over the composition of the Management Committee. At the formation of the Association it was envisaged that elected members should form a majority, the ability to co-opt providing flexibility to add required skills or broaden the membership base. A decision in 2013 to add further co-opted members, however, has created an imbalance, what might be termed a 'democratic deficit' (In theory, important decisions could be made by the Committee on ISAANZ's behalf with a majority not elected by the membership). Even if only a matter of perception, the Sub-Committee considers the question of balance must be addressed. Hence some tweaking of the structure is proposed:

- The elected officers (Pdt, V/Pdt, Sec, Treas) [4]
- Four elected ordinary members, including at least one post-graduate student representative [4]
- Two ex-officio members (Journal Editor, Conference Convenor) [2]
- Up to two additional members co-opted by the Committee [2]

It should be noted that a number of other questions relating to the Committee have been raised, including whether in addition to the existing ex-officio positions (Editor AJIS, Conference Convenor) there should be other tied positions (for instance, Membership Secretary, Social Media/Website Officer), and whether there should be a requirement that for the most part members should be primarily Australia/NZ domiciled. The Sub-Committee has refrained from comment on these issues, believing the Rules should be enabling rather than proscribing. They nevertheless should be discussed, and the strategy meeting scheduled immediately prior to the Adelaide conference would seem an appropriate vehicle.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

17. Voting at General Meetings

Replace 17.4 with:

'Only current financial members of the Association shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting'.

21. Committee of Management

Amend 21.3(b) to read:

'4 other members'.

Amend 21.5 to read:

'The Committee shall also have power, when a particular need arises, to co-opt up to 2 additional members from among the membership of the Association until the next Annual General Meeting'.

26. Meetings of the Committee

In 26.1 change to:

'The Committee must meet at least 4 times in each year...'

33. Funds

To amend the existing 33.2 as follows, with the words in capitals being the addition to the previous clause:

All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by TWO OUT OF THREE DESIGNATED members of the Committee OR, FOR BANK TRANSACTIONS ONLINE, THE APPROVAL OF ANY TWO SUCH MEMBERS.

Brad Patterson
Elizabeth Malcolm
Fidelma Breen

12 October 2016

Appendix B: Minutes of the ISAANZ AGM 2015

Annual General Meeting
Maynooth University
18th June 2015, 1pm.

Present:

Philip Bull, Dianne Hall, Elizabeth Malcolm, Mark Finnane, Larry Geary, Attracta Brownlee, Liz Rushen, Gemma Clark, Sophie Cooper, Susan Arthure, Ronan McDonald, Kevin Molloy, Patrick McNamara, Oona Frawley, Pauric Travers, Sharon Crozier De Rosa .

Apologies: Fidelma Breen, Anders Ahlqvist, Rod Sullivan, Robyn Sullivan, John McLaughlin, Miriam O'Donovan, Brad Patterson, Frances Devlin-Glass

1. Minutes of the Previous meeting. Minutes of the previous AGM on 10/4/14 were pre-circulated. Passed.

2. Committee reports

President

- The website is functioning well after its refresh. Please let Dianne Hall know of any updates for events or anything else for the website.
- Volume 15 of the *Australasian Journal of Irish Studies* will be launched tomorrow. This is a change of publication time (from December to June) which has been made to facilitate the publication process. This issue includes the essay that was the winner of the ISAANZ/*Australasian Journal of Irish Studies* essay prize – Daphne Wolf. The Postgraduate Irish Studies prize has been a success with strong entries from United States, UK and Ireland.
- Committee consists of President, VP (NZ), Treasurer, Secretary, 2 committee members to be elected, 2 ex-officio members – Journal Editor and Current Conference Organiser – and 5 co-opted members.

Treasurer

Tabled.

- Due to the timing of this meeting, the decisions will be ratified by email circulation after 1st July 2015.
- There has been a small but gratifying increase in membership.
- Income in the current year continues to exceed expenditure for the year. This needs to be addressed by increased membership and journal subscriptions.
- This year there were increased expenses due to two issues of the journal being published. This is a one-off occurrence.

Secretary

There are a few matters to report:

Membership currently stands at 57, up 23% on the total of 48 at the last AGM in December 2013. We are aware that some members have forgotten to renew, and as always we hope they will be swelled by folk attending this conference. The Membership secretary has institutionalized a reminder in June of each year, and this appears to help with retention. Maybe the tax incentive to rejoin might be persuasive.

Email as the default method of communication continues to be a viable, cost-effective and convenient strategy. Only two members require snail-mail. Please let the secretary know when your email changes, or if you don't currently use email but would prefer to do so.

Internet and website. The website has been revamped and we urge members to use our Events page to post events. Email Di Hall (dianne.hall@vu.edu.au) or the Secretary with information you'd like to list about forthcoming events or publications. In addition, we're hoping more use will be made of the Facebook and Twitter handles set up by Gemma Clark and Fidelma Breen. If you use these media, you may wish to like and follow us on FB and follow and contribute to the Twitter feed @ISAANZ. These three new forms of communication have effectively replaced the Newsletter but need to be used and colonised. Fidelma and Gemma are planning to experiment with live tweets during the conference as a way of building interest beyond the conference walls.

Committee Meetings

Skype is continuing to be a boon in eliminating the distance across the Tasman and the Indian Ocean and across several Australian states. It's been an effective and convenient way to transact the organisation's business.

Frances Devlin-Glass

ISAANZ Secretary

Journal Editor

- Application to be included in Project Muse was unsuccessful. Application will be made to JStor Ireland this year and we will try Project Muse again.
- Application will be made to be included in Scopus. In order to do this, we need to have abstracts for all articles. This will now be the process for all articles.
- Book review editor will be Gemma Clark who will take over reviews from Volume 16.

3. Election of Office bearers

President

Ronan McDonald

Nominated: Dianne Hall

Seconded: Philip Bull

No other nominations. Elected

Vice-President

Brad Patterson

Nominated: Dianne Hall

Seconded: Larry Geary

No other nominations. Elected

Treasurer

Philip Bull

Nominated: Ronan McDonald

Seconded: Dianne Hall

No other nominations. Elected

Secretary

Frances Devlin-Glass

Nominated: Larry Geary

Seconded: Dianne Hall

No other nominations. Elected

Committee members

Nominated: Gemma Clark
Ronan McDonald
Seconded: Dianne Hall

Elected

Nominated: Sophie Cooper
Gemma Clark
Seconded: Ronan McDonald

Elected

Ex-officio members

Journal Editor representative: Dianne Hall
2016 Conference convenor: Fidelma Breen.

Additional five committee members will be co-opted at the first committee meeting.

4. 22nd Australasian Conference of Irish Studies

Proposal accepted from Fidelma Breen, Dymphna Lonergan, Stephanie James and Susan Arthure for conference to be in Adelaide in 2016.

Susan Arthure spoke to the proposal saying it will be in November/December 2016 and planning is well under way.

Meeting concluded at 1.30pm

ISAANZ President's Report, 2015/16

I would like to thank the officers and committee members for their commitment and work over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank the Association's Secretary Frances Devlin-Glass for keeping us on track with meetings and procedural requirements; Brad Patterson, for taking a lead on strategic directions for the association and for producing a valuable discussion document; Philip Bull for his service as Treasurer; Dianne Hall for her continuing work on AJIS and the ISA ANZ website; and Fidelma Breen, Dymphna Lonergan, Stephanie James and Susan Arthurc, the committee for organizing the 22nd Australian Irish Studies Conference in Adelaide. I have a visiting professorship at UCLA this term (while on sabbatical from UNSW) and hence cannot come to the conference this year. I regret this very much. The conference looks set to be a great success.

Frances has communicated to me her intention not to accept a re-nomination to continue as secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her huge contribution to the Association. Her efficiency, attention to detail, wise judgment, intellectual acumen and warm collegiality will be sorely missed. I am pleased to say that she will continue her involvement with AJIS. On behalf of the ISAANZ committee and membership, I express our warmest gratitude for her contribution and wish her well for the future.

The last AGM was held on 18 June 2015, following the Maynooth ISAANZ conference. Committee meetings were held via Skype on 9 December 2015 and 17 October 2016
Review o/Rules o/Incorporation 2016

As per a decision made at the committee meeting on 9 December, small sub-committee was fanned to review the Association's present 'Rules of Incorporation' (its constitution) and, if and where appropriate, to recommend changes for consideration at the AGM in November. The Review has now offered a report for changes to the executive committee and to remove a 'democratic deficit' introduced by the decision in 2013 to expand the number of co-opted members. I would like to commend this report for the consideration of the membership of the association. And I would like to thank warmly the sub-committee membership for their valuable work, namely Prof Elizabeth Malcolm, Prof Brad Patterson and Fidelma Breen.

AJIS

The journal continues to appear regularly and to provide the only academic forum exclusively devoted to Irish studies in Australasia. Each issue includes refereed essays, reviews and occasional pieces. Vo! 15 came out just after the Maynooth Conference in July 2015 and Vo! 16 came out earlier this year 2016. Congratulations and sincere thanks to Dianne Hall and the other editors for their invaluable work on the journal, which remains a key aspect of ISAANZ's profile.

Anonymous donation for AJIS

Treasurer Philip Bull announced at the meeting of 9 December:

'That the Hon Treasurer is authorised by this committee to transfer not more than \$18,000 to Victoria University for the employment of an administrative/editorial assistant for the Australasian Journal of Irish Studies, this payment to be made after the requisite funds have been provided to the Association by the donor.'

Phillip explained that the motion was required by VU to formalise the hosting of the position of a part-time admin assistant, Molly Lukin, for AJIS. Congratulations to all involved in securing this valuable donation.

Easter Rising 1916

The centenary of the Easter Rising was well marked across Australasia, in many cases with support from the Irish government's DFA. Academic events included conferences at University of Otago 7-8 March 2016, University of Melbourne, 7-8 April, 2016 and at UNSW, 15-16 June 2016. The legacy of 1916 is also a key theme of the Adelaide conference. There were many other events and occasions across Australia and New Zealand around the centenary indicating a strong interest in Irish history and the Irish legacy of Australasia in the

region. This interest does afford opportunities for ISAANZ to expand its membership, a key concern in Brad's strategy document.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions nm from the beginning of July to the end of June. Those who still have to pay, should do so via Pay Pal on the ISAANZ website. Any queries regarding membership and subscriptions should be sent to Frances Devlin-Glass: francesdevlinglass(cv,gmail.com). ISAANZ future depends on healthy membership so please encourage your students and colleagues to sign up and get involved.

Conferences

Again, I offer heartfelt thanks to the organising committee for bringing our flagship conference to Adelaide.' 1916-2016: Change, Commemoration, Community' is the 22nd Australasian Irish Studies Conference'. The conference programme looks wonderfully conceived with top quality keynotes lectures and a great range and quality of papers. Discussion about possible publication of the proceedings is underway.

As well as missing the research and academic content of the conference, I am also sorry not to be able to participate in person in the discussion about future directions for the Association, such as those flagged in Brad's Strategy Document. I look forward to hearing the outcome of the AGM and the ancillary discussions.

~ ~

Ronan McDonald
President
Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand

ATTACHMENT C

IRISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Annual General Meeting Adelaide, 1 December 2016

Treasurer's Report for 2015–2016 Financial Year

Please note the following:

- This statement does not distinguish income derived from membership fees from those paid separately for *AJIS* subscriptions.
- I remind members that as a consequence of changing the publication schedule for *AJIS* the costs associated with printing two issues (volumes 14 and 15) occurred within the one financial year, ie 2014-15. Therefore no expenditure for printing was incurred in 2015-16. The cost of printing volume 17 (\$968) was paid on 11 July this year and so will appear in the statement for the next financial year.
- As at the end of 2015 Celia Scott ceased her employment with the Association and the final payment made to her is recorded in the expenditures of this financial year. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the association to thank Celia for her support in managing membership records, administering payments through the PayPal system and in other ways supporting the association's office holders over several years. As a result of the employment of Molly Lukin with funds provided by an anonymous donor there have been no administrative costs for the Association in the second half of the financial year covered by this report. I acknowledge and thank Molly Lupin for her support during the current year.
- Members will note a very healthy balance in the Association's funds largely attributable to a significant rise in memberships and subscriptions to *AJIS*, This is very good news and mainly attributable to the efforts made generally by members but also specifically to our having improved our processes for membership renewals.

Philip Bull
23 November 2016.

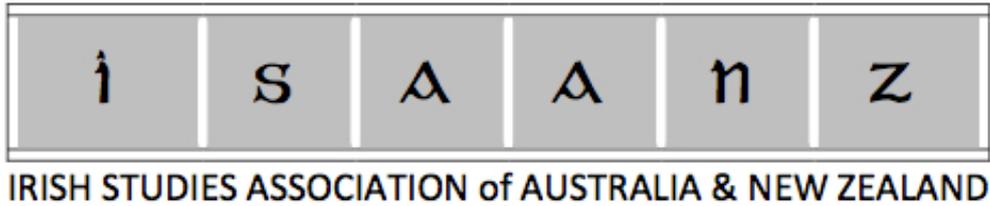
IRISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION Of AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

INCOME, EXPENDITURE and FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2016

Funds on hand at 1 July 2015		<u>\$7,223.28</u>
<u>Add</u> Income for the year		
Membership and AJIS subscriptions	\$6,194.42	
Total income		<u>\$6,194.42</u>
<u>Less</u> Expenditure for the year		
Payment to Celia Scott	1,650.00	
Payment to Julia Kuehns	518.50	
Essay prize	304	
Consumer Affairs Victoria	54.40	
Total expenditure		\$2,526.90
Net profit/loss for year		<u>(\$3,667.52)</u>
Funds on hand at 30 June 2016		<u>\$10,890.80</u>

Philip Bull
Hon. Treasurer
23 November 2016.

ATTACHMENT D



Secretary's Report for ISAANZ AGM 2016

1. Membership

There is mounting concern in the ISAANZ executive about declining numbers. This year it stands at 56 (as of 1 December 2016), down from a low level of 59 last year at the AGM. We hope to revive the organisation's enrolment levels by the in-depth discussion of better strategies in the Planning and Vision session at the end of the AGM.

2. Administrative Assistant/Editor

The injection of funds from our anonymous donor and the appointment of Molly Lukin has streamlined communications with members and the keeping of the membership lists necessary for delivery of the journal.

3. Web/Internet

Thanks to Fidelma Breen and a handful of active members, the ISAANZ FaceBook and Twitter presence have been the highlight of our communications in the past twelve months, with most interest in Australia, US, UK and Ireland and high levels of support in the 25-44 demographic.

4. Possible Revival of Newsletter

Molly Lukin has offered to coordinate a Newsletter on Mail Chimp. This would fill a gap of providing a special service for members, and represents an exciting venture, and one for which there is now the convenient technology. But our original Newsletter editor would warn that members need to be pro-active in generating content. The President recently suggested that a Research Question Column might be a useful way of building commitment to a newsletter.

Frances Devlin-Glass, 23 Nov 2016