

AASR Update

Minutes of the AASR Annual General Meeting 15 July 1992

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm and Paul Rule, President of AASR, welcomed members and observers to the meeting held during the International Congress at the University of Melbourne.

2. Attendance

36 members were in attendance, as follows: Enid Adam, Philip Almond, Jacky Angus, Tricia Blombery, Gary Bouma, Colin Brown, Wendy Brown, Angela Coco, Ed Conrad, John Cradick, Bob Crotty, Barbara Field, Gideon Goosen, Norm Habel, Graham Hassall, Vic Hayes, Peter Hobson, Trevor Jordan, Morney Joy, Judith Keller, Rod Lacey, Lynn-Marie Lewis, Carl Loeliger, Marion Maddox, Michael Mason, John May, Albert Moore, Basil Moore, Lyndsay Morris, Val Noone, Doug Pratt, Duncan Reid, Paul Rule, Deb Selway, Jane Simpson, Catherine Thom, Erin White.

3. Agenda

The agenda as submitted by the President was approved.

4. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Black, Roland Boer, Anne Gardner, Iain Gardner, Penny Magee, Pat Malone, Paul Stange.

Minutes of AGM 1991

It was moved that the minutes of the AGM of 5 October 1991, as printed in the *Australian Religion Studies REVIEW* of Autumn 1992, be taken as read and confirmed. (Cradick/Adam).

5. President's Report

Paul Rule presented the President's report. The report was received and several items raised in discussion:

- that care be taken with any further international conferences to ensure that members can register, make accommodation arrangements, and pay locally.
- that where international or local presenters withdraw all cancellations should be notified and substitutes be sought.
- that session chairpeople should be better briefed to ensure adequate time for discus-

sion between papers or for transfer between locations.

6. Secretary's Report

'Tricia Blombery presented the Secretary's report (see below).

7. Treasurer's Report

'Tricia Blombery presented the Treasurer's report (see below) and reported that the books had been audited and found in order but the auditor had still to present a written statement. A holding account had been established at the Advance Bank to avoid excessive fees instituted by Westpac for cheque deposits. The main account remains with Westpac. It was moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted (Blombery/Lacey).

8. Women's Caucus Report

Jane Simpson presented the report of the Women's Caucus (see below). The Secretary applauded the initiatives taken by the Women's Caucus but cautioned it to ensure that its aims were in line with the general aims of AASR and that members of Women's Caucus groups were members of AASR.

9. Publications Committee Report

Vic Hayes presented the report of the AASR Publications Committee (see below). Vic outlined discussions held in order to secure a reliable US distributor but noted that no decision has been reached. Vic responded to a question that there were no plans to revise the Mason bibliography. It was moved that the excellent work of Philip Hughes in preparing

AASR publications for printing be noted and that Philip be thanked for his efforts. (Hayes/ Mason) Carried. Paul Rule expressed the thanks of the Association for the continuing efforts of Vic Hayes as Chairman of the Publications Committee and of Norm Habel in compiling and editing the latest publication.

10. Subscriptions

The Treasurer drew attention to the slight deficit in the accounts for 1991-2 and the need for additional funds to cover expenses for the coming year and recommended an increase in subscriptions. After extended discussion it was resolved that the Treasurer prepare a provisional budget for 1992-3 and that the Executive be empowered to adjust subscriptions and their structure (Mason/Habel).

11. Election of Office Bearers

Paul Rule declared all positions vacant and called for nominations. Officers elected unopposed were:
 President - Paul Rule
 Vice-president - Jane Simpson
 Secretary - 'Tricia Blombery
 Treasurer - 'Tricia Blombery
 Convenor 1993 Conference - Alan Black
 Convenor 1994 Conference - Doug Pratt
 Chairman AASR Publications - Vic Hayes
 Editors ARS REVIEW - 'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes.

It was resolved that the Association continue to pay Peter Bentley to assist with secretarial work (Blombery/Habel)

12. Conference Reports

1993 Conference - Peter Hobson, UNE Armidale, presented a report from

Alan Black. The dates have been fixed for 1-4 July 1993 in order to conjoin the conferences 'Religion in the Ancient World' and 'Conformity and Non-conformity in Byzantium'. Section leaders have been appointed and a call for papers is to be issued shortly (see this issue). Tricia Blombery reported that accommodation had been booked at Robb college and that Alan Black was negotiating with the airline to facilitate the cheapest fare.

1994 Conference - Colin Brown and Doug Pratt reported discussions on the suitability of a New Zealand venue. It was resolved that the 1994 conference be held at the University of Waikato in July with Doug Pratt as convenor.

1995 Conference it was resolved that the Executive explore the possibility of another ANZATS/AASR conference for 1995.

13. Australian - New Zealand Links

Members and observers from New Zealand asked the meeting to consider changing the name of the association to 'Australasian' in order to more accurately reflect the international nature of the asso-

ciation and to encourage closer participation of New Zealand scholars of religion. The meeting expressed unanimous support.

It was resolved that the Executive work with members of the New Zealand group and present a concrete proposal to the 1993 AGM (Cradick/Pratt).

14. IAHR Business

Paul Rule raised several items arising from the IAHR correspondence:

- two delegates were needed for the IAHR meeting in Paris next July. Any members who expect to be in the area at the time were asked to notify the secretary.
 - the views of the Association on the possible name change to the International Association for the Study of Religions were canvassed and the change approved.
 - the possibility of contributing to a special IAHR fund and/or of raising funds for IAHR was discussed and rejected.
- The Secretary was asked to convey these decisions to the IAHR executive.

The meeting closed at 5:40pm.

Secretary's report

Tricia Blombery reported that at present there are 331 AASR members all but 31 of whom were financial. Of these members 59 were institutions. 9 members are from New Zealand, and 9 from overseas.

Peter Bentley has continued to assist with administrative tasks and \$625 were

spent on wages both for Peter and for assistance in mailing the REVIEW. The Secretary asked that the Association continue to employ Peter on a casual basis and wishes to minute officially her appreciation for his cheerful and efficient assistance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1/7/91 TO 30/6/92

Balance brought forward 1 July 1991

Westpac advantage saver	7316.20	
Westpac term deposit	<u>7000.00</u>	<u>14316.20</u>

Add Income

Membership fees	8861.46	
Book sales	2223.79	
REVIEW Advertising	65.00	
REVIEW Sales	115.00	
Interest	272.86	
1991 Conference refund	1000.00	
1991 Conference surplus	<u>411.59</u>	<u>12949.70</u>
		27265.90

Less Expenditure

Wages - admin	625.00	
Administration	552.96	
Postage - admin	365.85	
Telephone - admin	113.86	
Bank charges	73.48	
REVIEW - Printing	5100.00	
- Production	2500.00	
- Postage	1020.70	
- Stationery	101.60	
Books - printing	6243.00	
1992 Conference advance	<u>500.00</u>	<u>17082.59</u>

Balance carried forward 30 June 1991

Westpac advantage saver	3183.31	
Westpac term deposit	<u>7000.00</u>	<u>10183.31</u>

NOTE 1. Large expenditure was incurred in 1992 reprinting two AASR titles. However, this is rapidly being recouped by the sale of both these titles and other book stock.

NOTE 2. However, even when the amounts relating to books are removed from the statement, we are still operating at a slight loss (\$113.68) for the year. Additional funds will be required in 1993 to produce an update of the Directory. As subscriptions have remained at their present level for several years, some form of increase could be justified. I offer this proposal for consideration:

- i. individual subscriptions to be based on a sliding scale related to income but maintaining the present \$30 (\$15 student) base limit.
- ii a separate subscription rate for institutional members say \$50
- iii a loading for overseas members of say \$10

Tricia Blombery
15/7/92

Report from the AASR Publications Committee

1. During 1991-1992 two reprints were completed at a cost of \$6 243

(a) Strehlow <i>Central Australian Religion</i>	1000 for \$3 093
(b) Irwin <i>Intro to Maori Religion</i>	1000 for \$3 150

2. Book Sales for 4 Quarters (July 1 1991-30 June 1992):

581 volumes for a total of \$3 354.50

The following table shows the number of in-print titles sold.

Title	Sold
Central Aust Religion (Strehlow)	182
Hi Call, Hi Stress (Pryor)	9
Maori Religion (Irwin)	85
Identity Issues in Wld Rel (Hayes)HB	12
ditto PB	22
Let Sleeping Snakes Lie (Brennan)	62
Power, Plumes and Piglets (Habel)	64
Religion in Aust Life (Mason)	17
Rel Experience in Wld Rels (Hayes)	10
Ways of Transcendence (Dowdy)	21
Aboriginal Aust & Xn Missions(Swain)	<u>97</u>
Total:	<u>581</u>

3. The latest AASR title is *Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia: Essays in honour of Victor Hayes* edited by Norman Habel and launched July 14 1992. A conspiracy of silence kept this work hidden from me until the very last stages of production. I greatly appreciate the fact that the 24 Australian academics who worked to produce this fine volume have dedicated it to me and there to AASR itself. Their work has created the 15th AASR title and brings the total number of books printed since the inception of

AASR to 20 000 volumes.

4. Our journal *The Australian Religion Studies REVIEW* will be reported on elsewhere.

5. It is hoped that our next volume will be an anthology by Australian women academics presenting reflections on the feminist challenge to religious studies.

Respectfully submitted

Victor Hayes
Chairman, Publications Committee

Report of the AASR Women's Caucus

Presented at the AGM 15 July 1992

The Women's Caucus of the AASR welcomes the decision of a meeting of about 40 women scholars convened by Dr Elaine Wainwright and other women involved in the teaching/study of religion and theology on 11 July 1992 to create an informal association of women scholars in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, to circulate a newsletter, and to publish a directory of research in feminist religious studies and theology undertaken by women in these countries. The group does not yet have a name.

In keeping with the first aim of the Women's Caucus to stimulate research on

women and religion, two Caucus members in Brisbane, Deb Selway and Angela Coco, have for the last year convened monthly meeting to present papers.

In the next twelve months Caucus members plan to host campus based monthly or bi-monthly seminars on feminist religious studies and theology in each major Australian city. These will be advertised in theological colleges and university departments. We hope to invite visiting scholars to present papers also.

Jane Simpson

Call for Papers AASR Conference 1993

**1-4 July Robb College, University
of New England, Armidale, 2351**

In association with 'Religion in the
Ancient World'(1-3) and Australian Association
for Byzantine Studies (2-4).

Convenor: Alan Black, Sociology

Send expressions of interest to section co-
ordinators:

Philosophy of Religion: Peter Forrest, Philosophy

Religion and Education: Peter Hobson, Social,
Cultural & Curriculum Studies, or Mary Do-
lan, Social Sciences.

Religion, Literature and Text: Roland Boer,
Studies in Religion

Religion and Society: Alan Black, Sociology

Religion and History: Howard Brasted, His-
tory

Religion and Gender: Barbara Field, Social,
Cultural & Curriculum Studies

Aboriginal Religion: Margaret Sharpe, Abo-
riginal and Multicultural Studies or Lynette
Riley-Mundine, Aboriginal Resource Unit

Oriental Religions: Dennis Wright, History

New Religious Movements: Roland Boer,
Studies in Religion

at University of New England, Armidale,
2351

Phone: 067 73 3333 Fax: 067 73 3350

Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia. Essays in Honour of Victor Hayes.

Edited by Norman Habel. AASR, Adelaide. 1992.

There is a breadth of content from 24 contribu-
tors in this excellent book dedicated to Victor
Hayes.

Theoretical Framework for Multiculturalism

and *Religion* explores such
issues as integration and as-
similation; ultimacy as
symbolic representation of
order and meaning and the problem of religious
pluralism.

Multiculturalism in the Australian Context re-
flects on the culture of moralism; freedom for
religious and cultural expression; the 're-inven-
tion' of Aboriginal religion; the 'Common
Dish' of multicultural society, and the 'unease'
associated with religion and culture in Aus-
tralia.

Multiculturalism and Religious Traditions
gives fascinating insights into Jewish, Hindu,
Buddhist and Uniting Church traditions in Aus-

tralia.

Multiculturalism, Education and Ethical Issues
brings to the fore the silence about racism in re-
ligious education; the need for genuine dia-

logue with the world

religions; the meaning of mul-
ticulturalism for ethics; values
and culture; and the myth of

multiculturalism as espoused by the media.

Multiculturalism and the Biblical Text explores
're-reading' the Bible in a multicultural world.

This volume will be of interest to religious edu-
cators who may need to re-examine the effects
of the traditional individual worth and preju-
dice approach to the religious education cur-
riculum. Students of religion will find insights
into the rich and varied religious past of Aus-
tralia, and a new approach to hermeneutics. This
book is a major contribution to an under-
standing of Australian culture.

**Members' Special Offer:
\$19.95**