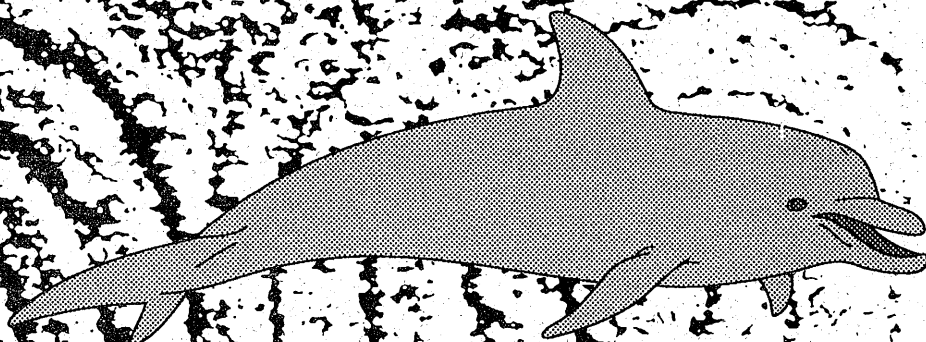


Australian
Religion
Studies

REVIEW

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER 2, SPRING 1993



Australian Association for the Study of Religions

Alan Black (UNE- Armidale)
President

Jane Simpson (Canterbury, N.Z.)
Vice-President

'Tricia Blombery (CRA)
Secretary

Neville Jarvis (Swedenborg Library)
Treasurer

Victor Hayes (S.A.C.A.E.)
**Editor,
AASR Publications**

Norman Habel (UniSA)
**1994 Conference Program
Committee Chairperson**

'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes (Christian Research Association)
Editors, A.R.S. Review.

The Australian Association for the Study of Religions is a professional organization with a membership of more than 300, made up of teachers, academics, students and others with knowledge and experience of religious traditions.

Many members also hold membership in other societies representing specific disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields. The AASR aims to function as a meeting place where the study of religion in its broadest dimensions may be fostered. It owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Charles Strong Trust for financial support.

Membership confers participation in the AASR program which includes:

- * Annual Conferences*
- * Access to AASR Publications (books and monographs)*
- * A.R.S. Review (articles, book reviews, news and notes on personnel, publications, seminars, conferences, course offerings, school and tertiary curricula).*
- * AASR Women and Religion Caucus*
- * Affiliation with the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)*
- * Strong ties with institutions in Melanesia and New Zealand.*

Subscriptions should be sent to:

'Tricia Blombery,
Secretary, AASR,
6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft,
NSW 2065.

1992/93

Members: \$40.00

Students and concessions: \$20.00

Overseas members: \$45.00

ISSN Number 1031-2934

Australian Religion Studies

Review

AN AASR Publication

© Australian Association for the Study of Religions
c/- The Secretary, 6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft, 2065

Printed at New Litho, Surrey Hills, Victoria.

The REVIEW is sent free to financial members of AASR.

Additional copies to members: \$6.75.

Price to non-members: \$10/copy (includes postage).

Orders to the Secretary.

Table of Contents

Feature: 'New Age'?!	1
Towards an Understanding of the New Age: <i>Philip Almond</i>	1
The New Age - A Sociological Assessment: <i>Michael Hill</i>	6
The Christian Critique of New Age: <i>Rachel Sharp and Jan O'Leary</i>	13
This New Age Business: a Constructive Critique: <i>Michael Stanley</i>	18
When the Devil came to Christchurch: <i>Jenny Barnett and Michael Hill</i>	25
Some Transcendental Reflections from a Really Dead Poets' Society: <i>John Wren-Lewis</i>	30
Book Review: <i>John D'Arcy May</i>	32
 In Memoriam	 34
Colin Badger 1906-1993	34
Raymond Owen Harrison	34
 AASR Update	 36
Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions, at the University of New England - Armidale, 3 July 1993	36
Treasurer's Report	38
Publications Committee Report	39
Secretary's Report to AGM	40
Women's Caucus Report	41
 Newslink	 42
State News	42
New Zealand Notes	46
News from Further Away	48
Australian Conferences	48
Overseas Conferences Coming Up !	50
From the Association for the Sociology of Religion	51
Method and Theory in the Study of Religion	52
 Courses and Curriculum	 53
Reworking Religious Studies at Canterbury	53
 Book Reviews	 55
G. Goosen, <i>Bringing Churches Together</i> : <i>Ray Williamson</i>	55
J. Davis, <i>Australian Anglicans and their Constitution</i> : <i>Martin Hislop</i>	57
<i>Grail</i> : <i>Jerome Crowe</i>	58
A.F. Campbell and M.A.O'Brien, <i>Sources of the Pentateuch</i> : <i>H. Wallace</i>	59
Carmel Leavey, et al., <i>Sponsoring Faith in Adolescence</i> : <i>Marie Crotty</i>	61
Nonie Sharp, <i>Stars of Tagai: the Torres Strait Islanders</i> : <i>Lynne Hume</i>	63

Editors' Note

This issue of the REVIEW represents a true members' journal. It has been put together in the short time since the Annual Conference only through the willing and speedy response of a large number of members. 'Tricia would like especially to thank those friends and colleagues who, in response to frantic phonecalls, provided (on disc even!!) material to make up the Features section. Also deserving praise are the news sleuths who sent updates on events in their departments. As you can see, we still are not covering all campuses. If you feel you would be able to get a couple of paragraphs together twice a year to share with other members please let me know. Others to whom we are indebted are those who volunteer reviews of books.

We will try again next time for a Feature on interfaith dialogue. I know from your directory returns that a number of you are working in the area and I would appreciate offers of papers. These need not be scholarly pieces but should serve to inform members of current interests and issues in the field. We would also welcome offers of pieces for the State of the Art section which provides an overview of one particular aspect of the study of religions.

There are other ways we can all help. Just a few suggestions are:

- reports of conferences you attend
- reports of study leave
- volunteering to be on the book reviewers list
- information about forthcoming conferences
- outlines and/or assessments of new courses and curricula
- making sure your publishers get us review copies of your books.

Editing the REVIEW, as any of you who have undertaken this kind of work will know, is a time consuming and often lonely task. Your responses in getting this issue together and the feedback you provide make it all worthwhile. Thank you all again.

'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes