

Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics

Incorporated in New South Wales, ABN 37 191 313 308

Annual report, 2004-2005

The Annual General Meeting for 2004 was held during the annual conference at the Hawkesbury campus of the University of Western Sydney in September-October 2004, and this report covers activity since then.

The aims of the Association include the fostering of community discussion, organisation of conferences and the development and distribution of publications. There has been progress toward all of these in the year under review.

Fostering community discussion

The Association is increasingly asked to participate in activities arranged by professional and community organisations.

- In February, members of the Association gave a commissioned presentation to state chapters of the Migration Institute of Australia. Sessions were held in several capital cities.
- The AAPAE has been included in a number of international directories, including the Encyclopedia of Associations: International Organizations published by Thomson Gale
- A number of reviews and investigations sought comment from the Association or its members, with these requests usually being relayed to members through the listserver *aapae-l*.

The importance and effectiveness of both the **website** and the **listserver** are demonstrated by these requests for participation from the wider community. The web site provides a source of information about possible contacts for individuals and groups who have enquiries. During 2005 the website has been upgraded, with some further work to be done. Through Stephen Cohen we found assistance with the process which has worked effectively. We are still in the process of considering whether there is material which ought to be discarded or supplemented, and are actively seeking further appropriate material to be included on the site. One part of the site now includes reviews of books authored or edited by AAPAE members. Further reviews are in preparation and we aim to add images of book dust jackets to improve the site visually. All suggestions and comments are welcome.

The continued work of Stephen Cohen in administering and overseeing both the website and listserver is invaluable to the Association and is once again acknowledged.

The Association notes with interest the initiatives that were taken after a conference in Canberra in May to establish an Australian Research Ethics Association. The AAPAE anticipates that there may be synergies available in some collaborative activities, and plans to maintain contact with key individuals in the research ethics area.

At the present conference efforts are being made to establish an "Armed Forces, Police and Society Interest Group" under the aegis of the AAPAE, to pursue enquiry and development activities around ethical issues confronting police and the armed forces.

Conferences

Although the University of Western Sydney-based organisers of the 2004 **conference** may have begun with some reluctance, and otherwise welcome rain made the Hawkesbury campus just a little less attractive than it might have been, the conference demonstrated that there is support for the Association across a range of institutions and in a variety of disciplines. The efforts of the 2004 organising committee are gratefully acknowledged. The conference convenor Dr Linda Newman's report on the conference was published in *Australian Ethics* and is on the AAPAE website. The 2005 conference takes the Association back to its 'home' in the sense that the initial meeting from which the Association grew was held in Adelaide.

Publications

In the year since the Hawkesbury conference members have received

- two issues of the Association's official journal, *the Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics*, including the issue containing selected papers from the Melbourne conference.
- issues of *Res Publica* produced by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE),
- a CD containing the refereed papers from the Hawkesbury conference
- an issue of the Association's newsletter, *Australian Ethics*.

A further issue of *AJPAE* containing papers from the 2004 conference is in press.

The work of Andrew Alexandra as Editor of the *Australian Journal of Professional & Applied Ethics*, of Stephen Coleman as editor of the selected publications from the 2004 conference which will appear in the next issue of the *AJPAE* and Ian Richards as editor of *Australian Ethics* is acknowledged with gratitude.

Membership

Membership stands at 42 full members, 5 concessional members and 3 corporate members.

Administration

The business of the committee was transacted by email rather than by teleconference this year.

The Association's Treasurer has explored the possibility of receiving credit card payments for subscriptions, and the Committee has agreed to implement the arrangement forthwith. The Treasurer reported that there is a once up joining fee is \$79, a transaction fee of 15 cents per transaction and a 1.79% merchant service fee, i.e. we would have to pay $\$1.79 + 0.15 = \1.94 for each full (\$100) membership that we processed using the credit card facility. The transaction fee of 15 cents is capped at \$11.00 per month, so that in a month where we don't have any transactions we still have to pay \$11. Effectively this means that we would have a yearly cost of \$132 plus the 1.79% merchant service fee. The implication is that we would therefore more than cover our yearly costs if we get 1 full member and 1 student member. As there have been numerous requests for the service, and it seems likely that we will get more than the two person increase in our membership, the Association's Committee agreed to implement the arrangement forthwith.

During the year Kay Buckley ceased to be the Association's Public Officer. Kay was Treasurer of the Association for some years. Kay saw us through the advent of the GST and re-established the formal systems of the Association. Her diligence, persistence and cheerfulness have been of benefit to many committees and to the wider Association. Thank you, Kay.

HR Harris

Secretary, 28 Sep 2005