

Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics

Annual report, 2003-2004

The Annual General Meeting for 2003 was held during the annual conference in Melbourne in early October 2003, and this report covers activity since then.

The Association aims to **foster community discussion**, and in 2004 ethics and morals have continued to be of interest to the Australian community. Some of this interest has focussed on excess and moral error. Some has been concerned with the development of procedures, codes and protocols which might enhance moral behaviour and guide those who are affected by breaches of accepted moral standards. For an Association which is concerned with professional and applied ethics this is an encouraging sign. Although the Association itself has not had a major public role in this, some AAPAE members have been regular contributors to the national and local media. Whilst the contributors may not always be identified with the Association, their informed contribution to the debate on current issues is a way of advancing our aim.

The organising of **conferences** is another of the Association's aims. The efforts of the team at the University of Western Sydney, who have organised the 2004 conference, are sincerely recognised by the committee. Earlier this year the International Society for Business, Ethics and Economics (ISBEE) held its third international conference in Melbourne. The AAPAE was indirectly associated with that conference, with a member of the AAPAE committee, Prof Tom Campbell, coordinating the ISBEE event. Many AAPAE members attended ISBEE and its success may be reflected in part in the lower number attending the AAPAE conference this year.

Another important element of the AAPAE's work is **publication**. It is included in the Association's objectives: to develop and distribute publications, including a newsletter, conference proceedings and journal. At the 2003 AGM much time was spent on the matter of the Association's publications, an issue which had vexed the Association's members and committee for some time. In the year since the Melbourne conference the flow of publications from the Association has been substantial. Members have received:

- two issues of the Association's official journal, *the Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics*,
- issues of two overseas journals containing papers from the Adelaide conference – *Business & Professional Ethics Journal* and *Professional Ethics*, both edited by Robert Baum
- issues of *Res Publica* produced by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE),
- a CD containing the refereed papers from the Melbourne conference
- and the first issue of the Association's revitalised newsletter, *Australian Ethics*.

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

This was not without struggle nor were our expectations fully met. The mail delivery containing one of the Baum journals went astray, delaying delivery. Publication timetables, though unexceptional when compared to in some academic experience, introduce long delays between the conference and the publication in recognised journals of its papers.

It is worth noting the continuing recognition of the high standard of papers presented at the AAPAE conference, with both the *AJPAE* and Robert Baum seeking to have access to papers from the conferences. As agreed at the 2003 AGM, the *AJPAE*, as the Association's official journal, has first priority.

In addition to the printed publications the AAPAE list server aapae-l extends the reach of the association far beyond the membership. It is maintained by Stephen Cohen, who also maintains the AAPAE website. These contributions from Stephen, which have continued for many years, deserve our ongoing recognition and thanks. Without them the Association would be much less visible and members would be less well served.

The Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies within the University of South Australia has continued to provide (limited) administrative support for the AAPAE. Kay Buckley, a former treasurer, has provided bookkeeping services and acted as the Association's Public Officer.

HR Harris

Secretary, 29 Sep 2004