

Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics

Incorporated in New South Wales, ABN 37 191 313 308

Annual report, 2010

The Annual General Meeting of AAPAE for 2009 was held at the Best Western Hotel, Goulburn on Wednesday 10 June 2009, at 2:45 pm. Attendees from universities around Australia and overseas were at the conference plus a small number from the private & public sectors. This report covers activities for the year since then.

The aims of the Association include the fostering of community discussion, organisation of conferences and the development and distribution of publications.

Regular Teleconferencing

The decision was taken at the 2008 annual conference that the Association's business would be facilitated by the regularisation of the teleconferences throughout the year at approximately three month intervals. This practice has continued through 2009 and 2010 and has proven effective. Three teleconferences were held, two in August and October 2009 and the third in February 2010. Thanks must continue to go to Howard Harris, immediate Past President, for facilitating the teleconferences.

Each teleconference was provided reports on finances, the Journal and on the progress of the Annual Conference and AGM. Additional issues were discussed and resolved as reported below.

The fourth and final meeting for the committee, was held at Sydney, prior to the 2010 conference, on Monday 14th. June 2010. The results of that meeting will be reported orally during the Conference AGM

Finances and the Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics

These reports will be made by our Treasurer, Kaye Plummer and the co editor of the Journal, Anna Corbo Crehan.

Fostering community discussion

The Association's **website** and its **listserver** are key vehicles for both those involved in the academic teaching of ethics and the wider community engaged in practical and applied ethics in the workforce . There is now a wide range of ethics resources and information about the association available on the website. Suggestions and comments for enhancements are welcome.

Stephen Cohen has continued to administer and oversee both the website and listserver. His continued work in this area is invaluable to the Association and is once again acknowledged.

Membership

There were 39 paid members a week before the Annual Conference. An additional but as yet unknown number are expected from the conference.

There were 313 subscribers to the list server.

Timing of annual conference

It was decided unanimously in 2008 that the conference to be around June during the university mid year break. This practice was continued in 2009 and 2010.

Publication of the Proceeding of the Annual Conference.

Publication of the Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics (AJPAE) and of the AAPAE conference proceedings has faced some difficulties over the last couple of years, but they have now been resolved. The edited proceedings of the 2007 AAPAE annual conference at RMIT University in Melbourne have now come out in Volume 10, Nos 1 & 2. The Journal is produced by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) at Charles Sturt University. Thanks must go to CSU and to Anna Corbo Crehan, the Association's member of the Journal's management committee.

Annual renewal date

Renewal date for membership has been left unchanged at the beginning of the New Year

Annual membership and conference fees

Annual membership has been retained at \$100. The conference fees include the annual AAPAE membership, thus effectively discounting the conferences to members by the amount of their membership fee plus an additional small fee.

Refereed Stream at Conferences

The Brisbane conference did not produce a refereed stream. This approach created problems for staff from some institutions that required a refereed paper if they were to fund travel. The decision was taken for the Goulburn conference that it would encourage a refereed stream, and that it would produce a CD of refereed papers. This practice has been continued for the Sydney conference.

2010 Conference.

The committee noted on several occasions the work that Dr Betty Chaar had put into the current conference and thanked her for it.

2011 Conference.

The 2011 conference is to be held in Hobart, at the University of Tasmania, under the sponsorship of the Department of Philosophy.

The Newsletter.

An informative copy of the newsletter, *Australian Ethics*, thanks to Hugh Breakey came out in early 2010.

Payment for Res Publica,

The question of payment for this publication came up at a couple of meetings. Eventually decided that AAPAE would discontinue payment and that it would inform CAPPE, Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, publisher of this journal.

Publicity and attracting new members, including practitioners

Membership has decreased in recent years and has been and still is an issue for discussion and resolution by the Executive Committee.

Liquid Learning

The Association was also approached by Liquid Learning, a private sector conference organiser to sponsor a public sector ethics conference at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. AAPAE saw no benefit from the endorsement however, and had no input to the content.

Research

AAPAE, members of which are drawn from many different disciplines, and include moral philosophers and ethics practitioners, is in a unique position to draw lessons that span across the spectrum of ethical theory and practice. An expression of interest in obtaining funds to pursue such an endeavour was put forward during the year, but it was not successful.

Peter Bowden
Secretary
13 June 2010