

Notice of Annual General Meeting 14th AGM (2021)

Time: 7:30pm AEDT (Melbourne), 9.30pm NZDT (Auckland)

Date: Tuesday 14th December 2021

Link: <https://acu.zoom.us/j/88664749226?pwd=ZlF4V05NMklOVXFiWkx3NFJjSnlvUT09>

Passcode: 287751

1. **Confirmation of the minutes** of the previous Annual General Meeting (9 December 2020) (Appendix A)
2. **Reports** from the officers of the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year, 2019/2020.
 - a. President's Report (Malcolm Campbell – See Appendix B)
 - b. Treasurer's Report (Chris Murray - see Appendix C)
 - c. Membership Secretary's Report (Paul Harris - see Appendix D)
 - d. Secretary's Report (Matthew Ryan – see Appendix E)
3. **Election of the officers** of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee.
4. **Any Other Business**

Any questions regarding the AGM should be directed to the Secretary.

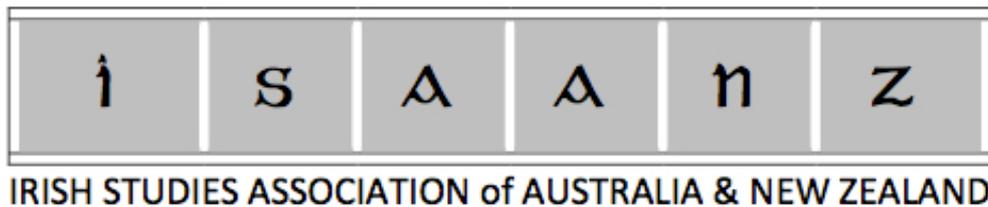
Secretary's contact details:

email: Matthew.Ryan@acu.edu.au

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ACU, 115 Victoria Parade,
Fitzroy VIC, 3065

APPENDIX A AGM 2020 Minutes



Minutes of Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ISAANZ) Annual General Meeting 13th AGM (2020)

Venue: Zoom:

<https://adelaide.zoom.us/j/82672744387?pwd=NFQ3SllxZWlmcHk3Y001bVJQaXVoUT09>

Time: 7.00 pm (ACST), Wednesday 9th December 2020

Present: Rónán McDonald (chair), Fidelma McCorry (minutes), Brad Patterson, Malcolm Campbell, Sharon Crozier-De Rosa, Sonja Tiernan, Jimmy Yan, Kevin Molloy, Matthew Ryan, Paul Harris, Chris Murray, Michael Christie, Jeanette Mollenhauer and Jimmy Yan.

Apologies: Dianne Hall.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (11 December 2019) (Attachment B)

Moved by Brad Patterson and seconded by Sonja Tiernan. Carried.

2. Reports from the officers of the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year, **2012/2013**.

- a. President's Report (Ronan McDonald). Moved: Malcolm Campbell. Seconded: Sharon Crozier de Rosa. Carried.
- b. Treasurer's Report (Chris Murray) Moved: Fidelma McCorry. Seconded: Paul Harris. Carried.

Regarding the issue of a separate AJIS/ISAANZ accounts – the Melbourne lockdown meant the account wasn't opened. Chris reported that if the accounts are separated then AJIS would always be in negative. Fidelma stated that in order to receive tax-deductible donations ISAANZ needs DGR status and this requires a separate account for the Association's funds. It was agreed that the second account would be opened as soon as possible.

- c. Membership Secretary's Report (Paul Harris) Error noted: Total w subs 59/23. Moved: Brad Patterson. Seconded: Chris Murray. Carried.
- d. Secretary's Report (Fidelma McCorry) Moved: Paul Harris. Seconded: Matthew Ryan. Carried.

3. Election of the officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee.

President: Malcolm Campbell, nominated by Brad Patterson and seconded by Kathryn Patterson. Declared.

Vice-President: Rónán McDonald, nominated by Brad Patterson and seconded by Fidelma McCorry. Declared.

Secretary: Matthew Ryan, nominated by Rónán McDonald and seconded by Fidelma McCorry. Declared.

Treasurer: Chris Murray, nominated by Rónán McDonald and seconded by Fidelma McCorry. Declared.

Committee Members:

Sharon Crozier de Rosa nominated by Fidelma McCorry and seconded by Ronan McDonald. Declared.

Sonja Tiernan nominated by Sharon Crozier de Rosa and seconded by Fidelma McCorry. Declared.

Jimmy Yan, Post Graduate Rep., nominated by Rónán McDonald and seconded by Paul Harris. Declared

It was noted that Dianne Hall as AJIS editor and Brad Patterson (NZ Conference) would also be on the committee ex officio.

4. Any Other Business

Membership Secretary could be an officer position in the Association. The new committee could consider changing the Rules of the association to accommodate this.

Website management – this is an ongoing issue which has largely fallen to Paul Harris. Additional assistance with web admin would be a great help.

Ronan asked those present to think of advertising ISAANZ to academics with only one foot in Irish studies – those who don't think of themselves as being in Irish studies but have a relevance/tangential perspective. Postgrad representation is very important. Free membership and social media presence help here. Chris said ISAANZ should be involved in the international consortium interdisciplinary studies C19th. He is currently President of the Romanticism Society of Australasia and there may be a panel on Ireland at the next Romanticism conference in La Trobe in 2021. ISAANZ should continue to aim, as it has recently, to achieve a balance with history and academic and non-academic audiences. Remaining relevant to academic agendas is a fine balance with a broadchurch. Encouraging to see number of ECRs and postgrads at recent conferences.

The next conference will be held in Auckland in late 2021 – first week of December. Virtual event if the Trans-Tasman bubble isn't an option.

The recent recordings of MISS seminars was raised and it was suggested uploading the recordings to a member-only area of ISAANZ could be a value-add for members. Whether or not MISS could operate

in interactive mode was also raised. A facilitator on Zoom could watch for virtual audience questions and allow full participation rather than just passive watching.

Fidelma McCorry reported that the Irish Research Group of South Australia were planning an edited book featuring selected papers from ISAANZ 24: Foregrounding Irish Women. It was hoped it would be published in late 2021.

Thanks were offered to outgoing Secretary Fidelma McCorry for her input to and enthusiasm for the Association over the last few years. Fidelma responded that she had greatly enjoyed her time at ISAANZ and left with fond friendships. Fidelma will forward links to the Secretary folder to Matthew Ryan.

APPENDIX B President's Report

I venture to say that the last twelve months will long remain in our memories as a year challenge, frustration, and for many us, of lost opportunity. Optimism early in 2021 that the worst of the pandemic had passed saw the opening of the trans-Tasman bubble, albeit for only a short time. In Melbourne, Sydney, and Auckland, in particular, long periods of lockdown during this year proved energy sapping, while for those working from home online engagement lost much of its novelty. The hope that we would be able to gather in person for an Australian and New Zealand Irish Studies Conference, and later, for at least a hybrid conference with the opportunity for some in-person attendance, evaporated as the delta variant took hold on both sides of the Tasman. However, I am pleased that we have had the opportunity to gather as an association for the current conference. I'd like to thank once again the Irish Ambassador to New Zealand, Peter Ryan, for his support.

There were bright spots on the Australasian scene, and I would particularly like to acknowledge the organisers of the Melbourne Irish Studies Seminar for their excellent 2021 programme that provided opportunities for those interested in Irish Studies to gather together virtually. Dianne Hall and the team from the Australasian Journal of Irish Studies worked hard to produce the current very good issue. However, many of us will feel that we have fallen short in what we had hoped to achieve in 2021. If so, we should not lose sight of the magnitude of the pandemic we are experiencing and the impact it is having on all our lives.

I hope the current conference and the spread of vaccination in Australia and New Zealand provides a springboard for the resumption of a more energised pattern of ISAANZ activity in 2022, as well as for increased engagement with Irish studies in Ireland and around the world. It's a particular pleasure that our Vice President, Ronan McDonald, and committee member, Sonja Tiernan, leaders in the field of Irish Studies in Australasia, delivered keynote lectures at our conference. Both are in Dublin, a sign perhaps that the mobility which has been such a hallmark of Irish Studies will soon resume. Additionally, a key priority for next year should be a stock take of Irish Studies in our part of the world in light of the significant changes in the tertiary education sector on both sides of the Tasman. We will undertake renewed work on our strategy to link together active researchers, engage with early career researchers and postgraduates, and build relationships with those with general interest in Ireland and Irish society. We will also be cognizant of the importance of international connections and collaboration.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the members of the ISAANZ committee for their support and patience during 2021, and to wish all members well for the festive season ahead of better times next year.

APPENDIX C Treasurer's Report

IRISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Annual General Meeting, 2021

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2020–21

Financial position 1 July 2020 **£15,868.50 cr**

Income FY 2020–21

Membership and <i>AJIS</i> subscriptions	\$3,834.44
Copyright Agency	\$380.49
EBSCO	\$630.00
RMIT	\$79.32
Total in	\$4,924.25

Expenditure FY 2020–21

AJIS typesetting	\$2,100.00
AJIS printing	\$1,540.00
AJIS postage	\$828.58
Total out	\$4,468.58

Note: the ISAANZ postgraduate essay prize was not awarded in 2021.

NET profit/loss FY2020–21 **\$455.66 cr**

Financial position 30 June 2021 **\$16,324.16**

Chris Murray, Treasurer

4 December 2021

APPENDIX D Membership Secretary's Report

1. Membership and Journal Subscriptions

Although activities remained restricted the association's membership grew. Paid memberships crept back up again, and concession members with journal subscriptions have increased three-fold since fees were waived for this category.

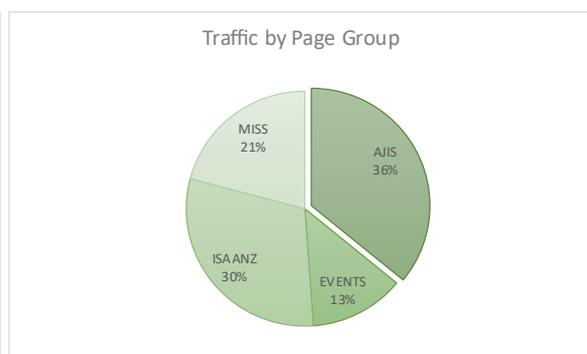
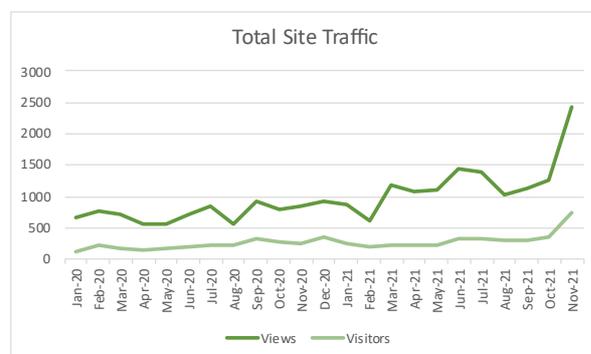
Membership Breakdown								
Paid (inc. Life)			Concession			Total		
With Sub.	No Sub.	All	With Sub.	No Sub.	All	With Sub.	No Sub.	All
46 (11)	2 (-2)	48 (9)	33 (8)	16 (-3)	49 (5)	79 (19)	18 (-5)	97 (14)
95.8%	4.2%	49.5%	67.3%	32.7%	50.5%	81.4%	18.6%	



The cost of membership has not changed since 2006 and remains only \$20 annually. Similarly, while journal production and postage costs have risen substantially the association has maintained the subscription cost for as long. In the new year the website will allow members to enable automatic membership and subscription payments. This may assist financials and reduce the administrative burden of renewal reminders. It is hoped that members will opt for automatic deductions when this becomes available.

2. Website

Event notifications and recordings (34% of page hits), and interest in the journal appear to have contributed to an increase in site traffic over the last year, mostly from the Asia Pacific (over 70%). The site remained responsive and stable throughout the year.



APPENDIX E Secretary's Report

1. Committee Meetings

The long COVID-related lockdowns in our respective cities made for a difficult year. Committee meetings were conducted via Zoom throughout 2021. The Committee met four times (24 March, 16 June, 6 October, and 17 November).

2. ISAANZ 25 Ireland: History, Memory and Myth

The Committee meetings addressed the preparations for the conference ISAANZ 25 Ireland: History, Memory and Myth. The conference organisers grappled with the changing circumstances of lockdown and travel restrictions by considering a variety of options for the conference. The online format allowed for greatest flexibility given the uncertain conditions and difficulty of planning.

3. Finances and Membership

The work to streamline membership renewal has continued in 2021. The Committee agreed to offer members the option to have their membership renewed automatically. This should help to maintaining membership numbers and to provide a steady flow of membership fees.

4. Website and Social Media

The ISAANZ website is functioning well and continues to provide up-to-date information on the Association and events of interest. The Committee is planning to develop the ISAANZ presence on social media.

5. ISAANZ Not-for-Profit Status

In December 2020 the ISAANZ Annual Information Statement (AIS) was submitted to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. The 2021 AIS will be submitted in December.

6. ISAANZ Presence

Finally, in July three members of the ISAANZ Committee presented a panel on at 'Texts and Their Limits: Australia's Triennial Literary Studies Convention'. Ronan McDonald, Chris Murray, and Matthew Ryan presented papers on, 'Cosmopolitan and National: the limits of 'Irish' literature'.

Matthew Ryan
4 December 2021