

## Minutes of Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ISAANZ)

### 14th AGM (2021)

**Time:** 3:00pm AEDT (Melbourne), 5.00pm NZDT (Auckland).

**Date:** Tuesday 14th December 2021

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94948478260?pwd=TXlnM0NjRlZtcj9FWGd3NmpuLzl2Zz09>  
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ISAANZ

**Present:** Malcolm Campbell (chair), Matthew Ryan (minutes), Rónán McDonald, Brad Patterson, Kathryn Patterson, Dymphna Lonergan, Sharon Crozier-De Rosa, Sonja Tiernan, Kevin Molloy, Paul Harris, Chris Murray, Maebh Long, Dianne Hall, Elizabeth Malcolm, Frances Devlin-Glass, Michael Christie, Jeanette Mollenhauer, Jimmy Yan, Michael Christie, Val Noone.

**Apologies:** Olga Walker, Jeff Kildea, Peter Kuch

1. **Confirmation of the minutes** of the previous Annual General Meeting (9 December 2020)  
Moved by Brad Patterson, Second by Diane Hall. Carried.
2. **Reports from the officers** of the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year, 2020/2021.
  - a. **President's Report** (Malcolm Campbell – see Appendix B) Moved by Dymphna Lonergan. Seconded Matthew Ryan. Carried
  - b. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Murray - see Appendix C) Moved Malcolm Campbell. Second Diane Hall. Carried. Diane noted the cost of postage has increased. It was proposed that the membership fee with Journal subscription be increased by \$10 for local and \$15 for international subscriptions. Moved Malcolm Campbell. Second Diane Hall. Carried.
  - c. **Membership Secretary's Report** (Paul Harris - see Appendix D) Moved Diane Hall. Second Brad Patterson. Carried.
  - d. **Secretary's Report** (Matthew Ryan – see Appendix E) Moved Malcolm Campbell. Second Frances Devlin-Glass. 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:** Ronan McDonald, nominated by Matthew Ryan and seconded by Chris Murray. Declared.

**Treasurer:** Chris Murray, nominated by Matthew Ryan and seconded by Diane Hall. Declared.

**Secretary:** Matthew Ryan, nominated by Malcolm Campbell and seconded by Chris Murray. Declared.

**Committee Members:**

**Postgraduate representative** Jimmy Yan, nominated by Pau Harris and seconded by Matthew Ryan. Declared.

Sonja Tiernan, nominated by Malcolm Campbell and seconded Brad Patterson. Declared.

Sharon Crosier-De Rosa, nominated by Matthew Ryan and seconded by Chris Murray. Declared.

Brad Patterson, nominated by Malcolm Campbell and seconded by Katheryn Patterson. Declared.

Diane Hall co-opted by the committee as ex officio member.

Paul Harris co-opted by the committee as Membership Secretary.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

Possibilities for the venue and timing of the next conference were discussed. It was proposed for the conference to be held in Melbourne in 2023. A suitable venue will be sought.

A postgraduate bursary for a project in Irish studies was discussed. The committee is to consider the amount and sources of funds.

Diane Hall expressed thanks to Paul Harris for his extensive work on the website.

#### **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           |
| <b>Total in</b>                          | <b>\$4,924.25</b> |

**Expenditure FY 2020–21**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| AJIS typesetting | \$2,100.00        |
| AJIS printing    | \$1,540.00        |
| AJIS postage     | \$828.58          |
| <b>Total out</b> | <b>\$4,468.58</b> |

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

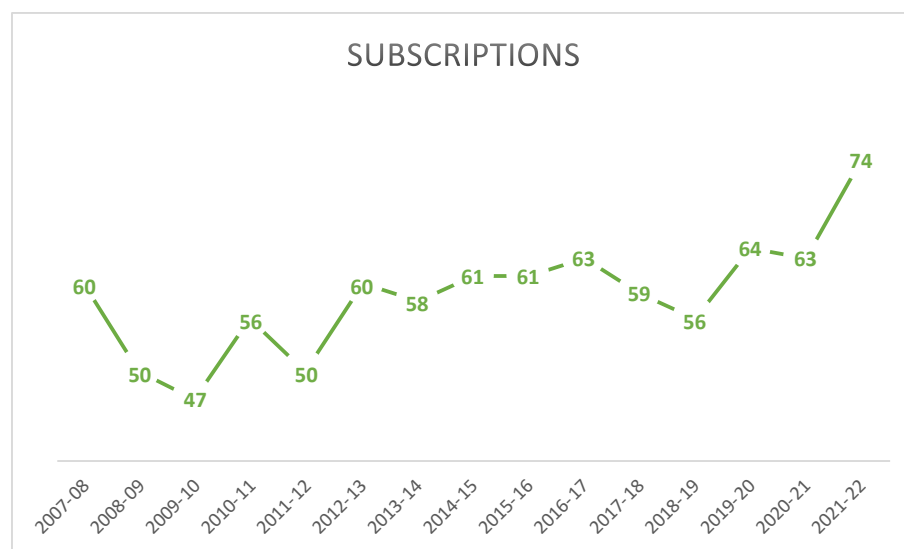
4 December 2021

## 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 the number of concession members with journal subscriptions has increased three-fold since fees were waived for this category of membership.

| Membership Breakdown    |         |        |                   |         |        |              |         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|---------|--------|--------------|---------|---------|
| <i>Paid (inc. Life)</i> |         |        | <i>Concession</i> |         |        | <i>Total</i> |         |         |
| With Sub.               | No Sub. | All    | With Sub.         | No Sub. | All    | With Sub.    | No Sub. | All     |
| 45 (10)                 | 3 (-1)  | 48 (9) | 32 (7)            | 17 (-2) | 49 (5) | 77 (17)      | 20 (-3) | 97 (14) |
| 93.8%                   | 6.3%    | 49.5%  | 65.3%             | 33.3%   | 50.5%  | 79.4%        | 20.6%   |         |

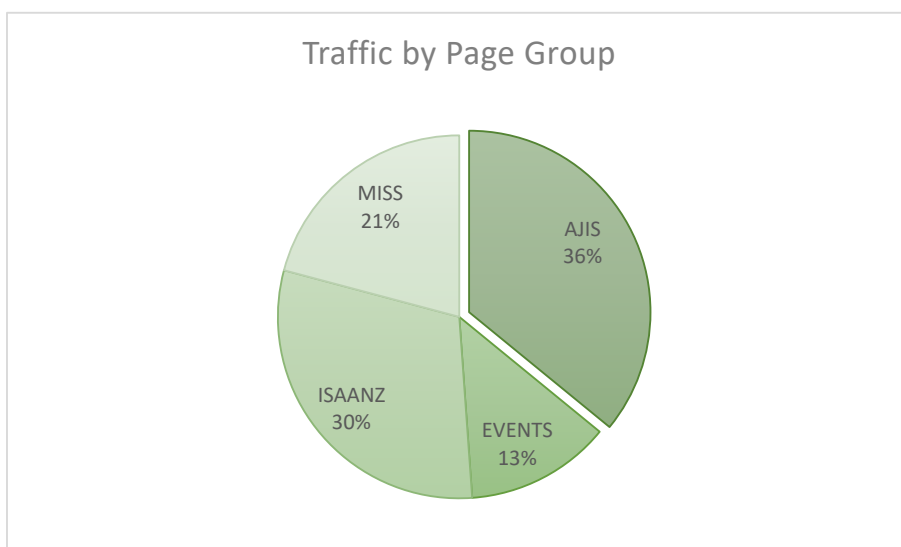
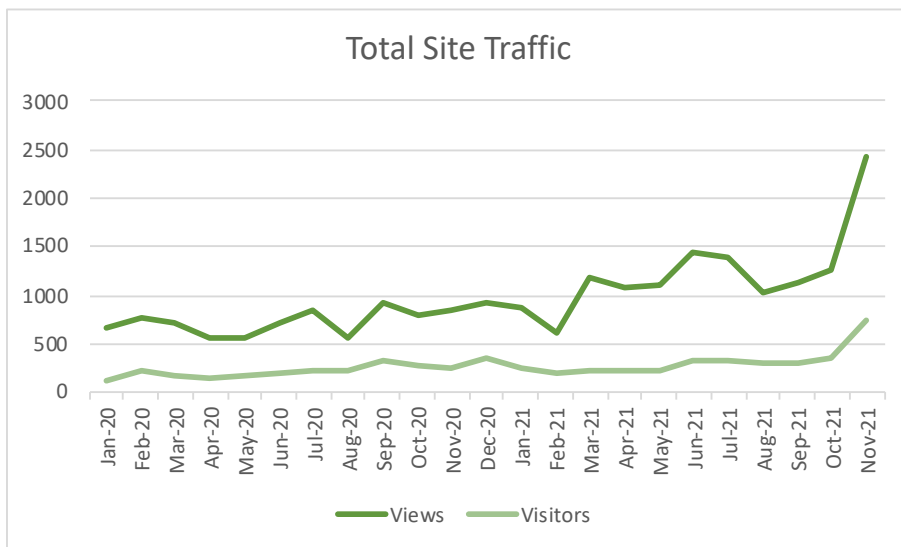


The cost of membership has not changed since 2006, and the membership component is very modest at \$20 a year. Similarly, while journal production and postage costs have risen substantially the association has maintained the subscription cost for as long.

In the new year a facility will be added to the website that will allow members to enable automatic membership and journal subscription payments. This may assist financials, and will certainly reduce the administrative burden of renewal reminders. It is hoped that members will opt for automatic deductions when this becomes available.

## 2. Website

Event notification and recordings (34% of page hits), and interest in the journal (36%) appear to have contributed to an increase in site traffic this year, mostly from the Asia Pacific (over 70%).



Paul Harris  
Membership  
4 December 2021

## **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 maintain 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