

President's Report to the 2009 Annual General Meeting

Professor Kathleen Daly

Since my last report, the Society has continued to increase its professionalism and stature. In this report, I describe the major achievements and activities during the past year (October 2008 to October 2009) and review on-going Society activities. This is my last report as President because I am stepping down at the November AGM in Perth, having served four years in the role.

Major Achievements

ANZSOC's new website

A significant focus of the Society's time and energy was to have a new ANZSOC website, with greater functionality, launched and ready for members to renew in July 2009. Establishing a new website was the number one priority coming from the Committee of Management's (CoM) Planning Day in November 2008. Three major tasks were required: (1) identify a set of suitable vendors, outline our required specifications, get quotes, and decide on the vendor; (2) create a new ANZSOC logo; and (3) work with the successful vendor (efront, a Melbourne-based company) to design the website and its components. Items (1) and (2) were finalised in March 2009.

The members of the ANZSOC Website Sub-Committee (Secretary Signe Dalsgaard, Russell Smith, Matthew Willis, and Damon Muller) and I worked to progress the idea. Creating the new logo was a significant task. Working with Natasha Bouhours (our logo designer), Signe put forward a set of suitable logos to the CoM. We voted on them, and there was a clear winner.

From March 2009 onward, the many tasks involved in shifting text from the older website host (the AIC), complying with bank rules to create a secure system, identifying a complete list of members' email addresses, among many other tasks, were coordinated and actioned by Signe. The efront staff were extremely helpful and responsive. Once the website went live and the renewal process was underway, Signe managed all the questions and helped those having any problems. Although we were a bit concerned that something might go wrong, it went smoothly.

The website launch is my most significant achievement as President. It was dependent on achieving a second key goal: to hire a part-time staff person to carry out the tasks of Secretary and to further the Society's professionalism. I remember well the concerns raised by members at the Special Meeting in Wellington in February 2005 (before I was elected in November 2005): ANZSOC needed its own website to more effectively communicate with current and prospective members, and the domestic and international criminology community more generally. At last we now have it.

ANZSOCS's 2010 conference in Alice Springs

The conference in 2010 marks a significant departure from all previous conferences: it is being held outside a capital city, and in iconic place, where there is no university from which to draw members for the Local Organising Committee. Alice Springs is our destination in September 2010 (the last 4 days in September, mark your calendars). The Society has taken a more pro-active and financially supportive role in this conference compared to any previous conference. Allan van Zyl (Dept of Justice) and Northern Territory CoM member, began working in 2008 to identify venues and make bookings. During 2009, he has been securing support and funding from government

sponsors. We hope and expect that the conference will attract a lot of people, and especially, more international participants.

This is the first time the conference has been held in the Northern Territory. Alice Springs, as Australia's metaphorical centre, is the administrative centre for Australia's most displaced and disadvantaged citizen, as well as a cultural centre for Aboriginal music, radio, and the arts; it also houses a large, high-tech detention centre and prison some distance from town. These are some of the paradoxes of "the centre" that is Alice, which will invite reflection at the 2010 conference.

Journal and Newsletter Editorial changes

The Journal

Three significant transitions occurred in 2009: the appointment of a new Editor for the *ANZ Journal of Criminology*, a new Book Review Editor for the journal, and a new Editor for the *Newsletter*.

With Paul Mazerolle (Griffith) stepping down as Editor on 1 October 2009, we needed to find a new Editor. A call for applications was advertised in the journal and crimnet. Four applications were received, all of which were viable. In April 2009, the Journal Sub-Committee (Paul Mazerolle, Russell Smith, and I) met and unanimously decided on Sharon Pickering (Monash). I am pleased with this decision because Sharon brings extraordinary energy, an international presence, and innovative ideas to the journal. She selected her two Associate Editors, Gail Mason (Sydney) and Andrew Goldsmith (Wollongong) and members of the new Editorial Board with a concern to have a broad representation from Australia, New Zealand, and internationally. Sharon initiated a call for nominations for Book Review Editor, and I was delighted with the selection of Mike Grewcock (UNSW) in that role.

On behalf of the CoM, I thank Paul for his strong leadership, integrity, and professional flair as Editor. He identified important areas to develop thematic issues (youth, gender, race), and he broadened the base of authors contributing to the journal. Thanks also go to outgoing Book Review Editor, Hennessey Hayes (Griffith) for his service. I warmly welcome our new Editor, Sharon, who will serve an initial three-year term, from 1 October 2009.

The Newsletter

The May 2009 issue of ANZSOC's *Newsletter* was the last for Editor Bronwyn Naylor (Monash). She served in the role for three years, beginning with the March 2006 issue. The *Newsletter* serves three key purposes: to document what the Society is doing and achieving; to showcase what all of our members are doing; and to provide information on contacts, awards, and upcoming conferences. Bronwyn has done a fantastic job of reviving the *Newsletter* (after several years of hibernation) and giving it a new identity. I am pleased to welcome the incoming *Newsletter* Editor, Jacqueline Joudo Larsen (AIC), whose first issue will be in November 2009. We also have a *Newsletter* Production Editor, Brigitte Bouhours (Griffith, and more recently, ANU), who designed the May 2009 issue and will continue in that role for three years. In case you were unsure, Brigitte and Natasha (our logo designer) are mother and daughter.

On-going Society Activities

Advising the Australian Research Council (ARC) on bibliometrics for Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

I continue to work with the ARC in provide expert advice on journal rankings for the ERA exercise, which will be launched across the entire university sector in 2010. The latest meeting was in early September 2009, when discipline representatives met to review and harmonise journal rankings across the disciplines in the SBE cluster. ANZSOC has been working closely with the federal government on measures of performance and excellence, beginning with the Research Quality Framework exercise in 2008.

ANZSOC Awards 2009

Honouring the achievements of our members is a key Society activity, and it is always a pleasure to phone the winners with the news. My thanks and appreciation to the chairs and members of the Awards Sub-Committees for 2009, and my congratulations to those who have been awarded prizes.

- The Allen Austin Bartholomew Award for 2009 for the best article in the *Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology*, published in Vol 41 (2008). The prize was awarded to Nicole Rafter (Northeastern University USA) for her paper, "Criminology's Darkest Hour: Biocriminology in Nazi Germany," *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (2008), 41(2): 287-306.
- The New Scholar Prize 2008 for best publication in criminology or related area by a new scholar. The prize was awarded to Anna Eriksson (Monash University) for her paper, "Challenging Cultures of Violence through Community Restorative Justice in Northern Ireland." Pp. 231-60 in Holly Ventura Miller (ed.) *Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance*, Vol. 11 (2008), on the theme, Restorative Justice: From Theory to Practice. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.
- The Student Paper Prize 2008 for best student paper in criminology. The prize was awarded to Gitana Proietti-Scifoni (Griffith University) for her paper, "State Perpetrated Crime: The Experience of Women in Timor-Leste," under my supervision.

Each prize winner receives \$500 toward any expense in connection with attending the conference (registration, airfare, or accommodation), along with an engraved plaque and official letter. Like last year, the awards will be given at the conference dinner in Perth.

Members of the Bartholomew Award Sub-Committee were Michael Rowe (Victoria University of Wellington) (chair), Gail Mason (University of Sydney), and Michael Townsley (Griffith University). Members of the Student Paper Prize and New Scholar Prize Awards Committee were Colleen Lewis (Monash University) (chair), David Brown (University of New South Wales), and Samantha Jeffries (Queensland University of Technology).

The 2009 Conference in Perth

ANZSOC continues to enjoy a close relationship with the Annual Conference convenors. This year's Convenor, Frank Morgan (UWA), has been helpful in accommodating the Society's

activities on the conference program. On behalf of the CoM, I would like to thank Frank and the members of his Local Organising Committee for all their efforts in bringing the conference together. This will be the third year of the post-graduate conference, held the day before the start of the conference. My thanks and appreciation to Roberta Julian (Tasmania), chair of the PG Sub-Committee, along with members of the Committee, in organising this important event.

Conferences in 2011 and 2012

I am delighted to report that we have received strong bids to host the conferences for 2011 and 2012. These will be discussed at the Planning Day meeting in Perth. This is an excellent development for the Society because it shows enthusiasm by our members to take on the leadership role as Conference Convenor, and with dates and places set some time in advance, we can more effectively advertise and promote the conference.

Thanks to officers and members

At the 2008 AGM, there were no major changes in the composition of the CoM because it was not a regular election year. (Please note, however, that we plan to change this format in 2010 with staggered terms for the CoM to insure continuity of members on the CoM.) At the 2008 AGM, Damon Muller (ANU) stepped down as Secretary, and Signe Dalsgaard (Griffith) was elected the new Secretary. Damon was elected ordinary member for the ACT. Another new ordinary member elected was Trevor Bradley (Victoria, Wellington), with Jan Jordon (Victoria, Wellington) stepping down in that role.

At the 2009 AGM, there will be other changes to the CoM as members step down and new people stand for election. Few members wanted to leave the CoM; and some of those who are stepping down in their official capacities, will remain working for the Society. I thank everyone for their time, commitment, and enthusiasm.

In closing

During my four years and with support of the CoM, there have been major new initiatives and significant change to the Society. Here are highlights:

- Changing the Rules in 2008 to make joining the Society easier and to facilitate better governance.
- Increasing fees in 2008 and 2009 to align journal costs with membership revenue, and introducing a lower-cost option of electronic access only to the journal
- Hiring a part-time staff person (Secretary), who has made a significant difference in actioning all the things that need to be done to further professionalise the Society.
- Striking a better deal with the journal publisher (AAP) in 2008 (with the assistance of Paul Mazerolle) that increased our revenue substantially.
- Reviving the *Newsletter* and making it a vital mode of communication with our members.
- Providing support for the professional development of post-graduate students and early career researchers, with a conference and workshop event, held in conjunction with the annual conference, beginning in 2007.
- Holding the conference in places where it has never been held in the past: Hobart (2006), Adelaide (2007), Canberra (2008), and with a bold step in 2010, in Alice Springs.

- Having a strong Society presence at the annual conference with an ANZSOC booth and promotional materials, beginning in 2008.
- Creating opportunities for longer-term planning and discussion with the annual Planning Day, held in conjunction with the conference, beginning in 2008.
- Establishing ties and reciprocal relations with newly formed criminology societies, and having an on-going presence in the American Society of Criminology newsletter.
- Creating a new ANZSOC logo and website.

The Society's ability to invest in the Office of Secretary and the website could not have happened without the generous contribution from Don Weatherburn (BOCSAR) of \$48,000, the profits from the 2003 conference in Sydney. Without that cash injection, we would never have been in a position to grow. All of us are indebted to Don for his fund raising and support to the Society.

At Griffith University, support for my role as President has come from the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance; and I thank its Director (Paul Mazerolle, who has recently stepped down from that role) for agreeing to host the new Office of Secretary and for supporting the work of the Society. I also thank the previous and current Directors of the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) (Toni Makkai and Adam Tomison), who have supported the Society by allowing staff to take key roles on the CoM (they include Russell Smith, Matthew Willis, Lorana Bartels, Jacqueline Joudo Larsen, and formerly, Damon Muller).

University and government departments can and must do more to support those who take on key roles for Learned Societies and Peak Bodies such as the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. The support is necessary to nourish a national and international criminological presence and leadership from Australia and New Zealand, which cannot be accomplished from the more limited and local perspective of any one department or institution.

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