

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting, Adelaide, 25 September 2007

Since my last report, the Society has changed the Rules and launched several new initiatives. A good deal has been accomplished, but more remains to be done. In this report, I describe major achievements during the past year (September 2006-August 2007), review on-going Society activities, and conclude with tasks that remain.

Major achievements

Change to the Society's Rules

At the last AGM, members agreed to the following changes to the Society's rules:

(1) *Increased representation.* To increase representation, there are two new Committee of Management members: the Newsletter editor and a person to represent the interests of students.

(2) *Flexibility in setting fees.* The Committee of Management can set fees, rather than these being specified in the Rules.

(3) *Streamlined process for new and continuing members.* The Secretary can approve new members who satisfy the membership criteria, rather than seeking approval from the Committee; the membership process can encompass electronic mechanisms; and the membership form is separated from the Rules.

(4) *Clarity on costs of membership for new members, benefits of membership for paid members, and consequences for unpaid members.* To align membership fees paid by members with Society benefits received, several changes were made: the membership fee for any new member is set on a pro-rata basis such that benefits (the journal and reduced conference fees) are aligned with when a person joins the Society and until renewal on 30 June of a given year (except for those who elect to pay biennially). For those members who have not paid an annual (or bi-ennial) membership fee, all benefits cease until the membership is paid. Those who have not paid membership fees for 24 months (termed "non financial members") are removed as members, although they may make a new application for membership.

(5) *Filling vacancies of Office Holders.* To provide flexibility when an Office Holder steps down in the middle of his/her term, the Committee can appoint any member of the Society, and not be limited to a member of the Committee, to fill the vacancy.

Change in membership fees in 2007

A review of the budget revealed that membership fees were not covering the costs of publishing, printing, and mailing the journal. Since the two-year membership was introduced in 2003, we began to lose significant revenue. The fee for those living outside the region, which was set in 2000 in US dollars, was clearly too low with the strengthened Australian dollar. The current fee for Australian and New Zealand members of \$90 has not changed in 10 years. The Committee of

Management decided to increase membership fees, staged in two increments, beginning with renewal in 2007. These reflect the costs of the journal, together with services such as student conferences and professional development, the Newsletter, sponsorship of prizes, and other activities. Because we did not wish to lose members, we devised a lower cost option of electronic access to the journal.

The fees for 2006, new fees for 2007, and proposed fees for 2008 are set out below. (The latter will be discussed at the 2007 AGM and reviewed in light of revenues received in 2007.) The cost for publishing, printing, and mailing three issues of the journal is \$109 per year for each member; these will increase somewhat in 2008.

| | membership fee structure | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------|---|
| | 2006 (\$109 for journal cost) | renew 2007 | proposed 2008 (\$114 for journal cost) |
| regular member | | | |
| 1 year | 90 | 110 | 140 |
| 2 years | 150 | 200 | 240 |
| student | | | |
| 1 year | 70 | 75 | 80 |
| those living outside Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific countries (in AUS \$) | | | |
| 1 year | 78 | 115 | 150 |
| 2 years | 132 | 210 | 260 |
| lower cost option: electronic access, but no printed copy of the journal (1 year) | | 75 | 95 |

In establishing the fee increases, the Committee of Management wished to keep student costs low, but subsidize them by the general membership. The fee for non-regional members is set somewhat higher than the regular member's fee to cover the added costs of postage. In 2008, membership fees will begin to align revenues with journal costs and cover the student subsidy.

New contract with Australian Academic Press (AAP)

Since 1999, the *ANZ Journal of Criminology* has been published by Australian Academic Press (AAP). Our second contract with AAP commenced in 2004; although it is a five-year contract, we have flexibility to opt out with one year's notice. The journal has increased its visibility and stature over the last decade, and several publishers have approached the Society about what they could offer. In November 2006, Editor Paul Mazerolle and I began to enter into discussions with Caroline Porter, Senior Editor for SAGE Publications. After over six months of deliberations and meetings with SAGE and AAP, we sought approval from the Committee for a new three-year contract with AAP. We are pleased with the revenue terms of the new contract and the ability to offer the journal in electronic format, as a lower-cost membership option. AAP plans to digitize all the back issues to Vol 1(1) (1968). We shall continue to review journal revenues received, the journal's impact factor, and other measures of the journal's performance and income generation.

Increased visibility and presence of postgraduate students and early career researchers

Beginning in 2005, the Society offered \$500 on a first-come first-served basis for supporting six postgraduate (PG) student seminars. Although this initiative was taken up by several student groups, we wished to identify methods of increasing the presence and involvement of PG and early career students in the Society. In 2006, I established a Student and Early Career Researcher Sub-Committee to further their development and networking. Two students, Nadine McKillop (Griffith University) and Beejay Silcox (University of Melbourne), were appointed Acting PG Representatives and served on the Sub-Committee. It met during 2007 to plan a one-day workshop, to be held on 23 September, the day before the 2007 conference. (See further details in the Sub-Committee's report.) In addition to the one-day workshop, ANZSOC will continue to sponsor two student seminars. This year, student groups from the University of New South Wales and Queensland Institute of Technology each received \$500 to support their conferences. At the AGM in 2007, a person to represent the interests of PG students will be elected.

Society Speaker

The 2007 conference marks the first time that ANZSOC is sponsoring a Society Speaker to speak in a plenary. Mark Finnane was chosen because he can offer an historian's perspective on the Society and its identity in a special year: the 40th anniversary of its founding, and the 20th year of holding a conference. Longer term, my aim is that the Society identify a sponsor (or sponsors) to support the Society Speaker on an annual or bi-annual basis. The speaker would give a plenary address at the conference and at several cities (or other places) in Australia and New Zealand. The Society can improve its presence and visibility in public affairs in a variety of ways, and this could be an effective way to do it.

On-going Society activities

ANZSOC Awards 2007

Honouring the achievements of our members is a key Society activity, and it is always a pleasure to email or phone the winners with the news. My thanks and appreciation to the chairs and members of the Awards Committees for 2007, and my congratulations to those awarded the prizes:

- The Allen Austin Bartholomew Award 2007 for the best article in the *Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology* published in 2006. The prize was awarded to Alan France (Loughborough University) and Ross Homel (Griffith University) for their article, 'Societal Access Routes and Developmental Pathways: Putting Social Structure and Young People's Voice into the Analysis of Pathways into and out of Crime', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* (2006), 39(3): 295-309. The Members of the Committee were Frank Morgan (Chair), Christine Bond, and Chris Cunneen.
- The New Scholar Prize 2007 for best publication in criminology or related area by a new scholar was awarded to Lyn Hinds (Regnet, Australian National University) for her article, 'Challenging Current Conceptions of Law and Order', *Theoretical Criminology* (2006), 10(2): 203-221. Members of the Award Committee were Russell Smith (chair), Julia Davis, and John Pratt.

- The Student Paper Prize 2007 for the best student paper in criminology was awarded to Trees Beckett (Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington) for her paper, 'The Use of Electroconvulsive Shock Therapy (ECT) without Consent in New Zealand', under the supervision of Elizabeth Stanley. Members of the Award Committee were Russell Smith (chair), Julia Davis, and Jennifer Wood

All prize winners receive a free registration to the conference, along with an engraved plaque and official letter. This year the prizes will be awarded at the conference dinner.

The Newsletter

During the past year, Newsletter Editor Bronwyn Naylor has done a great job in assembling stories and information for ANZSOC Newsletters, Vol. 3 (2) and 4(1). Bronwyn will have more to say in her Communications Sub-Committee report, but I would like to extend a personal note of appreciation for Bronwyn's considerable time and creativity in getting the Newsletter to press. Her efforts deserve praise and commendation by all members of the Society.

The Journal

Under Paul Mazerolle's editorship, the journal is growing in submissions, stature, and citations. Paul will have more to say in his Editor's report, but I would like to emphasize the considerable investment of time and care Paul gives to the journal. The role requires diplomacy and a thick skin in handling the disappointments and egos of some of our colleagues! My appreciation to Paul for the highly professional approach he takes to the journal. His efforts deserve praise and commendation by all members of the Society.

The Conference

This year marks a closer relationship between ANZSOC and the annual conference. Although it may seem obvious that the Society should have some presence in shaping and planning its annual conference, this has not been the case in the past. The situation will be changing because the conference is a major Society activity, even if it relies on the dedication and hard work of a Local Organising Committee each year. On behalf of the Committee of Management, may I congratulate the work of our Adelaide colleagues in putting on a terrific conference this year: Co-Covenors Rick Sarre (University of South Australia) and Andrew Goldsmith (Flinders University), along with Committee members (Sue King, University of South Australia), Joy Wundersitz (adjunct, University of South Australia), Nichole Hunter (Office of Crime Statistics and Research), and Marinella Marmo (Flinders University).

Thanks to officers and members

The Society runs on the energy and commitment of all the officers and ordinary members, who serve 2-year terms. At the 2007 AGM, we will be voting in a new set of officers and ordinary members. My thanks to the following officers and members who served a two-year term and will be standing again in 2007 (and whom I have not already thanked): Russell Smith (1st Vice President), Damon Muller (Secretary, beginning in 2006), Matthew Willis (Treasurer), Jan Jordan (New Zealand), Allan van Zyl (Northern Territory), Rick Sarre (South Australia), and Frank Morgan (Western Australia). My thanks and appreciation to those who served a two-year term, but will be stepping down this year: John Pratt (2nd Vice President), Jennifer Wood (ACT to 1 June), Christine Bond (Queensland), Julia Davis (Tasmania), Brendan Thomas (New South Wales), and Dean Wilson (Victoria). Jen Wood moved to the United States in June to take up a position at Temple University, and Lyn Hinds was appointed Acting ACT member on 1 June. I am particularly grateful to out-going representative, Dean Wilson, for his work in chairing the Student and Early Career Researcher Sub-Committee.

ANZSOC's role in the Research Quality Framework

The Research Quality Framework (RQF) is affecting all Australian Society members who are university researchers and lecturers. The Australian government (specifically, the Department of Education, Science, and Training, or DEST) is conducting the RQF to determine the quality and impact of university research, and to distribute funds according to rankings of research groups. The exercise will take place in 2008, but there is a good deal of preparation work this year.

DEST has identified 13 disciplinary panels. Panel 11, chaired by Hilary Charlesworth, includes law and criminology (along with education studies, journalism, librarianship, and social work). It will be composed of 12 members (including the chair), six of whom are Australian academics; three, major international scholars; and three, end users drawn from industry, business, the public sector, or community organisations. The composition of the panels will be announced soon (some time in September 2007).

Workgroups in each university are assembling dossiers in preparation for the RQF. At the same time, peak professional bodies such as ANZSOC are being asked to participate in several ways. First, I was asked to send representatives to a July 2007 meeting in Canberra to address panel specific requirements for Panel 11 (those attending were Mark Brown and Rod Broadhurst, with Mark Israel representing law and criminology). (I note that DEST did not provide any support for airfares or accommodation, but it expected representatives to attend.) Second, in August, I was asked to nominate major international scholars and end users for Panel 11. In consultation with a range of people in criminology and law, I emailed 18 people, nine of whom decided to put themselves forward for consideration. Third, in August, I was asked to assist DEST in developing metrics and other measures of journal rankings in criminology. I have asked Mark Brown and Rod Broadhurst to work with DEST on this task.

The RQF is an exercise of competitiveness and cooperation. Criminology groups across Australia will be ranked and compared, and a hierarchy will emerge, ranging from a top score of five to lower scores of two or three. At the same time, we must cooperate in identifying good people to serve on Panel 11 and in devising measures and metrics of publication impact.

Tasks remaining

In the next year or so, several major tasks need to be accomplished. First, we need to appoint an administrative officer to support the Secretary and work of the Society. Second, we need to appoint a Membership Strategy Sub-Committee to canvass our options in taking a more pro-active approach to membership and in increasing the size of our membership. Third, we must review our website to facilitate on-line membership (new and renewing) and to offer more benefits to our members (such as a directory of members). Fourth, we need to consider other forms of income generation, sponsorship, or fund raising to support specific Society activities (such as the Society speaker or the Newsletter). Finally, we need to review the Society's Awards with the view of creating new awards, or perhaps changing the criteria in extant awards.

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