

AUSTRALIAN ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

September 2003

Q1. ARE YOU AWARE OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY?

Definitely	27
Mostly	52
A little	11
Not at all	0
Don't know/no ans.	0

Q2. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE SOCIETY'S CODE OF ETHICS?

Definitely	32
Mostly	33
A little	22
Not at all	3
Don't know/no ans.	0

Q3. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION, ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND BY-LAWS?

Definitely	17
Mostly	21
A little	35
Not at all	15
Don't know/no ans.	2

Q4. DO YOU CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP OF THE AAS TO BE PROFESSIONALLY BENEFICIAL?

Definitely	44
Mostly	31
A little	14
Not at all	1
Don't know/no ans.	0

Q5. HOW INVOLVED ARE YOU WITH THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES?

Very	20
Moderate	23
A little	36
Not at all	10
Don't know/no ans.	1

Q6. WHEN YOU ARE INVOLVED HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE ACTIVITIES?

Very	22
Moderate	56
A little	9
Not at all	0
Don't know/no ans.	3

Q7 WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED WAY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE SOCIETY?

Email or web based communication	69
Mail – posted	26
Faxed	3
Don't know/no ans.	1

Q8. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING IN ACOUSTICS HAS INCREASED BUT THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY. WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE MORE TO JOIN?

* Ask members to get non-members, friends and associates to join, send prospective members an application form. Invite prospective members to attend a Technical Meeting.	12
* Reward program for getting new members	2
* Advertise in Acoustics Australia, trade magazines, universities, etc	6
* Provide a "Why you should join" pamphlet to prospective new members or in Acoustics Australia.	4
* Local Divisions provide meetings to target groups, individuals	2
* More meetings and broader based topics more relevant to membership, improve quality of meetings.	4
* Society needs a higher visibility in the media, raise profile of Society	7
* Promote membership amongst students	6
* Promote membership in other areas of acoustics – medicine, engineers, architects, etc	2
* Lobby employers to encourage employees to join the Society and attend meetings.	2
* Simplify application process – especially Associates, Subscribers and Students	6
* Consider professional accreditation and professional development scheme	6
* Focus on career needs of those working in acoustics	2
* Promote MAAS status to level equivalent to a Registered Professional Engineer	1
* Make AAAC an AAS sub-group – members belonging to a AAAC firm believe they do not need to be a member of the AAS.	3
* Offer social and social/tech meetings to attract members	2
* Increase standard to a professional society – not a learned society	1
* Cheaper membership	3
* Concentrate on issues not covered by other bodies, construction, rail noise, etc	1
* New members one year free subscription	2
* Promote joint meetings with other societies, industry associations, NZAS, Singapore, etc.	2
* AAS sponsor research	1
* Improve the website – provide links to related sites.	3

Q9. PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES OF THE AAS FROM 'VERY IMPORTANT' TO NOT IMPORTANT'.

	Very			Not	Don't Know/ no answer
Graded membership system	41	33	9	5	2
Register of members	53	32	4	0	1
Code of Ethics	58	23	6	0	3
Participation in Aust & Int Standards Committees	57	24	7	0	2
Input into Government Policy	43	38	5	2	2
Membership of FASTS	13	36	21	8	12

Q10. PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING AAS PRODUCTS FROM 'ALWAYS USEFUL' TO NEVER USE/GET INVOLVED'.

	Always			Never	Don't know / no answer
Website	8	28	27	21	6
Acoustics Australia journal	61	25	2	0	1
Division Technical Meetings	25	39	18	6	1
Division Networking Meetings	7	26	25	23	6
Division Workshops	6	25	23	26	9
Annual Conferences	26	39	14	9	1
Proceedings of Annual Conferences	20	42	18	6	3
International Conferences in Australia	29	34	10	15	1
Other publications	7	28	22	20	12
Event Calendar	24	30	17	13	5

Q12. THE MAJORITY OF THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY IS DONE BY VOLUNTEERS – THE ONLY FUNCTIONS THAT ARE PAID FOR ARE THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND THE AUDITOR. DO YOU CONSIDER THE SOCIETY SHOULD PAY FOR MORE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ADMINISTRATION TYPE SERVICES SO THAT THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE MORE TIME TO EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS?

Yes 30

No 25

Depends on how much the membership fee would increase 34

Q13. ARE YOU FILLING IN THIS FORM AS A:

Subscriber member	4*	(32)**	Student	0	(6)
Graduate member	5	(17)	Associate member AAAS	2	(19)
Member MAAS	70	(301)	Fellow FAAS	5	(17)
Sustaining member	1	(20)	Past member of AAS	0	
Non member	0		Not answered	2	

* Survey responses.

**() Total membership of that grade.

Q14. WHAT IS YOUR POSTCODE?

	Survey results	Membership	%
NSW and ACT 2000	43	167	26%
Victoria & Tasmania 3000	23	90	26%
Queensland 4000	8	70	11%
South Australia 5000	6	34	18%
Western Australia 6000	9	33	27%

Q14. ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- Expand outlook of the Society in all branches of acoustics to areas other than big business and government.
- Make informative minutes of Technical Meetings and post to members with notice of next meeting. This will inform members of the useful presentation they have missed through non-attendance.
- Pressure of consulting business workload makes it difficult to attend meetings and carry out voluntary work for the Society.
- The Society should become more involved in policy making. It is missing out on essential areas such as the Live Music Task Force and Building Codes. Not one AAS representative attended the Live Music Task Force Meetings in Melbourne.
- Obtain input from consultants of subjects that interest them and hold technical meetings on the subjects.
- Active promotion of acoustics to show growth rather than decay of our industry.
- Due to the large number of consultants that are not members of the AAAC, some type of accreditation and focus should be given to this group.
- Suggest that this membership survey should be repeated at regular intervals to “track” the Society’s improvements in meeting the member’s needs.
- The AAS requires some form of professional recognition for Acoustical Consultants in the same line as the AAAC. The AAS needs some form of assistance to the Acoustical profession to avoid ‘split off’ groups like the AAAC from taking over. The AAS should encourage the AAAC into being a part of the main society first and a separate body second.
- The possibility of cooperative projects or research that could be funded by the government or private sector to provide better knowledge or understanding or various issues that directly affect a specific industry. This would lead to a greater involvement for the society in the decision making process for these issues.
- I’d like to see the AGM dinner made into a more formal affair, partners, sit down meal, which might also be used as a fundraising dinner. It’s all about involvement and people won’t be involved unless it’s relevant, interesting or fun.
- Would like to see regular reviews, listed by State, of changes to statutory and policy documents included in the AAS journal, eg BCA, INF, etc.
- Try and make the AAAC part of the AAS and work as one body.
- It is absolutely essential that those working in the industry keep up to date technically – because the industry is fragmented and R&D gone to zero – the Australian Standard is way below international practice.
- Preparation of a video on basic acoustics for use in schools, etc.
- The Society could work to raise the standard of acoustic engineering. On a fee for fee basis, the medical profession delivers significantly more

expertise than ours. Its time that many Australian acousticians had the standard of many UK practitioners.

- Magazine becoming irrelevant to practical acoustics. Upon reading the “top ten” issues in the latest Journal, I wonder where we are going? There is no commitment to industry or Government Policy development. Quite disillusioning.
- I suspect that many other Societies are suffering too. Competition has also likely restricted the dissemination of information amongst companies who are eager to protect their business interests and advantage.