

Chairperson's Report

2013 - 2014

This report is presented for consideration at the NSW Division Annual General Meeting - 12th November 2014.

1. Division Committee

There are currently 10 members of the committee, which means that the committee is complete however we are always keen to have other enthusiastic AAS members join us to bring in new ideas and enthusiasm.

In 2015 NSW will be hosting the AAS conference in the Hunter Valley. It will be important that the Committee is at its 10 person maximum (plus others co-opted as required) and full of people with enthusiasm. Please approach one of the members if you are a dynamic pro-active person who has something to contribute.

At present the committee is structured as follows:

- Matthew Harrison* Chairman
- Tracy Gowen* Vice-Chair, Fed Councillor, AA Rep, Tech Convenor
- Angus Leslie Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Membership Grading
- Rodney Stevens Treasurer
- Neil Gross Technical Subcommittee, Federal Councillor
- Jeff Parnell Technical Convenor
- John Wasserman Technical Subcommittee
- Najah Ishac Technical Subcommittee
- Laura Allison Technical Subcommittee
- Paul Maddock Technical Subcommittee
- Nicole Kessissoglou Resigned

* Having held this position for 2 years, the Chair and Vice Chair must resign from that position.

The major work of the committee during this year has been:

- Organising and running the technical program is the responsibility of the Technical Subcommittee. Thanks for an excellent program over the last 12 months.
- A key improvement that was instigated last year was the videoing of the technical talks and making them available on-line. To access the videos you must log into the AAS website as a member. To do this go to the AAS Home Page (<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/>) and log in. Once you have logged in you should be able to go directly to the videos using the links provided on the website.
- The talks that were made available for viewing are:

- *Technical Meeting, November 2014*

FREIGHT RAIL NOISE - Wheel Squeal & Loco Noise... Is it getting quieter?
<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/freight-rail-noise-wheel-squeal-a-loco-noise-is-it-getting-quieter.html>

- *Technical Meeting, October 2014*

What is Offensive Noise?
<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/what-is-offensive-noise.html>

- *Technical Meeting, July 2014*

Validation of Inversion Strength Estimation Method
<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/validation-of-inversion-strength-estimation-method.html>

- *Technical Meeting, May 2014*

Warkworth Mine Extension - Approval process, PAC and L&E Court Judgement
<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/warkworth-mine-extension-approval-process-pac-and-lae-court-judgement.html>

- *Technical Meeting, March 2014*

The Australian Hearing Hub: A new venue, a collaborative approach, the same enthusiasm for excellence

- *Technical Meeting, February 2014*

The Complexity of Musical Instruments
<http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/the-complexity-of-musical-instruments.html>

- *End of Year Breakfast and Technical Talk December 2013*

Flick of the Switch – 3D Sonic Abstractions

2. Technical / Social Activities

There were seven technical meetings (including the End of Year Breakfast and Technical Talk) held in Sydney over the last 12 months. These talks are described briefly above.

The committee is always looking for presenters and topics for the technical talks. If you have any feedback on the technical talks, or any ideas for new topics and more importantly presenters, please let the committee know.

3. Membership

The NSW Division Membership numbers for September 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 are given in the following table, and show that member numbers are up 20% from 2011. As in previous years, the growth in membership has been largely as a result of Student members

gaining full Membership status. This trend over the last few years shows the importance of encouraging Student Membership through initiatives such as the AAS NSW Acoustics Prize to the best undergraduate student in acoustics course at UNSW, USyd, Macquarie Uni and UWS and the AAS NSW Young Scientist Awards (conference Travel Award).

	September 2014	September 2013	September 2012	September 2011
Fellows	11	12	10	10
Members	201	198	196	177
Graduates	9	9	7	4
Associates	11	11	12	13
Subscribers	12	13	8	8
Students	17	17	13	7
TOTAL	265	260	249	219

4. Acoustics Australia

I would like to thank Nicole Kessissoglou for being editor for the early part of the year before handing over the reins to Marion Burgess. Thanks you ladies for continuing to put out a fantastic journal. As you may have noticed the journal has become an e-version ONLY journal. This move has saved the Society a significant amount of money in printing and postage.

Acoustics Australia continues to request articles and technical notes to be submitted by the membership for inclusion in the journal. If members have worked on an interesting project, please consider writing it up for publication as a technical note. The projects you work on may appear routine to you, but to others working in different areas they could be very interesting! In addition, the presenters of the technical talks are encouraged to write up their presentation as a technical note for publication in the journal.

5. Awards and Grants

In 2014, the NSW Division awarded the AAS NSW Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Research Student Travel Award to 7 students to attend the Internoise 2015 in Melbourne. The amount of each award and the recipient are shown in the Award Summary Table below. The award is to be spent on conference registration fees, travel to and from the conference venue, and accommodation. The successful awardees will provide a short report (200 to 500 words) on their experiences at the Conference for the December 2014 issue of the Acoustics Australia journal.

The NSW Division of the AAS is into the second year of a newly introduced travel award this year for existing AAS NSW Division members to attend the annual Conference of the Australian Acoustical Society. The award is open to all current AAS NSW Division members who have held membership for 12 months or more. The amount of the award is up to \$1000 and is to be spent towards the conference registration fee, travel to and from the conference venue, and accommodation. Successful awardees will be required to provide a short report (up to 300 words) on their experiences at the Conference for the

December 2014 issue of the Acoustics Australia journal. The purpose of this award was to encourage those who would like to present a paper at the conference but find it difficult to obtain employer support.

Travel Award	Award Value	No. Awards		Applicant	Award Allocated
		Offered	Allocated		
MAAS	\$1500	1	1 x \$1000 1 x \$500	PENG Jeffrey*	Yes (\$500)
				FORBES Gareth	Yes (\$1000)
ECR	\$1500	1	2 x \$1000	PETERS Herwig	Yes (\$1000)
				OBERST Sebastian	Yes (\$1000)
				ZHANG Zhi	Yes (\$750)
Research Student	\$1000	3	2 x \$1000 2 x \$750 1 x \$500	YADAV Manuj	Yes (\$1000)
				WU Hongjian	Yes (\$750)
				FARD Samaneh	Yes (\$500)
				LIU Daipei	Yes (\$1000)

Notes: * Not actually MAAS, however both co-authors are long time MAAS members.

The AAS NSW Division Acoustics Prize was awarded to the best undergraduate student in the following three courses in 2013:

- MECH9325 Fundamentals of Noise course, University of New South Wales
- DESC9133 Architectural Acoustics Practice course, University of Sydney
- CAUD803 Theoretical Bases of Audiology course, Macquarie University
- Dynamics of Mechanical Systems 300480. Bachelor of Engineering, University of Western Sydney

Each award consists of a cash prize of \$250 and one year's subscription to the Australian Acoustical Society. The objectives of this education prize are to encourage undergraduate students into the field of acoustics and provide exposure for the Society at the university prize giving ceremonies.

6. ACT Division Activities 2013-2014

Meetings

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Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a special thank you to the members of the NSW Committee who continue to offer their valuable personal time in running the NSW Division of the Society. Tracy has been particularly generous with her time in organising the Technical Presentations (and making sure we have enough food and drink).

As a side note, I would like to acknowledge that the ladies of the Society carry a disproportionate share of the Societies workload – from Marion running Acoustics Australia, Tracy leading the Technical Meetings and recently Nicole running the Journal and recently Chairing the NSW Committee. Come on men, I think it's time to balance things up a bit!

As in the past, a special thank you also needs to go out to the presenters of the technical meetings. We are keenly aware of the benefit you provide our members.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Harrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Harrison
Chairman
NSW Division - Australian Acoustical Society