

Chairperson's Report 2018 – 2019

This report is presented for consideration at the NSW Division Annual General Meeting – 17th October 2019.

1. Division Committee

There are currently 10 members of the committee.

At present the committee is structured as follows:

Angus Leslie	Chairperson
Jeff Parnell	Vice-Chairperson
Laura Keen	Secretary, Minutes Secretary
Rodney Stevens	Treasurer
Mattia Tabacchi	Technical Meetings
John Wassermann	Memberships
Paul Maddock	Grants/Awards
Con Doolan	Technical Subcommittee
Ray Kirby	Technical Subcommittee
Matthew Harrison	Technical Subcommittee

David Suwandi has also helped out the committee during the year.

The NSW Federal Councillors are as follows:

Angus Leslie
Jeff Parnell

2. Technical / Social Activities

The major work of the committee during this year has been organising and running the technical talks program. A big thank you to Mattia for organising an excellent program over the last 12 months which has seen attendances of over 50 at several talks, along with development of our ability to live stream the technical talks which has seen the attendance and reach of the technical talks program go even further.

There were six technical meetings held in Sydney over the last 12 months. These talks are described below:

Date	Description	Presenter	Venue
7 Dec 2018 Breakfast Talk	World Health Organization Environmental Noise Guidelines	Lex Brown	Kirribilli Club
16 April 2019	Progress developing models of the cochlea and auditory perception	Tara Hamilton	UNSW
3 July 2019	Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) in the technical endorsement process of assessing airport noise	Mark Latimore	UNSW
31 July 2019	Noise control and management in Ireland - Outdoor concert venues and construction	Diarmuid Keane	UNSW
15 Aug 2019	Reducing airfoil noise with bio-inspired design adaptations	Dr Lorna Ayton	UNSW
26 Sept 2019	Health monitoring of machines–Recent trends, current problems and research directions	Pietro Borghesani	UNSW

Following the provision of funding from Federal at the end of 2018, we acquired the capability to live stream the technical meetings, allowing for all members (including interstate and regional) to view a live-stream of the technical talk and interact if they wished.

We have been able to successfully use this setup for four of these talks since July 2019, and it now has become a standard feature of the technical meetings. The equipment has also already been sent around the country so that other states can live stream their talks. This has been a great addition to the technical talks program and provides benefits to all members, access to many more talks that previously available, and now allows access to the technical talks program for some members who found it very difficult to attend previously. Again, Mattia did an amazing job researching, coordinating, acquiring and setting up the system. Thank you!

3. Membership

The NSW Division Membership numbers for September 2019 and the preceding 6 years are given in the following table. We have had quite an increase in graduates over 2019 as different companies encourage their new staff to join up, helping to grow the society.

It can be seen that member numbers are similar to last year but have maintained a 10% plus increase on the level from 5 years previous.

	Sept 2019	Oct 2018	Sept 2017	Sept 2016	Sept 2015	Sept 2014	Sept 2013
Fellows/Life Members	12	4	10	11	11	11	12
Members	235	238	222	228	227	201	198
Graduates	22	10	14	11	13	9	9
Associates	6	5	5	7	9	11	11
Subscribers	10	8	10	12	12	12	13
Students	6	21	16	14	13	17	17
TOTAL	291	286	277	283	285	265	260

Notes: 1. Totals excluding sustaining members. There were 15 sustaining members in 2018/2019

Thank you to John Wassermann who has charge of membership responsibilities.

4. Acoustics Australia

I would like to thank Marion Burgess, Con Doolan and Truda King for their hard work over the year. Acoustics Australia continues to be a high standard journal with a good impact factor rating. Truda and Marion are standing down at the end of the year after doing a great job over many years, with Con Doolan becoming chief editor.

To uphold the good standard that has been set, Acoustics Australia requires 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!

5. Awards and Grants

The AAS Divisional committee makes travel grants available for an Early Career Researcher and a Research Student to attend Acoustics 2019 in Victoria. This year Jeff Peng, a current PhD student at UNSW was successful in his application which is based upon the research paper, co-authored with Jeffrey Parnell and Nicole Kessissoglou - *Comparison of equivalent continuous noise levels and day-night composite noise indicators for assessment of road traffic noise*. An award of \$1,250 was given to attend the conference.

It is important to encourage student membership and increase awareness of the society through initiatives such as the AAS NSW Acoustics Prize to the best undergraduate students in acoustics at a number of universities. The AAS NSW Division provide university awards in acoustics to the Western Sydney University, Macquarie University and University of NSW. 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.

The Award recipients for 2019 were:

Raneen Yaseen and **Venus Savaliya**
Anna Hawkins
Tim Davis

Western Sydney University
 Macquarie University
 University of NSW



Angus Leslie with Venus Savaliya (right) and Raneen Yaseen (left) (WSU)



Angus Leslie with Tim Davis (right) (UNSW)



Anna Hawkins (centre) with Jeff Parnell (right) (Macquarie University)

Congratulations to these well-deserved winners.

6. ACT Chapter Activities for 2018-2019

A sub-report on the activities of the ACT Chapter of the NSW Division has been provided by Jamie Hladky.

The **107th meeting** was held on 20 November 2018. Zhang Lai (WSP) ran a session on the new RoadsACT Noise Management Guidelines, which change how road noise is assessed and mitigated in the ACT. The guidelines were released without consultation with the community, or acoustic consultants. Attendance was good, including two NSW members drawn like Bogong moths towards Lake Burley Griffin on a beautiful summer's evening in Canberra, and made the trip to join us.

The **108th meeting** was held on 5 March 2019, our annual meeting with the senior noise team at the ACT Environment Protection Authority. The group discussed various planning submissions and policy matters. Good turn out from the usual suspects, including one lost NSW member, seeking a welcome break from the Sydneysider's littoral life of road traffic noise and high property prices.

The **109th meeting** was held on 9 April 2019, a visit to Silversun Studios, a post-production media facility in Canberra. Rohan Taylor (son of past AAS ACT member Eric Taylor) kindly gave us a tour of the facilities and talked us through the audio mixing and editing process. We were treated to a squeamish advance preview of bush-horror *The Furies* which was premiering that same night at a film festival in Brussels. Lots of knife scratching-across-glass foley sound.

The **110th meeting** was held on 17 June 2019 and was hosted by Raven Products who discussed their new catalogue, their approach to R&D and QA, and sound insulation testing undertaken on their product range. There are relatively few acoustic consultants in the ACT and almost all acoustics-related product sales representatives visit from interstate. The ACT group discussed this in the past and agreed to attempt to arrange a group meeting around these visits from time to time.

The **111th meeting** was held on 16 July 2019, the home leg of Mark Latimore's tour of the AAS State divisions. He discussed the move from INM to AEDT for assessing aircraft noise, gave great insights on the role of Airservices, and the ANEF preparation and approval process. Some discussion on noise from drone delivery trials in the future-ready, innovative ACT.

The **112th meeting** was held on 1 October 2019 in which Zhang Lai (WSP) and Tim Kuschel (Guzbox) gave us an update on their attendance at the ACT Government Live Entertainment Action Plan Roundtable & Workshop. Nathan Archer and Nigel Salter from Flexshield were in Canberra and gave us an update on their catalogue and product range (see notes in meeting 110).

Thank you to WSP for kindly hosting 5 of this year's 6 ACT meetings.

Petty cash float

The table below summarises the ACT petty cash throughout 2018-19.

#	Date	Item	Attendance	\$
		ACT petty cash float rollover from 2018		291.35
107	20/11/18	New RoadsACT Noise Management Guidelines	8	-39.30
108	05/03/19	Annual meeting with ACT EPA noise team	7	-71.70
109	09/04/19	Tour and talk with Rohan Taylor at Silversun studios	4	-94.30
110	17/06/19	Raven Products	5	-26.15
111	16/07/19	AirServices and AEDT	6	-33.95
112	01/10/19	Notes from the ACT Government <i>Live Entertainment Action Plan Roundtable & Workshop</i> , and presentation from Flexshield	6	0.00
		ACT petty cash float rollover to 2020		25.95

Membership

The number of AAS members located in and around the ACT is hard to understand, as all are listed formally as NSW division members. We have around 20 in the email distribution list (based on ACT or regional NSW home addresses and known members), but would like to make sure that we capture all Canberra located members.

Attendance at meetings is typically between 4 and 7, plus typically up to 3 invited guests. I sometimes include related parties in the invitations list (EPA, Airservices, researchers, educators) to ensure a reasonable turnout that justifies the meeting.

Kind regards, Jamie Hladky, Convenor ACT Group of NSW Division

7. Conferences

The South Australia Division hosted the 2018 Conference in Adelaide which was a well attended event. With the 2019 Conference being held in Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.

The NSW is continuing with the early planning stages, headed by Jeff Parnell, for Acoustics 2021, which is the combined conference with the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), the Western Pacific Commission for Acoustics (WESPAC) (of which Australia is a member) and the Pacific Rim Underwater Acoustics Conference (PRUAC).

8. Conclusion

We have had another successful year, supporting our members through the technical talks and events and encouraging the next generation of acousticians. As we conclude this year, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a special thank you to all members of the NSW Committee who continue to offer their valuable personal time in running the NSW Division of the Society.

Best regards,

Angus Leslie
Chairperson
NSW Division - Australian Acoustical Society