2025 Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy

Wednesday, November 26, 2025
University of Melbourne, Arts West, Forum Theatre, 153, and via Zoom:
https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/88403700425?pwd=cbtiNDqaP2urk8Y2JfJ4C4XbqeVvS0.1
1.15pm to 2.15pm

Attendance: Jacinta Sassine, Charles Barbour, Marilyn Stendera, Marguerite La Caze, Joanne Faulkner, Max Hoddinott, Alice Nilsson, Finnegan Hassey, Sofia Kartavtseva, Andrew Inkpin, Talia Fell, Katia Tulyakova, Jack Reynolds, Robert Sinnerbrink, Dimitris Vardoulakis, John Lechte, Cathy Legg, Christine Polowyj, Joeri Mol, Claudia Wrzos, Daniele Fulvi, Katrina Jaworski, Louise Richardson-Self, Brigette Assi, Andrew Benjamin, Daniel Brennan, Sean Bowden.

Minutes

1. **Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country**
   a. A huge thanks to the conference organizers and volunteers, especially Marilyn Stendera, Jacinta Sassine and Christine Polowyj, as well as Andrew Inkpin, Joeri Mol, Daniel Brennan, Charles Barbour, Daniele Fulvi and a number of hardworking student volunteers.

2. **Approval of minutes from 2024 AGM and matters arising**
   a. Motion to approve the minutes put forward by Charles Barbour, seconded by Sean Bowden, motion passes unanimously.

3. **Reports**
   i. **Chair (Charles Barbour)**
   a. See attached.
   b. The Society thanks Marguerite La Caze and Norma Lam-Saw for their stellar work over many years as they step away from their respective roles of Government/Institutional Representative and Equity and Diversity Officer.

   ii. **Secretary (Sean Bowden)**
   a. A record number of conference registrants/paid members: 290 members for 2026 so far (up from 251 conference registrants + 21 ad hoc memberships in 2025).

   iii. **Treasurer (Daniel Brennan)**
   a. See attached.
   b. A significant number of conference registrations recorded in the last 6 days. Speculation that this is due to the ASCP being increasingly viewed as welcoming space for the continental philosophy community (with its bursaries, prizes, events grants, etc.).

4. **2026 Conference (Marilyn Stendera)**
   a. The 2026 ASCP conference will be held at Macquarie University in early December (exact dates TBC). Planning well underway, with room bookings having already been made. Involvement of Macquarie staff Emily Hughes, Robert Sinnerbrink, Jean-Philippe Deranty.

5. **Other business**
   a. Discussion of issues raised at the EDI lunch during the conference. It was suggested that the ASCP community could be more welcoming at times to those who are not regular attendees. More generally, members reported concerns around belonging, inclusiveness

and a lack of care/support at their institutions. The burden of providing care and support tends to fall most heavily on people who need it themselves (especially women and early career academics). Suggestions:

   i. Future conferences to provide spaces for people to socialize as well as quite rooms for those who need it.
   ii. Use ASCP funds for a workshop focused on advising members how to develop and access support networks.
   iii. Members encouraged to approach Louise Richardson-Self (EDI officer) with issues/suggestions.

b. Discussion around online conference. It was very well attended and papers were of a very high standard. The format made the face-to-face conference easier to manage (no "hybrid" sessions apart from keynotes/plenary) and may have boosted membership. The model of a separate day for the online papers to be used going forward.
   i. Jacinta Sassine reported that a number of online attendees came to the face-to-face conference as well.
   ii. Room for improvements: all face-to-face attendees to be reminded/encouraged to attend online as well; need to space out the online and face-to-face days so the conference does not become four straight days.
   iii. Marilyn Stendera reported that a large number of online presenters could not have attended the face-to-face conference.
   iv. The panel on "Publishing in Philosophy" was very successful. Thanks to Marguerite La Caze, Joe Hughes, Chris Mayes, Magdalena Zolkos and Dimitris Vardoulakis, as well as Daniele Fulvi as organizer.
c. Discussion of the heavy burden on conference organizers and the unsustainability of the current model of organization. Executive committee reminded that responsibility for conference organization cannot continue to fall on the same people, especially Marilyn Stendera and Jacinta Sassine. Comments/suggestions:
   i. 2026 conference will be easier to organize because no need to liaise with CHASS.
   ii. 2025 was made more difficult because one of the conference committee members dropped out at a crucial time.
   iii. Need to establish term-limits for conference committee members.
   iv. Stand-alone conference tasks (such as programming, monitoring emails) to be identified, with the aim of employing someone to do that work.
   v. Discussion of the 2026 conference committee and organizational processes to be a priority at the first meeting of the Executive committee in 2026.
d. Thank-you gifts presented to Mairlyn Stendera, Jacinta Sassine and Christine Polowyj.

Meeting Close.