

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2008 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

CHAIR: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RACHEL A. ANKENY (Dr Rosemary Robins, Acting Chair, March to October 2008)

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2008

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008.

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at www.science.org.au/natcoms

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee for HPS held its Annual General Meeting on October 3, 2008, at Ian Potter House, Gordon St. Canberra.

It is proposed that the next scheduled meeting of the National Committee for HPS be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science (AAHPSSS), in July 2009, in Brisbane.

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

In 2008 there was no general assembly of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS).

In 2009, there will be a general assembly of the IUHPS, Division of the History of Science and Technology (DHST), from 26-31 July, in Budapest, Hungary.

**I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)**

Dr Libby Robin, Senior Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society and Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200. Email: libby.robin@anu.edu.au Telephone: 02 6125 5016; Fax: 02 6125 0757.

Associate Professor David Mercer, Science, Technology and Society Program, School of English Literatures, Philosophy and Languages, Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW, 2522. Email: dmerc@uow.edu.au Telephone 02 4221 4062; Fax: 02 4221 5341

Mr Gavan McCarthy, Director, E-Scholarship Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, 3010. Email: gavan.mccarthy@unimelb.edu.au Telephone: 03 8344 3659; Fax: 03 9347 4803

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2008 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2009:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2008 Business Plan. 2008 Business plans can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Go to <http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008anrep.htm>, to view the Chairs' Reports on 2007 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2008 (200-250 words):

The National Museum of Australia student essay prize in History of Australian Science was offered in 2008. The Judging panel was Professor Rod Home, Dr Mike Smith and Dr Rosemary Robins. No prize was awarded. The funds have been held over and may be used to award a prize for a paper on the history of Australian science from among those submitted for the Environmental History prize in 2009.

The National Committee continued to work with Gavan McCarthy (Melbourne), to help achieve the aims of the World History of Science project (<http://www.dhst-whso.org/web/biogs/E000001b.htm>)

The main project objectives are:

- Online access to bibliographies and catalogues of archives sources already prepared or in preparation in the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science Division of the History of Science member countries.
- Make accessible the world's scientific and technological bibliographies and archival sources through a central website.
- Contribute to build capacity in history of science and technology in all countries.

- Make available historical information for the scientific and technological disciplines that require it.
- Disseminate scientific information.
- Stimulate the use of history of science and technology in decision making on public policies, education programs and public understanding of science as well as in the agendas of sustainable human development, among others.

Dialogue commenced between members of History and Philosophy of Science/Science and Technology Studies (HPS/STS) programs around Australia about the future of the discipline and strategies in light of continued re-organisation in 2006-7 in both Faculties of Arts and Sciences at a number of major universities which traditionally have strengths in HPS/STS.

Please complete and return this form by 12 December 2008 to:

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