

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2010 activities

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

CHAIR: Associate Professor Rachel A. Ankeny

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2010

MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The NC did not meet in 2010 due to logistical issues but conducted business regularly by teleconference and email.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2011:
25 January 2011, Canberra

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU

In 2011, there will be a General Assembly of the International Union for History & Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, to be held 19-26 July 2011 in Nancy, France; delegation will be confirmed when the NCHPS meets in January but we expect to send only one delegate.

The next General Assembly of the IUHPS will be the Division of History of Science, Technology and Medicine to be held 22-28 July 2013 in Manchester, UK.

ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2010 (200-250 words):

The National Museum of Australia (NMA) student essay prize in Australian history of science or environmental history was offered in 2010, and seven entries were received, all of a good to excellent standard, with several considered by reviewers to be suitable for scholarly publication. Subjects ranged from botany, medical biography, anthropology, meteorology, and policy issues in parks management. Many of the essays straddled the categories of 'environmental history' and the 'history of science', suggesting that the combining of these two categories has not weakened the field. The judging panel was Rachel A. Ankeny (NCHPS), Mike Smith (NMA), and Libby Robin (NCHPS). The prize of \$2500 was awarded to Luke Keogh, PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, for his entry *Duboisia Pituri: A Natural History*.

The NCHPS continued to work with Gavan McCarthy (University of Melbourne), to help achieve the aims of the World History of Science Online project (<http://www.dhst-whso.org/>), whose main objectives are providing central online access to bibliographies and catalogues of archives and sources including scientific and technological bibliographies and archival sources in order to build capacity in history of science and technology in all countries.

The NCHPS participated in international and national discussions relevant to the discipline of HPS, relating to research reporting, journal ranking processes, and development of standards for teaching undergraduate history.

Planning for the public lecture series to mark the Academy's 60th anniversary in 2014 has continued in 2011.