

CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (CESAA) AGM MINUTES 2014

Thursday 4.3.2014		17:00 – 18:15	Europe Centre RMIT
Meeting	Annual General Meeting		
Attendees	Bruno Mascitelli, Bruce Wilson, Simone Battiston, James Robinson, Chiara De Lazzari, Stephen Alomes, Maren Klein, Margherita Matera, Lachlan McKenzie, Luigi Belmonte.		
Apologies	Peter Morgan		
1. Organisation of Meeting			
Bruno Mascitelli			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal apology by Peter Morgan. 			
2. Minutes from the previous AGM			
Bruno Mascitelli			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous AGM (2013) were confirmed as presented. 			
3. Elections to CESAA Committee: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer			
Bruno Mascitelli			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of current office bearers and elections for Secretary and CESAA Committee members. • CESAA office bearers for 2014-2015 are: President: Bruno Mascitelli Vice President: Peter Morgan Treasurer: Simone Battiston Secretary: James Robinson • CESAA Committee Members: Maren Klein, Chiara De Lazzari, Lachlan McKenzie, Stephen Alomes, Luigi Belmonte, Margherita Matera, Bruce Wilson. • Elections committee was approved. • Peter Morgan passed on proxy (not needed). • Nominations were signed off. 			
4. Update on the EUSA AP Conference			
Bruno Mascitelli, Bruce Wilson, Chiara De Lazzari , Maren Klein, Margherita Matera			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President advised that the Conference will take place 1 & 2 May and is sponsored by RMIT and Canterbury University (New Zealand). • CESAA is playing a role in the conference and abstracts have now closed. • CESAA has been very liberal with abstracts and are sitting between 70-80 papers. • People are coming from around the world and we will have 2 Guest speakers. • 60% of papers are from overseas and there have been 3 withdrawals. • Finalising a publication (something formal) was agreed. • Bruce: Suggested CESAA writes to presenters and chairs about time guidelines and stating that chairs should be ruthless after the 15 minutes. • Maren: Had a rough plan done and noted a few abstracts on security threats and trade. • Chiara: Asked if someone from CESAA wanted to be a chair. • Margherita: Proposed the creation of an A4 Flyer. 			

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5. Finance Report

Simone Battiston

Simone stated:

- The financial report based on calendar year shows a balance as at 31 December 2013 of \$14,185.09 compared to \$15,637.51 at 1 January 2013. Total expenditure was \$2,468.06 and Total income was \$1,015.64.
- The costs associated with the website slightly increased our expenditure.
- There was some money in the bank account from the EU funding.

6. Membership Report

Margherita Matera

Margherita Stated:

- The membership report was similar to last years and we currently have 20 members.
- Numbers have been progressively going down, but 2011 was our best year when we had 40 members.
- CESAA's biggest problem is maintaining memberships and renewals.
- Incentives were suggested to try and gain new CESAA members at the Conference.
- Highest concentration of CESAA membership is located at the University of Melbourne, Swinburne University, and RMIT.
- Increasing the profile of CESAA and the association benefits were highlighted.

7. Other Business – Website, Essays, and Flyer

Chiara De Lazzari, Lachlan McKenzie

- The website will be updated with bulletins and flyers.
- The use of Twitter for CESAA will be used at the Conference.
- The Essay Competition will be 1 semester only.

Meeting closed at 18:15.

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**Report to the CESAA Annual General Meeting
CESAA Membership
April 2014**

The below graphs provide some statistical information on the CESAA membership base from 2009. As memberships for 2014 are still being received, the figures for 2014 are provisional and reflect the membership base as at 1 April 2014.

Graph 1

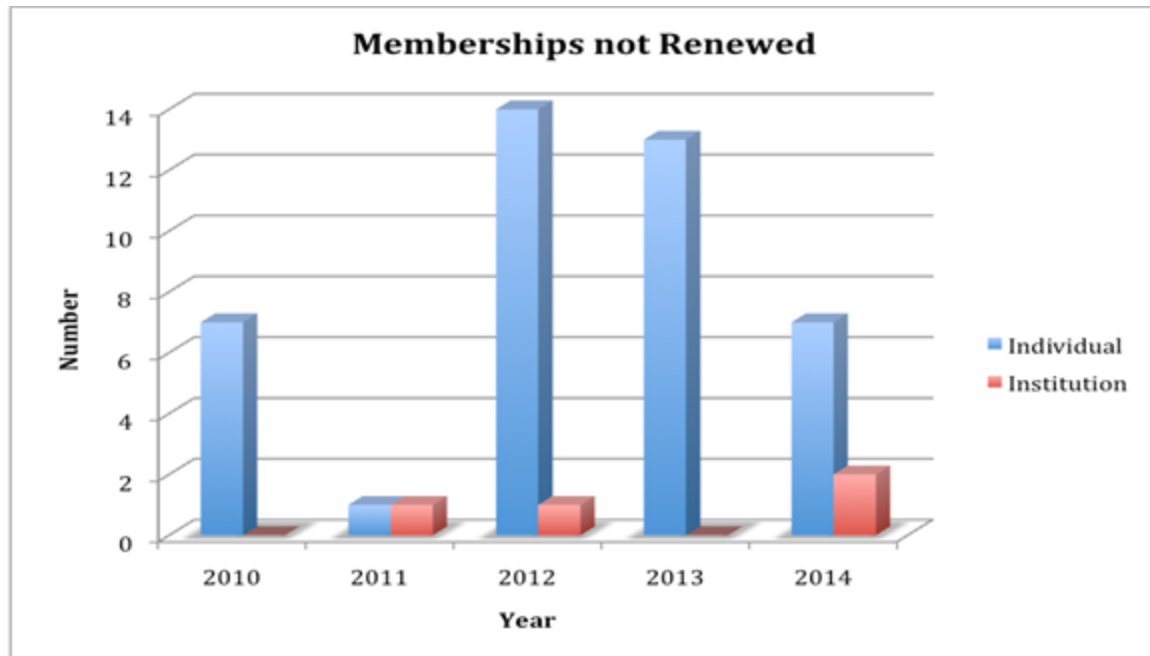


Graph 2



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Graph 3



As can be seen from the above three graphs, CESAA membership peaked in 2011 with 42 members (40 individual and two institutional memberships). The steady increase in membership between 2009 and 2011 can be attributed to the membership marketing campaign that was adopted at the 2009 CESAA Annual General Meeting.

With a large number of individuals selecting the two-year membership option, membership peaked in 2011 (the individual attrition rate was one in 2011). The decline in membership since 2012 reflects the fact that a proportion of individuals who joined in 2010 and 2011 decided not to renew their membership. In 2013 the number of non-renewals was 12 and currently stands at 7 for 2014. Coupled with the declining numbers of new members over this two-year period (see Graph 2), the membership base is currently at its lowest level since 2009. Individual CESAA membership for 2014 currently stands at 20 from a 2009 starting base of 28.

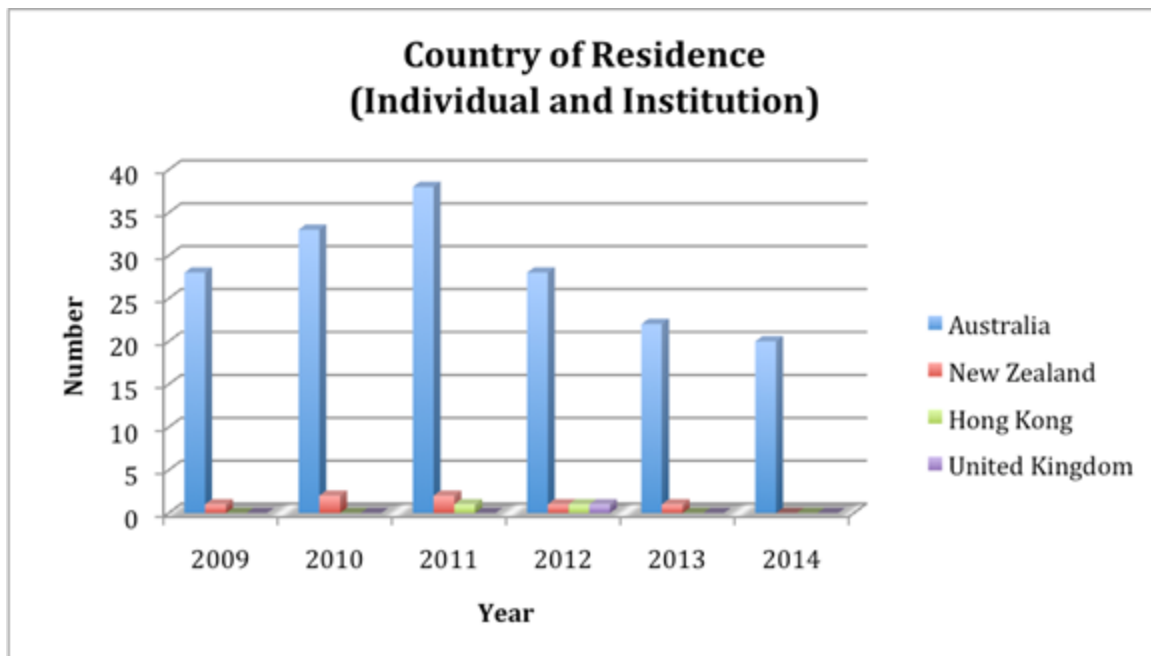
CESAA membership is linked to CESAA's overall profile in Australia. Until CESAA is able to increase its profile and reach in Australia, membership numbers will continue to remain low. The added challenge however for CESAA is how it can retain the members it has from year to year.

The introduction of the monthly CESAA bulletin is a step in the right direction for increasing CESAA's profile but as yet it has not translated into new memberships. One of the tasks for 2014 should be to develop a strategy to broaden the circulation of the bulletin beyond CESAA's current membership base. It is hoped that by expanding the exposure of the CESAA bulletin, CESAA membership base will increase.

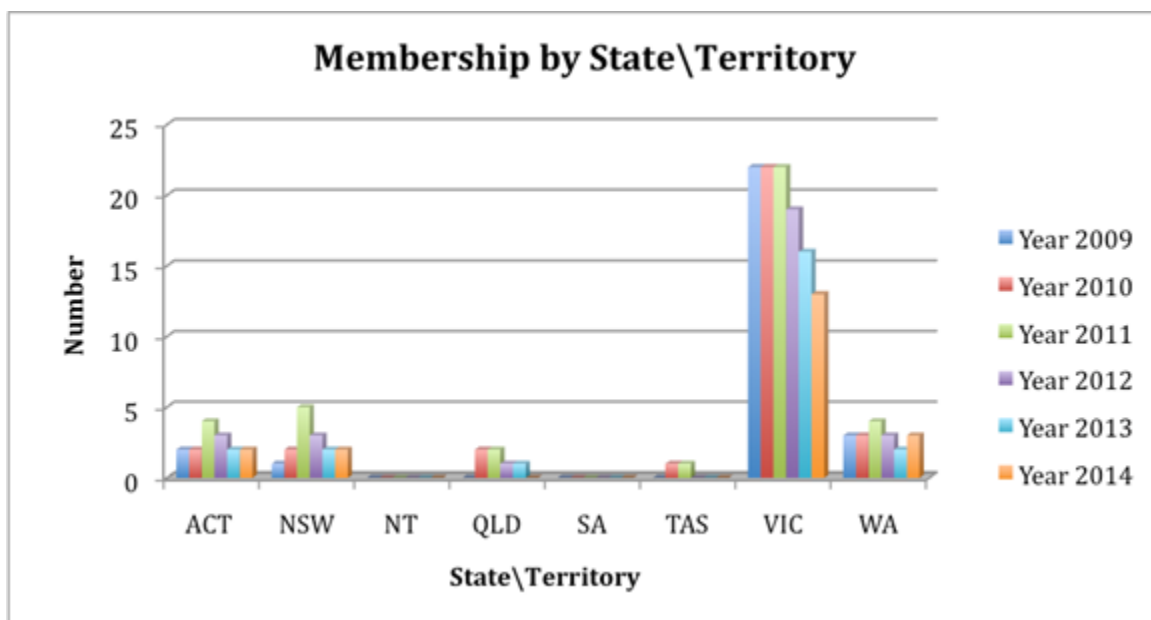
Institutional membership peaked in 2013, with three institutional members (Swinburne University of Technology, European Union Centre at RMIT and the National Library of New Zealand). As at 1 April 2014, this number has reduced to one (Swinburne University of Technology).

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Graph 4

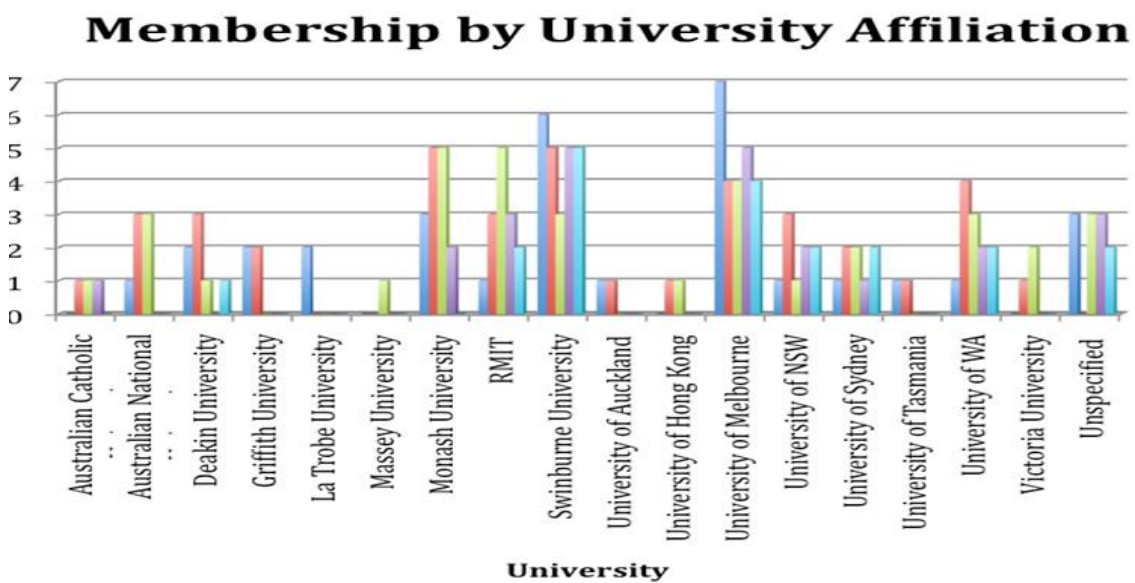


Graph 5



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Graph 6:



As can be seen from Graphs 5 and 6, CESAA is still struggling to make any significant inroads outside of Victoria. In 2013, the highest concentration of CESAA membership is located at the University of Melbourne (5), Swinburne University (5) and RMIT (3). Similar trends are reflected in the preliminary 2014 figures.

*Report prepared by Margherita Matera
CESAA Membership Secretary*

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**Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia
Financial report for the AGM, 3 April 2014**

1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013

Bank balance as of 1 January 2013	\$15,637.51
Bank balance as of 31 December 2013	\$14,185.09

CESAA
PO Box 2125
Hawthorn, VIC 3122
Australia

2013 Expenditure	
Website Upkeep (Solutions Indata)	\$150.00
Web Domain renewal	\$44.00
Web Central Account Keeping	\$1,198.73
CESAA Newsletter	\$300.00
Reimbursements (Conferences)	\$692.34
Miscellaneous costs (bank fees, postage, etc.)	\$82.99
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>\$2,468.06</i>
2013 Income	
Membership	1,010.00
Credit interest	5.64
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>\$1,015.64</i>

Notes for the Finance report (2013)

1. Total expenditure up 16% from \$2,067.62 (2012)
2. Membership down 24% from \$1,335.00 (2012)

Simone Battiston
CESAA Treasurer