



# SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIAN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, No. 1, March 2002

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### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the SASP Newsletter for 2002. We are now very close to the annual SASP conference which will be held in Adelaide at the end of April, 25th to 28th. It seems no time at all since the Melbourne event, and we are sure that Martha Augoustinos and her team will have felt that the time has flown past even faster than for the rest of us. We believe that there has been strong interest in attending the Adelaide event and we look forward to a strong program in an excellent venue situated on North Terrace in Adelaide.

Since the last meeting we have witnessed the events of September 11. It will be of interest to some, if not many, to see if there is any discernible impact of that event, and the subsequent war on terrorism and the "evil axis", upon the activities of the social psychologists of SASP. Perhaps a few months is too short a time to divert people from their research agendas and grant commitments which may have lead times of several months and sometimes years. But we shall see. Here in Perth we were about to start an internet study of political governance when the event occurred and we decided to postpone the study as it might have been seen as too intrusive and even threatening to many potential respondents. So while we have no data that reflect the likely changes due to 09/11, we do have an absence of data due to that event.

During the time since the last conference we have also had the "boat people" election and the rise of populism government responding when it is seen as prudent to the prejudices and stereotypes of the majority. We saw the election of the third Howard government and the resulting movements in particularly conservative directions. Social psychologists are notoriously unlikely to respond to such events in any noticeable fashion, conducting the same research

projects without recourse to political or social context. Will Adelaide continue to show this lack of response by institutional social psychology to social and political events?

Finally, in the vein of considering social impacts, we have seen the passing of the privacy laws by the Federal Government. This can have quite onerous effects upon the actions and practices of firms and institutions, including practicing psychologists. Whether it will have any impact on how social psychologists practice again will have to be seen. At the very least, the new laws will have a significant impact on some kinds of research.

This March Newsletter is designed under the new editorial policy to be a fairly "stripped down" version, dealing mainly with dates and timely events, with the October issue designed to have more commentary and debate. As the new President of the Society Mike Innes is constrained to make some commentary on the actions of the Society, but he is able to say that very little has been done in the months since he stepped into office. We welcome Janine Webb, from Deakin University, as the new Treasurer, and Janine has been making her presence felt in several ways since she took office. Welcome Janine and we hope that you will continue to serve the Society for some years to come. And Kip Williams was elected unopposed to the position of President-in-Waiting. Tim Kurz, from Murdoch University takes over the mantle of PG representative from Shari Hodgkinson, also of Murdoch. Welcome to the team Tim. Together with the Secretary Patrick Heaven and Past President Graham Vaughan, these make up a strong and vigorous group of people steering the Society.

I know that both Patrick and Janine will join me in sending out strong reminders to those members who will not be attending the Adelaide

conference that dues time is upon us and the fees should be submitted to Janine as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, Patrick has had to resign due to the pressure of other commitments. On behalf of all members, we thank Patrick for his service to SASP as Secretary. Nominations for the position of Secretary are now open. There is a nomination form at the back of this newsletter. If needed, an election will be held at the AGM during the Adelaide conference.

The present Editorial team, Mike Innes, Ngaire Donaghue and Iain Walker, from Murdoch University, were reappointed at the AGM in Melbourne. Since then all of us have acquired new roles and duties. Mike has stepped down as Head of School at Murdoch, to be replaced by Iain, and Ngaire has taken on an onerous task of running the large fourth year program at Murdoch. Mike is moving to the Universities of Adelaide and Flinders for the rest of 2002. While we experienced these changes, they do not strike us as being sufficiently serious to affect our ability or willingness to continue to serve the Society as editors. We hope that the Society, at the AGM, will endorse our continuing roles.

Welcome to 2002 and we look forward to seeing as many as possible of old friends and new colleagues in Adelaide at the end of April.

The Editorial Team  
Ngaire Donaghue  
Mike Innes  
Iain Walker  
Murdoch University

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#### **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

##### **Society of Australasian Social Psychologists 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Thursday 25 April – Sunday 28 April, 2002.  
Stamford Plaza Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia.

*Keynote speaker: Professor Nyla Branscombe,  
University of Kansas*

For further information, visit the conference website at:

[www.psychology.adelaide.edu.au/Conferences/socialPsych/SASPConf.html](http://www.psychology.adelaide.edu.au/Conferences/socialPsych/SASPConf.html)

or contact:  
Martha Augoustinos  
Department of Psychology  
Adelaide University  
Adelaide, SA, 5000  
Australia

Tel: +61 (08) 8303 4627  
Fax: +61 (08) 8303 3770  
Email: [martha@psychology.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:martha@psychology.adelaide.edu.au)

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The **8th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology** will be held in Hong Kong, July 10-14, 2002. Members are most welcome to participate. For further information, please visit the webpage: <http://personal.cityu.edu.hk/~ssiclaspl/>

Sik Hung  
Chinese University of Hong Kong

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#### **A European summer**

Every 2 to 3 years, the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology (EAESP) holds a summer school where selected graduate students participate in one of a number of workshops intended to provide specialist instruction in a particular research area. The summer school accepts approximately 60 students and, typically, only 5-10 of these students come from non-European countries. Australia has a good record of students being selected by the EAESP, and this year has been no exception as 5 PhD students from Australia have been chosen for the 2002 summer school. Melissa Lehman and Julian Oldmeadow from La Trobe, and Ana-maria Bliuc, Girish Lala, and Ruth Wright from the ANU will all be winging their way to Marburg, Germany, for 2 weeks in late August.

All 5 are currently completing their PhDs, and have a broad interest in social identity processes. Julian's PhD work examines the interactions of status and social identity in the domain of social influence, and he will be attending the workshop on 'Social Dominance' hosted by Felicia Pratto. Melissa is interested in social communication, and the role uncertainty and disagreement plays in social cohesion. Ruth is looking at self-

categorisation and its mediating role between organisational context and communication efficacy. Ana-Maria is researching the role of salience in predicting collective behaviours in opinion-based groups. All three will be attending the 'Organisational Psychology' workshop hosted by Daan Van Knippenberg. Girish's PhD looks at social identity processes within on-line communities formed around socio-political issues. He will be participating in the 'Affirmative Actions' workshop hosted by Vici Esses.

The EAESP summer school provides a great opportunity for students to learn from senior researchers based in Europe and North America. More than that, however, it is also an ideal venue to meet other graduates from a range of different countries. Students who have participated in previous summer schools have identified the friendships and networks that have developed as a result of their attendance as a highlight of their participation.

Melissa, Julian, Ana-Maria, Ruth, and Girish are all pleased to have been selected, and excited about the opportunities (and challenges) that the summer school will present. They're also all very much looking forward to late August, and 2 weeks of hard work (and, maybe, some play!) in the European summer.

Further information about the EAESP summer school can be found at :  
[http://staff-www.uni-marburg.de/~wagner1/ag\\_so2.html](http://staff-www.uni-marburg.de/~wagner1/ag_so2.html)  
[http://www.eaesp.org/pages/ac\\_summer.htm](http://www.eaesp.org/pages/ac_summer.htm)

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### **The SASP-SPSP Sponsored**

*Social Psychology  
Virtual Reality Workshop*

Presented by  
Professor James Blascovich  
and  
Andy Beall  
University of California at Santa Barbara

will be held 20-24 May, 2002

at the

Social Psychology Laboratory  
Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Please contact  
Kipling Williams for conference and registration  
details.

Professor Kipling Williams  
Department of Psychology  
Macquarie University  
Sydney NSW 2109  
(02) 9850 8067 (office)  
(02) 9850 8601 (fax)  
[kip@psy.mq.edu.au](mailto:kip@psy.mq.edu.au) (email)

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## **NOTICES**

### **The International Wellbeing Group and**

### **The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index**

Beginning in November 2001, an international collaborative network has gradually assembled with the aim of developing a brief, standard Index to measure population subjective wellbeing. The International Wellbeing Group currently involves researchers from 19 countries. These people are listed below.

Each Primary Researcher intends to trial the Index in their own country. Moreover, Group members are agreed that, to whatever extent possible, the same form of the Index will be used.

It is not, however, envisaged that the Index will remain unchanged over time. Instead, an initial iteration of the Index has been agreed, and a key concept underpinning this project is that it will undergo controlled evolution as theory and empirical data are brought to bear on its composition. To this end we have established an e-forum that discusses the content of the Index as data are progressively collected and analyzed.

### The Australian Unity Project

The origin of this project occurred early in 2001 when a contract was signed between Australian Unity, a financial services and healthcare company based in Melbourne, and the Australian Center on Quality of Life at Deakin University. This contract established a partnership with the aim of creating an index of perceived wellbeing for the Australian population. Under the terms of this agreement, general population surveys, each of 2,000 respondents selected on a

demographically proportional basis, are conducted every six months.

Under the terms of the contract, both parties own all data and there is no restriction on their use for scientific purposes. In addition, Australian Unity supports the Index being used and developed as a scientific tool. In this spirit they encourage investigations into the usefulness of the Index in other countries. The generic name for the index outside Australia will be the International Wellbeing Index.

#### The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index

Our research team comprises Bob Cummins and doctoral student Melanie Davern from Deakin University, Richard Eckersley from the Australian National University, and Julie Pallant, from Swinburne University. Bob is a Professor of Psychology, Richard a Social Analyst, and Julie a statistician.

Our initial instrument design involved the creation of two scales. A seven item Personal Wellbeing Index and a six item National Wellbeing Index. All items utilize a 0 – 10 end-defined scale of satisfaction. This Index, all Reports on our analyses, and the raw data from each survey can be accessed through the web-site of the Australian Centre on Quality of Life <http://acqol.deakin.edu.au> (Click on The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index).

The Personal Wellbeing Index comprises satisfaction with: standard of living, health, what you achieve in life, personal relationships, how safe you feel, feeling part of your community, and your future security. [We are trialing 'your religious or spiritual beliefs' in the third survey which commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002].

The National Wellbeing Index comprises satisfaction with: the economic situation in Australia, the state of the natural environment, the social conditions in Australia, Government in Australia, business in Australia, and national security in Australia.

Each survey is conducted by telephone and incorporates a number of other items that variously provide demographic data, allow the formation of population sub-groups, or provide information that will inform the evolution of the Index. The whole questionnaire is restricted to a maximum of 30 items.

We have now conducted and analyzed two national surveys, each of 2,000 people. The first was conducted in April. Then, 10 days after the terrorist attacks in the USA, we conducted the second.

The second report is particularly interesting since it includes our analyses of the effects of September 11 on the wellbeing of Australians. The Personal Wellbeing Index rose to a higher level than it had been earlier in that year. This report also contains a factor analysis of the scale and other psychometric data. As with the first report, however, this document has been composed for our sponsor (Australian Unity) and for media purposes. An academic paper based on the First Report can be obtained from Bob [cummins@deakin.edu.au].

#### The future

As has been stated, the aim of the International Wellbeing Group is to develop an index of perceived wellbeing that is cross-culturally valid and reliable. The Group has agreed to use the existing Australian Unity Index as a starting point for this journey, and to let the evolutionary process guide future development. Watch this space.

Bob Cummins  
Richard Eckersley  
Julie Pallant  
Melanie Davern

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#### **RAPLINK -- PROVIDING A VITAL LINK FOR AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES**

RAPlink Incorporated is a volunteer group with subscribers around Australia. It links rural, remote and other communities with the social, psychological, technological and general resources or information they need to help them with community development projects. Recent projects have involved linking communities with other communities for mutual support, with social workers and psychologists for specific support in problem areas, with legal advisers for help in framing submissions to governments and courts, with appropriate literature or local government authority, and so on. Often a friendly phone call or an email is sufficient to bolster a flagging community's will to carry on. Once a link has been achieved, RAPlink's job is over. RAPlink's skills database includes many social workers and psychologists, and social psychologists are especially welcome. Subscribe

to their free text-only email newsletter by writing to raplink@ozemail.com.au, and visit their website at <http://users.tpg.com.au/raplink> where there is a downloadable membership application form.

John H Champness PhD MAPS (Vice-President, RAPlink)  
Elizabeth M Murphy BA(Hons) FCES FSBT AFAIM (Secretary, RAPlink)

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## BOOKS BY MEMBERS

**EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN EVERYDAY LIFE: A SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY**, edited by Joseph Ciarrochi, Joseph Forgas, and John (Jack) Mayer

The notion of Emotional Intelligence (EI) has become enormously popular in recent years. Despite the extensive interest, this is the first book to provide a scientific review of how and why emotional intelligence is important to everyday life, written in an engaging and clear style by leading international researchers.

With chapters on EI and relationships, business, and health, with an up-to-date review of its scientific measure, the book can help:

- \*Academics to obtain clear, up-to-date coverage of EI
- \*Consultants to improve the scientific accuracy of their work in EI with clients
- \*Teachers looking for a textbook in the field
- \*Any interested reader to gain depth of understanding directly from authorities in the field

## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“This book provides precisely what we need on the topic of emotional intelligence--a scientifically grounded yet widely applicable analysis of this important aspect of human functioning. It should be warmly welcomed by both scientists and practitioners in fields of business, education, medicine, and counseling.”

--- Professor Robert B Cialdini, Arizona State University

“This book must be a winner. It is on a very hot topic, which still lacks a more serious overview of theory, research, and application from

multiple perspectives. The editors have done an excellent job of assembling a well-known team of authors, and their treatment of issues will be fresh and stimulating. I am sure it will be a big hit.”

--- Professor Keith Oatley, University of Toronto

## ORDERING INFORMATION

The book is available through all good bookshops, from on-line booksellers such as Amazon, as well as directly from the publisher: Psychology Press, c/o Routledge, 29 W. 35th Street, New York, NY 10001 Fax: 212-244-1563 email:

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## FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

CHAPTER 1: *A Field Guide to Emotional Intelligence.* John D. Mayer

CHAPTER 2: *Measuring Emotional Intelligence.* Joseph Ciarrochi, Amy Chan, Peter Caputi, and Richard Roberts

CHAPTER 3: *Affective intelligence: The role of affect in social thinking and behaviour.* Joe Forgas

## APPLICATIONS OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH TO EVERYDAY LIFE

CHAPTER 4: *Low emotional intelligence and mental illness.* Graeme Taylor

CHAPTER 5: *Emotional Intelligence and Self-Actualization.* Reuven Bar-On

CHAPTER 6: *Emotional intelligence and intimate relationships.* Julie Fitness

CHAPTER 7: *Emotional intelligence and empathic accuracy.* Judith Flury and William Ickes

CHAPTER 8: Emotional intelligence and education. Maurice J. Elias, Lisa Hunter, and Jeffrey S. Kress.

CHAPTER 9: Emotional intelligence in the workplace. David Caruso and Charles Wolfe

CHAPTER 10: Applied emotional intelligence: regulating emotions to become healthy, wealthy, and wise. Peter Salovey

#### INTEGRATION AND CONCLUSIONS

CHAPTER 11: Measuring the intelligence of an idea: How intelligent is the idea of emotional intelligence? Robert Sternberg

**THE NEW SCIENCE OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS.** Garth Fletcher (2002). Oxford: Blackwell.

With impeccable scholarship, sharp wit, and a beautiful writing style, Garth Fletcher showcases the new science of intimate relationships.

--Jeffry Simpson, Professor of Psychology at Texas A&M University.

This is an important, fascinating, and delightful book.

--Roy Baumeister, Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University.

A much needed interdisciplinary integration of the diverse fields that study intimate relationships...scholarly, fiercely intelligent, and even-handed.

--Letitia Anne Peplau, Professor of Psychology at UCLA.

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#### OBITUARIES

##### Keith Gibbins

Keith Gibbins was a social psychologist, and many other things besides. He had worked at Murdoch University since 1977, and retired in 1999. He died late last year, after many health problems had affected his life for many years.

Keith was born in Hull (spelt, as he used to say, 'Kingston-upon-Hull' but pronounced 'ul'), England, in 1934. He left school at 16, running away to join, oddly enough, the Tax Office. He ran away again, to study at Hull University,

graduating in 1958. He then became a research assistant, and then an assistant lecturer, specialising in visual perception. He was subsequently appointed as a lecturer at Kings College, Durham. Because the only other staff member was also in visual perception, and Keith was the junior of the two, Keith was chosen to change fields, ending up teaching social, occupational, personality, motivation, individual differences, and developmental psychology. During this time, he also completed his PhD on visual threshold phenomena, and published his research in *Nature*. In 1969, Keith became an Associate Professor of Social Psychology at the University of New England (NSW), and then in 1977 moved to the then-new Murdoch University in Perth.

Sometime late in the 1960s, Keith developed an interest in the social psychology of fashion, an interest that did not inspire much in the way of his own attire. He always found it hard to publish his research in this area, partly because no-one seemed to accept that there was anything to understand, and even if there were, it was all common-sense anyway. Keith developed a fairly sophisticated analysis of changes in fashions (typically, but not only, with clothing fashions), using notions of norms and discrepancies between ideal self-image and actual self-image. The best theoretical account he developed was, paradoxically, not published in a social psychology journal, but rather in the *Journal of the Australian Home Economics Association*. He was probably more proud of this publication than of any other, including his work published in *Nature*.

As well as research on fashion, Keith was interested in leadership (rather, the 'myth of leadership'), the self, attributions, ergonomics, personality across cultures, and, most recently, help-seeking. Keith was an inveterate tinkerer and dabbler. In his words, he enjoyed doing research, but lost interest when it came to publishing. Consequently, he is not as well-known as he could have been or should have been, and his filing cabinets were full of studies with interesting results that he never finished writing up, or he never bothered to revise according to what he thought were petty requests from journal editors.

Keith was a man full of keen insight, broad knowledge, great enthusiasm, sharp wit, and dreadful puns. Intellectually, he was his own

man. Although Keith was never a central figure in SASP, he was present at the prehistoric beginnings of what is now SASP – the meeting held in Adelaide in 1972. And he identified, first and foremost, as a social psychologist. His friends and colleagues miss him, but fondly remember his humour, his generosity, and his unselfish contributions to Murdoch and to social psychology.

Iain Walker

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## SOCIAL INFLUENCES

This issue of the newsletter marks a new series on *Social Influences*. This column provides a forum for invited eminent (and maybe not so eminent) SASP members to answer some questions, fanzine-style, about the sorts of influences they have experienced in their professional career. The inaugural column reveals Margaret Foddy to readers. As many SASP members already know, Margaret is leaving Australia in August, to return to her native Canada, after more than a quarter of a century at the forefront of Australian social psychology. Margaret was also instrumental in the formation of SASP, and served as the inaugural President of the Association. We posed several questions to Margaret, with the invitation to respond to whichever ones she felt inclined to, to add any of her own, and to be serious, semi-serious, and/or humorous as she saw fit. We have edited her responses to protect the young and the innocent, as well as ourselves. Margaret's answers are followed by a brief piece from her long-time student, friend, collaborator, and general trouble-maker, Kristina Macrae.



*What was it initially attracted you to social psychology?*

I wanted to study medicine but my father said it would be too boring. Then I wanted to major in English, but the head of department told me that women never finish postgrad studies and they are a waste of time because they just have kids and don't use their education (I was 19 at the time and had one kid so he was probably being actuarial). Then I majored in sociology because it was the only subject I didn't get an A in, and I wanted to work out why it was so difficult. I got a PhD at the University of British Columbia in small groups sociology, which I liked because it seemed more comprehensible than Sorokin and verstehen, and much more comprehensible than ethnomethodology (I don't regret having studied any of those). Small groups sociology is like social psychology but different, as was evident in the recent groups pre-conference of SESP that Marty Kaplan and I organised last October. I might have been a sociologist except that when I moved to Australia with Bill Foddy, there was a job in psychology and not in sociology!

*If you hadn't become a social psychologist, what would you likely be doing now?*

See answer to question 1.

*Which piece of social psychological theory or research really struck you as important during your days as an undergraduate and as a graduate student?*

Actually, the most important was the philosophy of science we did with my supervisor, Reg Robson, who was a student of Popper. This gave me the tools to think about what the whole bizzo of what science was about, how to analyse theories, how social science could be defended and attacked. Reg was a dedicated Popperian, but his background also opened up other points of view, and at UBC, grad students could invent their own courses. One we invented was about philosophy of science, and this was probably the best course I ever took. A close second is a course I took at the University of Alberta, where Bill Foddy got his first job. W. W. Rozeboom, not noted for his great lecturing style, gave a wonderful course that linked math and statistics and psychology--it was heavy but formative.

The social psychologist I was most influenced by was Richard Emerson (sociologist at the University of Washington). His work is not recognised enough, but he influenced people like Hal Kelley, Chuck McClintock, Karen Cook and so on. Emerson had a really good sense of the nexus between individuals and social structure, which has been the guiding question in all my research and teaching. Then of course George Herbert Mead--I remember how excited I was when I realised the key features of humans are symbolic representation and shared social action. Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man* (despite its sexist title) was also very important to the development of my thinking.

*Which social psychologist has had the greatest impact on your intellectual work over the years?*

This is hard to say, just like evaluating a lecturer at the end of a sequence of lectures--you might change your mind next week, next month, or next decade. If you choose someone you know, then I would say Joe Berger at Stanford University, whose work on theory construction, and whose own theories informed my work. Other close contenders would be Robyn Dawes, Marilyn Brewer, John Turner, Toshio Yamagishi, and (no one will know this person) Mark Lichbach, an economist who knows a lot about models of the relationship between individuals and society.

*If you had to award a Nobel Prize for social psychological work done since 1990, to whom would you award it?*

I don't believe in prizes.

*What do you think is the best social psychological book ever written?*

This is not a sensible question.

*Which piece of your own work are you most proud of?*

My paper on information control in exchange networks published in *Advances in Group Processes* around 1989. I am also pretty pleased with the work I did with the Women's Children's Literature Cooperative in the 1980's and I think the setting up of SASP, after running it on a shoestring from La Trobe for years, is not such a bad thing either. I also like my kids. And the cat Buster.

*What was your most embarrassing SASP-moment?*

Kristina Macrae taught me never to be embarrassed. It is a better motto than "never apologise", which I think we need to do almost on a daily basis.

*The best paper you ever presented at SASP?*

The best one was at the Brisbane conference a million years ago when Mike Innes had to sit on the knees of the girls in fishnet stockings. I gave a paper on a study I did where I predicted a five way interaction effect and got it, and Ruth Scott, who was chairing the session, let me go on for about 40 minutes to get the info across. Ruth remembers this quite differently. Anyway, this is obviously a fake answer. The "best" paper I ever gave was a high tech number at Villasimius in Sardinia last September, for which I had digested all the data and relevant papers; or a paper I gave at a small groups conference in Graz, Austria last April, where I got through 45 powerpoint slides in 25 minutes and everyone seemed to follow the argument.

Best for whom? I most fondly remember the SASP papers where we all were trailing bits of printout and keen to tell our colleagues about what we were trying to figure out. (I am sorry this aspect of giving papers has disappeared, but almost no one agrees with me).

*What do you think social psychology in Australia will be like ten years from now?*

Qui sait? (I am moving to Canada and will become bilingual (apologies to Cindy Gallois).

*Who has had the most enduring influence on the development of social psychology in Australia? And the most endearing influence?*

This is a question I could but won't answer.

*What is your favourite novel?*

In the skin of a lion by Michael Ondaatje. Hopefully they will not turn it into a movie.

*What is your favourite kid's book?*

The circus McGurkus



*What is your favourite film?*

The African Queen

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**Margaret Foddy and SASP**

Kristina Macrae

Margaret Foddy (or as her mail has sometimes been addressed, Dr Doggy or Professor Foggy) (the former once cause for a sign on her office door advising students that her bark was worse than her bite) is leaving Australia in August to take up a chair at Carleton University in Ottawa. Margaret has been intimately connected with SASP for many years and it is hard to imagine what the group will be like without her.

The organisation now known as SASP celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of annual meetings this year, and Margaret has been involved in the group for nearly all that time; formally since 1975, and informally in 1974 when she gatecrashed the meeting at the University of Melbourne. (Margaret is known for her ability to obtain goods and services without payment, an example being her theft of a book on moral development from a publisher's bookstand at the Toronto meeting of the APA in 1984.) Margaret has missed only 3 meetings in the last 27 years (her appearance belies it but she really is that old!). She was overseas on study leave in 1980 and 1992 and had a baby in 1978 (a poor excuse for that year's absence).

Margaret has been a central member of the group throughout these years, and it was in recognition of her contributions and achievements that she was elected the inaugural president of the newly formed SASP at the Hobart meeting in 1995. Those who attended the Cairns meeting the previous year will remember the somewhat tempestuous AGM at which we resolved to constitute ourselves as the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists. There was a lengthy debate over whether we should become a formal society at all, and its name (with SESP losing out to SASP after a postmodern analysis of the meaning of "experimental"). Margaret was a voice of peace and reason at this meeting, and it was a natural move that she should become our first president.

Margaret has presented some outstanding research papers at SASP meetings and organised many symposia on current issues. She has

introduced to the group a large number of her postgraduate students, many of whom have also become members. Margaret has been a driving force behind the pre-conference session for postgraduates, which became a substitute for her vision of a Flying Master Class.

As well as her strengths in a diverse range of areas in social psychology, Margaret has shown a certain talent for the stage (and falling off it, along with the podium, at the Hobart meeting in 1995). The Saga of the Scarlet Feather at the Wollongong meeting in 1997, and the Sheep Conference papers at the 1998 Christchurch meeting, entertained those who were not appalled and offended.

But the most important reason we will miss Margaret is that she has been a true friend and supportive colleague to so many. I know I speak for all of us in wishing Margaret the very best for her future in Canada, whence she came to Australia 29 years ago, little knowing what a difference she would make to Social Psychology Down Under.

**A brief history of SASP**

Kristina Macrae

This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the group, and coincidentally it's in the same city in 2002 as the original meeting in 1972. The summary below, produced with the assistance of Mike Innes (president and founding member) and Iain Walker (Strider from the West), will be of interest to younger members who weren't even born in 1972, as well as to older members whose failing memories would be hard pushed to reconstruct the history of our meetings.

Next to the year is given the location of the meeting, with the name of the organizing university in brackets. For the last seven years, the name of the president is also included. A future and more memorable version of this list could be reproduced if members provided a short description of what they recall as a highlight of the meeting in any year (example: Margaret pushing the podium off the stage, followed by herself, at Hobart in 1995). Please forward your contributions to the editors.

2002: Adelaide (Adelaide) (Mike Innes)

2001: Melbourne (Melbourne) (Graham Vaughan)

2000: Fremantle (Murdoch) (Graham Vaughan)

1999: Coolum (UQ) (Cindy Gallois)  
1998: Christchurch (Christchurch) (Cindy Gallois)  
1997: Wollongong (Wollongong) (Margaret Foddy)  
1996: Canberra (ANU) (Margaret Foddy)  
1995: Hobart (Tasmania) - inaugural meeting of SASP (Margaret Foddy elected)  
1994: Cairns (JCU) – resolution to become SASP  
1993: Newcastle (Newcastle)  
1992: Orewa (Auckland)  
1991: Ballarat (Deakin & La Trobe)  
1990: McLaren Vale (Flinders)  
1989: Coolangatta (UQ)  
1988: Leura (Sydney)  
1987: Canberra (ANU)  
1986: Magnetic Island (JCU)  
1985: Lorne (La Trobe)  
1984: Adelaide (Adelaide)  
1983: Sydney (Macquarie)  
1982: Brisbane (UQ)  
1981: Lorne (one of the Vic unis)  
1980: Marysville (Melbourne)  
1979: Sydney (UNSW)  
1978: Goolwa (Flinders)  
1977: Kallista (Monash)  
1976: Sydney (Sydney)  
1975: Adelaide (Adelaide)  
1974: Univ of Melbourne  
1973: Macquarie U  
1972: Adelaide (Flinders)

### Nominations for Secretary of SASP

Nominations are being called for the office of Secretary of SASP. This person will commence duties immediately following the 2002 SASP AGM. If you wish to nominate someone, please complete the form below and return to Patrick Heaven. If responding by email, the nominee will also have to confirm the nomination. Nominations close at the 2002 SASP AGM. If there is more than one nominee, an election will be held at the 2002 SASP AGM.

Patrick Heaven  
Secretary, SASP  
Dept of Psychology  
University of Wollongong  
Wollongong, NSW, 2522

We nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the position of Secretary of SASP.

Name of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_