

**Postgraduate Representatives Report**  
**AHA Annual General Meeting – 11 July 2013**  
**Kate Matthew and Anne Rees**

We were elected the postgraduate representatives at the Annual General Meeting held during the 2012 AHA Conference, replacing the outgoing representative Dave Earl. This is the first time that two postgraduates have shared this position, and so far it has worked quite well. We have been alternating our attendance at the quarterly executive meetings, and liaising about conference planning and other events over email.

Our agenda for this year was driven by our engagement with the postgraduate community during and after the 2012 Conference. At the conference in Adelaide we attended a **postgraduate discussion forum**, and subsequently organised an **online survey** of postgraduate students. The students who participated in the forum and survey indicated that they desired greater opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing with colleagues studying elsewhere in Australia. In response to this finding, we have pursued a number of initiatives intended to facilitate both online and face-to-face interaction within the Australian postgraduate community.

The first of these was a series of **networking drinks**. These were held in Sydney and Canberra in November 2012, and again in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne in March this year. These events were intended to allow cross-institutional networking and socialising within the capital cities.

Throughout the year we have also continued the use of social media pioneered by our predecessor Dave Earl. The AHA [Facebook group](#) continues to grow, and now has around 200 members. The [LinkedIn group](#) has also expanded rapidly, going from 52 members in December 2012 to over a hundred at the present. Information about conferences, job opportunities, and events is posted regularly in both groups.

In March this year we also launched a [postgraduate wiki](#). This is a website which anyone can edit, and is intended to facilitate knowledge sharing between postgraduate students regarding fieldwork accommodation, funding opportunities, archives and the like. The site was launched in March 2013, but use has been limited to date. In the coming months we hope to increase postgraduate engagement with this website by increasing the available content and also advertising the site more regularly.

A major focus of our activities has been the **2013 Conference**, which has featured an unprecedented number of events targeted at postgraduate students. These started on Monday 8 July, with a postgraduate skills session on strategies for getting published. We were lucky enough to have the editors of *Australian Historical Studies*, Christina Twomey and Cathy Coleborne, share their expertise, and the event was attended by around fifty postgraduates. This workshop was followed by the traditional postgraduate drinks on Tuesday 9 July, which were superbly organised by the University of Wollongong postgraduate representative Kristina Kalfic.

Finally, during the lunch break on Wednesday 10 July we hosted a postgraduate discussion forum. This event was intended to give students an opportunity to share

their thoughts on the workings of the AHA, and was attended by around twenty students. These participants had largely positive feedback to offer, but also some great ideas for future postgraduate events, which will assist us to formulate our priorities for the following year.

We would like to thank Georgine Clarsen for her commitment to giving the postgraduate delegates an excellent experience at this conference, and for allocating funds to provide catering at all three student events.

We look forward to continue working with postgraduate students over the following year, and hope to create an equally strong student program for the 2014 conference in Brisbane.

NB: As of 11 June, the AHA had 172 active postgraduate members. This is 20% lower than the membership in December 2012 (214 postgraduates). Of this total number, 111 postgraduate (65%) have attended the 2013 conference.