
AASR Up-Date

From the Secretary

Our membership has continued to grow during the year, a mixture of new faces and old members returning, a sign that our Association is in good health. I would like to thank you all for returning the forms which made it possible for Dr. Rod Bucknell to arrange for the finalisation of the Members' Directory. By now you should have received your copy.

In regard to payment of subscriptions, members have responded well to their reminder notices. At the present time 92 subscriptions are still outstanding out of a total membership of 328.

I was looking forward to meeting at the AASR Conference the many people with whom I have corresponded during the past year. Unfortunately the National

Conference of the movement for the Ordination Women in Adelaide coincides exactly with the AASR conference, and I must attend the former. With a Ph.D. topic of "Feminism in the Australian Anglican Church", it is essential that I stay in close touch with the MOW group. This is a great disappointment for me, accompanied by considerable guilt feelings for not fulfilling my Conference responsibilities as AASR Secretary.

I would like to thank you all for your support during the past year and wish the incoming Executive well.

Mavis Rose
University of Queensland

From the Treasurer

The Association's financial situation for 1989/1990 is set out in the Preliminary Statement, below. Income and expenditure followed budget estimates closely, with one exception: book production costs were unusually low. As a result the closing balance, just over \$18000, is nearly \$6000 up on last year's. This very healthy balance is particularly desirable, as we can expect increased costs in

1990/1991 associated with the new arrangements for production of the REVIEW.

This is my last term as AASR treasurer. I shall be on study leave for the first half of next year and therefore unavailable; and in any case I feel it is time I gave someone else a turn. My thanks to all members for their cooperation and support during the past three years, particularly to those who paid their fees promptly!

Please do the same for my successor. And I would also like to say a special 'Thank you' to Vic Hayes and Penny McKibbin for doing such a good job of keeping

track of the financial side of their work on book publication and production of the REVIEW.

AASR Preliminary Financial Statement

for the Period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990

Balance carried forward 1 July 1989

Uni-Credit access account	2227.59	
Uni-Credit cashable term deposit	<u>10000.00</u>	<u>\$12227.59</u>

Add Income

Membership fees	6705.75	
Book sales	4987.38	
Publication Assistance Grant	1500.00	
1989 Conference advance repayment	600.00	
1989 Conference surplus	130.11	
Advertising in REVIEW	40.00	
Interest: Uni-Credit Union	<u>1701.44</u>	<u>15664.68</u>
		<u>\$27892.27</u>

Less Expenditure

Postage and secretarial costs	2467.46	
Taxes and bank charges	11.20	
Book production costs	825.00	
REVIEW production costs	5064.50	
Women's Caucus News production costs	142.74	
Directory production costs	294.25	
1990 Conference advance	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>9805.15</u>

Balance carried forward, 1 July 1990

Uni-Credit access account	10087.12	
Uni Credit cashable term deposit	<u>8000.00</u>	<u>\$18087.12</u>

*Roderick S. Bucknell
27 July 1990*

A Tribute to Ms Penny McKibbin

Ed Conrad

University of Queensland

As Penny retires from the position of Editor of the *Australian Religion Studies REVIEW*, it is appropriate to say that, without the effort and time that Penny has given to the AASR over the years, the association either would not have existed or would have been only a shadow of what it has become.

For many years, before becoming editor of the *REVIEW*, Penny served as Secretary/Treasurer. When Penny retired from that position in 1987, the work was seen as too much for one person, and it was divided into two separate positions. Many are unaware of the time required by the position of Treasurer and Secretary, easily two of the most time consuming on the Executive. Penny carried out these positions with great effectiveness. When I inherited the treasury responsibilities from her in 1987, I was impressed with the way the work had been organised. Penny's efforts as Secretary/Treasurer ensured that there continued to be a forum for the exchange of scholarly papers and more importantly that we had, at our conferences, the opportunity to meet and develop personal relationships with our colleagues from all over Australia.

It is no exaggeration to say that Penny was the linchpin of the association for, while Presidents and Vice-presidents served briefly and departed, it was Penny who gave stability to the organisation. All of us who have benefited from her selfless service to the AASR owe her our deepest gratitude.

When Penny resigned from the arduous task, of Secretary/Treasurer, she

did not 'stand on the sidelines'. Although she had merited a well-deserved rest, she took on the enormously demanding task as the founding editor of the *Australian Religion Studies REVIEW*. This *REVIEW* replaced the earlier *Newsletters* sent out by Norm Habel (1977-80), the *Newslink* prepared by Vic Hayes (1981-85), and the *Bulletin* edited by Richard Hutch (1986) and Peter Fenner (1987).

The *REVIEW* originally appearing three times a year, was an ambitious undertaking. The vision for this *REVIEW* is to be credited to Penny McKibbin and Vic Hayes who not only saw the need for such a publication but also that the time in the associations development was appropriate for this more expansive publication. The character of the publication was most pertinent to the changing needs of the association. Penny's editorial work in shaping this publication was superb and is to be highly commended. Penny has presented us with a publication in which we can all take pride.

Many do not know of the tireless hours Penny expended in carrying out not just the editorial responsibilities but also the production of the *REVIEW*. She completed her work within a budget which can only be characterised as one of the proverbial 'shoestring' variety. As President of the organisation, I was constantly amazed at how efficiently Penny was able to produce a first class *REVIEW*. In organising the printing of the *REVIEW* Penny clearly went beyond the call of duty.

I can well remember, when the first issue of the *REVIEW* appeared, the immediate response of all my colleagues here at the University of Queensland.

Everyone was greatly impressed with its excellence and the reactions at the subsequent conference were equally enthusiastic. With a single voice we all noted that the *REVIEW* was just right and came at the right time for the association.

At a time when funds were shrinking, and continue to shrink, this publication will satisfy the important need of keeping informed those of us who cannot be regular attendees at conferences. What makes Penny's work so important is that, while we all recognise how significant it was after it began to appear, it was Penny's vision and creativity which made it happen.

Not only as editor and Secretary/Treasurer has Penny made a sig-

nificant and lasting contribution. The study of religions, like many other areas of enquiry in the university, incorporates disciplines which have been dominated by men. Penny has taken a major lead in raising feminist consciousness within our association as well as in the International Association for the Study of Religions. Her establishment of the Women's Caucus within the AASR has been of fundamental importance in helping to shape the direction of the study of religion in Australia.

Sometimes North Americans are criticised in Australia for overstating their praise of the accomplishments of the work of others about whom they have been asked to write. My praise of Penny McKibbin's work in the AASR is superlative, but by no means an exaggeration!

