

# Triennial Report

## 2011-2014

### Welcome from the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Michael Lambert

**With its foundation in 2008 the EAC has been a bridge between the Department of Government and International Relations and local communities. Its purpose is to assist in bringing members of the Department and students together with alumni, professionals, policy-makers, and opinion leaders in the Sydney community.**

Members of the committee bring to the Department a range of experiences in government, education, law, media and journalism, business and finance, international aid, lobbying, philanthropy, consultancy and public policy in both Australia and internationally. That such a group of high-achieving and over-committed individuals take the time to contribute to the Department is evidence of its high-standing among the people who know it best in Sydney. Profiles of current and past members of the Committee conclude this report. While many are alumni of the Department it is worth noting that others are not, such is the reach of the Department.

Members of the Department attend committee meetings and the committee members join the Department on social occasions to promote mutual awareness. The Committee has supported Department initiatives like Making Policy Work.

The Committee emphasises relations with student societies, and each year meets with representatives of the Politics Society, The Sydney Globalist, and Sydney University United Nations Society.

This work rests on a strong base developed by Mark McDonnell as the founding chair from 2008-2012 and ably supported by successive Chairs of the Department including Professors Rodney Smith, Allan McConnell, and Graeme Gill.

The remainder of this report offers an overview of the Committee's activities and achievements since its first report in 2011. For now, best wishes.



Michael Lambert graduated from the University of Sydney with Honours in Economics with a B.Ec. He completed a Master of Economics thereafter. He is currently engaged on a Master of Philosophy. He worked in the New South Wales Treasury for nearly twenty years and left as Secretary. He served as Acting Secretary of Treasury in 2011 for the incoming O'Farrell Government as well as undertaking a Financial Audit of the State. He has worked as an investment banker for BZW Barclays, ABN AMRO, Royal Bank of Scotland, and currently for CIMB (Commerce International Merchant Bankers), headquartered in Kuala Lumpur with the bulk of its business in the ASEAN countries. He is now a consultant specialising in privatisation.

# World Politics

## Educational Resources Board of Studies NSW

The Committee was instrumental in identifying the opportunity to raise the profile of the Department in area high schools by offering a Board of Studies-approved, university-delivered course to HSC students. Because political science is not a school subject, it is not always well known to local students. This course has been offered in Summer School in 2011, 2012, and 2013, enrolling sixty students. It attracts students from twenty high schools. More recently, the Committee and the lecturers in World Politics have co-operated with the Sydney University United Nations Society to enlarge enrolments while supporting that student society. The Committee has been a source of support for sustaining this initiative.

## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY FOUNDATION PROGRAM (USFP)



Rosie Giddings

The example of the above course in World Politics led the Sydney University Foundation Program to create a course for its students called 'International Studies A (Politics)' with a capped enrolment of 140, most of whom aspire to the University of Sydney. Rosie Giddings of this committee is Dean of the Foundation Program.

The Chair of Department at the time, Dr. Rodney Smith supported the development. Dr. Robert Howard, Honourary Associate, is the academic advisor for this course.

## UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ALUMNI COUNCIL

Efforts continue to identify graduates who did honours, majors, or post-graduate degrees in Government and affiliate them with the Department on the Alumni Office database. Ms. Annie Corlett has led the way in this endeavor. Mr. Jimmie Buck of that office has been very helpful in pursuing that objective and we have more than 2000 affiliates. She has been elected president of the University's Alumni Council because of her active interest in alumni.



Annie Corlett

# History of the Department

Dr Michael Hogan, Honourary Affiliate of the Department, is researching and writing a book on the history of the Department. The Committee offered Dr. Hogan its complete support and encouragement for the project. Several members contributed statements for his consideration.



Michael Hogan

Hogan is the author and editor of The People's Choice: Electoral Politics in Colonial New South Wales (2007), A Lifetime in Conservative Politics - Political memoirs of Sir Joseph Carruthers (2005), and more.

# Student Societies



Members of the Committee have arranged for a senior journalist, Matt Wade, from The Sydney Morning Herald to conduct a workshop on media writing for the editors of The Sydney Globalist and for Mr. Bob Carr, one-time Australian Foreign Minister, to address the Sydney University Model United Nations Society. On another occasion arrangements were made for Mr. Mark Scott, Managing Director of the ABC to launch an issue of The Sydney Globalist. In 2014 the Committee secured the services of Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr. Tim Soutphommasane, to address an event of the Sydney University Model United Nations Society.



Mark Scott



Bob Carr



Tim Soutphommasane

# Best and Brightest

The most ambitious and public activity of the External Advisory Committee is the Best and Brightest Showcase for IV Honours graduate. 2014 marked the fifth instance of this event with 164 registrations.

Thanks to the efforts of committee members we secured a parliamentary sponsor to use the State Theatre in Parliament House on Macquarie Street on a sitting day from 6 p.m. These are by-invitation occasions, concentrating on alumni and friends.

This event differs from the many public lectures the University offers in that it features students, it occurs in the city, and it is by invitation (aimed by alumni and friends). The purpose of these three features is to bring together students, alumni, families, high school students, and supporters in a community of past, present, and future as once recommended by Edmund Burke (1729-1797).

A program contains the abstracts of all IV Honours theses of the previous year to make the wider community aware of the work our students do.







# Think Tanks.

In 2014 the Committee embarked on a program to enhance relations with think tanks in the local community. Many members of staff have contact with these think tanks and some of our graduates contribute to them. This initiative stems from those associations and aims to further develop mutually productive relations.

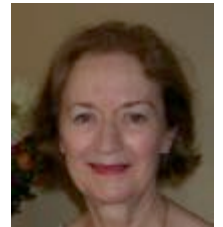


The Department's affiliation with The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSI) continues to distinguish it from many others. By benchmarking against the requirements of APSIA the Department puts itself in the company of the world's leading universities, including Boston, Ewha, Stanford, Toronto, and Waseda. APSIA affiliation is external validation of the excellence of the Department.

At a graduation ceremony in November 2014 the University of Sydney bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) degree on Committee members Antony Green for 'his exceptional contributions to politics and election coverage' at the ABC.



Each year the School of Social and Political Sciences gathers in the Nicholson Museum to award prizes to students for outstanding work. Members of the Committee make a special effort to attend these events, and several have been the guest speaker at them in the past, e.g. Ross Gittins and Antony Green, and in 2014 Ms. Alice Oppen.



Moreover, Ms. Annie Corlett of the Committee makes a financial contribution to support eight prizes awarded to students studying in the Department of Government and International Relations. These particular prizes embody the long history of the Department in its educational mission.

## The future.

The Committee will maintain its commitment to the Best and Brightest showcase in the belief that Honours graduates are enduring ambassadors for the Department. To do so it will give priority to securing corporate sponsorship for the event.

Liaison with local Think Tanks will be a continuing priority to identify common ground where cooperation is mutually beneficial. If there is, in time, sufficient interest perhaps the Department can play a role in assessing the role of think tanks in contemporary society, but that remains to be seen.

With the leadership of Annie Corlett, the Committee will work with the Alumni Office to refine the Department's contact with alumni.

# Terms of reference

The intention is to keep this Committee as informal as possible consistent with purposeful activity. Hence the outline below is offered as a common ground for the start. It is not intended to limit, but rather to launch, activity. In what follows, the word “committee” refers to the group as a whole and also to its individual members. The term “board” refers to the Department Board, which is the meeting of the members of the department.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to offer advice to the Department. Its particular remit is to consider the Department’s relationships to its communities, including particularly, but only, alumni. The Committee will work principally with the Chair of Department.

The Committee may advise on the wider environment of the Department’s teaching and research, for example, expectations of students and parents. It may also comment on trends with implications for the Department. In so doing, the Committee will help the Department to conceptualize its relationships with the several communities to which it relates.

The Committee may also advise on building relations with the communities the Department serves through affiliations, placements, internships, research collaborations, and the like.

The Committee may wish to participate in Department’s activities where there is a mutual interest and benefit, and that may include but not be limited to, guest lecturing in the class room, meeting members of the Department and its students, to discussing approaches to careers with students, meeting students, and more.

The Committee and its members would offer advice and comment to the Chair of Department on such others matters as seen fit.

## Process

The members of the Committee would be invited to serve for an initial period by the Dean of the Faculty.

The Committee would meet four times a year. These meetings would last approximately two hours at the University.

There may be occasion when members are asked to undertake some tasks between meetings, and it may be desirable to form subcommittees as the need arises.

The Chair of Department would report to the Advisory Committee on the Department’s activities and identify points of consideration, and would report to the Department Board on the Advisory Committee’s activities.

The Committee would be chaired by one of its members.

From time to time there would be occasion for the Committee to meet members of the Department.

The Committee has the power to add new members.

No remuneration attaches to service on this committee.



# Members of the Committee 2014

Trevor Cook



He was awarded his doctorate in 2012, with a thesis exploring the contemporary relationship between the ALP and the unions. Thirty years earlier he was awarded an economics degree with honours in Government in 1981. He has worked as a public relations consultant since 1996 undertaking projects for hundreds of companies, NGOs, industry associations and government bodies. Between 1987 and 1996, Trevor spent a decade in Canberra as a political adviser during the Hawke Government and as a senior executive in the public service. Trevor has a strong interest in social media and was an early participant who started blogging in 2003 (<http://trevorcook.typepad.com>).

Annie Corlett



Annie has had a diverse range of experiences. She graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Economics, majoring in government and economics and for much of the 1980's was an executive director of two publicly listed mining companies. Annie has had a long-time involvement and active engagement in supporting groups in the not-for-profit sector as a volunteer. This has included 15 years as a volunteer guide and, for a period, the elected Co-ordinator of Guides at the Art Gallery of NSW. Currently Annie is a National Board Member of Lifeline Australia and is Chair of the Board Service Committee. In 2009, Annie was elected to the Alumni Council as a Business School Representative. In 2013 Annie was elected President of the Alumni Council.

Jeannie Douglass



Jeannie is Manager of Parliamentary Education at the State Parliament on Macquarie Street in Sydney. She was a major contributor to the public exhibition 'Twenty-five: Stories from Australia's First Parliament' at Parliament House. Between 2006 and 2011 she served as manager of education for the History Houses Trust of New South Wales. She has also been a senior education officer for the Australian Maritime Museum (1995-2006). She has a Master of Arts (Applied history) from the University of Technology, Sydney. She grew up in the Hunter Valley.

Rosie Giddings



She is the Dean of Students at the University of Sydney Foundation Program. This is a one year academic course for International students. A graduate of the University of Sydney, she worked in Medical Faculty for a time. Rosie has a Masters of Science. After living in Bangkok with school age children, she developed an interest in international education. She got a Masters of Education and went to work in the Foundation Program. Her aim is to help students achieve their potential in a foreign environment. Part of that is coming to terms with intercultural understanding which is a lifelong asset. She has worked with many international students who have gained entry to and successfully completed degrees at the University of Sydney.

Ross Gittins



He is Economics Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald and also an economic columnist for The Age, Melbourne. His journalistic experience includes editorial writing and stints in the parliamentary press galleries in Sydney and Canberra. In 2008 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism as a commentator on economics. He is a bachelor of commerce from the University of Newcastle and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by the Universities of Macquarie and in 2012 the University of Sydney. He has been a Nuffield press fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a journalist-in-residence at the department of economics of the University of Melbourne. Ross is author of Gittins' Guide to Economics, The Happy Economist and Gittins' Gospel (all Allen & Unwin) and co-author with Rodney Tiffen of How Australia Compares (Cambridge University Press).

John Gore



He is a retired chief education officer in the NSW Department of Education and Training where he was responsible for providing advice, print and electronic curriculum support and operational support to schools and regions for subjects in the HSIE learning area. He is a past president of the Pacific Circle Consortium an international organisation of education systems and universities from countries around the Pacific Ocean. He has a long-standing interest in civics and citizenship education and has worked with the University of Sydney. His 1998 paper Revisiting values education: the case for civics and citizenship education pre-empted the international focus on values education and his 2004 paper The role of the school in citizenship education in an era of globalisation addresses the move to global citizenship education. He is currently involved with an emerging school system in India targeting the poorest children in communities and provides policy advice, evaluates schools and develops professional learning courses for teachers.

Antony Green



He completed a Bachelor of Science (1980) a Bachelor of Economics (1988) with honours in the Department of Government at the University of Sydney. Since 1989, Antony has been employed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as the face of ABC elections, covering around 60 elections on camera for the ABC. In more recent years he has also developed the ABC's internet election site into the pre-eminent source of information on elections. He also produces regular publications on electoral matters for the New South Wales and Parliamentary Library, and he also contributes regularly to parliamentary reviews of electoral laws. As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of self-government in NSW, Antony co-edited The Electoral Atlas of New South Wales, a book that maps the history of the state's politics. The University of Sydney awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2014 for his outstanding achievements in election analysis.

Alister Henskens,  
SC

He graduated from the University of Sydney: B.Ec. LL.B. and is a barrister, becoming a senior counsel or silk in 2011. He completed honours preparation in Government. A Rotary Foundation Scholarship supported his work for an LL.M at the University of Toronto in 1988. He has practiced law since completion of his LL.M, including appearing as counsel assisting in the Equine Influenza Inquiry which focused on the public service's role in administering the Quarantine Act. Alister has appeared for and against public authorities in many cases which illustrate the way that government works both in the activities the subject of the litigation as well as the way that government conducts litigation. He participates in local community activities, particularly in sports. He is a founding member of the Committee.

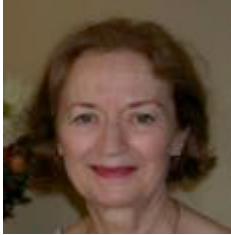
Michael Lambert



Mr. Lambert is Chair of the Committee. He graduated from the University of Sydney with Honours in Economics with a B.Ec. He also completed a Master of Economics. He is currently engaged on a Master of Philosophy. He worked in the New South Wales Treasury for nearly twenty years and left as Secretary. He served as Acting Secretary of Treasury in 2011 for the incoming O'Farrell Government as well as undertaking a Financial Audit of the State. He has worked as an investment banker for BZW Barclays, ABN AMRO, Royal Bank of Scotland, and currently for CIMB (Commerce International Merchant Bankers), headquartered in Kuala Lumpur with the bulk of its business in the ASEAN countries. He is now a consultant specialising in privatisation. He is a member of the board of State Super, State Super Financial Services (a large financial planning company), the Sax institute (a body that seeks to link health research with health policy and delivery) and is chair of the Heavy Vehicle Charging and Investment Reform Project, which oversees this major COAG reform project.



Alice Arnott  
Oppen, OAM



Alice holds degrees in Arts (literature) from Smith College, the University of Chicago, the University of Sydney, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. After a first career in teaching, writing and feminism, her second career was serving on boards of listed and not for profit organisations, particularly Arnotts Ltd. and ChildFund Australia (representative on the inaugural Board of ChildFund International, visiting all continents), Family Planning NSW, SH&FPA (Family Planning Australia and its International Advisory Committee) and the NSW Cancer Council Ethics Committee. Alice is founder and Chair of Women's Plans Foundation, raising funds for the integration of a family planning component in overseas programs, to enable women's development and global sustainability.

Emily Scanlan



Her career spans foreign affairs and psychology. Emily worked as an ABC radio and television journalist and later as an Executive Level Officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. She is now a registered psychologist with a private practice in Sydney CBD specializing in mood disorders. Her has a Bachelor Economics and Social Sciences with Honours in Government with a major in Psychology, Master of Arts in International Law at Sydney, a Master of Arts Journalism (UTS), a Post-Graduate Diploma (Psychology), and AMAPS. During her undergraduate degree she was awarded the Mayer Prize for Best Student in Political Theory and competed at the World Debating Championships in Manila, The Philippines.

To contact the Committee please communicate with Dr Michael Jackson, Emeritus Professor at [Michael.jackson@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Michael.jackson@sydney.edu.au) or 0412194672

## Over time several others have served on the Committee.

These are their profiles while on the Committee.

Michael  
DiFrancesco



Principal Adviser in Financial Management Policy at NSW Treasury. His current responsibilities include implementation of budget and performance management policy reform in the General Government sector. He has a Bachelor of Economics with first class honours in Government from the University of Sydney, and a PhD in Public Policy from the Australian National University. He lectured in Government at the University of Sydney. He has published and presented widely on performance evaluation and budgeting in the public sector. In 2001 he shared the Institute of Public Administration Australia's Richardson Prize for the most important article published in the Australian Journal of Public Administration. Michael is currently a Councillor with the NSW division of Institute of Public Administration, Australia.

Daniela Giorgi



She is the Curriculum Adviser, Civics and Citizenship for the NSW Department of Education and Training on secondment to the Education Section of the NSW Parliament. She is responsible for providing programs, resources and professional development to support the teaching of civics and citizenship in primary and secondary schools. She also creates and delivers the Parliament's public programs, seminars for tertiary politics and policy students and inductions for Government Departments as well as assisting with the coordination of student internships at the Parliament. Daniela has been a History Head Teacher and classroom teacher in the public school system in NSW. She was one of the writers of the *National Consistency in Curriculum Outcomes Statements of Learning* which describe essential skills, knowledge of civics. She has two degrees from the University of Sydney and is enrolled in a third.

Mark McDonnell



A graduate of the University of Sydney, with B.A. (with Double Honours) in Government and Public Administration (1977) and in Philosophy (1978), his father John was also a Sydney graduate (1949) and his son (Thomas) will graduate in 2008. His career encompasses roles as a government policy adviser, management consultant, industry lobbyist, investment banker and equity market analyst. He has a Master's degree in Applied Finance and Investment, is a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Member of the Economic Society of Australia.

Debra O'Neill



She is the Deputy Director of Australia for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where she has worked since 2002. *Australia for UNHCR's* role is to encourage greater awareness about the situation of refugees worldwide and support for humanitarian work. Her work has taken her to places like Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Sudan, Timor Leste, and Uganda. Previously she worked for UNICEF Australia and *Medécins sans Frontiers* as well as in a senior marketing role with global hotel group Accor Asia Pacific and ASX-listed Infochoice. She has a Bachelor of Business (Marketing/Advertising) at the University of Technology, Sydney and is currently studying for BA in Humanities (French) at Macquarie University.

Margaret Pollard



She is a Senior Policy and Planning Officer with the Office of Protocol and Special Events in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. She has worked with student interns from the University of Sydney. Her role focuses on event-related policy, government coordination and providing resources to help organisers to stage safe and successful events. She has assisted with the Department of Government and International Relations intern programme and is a graduate of the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Public Policy.

Jim Sait



*BA (Hons), MA, UBC; PhD UCL; DipEd (UNE)*. While a post doctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Jim began his first business venture, *The Georgian Concert Society*. In Australia since 1978, he taught at the University of New England before moving into administrative roles at the University of Sydney and the Council of Adult Education (Melbourne). He worked in Continuing Education, the Sydney Summer School, External Relations and Internationalisation. In 2005 he entered the corporate sector as a Consultant with BSP Executive Search. A consistent motif in his career has been the desire to provide better opportunities for students to achieve their best.

Graham Spindler



*BA Dip Ed (UNSW), MA (Macquarie), GDTL (UTS)*. Graham was a secondary English and History teacher and then for many years held professional and resource development roles in the NSW Department of Education and Training. Since 2000 he has been Manager, NSW Parliamentary Education Section - extensively involved in civics and citizenship school and community education. He retires from this latter post in 2011. For six years he served as Chair of the Historic Houses Trust Members, 2004