



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Queensland Branch

Promoting International Understanding and Human Achievement through English
The English Speaking Union (Queensland Branch)
ACN 009 706 236 ABN 56 009 706 236

An independent not-for-profit community organization
Queensland President: Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 25 NOVEMBER, 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 2018



Ann Garms, OAM
President, 2008 - 2018

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PREAMBLE

The mission of the ESU, which encompasses more than 50 institutions around the globe, is to promote international understanding and human achievement through English. Our language has become the world language, and is far ahead of any other language in international usage. This places a special responsibility on those who care for its inclusive, as well as its leadership, role as the language in which so many people do business, government, diplomacy, culture, tourism and sport.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

For the ESU Queensland Branch, 2018 was dominated by the illness, and then the untimely passing on 14 July, of our beloved and dynamic President, Ann Garms OAM. Her funeral at St Mary's Church was attended by so many friends and admirers that the congregation spilled out into the churchyard. Her presence and guidance are very much missed by us all.

Ann had been such a dynamo at the centre of the ESU that her illness and then absence left a gap which other members of the Board generously stepped forward to fill. Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex was voted on to the Board in June 2018, and took over the Acting Presidency in August, pending the AGM in November.

The core work of the ESU Queensland continued, albeit with some interruption in the schedule of events. The Board intends that an expanded program will resume in 2019.

The restaurant on the lower two floors of ESU House was leased to Momani's, a new Middle Eastern restaurant. We have established a good working relationship with the owner. It is to be hoped that the restaurant's growing profile and success will allow ESU Queensland to consolidate its financial position, and will provide resources for new developments and initiatives.

Two major outreach initiatives continued: the Education program, featuring the Public Speaking Competition; and the Roly Sussex Short Story Competition. In addition, the Board has introduced two new initiatives: a quarterly *Newsletter*, distributed online; and the Dialogues, a dinner event where two speakers address a theme. It is anticipated that the Dialogues will interleave with lectures and other social events from 2019.

BOARD REVIEW

The Board warmly welcomes Jan Heffernan as Secretary.

Pending the election of a new Board at the 2018 AGM, the Board has moved to consolidate a number of other issues, and to identify some new development issues.

The consolidation issues include:

- 1. Constitution.** The existing Constitution has not been revised since 1961. It is in need of revision, which will be undertaken by Roland Sussex and Richard Macedo for presentation to the Board during 2019.

2. Life and honorary members. This list needs revision, and the duties and privileges of these members need to be clarified in the new Constitution.

Development issues:

1. ESU Membership. Current paid-up membership numbers stand at 19, though a number of active members are expected to renew their memberships. The Board has identified growth, deepening and broadening the membership base as a priority, especially involving younger members. A member of the new 2019 Board will be charged with leading this initiative.

2. Board Membership. All seven members of the existing Board have renominated for 2019. Two new members are proposed for election (Majella Stevens and Gary Gardiner), which will bring the Board to 9 members. Expertise in publicity and marketing, in fund raising, in creative writing, and possibly in other fields, would expand the Board's coverage, and the Board will be actively seeking for members with these areas of expertise.

3. Electronic meetings. The Board is trialling the Zoom software, which will make it possible for members to attend Board meetings even if they are not physically able to attend at ESU House.

4. Online digital resources. Ray Heffernan and Roland Sussex are working to develop an online resource for Board documents and ESU archives, using Google Docs. This initiative will be coordinated with heightened data security, and will take a disciplined approach to ESU documentation over the years.

5. Presidents' portraits. The Board has resolved to collect portraits of all former ESU Presidents, and to display them at ESU House, as well as putting them on-line.

6. Events program. Time constraints made it impossible to organize the Churchill Lecture for 2018, though it will resume in 2019. The Board has introduced Dialogues, a dinner event where two speakers address a theme in a conversation format. The first of these was held on 4 November, 2018, with David Fagan (former editor, Brisbane *Courier-Mail*) and Roland Sussex (Acting President) discussing the theme "Will Britannia ever rule the waves again?". The strongly positive feedback means that this format will continue in 2019, interleaved with lectures and other events.

7. Tasks for Board members. The Board considers that various areas need leadership as well as distributed responsibility, and is moving to establish sub-committees to take responsibility for these areas:

- Building and property (Richard Macedo and Robert Goes)
- Roly Sussex Short Story Competition (Roland Sussex)
- Public Speaking Competition (Caroline Hatcher)
- Events (to be designated)
- Membership (to be designated)

Two positions have special responsibilities:

- Secretarial (Jan Heffernan, Secretary)
- Finance (Ray Heffernan, Treasurer)

The Board notes the advice from the Treasurer that the ESU needs to observe especially prudent financial management until the funding situation with the restaurant has stabilized.

AUSTRALIAN ESU

Roland Sussex and Richard Macedo attended the annual meeting of the AESU in Adelaide on 1 August, 2018. The AESU was represented by Chris Perriam (President, Adelaide ESU) and Robert Furlan (President, Melbourne) in London on 15-16 May, 2018. The AESU has a mainly informative and coordinating function. ESU Queensland is the second largest in Australia after

Melbourne. The network as a whole is declining in membership.

The next international meeting will be in St Petersburg in September, 2019.

EVENTS

Education: the Public Speaking Competition

In 2018 Emeritus Professor Caroline Hatcher again took on the complex and onerous task of organizing this signal event of ESU Queensland. The winners were:

Seniors (Years 11&12)

Winner: Fenlan Miller - All Saints Anglican College
Second: Phoebe McAuliffe - St Aidan's College
Third: Charlie Parker - St Joesph's Gregory Terrace

Intermediate (Years 9&10)

Winner: Chantal Duffy - All Hallows
Second: Rachel Hegerty- Loreto College
Third: Angus Duncan- Brisbane Grammar School

Junior Years (Years 7&8)

Equal winners:

Lanty Boyle - Balmoral SHS
Siena Fagan- All Hallows
Third: Shreya Binu- Citipointe Christian College

The ESU expresses its warm appreciation to the two judges, Emeritus Professor Caroline Hatcher and Adjunct Professor Patsy McCarthy, for their superior work, and especially to Caroline Hatcher for organizing and orchestrating this excellent competition.

Roly Sussex Short Story Competition

This competition began in 2015 and is now in its 4th year. This year the judges were again:

Chief Judge: Emeritus Professor Peter Little
Judges: David Fagan, John Thompson-Gray
Consultant: Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex

There were 52 entries:

STATE	Open Category	Secondary School Category
NSW	2	
Qld	12	18
SA	1	2
Tas	1	
Vic	15	
WA	1	

The judges noted the continuing increase in the standard of entries, though in 2018 the tone was predominantly “rather dark”.

The 2018 winners were:

Open Section:

Winner: Jeanette O’Shea, “Remember” (Queensland)
 Second Prize: Susan Bennett, “If you love me” (Victoria)
 Highly Commended: David Giles, “Sweet Thames, run softly” (Queensland)
 Freya Cox, “The child” (Tasmania)
 Carmen Cuskelly, “Brood” (Queensland)

Secondary School Section:

Winner: Katie Wainwright, “Wrought” (All Saints Anglican School, Queensland)
 Second Prize: William Buckley, “For love” (St Joseph’s College, Queensland)
 Highly Commended: Kodi Sawtell, “Time” (Boonah State High School, Queensland)

The 2017 winners were:

Open Section:

Winner: Leigh Coyle, “Bad blood”, (Queensland)
 Second prize: Susan Bennett, “Tidy town” (Victoria)
 Highly Commended: Kit Scriven, “She Wore Red on Her Lips” (Victoria)

Secondary Schools Section:

Winner: Eamon Madden, ”The mouthbrooder’s curse”,
 (Marist College, Queensland)

A reception was generously hosted by His Excellency Paul de Jersey, AC, Governor of Queensland, and Mrs Kaye de Jersey, at Government House on 20th November. The 60 guests included the winners and their guests, ESU Board members, the judges, and a number of friends of the ESU. The Governor presented the 2017 winners with their trophies, and the 2018 winners with their prizes and trophies.

This competition, one of Ann Garms’ initiatives, has now established a strong and growing position in creative writing in Australia, and will continue in 2019. The new Board will review the format. A comprehensive online archive of documentation relating to the running of the competition is being assembled by Roland Sussex for the benefit of the competition in subsequent years. A timeline for the competition in 2019 will be submitted to the new Board for implementation. An online publication of the winning stories, rather than a paper book, will be organized: paper publication is now too expensive and labour-intensive, and online publication

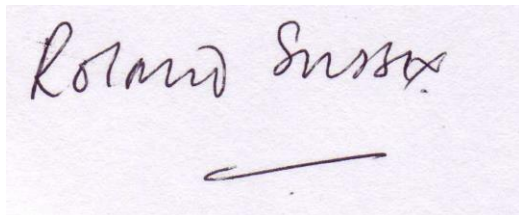
has greater outreach.

The competition would benefit from wider and more proactive promotion outside Queensland, especially the Secondary School competition. This issue is recommended to the team coordinating the competition in 2019.

The ESU expresses its warm appreciation and thanks to Peter Little (Chief Judge), and to David Fagan and John Thompson-Gray (judges) for their invaluable work in 2018.

THANKS

I express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Board, who helped me take over the duties of Acting President at an especially difficult time, and who have not only continued their existing duties, but have gone out of their way to ensure that ESU Queensland will regroup and move forward into 2019 with confidence and a renewed sense of purpose.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Roland Sussex" in a cursive script. Below the name is a horizontal flourish consisting of a single, slightly curved line.

Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex OAM, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques
Acting President, ESU Queensland Branch
November, 2018