



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

Newsletter

February, 2020

2019 IN REVIEW

2019 was a challenging year for the English-Speaking Union (Queensland), and a year of transition. The failure of the fourth restaurant in succession at ESU House early in the year left the Board in a situation where the current business model, based on an income stream from a tenant restaurant, was no longer viable. As a result, the Board had no option but to proceed with the sale of ESU House, which was completed late in 2019. For the time being, therefore, ESU (Queensland) does not have a physical home. The Board is actively pursuing a number of options, which include:

- (1) buying another building, ideally with a sitting tenant as a steady income source, and using that income to fund the cultural activities of the ESU. Under appropriate conditions it might be possible to negotiate with the tenants to use the space for ESU cultural activities outside business hours;
- (2) renting a substantial room in an existing building, ideally with kitchen facilities available, on a longer term lease;
- (3) establishing a business relationship with the owners of a suitable building to use their space and facilities for cultural events and Board meetings;
- (4) a combination of the above.

Options 2-4 would entail investment of the sale proceeds of ESU House in order to generate income to cover the rent and other ESU outgoings and expenses.

The Board will keep members informed of progress.

The ESU Board looks forward to 2020 as a year of renewed activity, and of new initiatives in a new physical context.

AGM 2019

The 2019 AGM was held on 24 November. The meeting elected a new Board of nine:

President: Roland Sussex
Vice-President: Richard Macedo
Secretary: Ross Brodie
Treasurer: Ray Heffernan

Continuing members: Ross Brodie, Robert Goes, Caroline Hatcher, Gary Gardiner, Majella Stevens

The minutes of the AGM, and other documentation from the meeting, are being made available to members on the ESU's website (<https://www.esu.org.au/>). Key events from the past year are documented in the President's Report (<https://www.esu.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ESU-AGM-Presidents-Report-2019.pdf>). The AGM was followed by the annual Christmas Party.

The new Board had its first meeting on 9 December 2019, and is developing a program of events for 2020, including two key new initiatives, detailed later in this newsletter.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: JULIA PONDER

The Board is delighted to welcome Julia Ponder as a new Board member. Julia has special expertise in digital technologies and social media, and will bring a new dimension to the Board's work in this increasingly important area.

WEBSITE

We will be making extended use of the Website. Members should bookmark the URL:

<http://www.esu.org.au/>

Members should check it regularly for advice on upcoming events, information on activities held and general information of interest. The Newsletters will have information but the website will be updated more regularly. Members will also be informed of upcoming events by email.

ESU MEMBERSHIP

Members are encouraged to recommend the ESU and its work to friends, family and colleagues. Membership information and application forms are available on the website:

<http://www.esu.org.au/membership/>

NEW INITIATIVE: LITERARY LUNCHESES

A new initiative developed by Board member Professor Caroline Hatcher is a series of literary lunches. These lunches will come in a variety of formats following a light lunch: a literary figure will be interviewed, will talk about their life and work, and will present some of their writing followed by discussion; or a loved piece of literature will be discussed; or a particular author of genre will be performed followed by discussion with members. There will be two literary lunches for 2020. The first Literary Lunch will be on 22 April (see below).

NEW INITIATIVE: LANGUAGE WORKSHOP FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Board President Professor Roland Sussex and Board member Majella Stevens are preparing a series of English language workshops for secondary school students in year 10. These meetings are planned to run over a 3-hour segment, probably during weekends, and will cover different aspects of English grammar, vocabulary, stylistics, rhetoric and related topics. A series of 6-8 topics is being prepared, and each may be run 2-3 times, depending on demand. The workshops will have a fee to cover costs and to promote the work of the ESU. We are also looking at the possibility of running them via the Internet for students outside SE Queensland. The workshops will start in the second quarter of 2020.

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

The Social Committee is developing a program of events for 2020. Details of each event will be communicated by email, on the ESU website, and in the Newsletter. The next events are:

27 March, at Clovely Estate, 210 Musgrave Rd, Red Hill

22 April, 12-2pm Literary Lunch

Our first Literary Lunch is entitled Celebrating Shakespeare. A scene from Shakespeare and a selection of his sonnets will be performed by two experienced Shakespearean actors: Patsy McCarthy and Jillian Clare

8 May Champagne and canapes on the Miegunyah. As part of Heritage Month activities for the National Trust, join our ESU group for Champagne and canapés and live music on the Verandah at Miegunyah historic house on the banks of the Brisbane River at twilight.

Other events and dates will be publicized as the program for 2020 develops.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This competition, coordinated by Emeritus Professor Caroline Hatcher, continues to grow from year to year in quality and impact. The standard of the competitors is impressive, and bodes well for the future of public speaking in Australia.

Members are very welcome at all events, and are particularly encouraged to attend the finals.

Senior competition (Years 11&12)

Heats: 23 July

Final: 20 August

Intermediate competition (Years 9&10)

Heats: 15 October

Final: 29 October (at Marist College, Ashgrove)

Junior competition (Years 7 & 8)

Heats: 22 October

Final: 5 November

Venue Change

The 2020 Public Speaking competition venue will be the **Brisbane City Council Indooroopilly Library** located at Level 4 Indooroopilly Shopping Centre. The library is situated at the Station Road end of the Indooroopilly Shopping Centre. There is ample free parking (up to 4 hours) and access to varied restaurant and food sources.

ROLY SUSSEX SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Roly Sussex Short Story Competition was not run in 2019 while the ESU(Q)'s building and financial issues were resolved. The competition will resume in 2020, and an announcement of the 2020 Roly Sussex Short Story Competition will go out shortly, together with enhanced publicity to attract a wider range of applications, especially from interstate. Further information will be available on the website.

On behalf of the Board,
Emeritus Professor Roland (Roly) Sussex
President, ESU Queensland
February, 2020

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