

**President's Report, AGM of the Australasian Speech Science and Technology
Association,
December 6th 2018**

The two major focuses for ASSTA in 2018 were conference/workshop support and the website revamping. The two conferences ASSTA has supported in 2018 have been the 17th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology held at Coogee in December 4th-7th 2018 and the upcoming 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences to be held in Melbourne August 5th-9th 2019. ASSTA would like to thank the four co-chairs of SST, and the ICPHS chair and organising committee for the all the hard work they have put in to organising and running these conferences. Also, this year ASSTA sponsored two research events. There was the 2nd Workshop on Sociophonetic Variability in the English Varieties of Australia (SocioPhonAus2) held on July 17th -18th at Griffith University, Brisbane, organised by Gerry Docherty, Janet Fletcher and Olga Maxwell. Then on November 29th and 30th at Victoria University there was the Workshop on the Processing of Prosody across Languages and Varieties (ProsLang), organised by Sasha Calhoun and Paul Warren. These intellectual meetings are the lifeblood of research communities, we all benefit from them, and are deeply grateful to the organisers of these events for the service that they provide us. These are all organised on a voluntary basis on top of the demands of academic jobs.

In addition to supporting conference and workshop organisers, ASSTA supports conferences goers. There is the ASSTA travel award for Early Career ordinary members and student members. This year we supported two students: one for Speech Prosody in Poland, and the other for Interspeech in India. PhD supervisors don't forget to encourage your students to apply. Although please remember to also encourage your students to remain up to date with their membership fees as they need to be financial with membership for at least 6 months at the time of application. The ASSTA Executive has also introduced a new parent's/carer's grant. This grant is to support members who have had a first authored peer reviewed full paper accepted at an eligible conference, but are struggling to attend the conference due to parental or carers demands. This grant will be a single award of \$500, and up to five will be available each year. ASSTA has also committed to award three \$1000 individual prizes for student submissions to ICPHS. Details of these new grants will be going up on the new website.

The other major initiative ASSTA is overseeing is the overhauling of the ASSTA website and online repository. This is being coordinated by Trent Lewis. The ASSTA website is the central hub of our community. Its public face contains all the information about the Association including the grants, committee members, constitution, past conferences and proceedings, past grant awardees, and the AGM minutes. It is also a record of ASSTA's long history. It is the platform from which the ASSTA bulletins and newsletters are released. The associated online repository is where all the ASSTA members' details are stored and housed. The last time the ASSTA website had a major overhaul was in 2008 and technology

has changed a lot since then. The new site will be modernised, but will also enable online payments for membership fees. Therefore, this overhaul is a mammoth task, but it is crucial to ASSTA's organisation. Once the new site is up and running, it will require a web officer to help with the running of the platform. This officer will be like the Newsletter Editor. They will be an ASSTA member and report to the executive, but will be outside the ASSTA executive.

After a year's hiatus a new ASSTA newsletter, will be coming out soon. We are grateful for the new editor Olcay Turk for putting this together and to Janet Fletcher for acting as mentor to the newsletter editor.

Constitutional changes adopted at the 2017 AGM have been made and registered with Fair Trading ACT.

Catherine Watson

ASSTA President