
The ASCA Newsletter

January - March, 2018

Keeping you up to date, and in the loop with ASCA goings on.

Congratulations to all ASCA members on a very successful 2017!

Welcome to current members and a very warm welcome to new members, **Alyssa Webster, Brisbane and Aimee Davies, Gordon.**

From the Secretary, Dr. Paul March

Dear ASCA Friends,

I do hope the year has begun well for you. We are busy with the Awards Ceremony arrangements so that all will be set for the 5th May at Ravenswood School for Girls. This year we have been privileged to get the Principal of Ravenswood, Mrs Anne Johnson, to be our guest speaker.

*I trust you are busy with preparing students for exams – some are already looming up for May/ June – **could you please get your requests in for second term exams, including Open Day on Sat 9 June, by the end of April so that forms can be sent out in the first week of May** – this is vital as the Secretary will be unable to process any forms after this date!!*

2018 is going to be another 'big' year for ASCA as new Centres have been established and 'old' ones continue to grow! We hope to get our 2018 Syllabus out in August. This will contain a few minor changes and additions BUT the 2014 Syllabus remains current until the end of the year – in fact when the new one comes out you may use either the 2014 Syllabus or the revised version until the beginning of 2019 when the new Syllabus must be used. Some important additions will be the inclusion of senior performance exams leading up to a 'Communication Through Performance Diploma'.

Don't forget that you may access Exam Request Forms and Fees from the website: www.asca-speech.org

The second half of the year is always our busiest time so the earlier you can let us know when you would like your exams the better chance you will have of having them when YOU want them!!

All the very best for your teaching for 2018 –

Dr Paul March

Secretary 0418 234 386

The ASCA Annual General Meeting was held on the 17th February 2018 and the following members were elected:

Office Bearers

President	Sandra Carter
Vice-President	Jillian Burgess
Treasurer	Carolyn McKenzie
Secretary	Dr Paul March
Assistant Secretary	Susanne Harrison

Committee Members

Minutes Secretary	Jillian Burgess
Publicity Officer	Samantha Luck
Newsletter/Publications Officer	Susanne Harrison
Events Officer	Jan Adams
QLD representative	Genevieve England
VIC representative	Robyn Schiller
Membership secretary	Susanne Harrison

Ordinary Committee Members

Elizabeth Walsh
Andrea Crawford
Anita Eldridge
Rachel Hennessy
Jacqueline Field
Therese Bennetts

From the Vice-President, Jillian Burgess.

A note about ATAR points for ASCA High Achievers.

Students who acquire the Diploma of Communication (Dip. Comm. (ASCA)) may apply for ATAR points through the University's Elite Performers' Award. At present The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales and the University of Technology have the forms on their website. The student applies before the closing date and their teacher may support their application with a letter similar to this one provided below.

Pro-forma Letter for Elite Performers

Letter Head
Address
Email ; Phone

To Whom It May Concern **Re:**

I unreservedly supportapplication for bonus points through the Elite Performer's Award.

In my role as....., I have had the privilege of teachingfor the past 11 years. In that time I've witnessed her development into a mature and confident young communicator.

.....gained High Distinctions in the Australian Speech Communication Association (ASCA) examinations throughout her school career and on 29 April this year was awarded the **Diploma of Communication (Dip. Comm. [ASCA])** – a qualification usually awarded to Professionals.

The Diploma comprises two components: an oral examination (one hour) and a written examination (three hours).

The oral component comprised:

- a ten minute persuasive speech with power point followed by a five minute discussion which she/he opened and closed and remained proactive throughout;
- a six minute speech, without notes, integrating technology;
- a five minute proposal to Board Members of a chosen organisation,
- a mock interview was held for a position with providing the mission statement and background of the organization;

- the introduction of a recent media issue and then chairing the discussion.
- The memory of a published public speech together with an analysis of the context concluded the examination.

The three hour written examination has eight questions which relate to ten areas of communication:

- Performance Anxiety; Relaxation, Breathing and Modulation; Barriers to Communication; Microphone Technique; Non Verbal Language; Openings and Closings; Language Choice in Oral Presentations; Preparation and Presentation of Radio and TV Media Interviews; and Arranging the physical environment, (www.asca.speech.org).

.....gained **for the practical examination** and **for the written examination**. This is a commendable achievement and committed at least four hours a week for 15 weeks preparing for this qualification.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Membership reminder.

Just a reminder for anyone who hasn't sent their 2018 membership form and fees - they are now overdue. The forms were sent out last year and need to be completed, particularly if your details have changed from 2017. Please note that the fees are the same as last year.

Membership fees are:

Student Associate Membership	\$20
Individual Membership	\$40
Corporate Membership	\$50

Please make cheques payable to ASCA and send with completed form to Mrs Susanne Harrison, ASCA Membership Secretary, PO Box 322, Manly, NSW 1655. Membership renewals can now be made electronically.

BSB 062 229

Account number 00131200

Please give your name

Examination fees reminder.

Just a reminder that examination fees have been increased this year. Updated fees are on the ASCA website.

Syllabus reminders.

Junior Grade 2. Yellow Syllabus.

Section 1: Personal Project. There is now an alternative to the narrative or recount and that is a book review.

Individual Junior Performance Drama,

Junior Grade 1, 2 and 3. Green Syllabus.

Section 2 or 3: Improvisation. This must be an Improvisation, **not** a prepared piece.

Senior Grades 3 and 4. Yellow Syllabus.

Section 5: Impromptu Speaking. This must be an Impromptu speech related to the Examiner's ideas, **not** a pre-prepared speech.

Senior Grade 6. Yellow Syllabus.

Section 2: The discussion in Section 2 is to be deleted.

Important Diary Dates 2018

April 30: Cut-off date for entries for Term 2 exams

May 5: ASCA Awards Ceremony at Ravenswood School for Girls in Gordon.

June 9: (not June 2 as in previous newsletter): ASCA Open Day at Ravenswood School for Girls in Gordon.

December 1: ASCA Open Day at Ravenswood School for Girls in Gordon.

Information for New Teachers

If you are starting teaching in 2018 and entering students for ASCA exams this year, please be aware that if you would like to speak to the Examiner after the Exam to discuss the running or organization of the day, the Examiner will be happy to discuss such things with you. **A teacher must approach the examiner if feedback is to be given.** However, note that *'the Examiner will have the final say on examination results and no correspondence or contact of any kind will be entered into.'*

Important Information for all Teachers about Examination Entries

A reminder that Examination entries (complete with numbers, grades and examination fees) **must reach ASCA 6 weeks prior to the proposed examination date.** It is also a good idea to send a draft Examination entry early in the year to give ASCA an Overview of the year. This will assist planning.

The busiest examination time of the year is Term 4, November and December in particular. For this reason, any teacher wishing to hold examinations in mid-December must send entries well before November 1.

The cut-off date for mid December 2018 Examinations is November 1.

The final examinations for the year 2018 will be held in mid-December.

Important information for teachers regarding the Written Papers.

- A *Request For Examination* form should be sent with the fee 6 weeks before the date of the examination.
- Please note that past papers are available by contacting the secretary, Dr March by email **exams.asca@gmail.com** or by phone **0418 234 386**.
- It is advised that students use the practice papers prior to sitting the examinations. The current syllabus '2014 onwards' is being used.
- You will be notified of the venue, date and time of the examination.

VENUE AND DATE

- If 4 or more candidates are sitting at the same time, the examinations may be conducted at the school or studio on a date chosen by the teacher. To supervise the examinations, the teacher will arrange an invigilator who is not associated in any way with the teacher's studio. In special circumstances e.g. in a country centre, this arrangement may be made for 3 or less candidates.
- Otherwise candidates may sit on an Open Day (June or December) or by special arrangement at a larger centre or school where written examinations are taking place.
- Please contact the secretary Dr Paul March for information about future dates and venues.

EXAMINATION DAY PROCEDURE

- Candidates must arrive 15 minutes before the commencement of the advised examination time
- Only pens will be allowed to be taken into the room. Mobile phones, bags, books, computers, note paper etc will be placed in a secure location at the venue.
- The candidate will be provided with an answer booklet or writing pad. The candidate's name, examination grade and question numbers must be clearly marked on each paper.
- The invigilator will open the envelope that contains the question papers and will then give the candidates 10 minutes reading time, followed by 2 hours for Senior Grade 6 and 3 hours for all other grades and diplomas to complete the paper.
- At the conclusion of the 3 hours, the invigilator will place all completed papers in an envelope and seal it immediately in the view of the candidates. This envelope is then delivered promptly to the examiner for marking. This is the responsibility of the teacher or invigilator.
- Written papers will be marked within an appropriate time period (usually 4-6 weeks), when the results will be forwarded.
- A certificate will be sent for Senior Grade 6 to 8. The Diploma certificate will be awarded when the practical and written examinations have been completed.

Some wise words:

“The London Times is speechless (over Irish Home Rule) and takes three columns to express its speechlessness.” - Winston Churchill, 1908

“Perhaps the real reason why we have always been able to champion free speech in this country is that we know perfectly well that hardly anybody has got anything to say, and that no one will listen to anyone that has “. Daily Mail, London. Date unknown.

Queries

If you have any queries about ASCA, the syllabus or examinations, please contact us by email, or write and they will be handed to the committee for an answer.

ASCA requests that from 2017 all enquiries from Queensland, Victoria and NSW go through the following central email address: **exams.asca@gmail.com**

CONTRIBUTIONS to the newsletter gratefully received by the editor, Susanne Harrison. **All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: PO Box 4570, North Rocks, NSW 2151**

or *Newsletter.asca@gmail.com*

