



NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 4570 North Rocks NSW 2151
www.asca-speech.org

Celebrating 50 Years

The ASCA Newsletter

January - March, 2024

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

Congratulations to all ASCA members on a very successful 2023.

Welcome to new member Yasmin Scott from Queensland.

Congratulations to ASCA celebrating 50 Years of Excellence. ASCA was established in 1974 and has become a significant Examining Body with an exciting and relevant Syllabus.

ASCA promotes competence, rewards effort and encourages excellence.

The new Syllabus came out in January and will be sent out to members on payment of the membership fee for 2024.

Some notes on the founder of ASCA, Gina Pioro (formally Gina Penkeyman) 1925-2015.



Gina was reared in Fleetwood, Lancashire, UK. She contracted polio at 2 years of age, however her perseverance and strength of character did not let it restrict her. Speech was her passion. In the UK she taught drama, examined for the English Speaking Board, worked in radio, was a councillor on her local municipal council in Lancashire, president of numerous committees as well as being nationally known for her work as an adjudicator. She was well respected in these circles.

Trinity College London soon snapped her up and she examined in the UK, Italy, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia.

On one of the tours of Australia Gina met Bob Pioro whom she married and they settled in Sydney. Bob was the love of her life and they were inseparable. Bob supported Gina totally in anything she wanted to do. He was ASCA's treasurer from its inception until his death in 2002.

In the early 1970's the English Speaking Board was operating in Western Australia, so they invited Gina to be in charge of operations to introduce their exams to the Eastern States of Australia. It fitted her plans perfectly and so the English Speaking Board (ESB) exams began in Sydney in 1973. In June 1974 ESB NSW became formalised with its first Constitution and Executive. At a special meeting at the Nimrod Theatre, Sydney on 24 February 1977 the name was changed to 'The Australian Speech Communication Association' (affiliated with The English Speaking Board [International] Ltd)

The following people were elected to ASCA's 1974 Founding Committee.

Patron: Emeritus: Professor Arthur Delbridge AO.

Director: Gina Pioro FESB LRAM

President: John Bell AO

Chairperson: Don Hocking Dip ESB

Secretary: Paul March Phd FACE FESB

ASCA's popularity has spread purely by word of mouth to many schools in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, the Gold Coast and regional NSW Queensland and Victoria.

At the inception of ASCA, Gina Pioro stated: 'I came to Australia as an examiner in the "one-on-one" situation- hearing often excellent renditions of poetry, prose and drama - but something was missing. It was the sharing - the interaction between the candidate and an interested and enquiring audience where listening skills were as important as speaking.'

This new type of examining in 1974 is still going strong after 50 years.

Congratulations to Gina, Arthur Delbridge, John Bell, Don Hocking and Dr Paul March.

Dr Paul March has served on the ASCA committee as Secretary for 50 years. The ASCA committee and members would like to thank Paul for his selfless dedication and service to ASCA for half a century.

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Some Very Good News

Our Treasurer, Carolyn McKenzie, is making a wonderful recovery after experiencing a 'stroke' several weeks ago – Carolyn is 'back in action ' and is as sharp as ever – all the very best, Carolyn!!!!
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The ASCA awards ceremony 2024

The 50th Anniversary Awards Ceremony was held at Ravenswood School for Girls on 16 March 2024

The Master of Ceremonies for the prestigious event was Dr Paul March.

Medals and Certificates or Diplomas were presented to recipients of

- Studio Achievement Awards.
- Studio Awards.
- Centre Awards.
- Certificate of Communication.
- Diploma of Communication (Teaching ; Speech Communication).
- Diploma of Communication.
- Diploma of ASCA.

The Speeches at the Awards ceremony were delivered by

- Mrs Anne Johnstone. Principal of Ravenswood School for Girls.
- Mrs Jillian Burgess. ASCA Vice-President .
- Priscilla Evans. Guest Speaker.
- Lara Parker. Ravenswood School for Girls.

Special Awards were also presented.

Awards for Excellence in Communication

- Priscilla Evans

National Scholarship Award for Excellence

- Sybilla Winifred Wainwright Hooke - SCEGGS, Darlinghurst

Gina Pioro Director’s Award for Outstanding Performance.

- Shirley (Xiaowei) Ding- Ravenswood School for Girls

Graduate Teaching Award.

- McKayla Ashleigh Tan - Ravenswood School for Girls.

There were also special performances by ASCA students based on their 2023 ASCA exam results.

Junior 4: “Cricket “ – Finn Davis (Quirindi Primary School)

Performance Characterisation : “Enola Holmes” – Abbie Walsh (Arndell College)

Recount “Bushwalking” –Zahra Sleiman (Santa Sabina College)

Junior 3 Prose Memorised. “A dog’s Purpose “- Brittany Hickson (Studio, Mosman)

Junior 3: Characterisation “White Queen “, The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe – Giselle Wharton (SCEGGS Darlinghurst)

Senior 6:Talk “The Power of Words” –Sarah King (Ravenswood School for Girls)

The Guest Speaker **Priscilla Evans** entertained the audience by rolling up her prepared speech and throwing it into the audience. The speech was then delivered without notes supported by PowerPoint visuals on the big screen.

Priscilla was a student of Paul March from a very early until achieving her Diploma of Communication. She is a passionate advocate for Speech Communication and how it has helped her in her career so far. Her Speech was entitled **The Power of ASCA** and she outlined the way her involvement with ASCA assisted her with English at school and later in job interviews, particularly the training received in listening carefully, thinking and speaking on her feet impromptu. She has worked as a TV Travel Host and a Producer on large scale fashion productions in Hollywood.

“She is a testament to the far- reaching benefits that confidence, communication and consistent effort can have”

ASCA would like to thank Mrs Anne Johnstone, Principal of Ravenswood School for Girls for hosting the significant ASCA 50th Anniversary Awards Ceremony in the auditorium at Ravenswood.

ASCA is also very grateful for the inspirational speech delivered by Anne Johnstone on igniting potential, passion and purpose in education and the role that Speech, Drama and Speech Communication play in that process.



Dr Paul March cuts the cake for ASCA’s 50th birthday!

Membership reminder.

Just a reminder for anyone yet to send their 2024 membership form and fees - they are now overdue.

The membership forms can also be downloaded from the website.

Membership annual fees are:

Student Associate Membership	\$20
Individual Membership	\$40
Corporate Membership	\$100

Please send membership fees separately to any other fees.

Please make cheques payable to ASCA and send with completed form to Mrs Susanne Harrison, ASCA Membership Secretary, PO Box 322, Manly, NSW 1655. Please also include a stamped addressed envelope for your receipt. Or email your membership form to Susanne Harrison at pandsmharrison@bigpond.com

Membership fees can also be paid by Direct debit. ASCA BSB 062229 Account 00131200. Please identify exam date and school/teacher on the description on bank deposit. Eg Smith Dec 28

The ASCA Annual General Meeting was held at SCEGGS Darlinghurst on 3 February 2024 and the following members were elected:

Office Bearers

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

Committee

Minutes Secretary	Jillian Burgess
Newsletter Editor	Susanne Harrison
Publicity Officer	Samantha Luck
Social Secretary	Elizabeth Walsh
QLD Co-ordinators	Anita Eldridge & Pamela Cassidy
Victorian Co-ordinator	Robyn Schiller

Ordinary Committee Members –Therese Bennetts, Andrea Crawford, Jill Tucker, Bron Lim, Rachel Hennessy, Tahlia Morrissey, Stacey Konstanopolous, Michael Costi, Kerry Maxwell.

ASCA would like to thank SCEGGS Darlinghurst for hosting ASCA’s Annual General Meeting again this year.

Important Information for Teachers about Examination Entries

A reminder that Examination entries (complete with fees) must reach ASCA at least 6 weeks before the proposed examinations.

Please note that the **Examination fees remain the same as 2023**

Request for Examinations can no longer being processed if the 6 weeks deadline is not met.

Important dates for ASCA Examinations

If an ASCA teacher has at least 3 hours of Examinations, an ASCA Examiner can be appointed to attend the teacher's school or studio. Examinations will also be available via Zoom.

If fewer than 3 hours of examining, exam candidates can be examined at the **Open Days**. There are 2 Open days each year. Please note that the **Open Day is to be used by small studios only**.

Examination Venue: Ravenswood School for Girls, Henry Street, Gordon.

Examination Dates:

Saturday 29 June 2024 Practical Examinations and Written Examinations

Entries must be received by ASCA on or before

17 May 2024 (6 weeks prior to the Open Day)

Saturday 30 November 2024 Practical Examinations and Written Examinations

Entries must be received by ASCA on or before

18 October 2024 (6 weeks prior to the Open Day)

Check List for ASCA Exam days

Check List for ASCA Exam Days - for Teachers or Organisers

- Arrange the exam room with a table and chair for the examiner and chairs for audience members.
- Make up some signs for the entrance and around the room to remind audience members to:
“BE QUIET. EXAMS IN PROGRESS”
“PLACE PHONES ON SILENT”
“NO PHOTOS OR VIDEOS”
- Have a bottle of water, glass and tissues on the examiner’s table. Make sure there is ample light for the examiner.
- Ensure that 2 copies of the **Examination Results Form** are on the examiner’s desk with candidates’ names (neatly printed or written) in order of their exams.
- Ensure you or your students have neatly completed their details on the **Examiner’s Report Form** prior to their exams so they are ready to be handed to the examiner or in order, on the examiner’s table.
- Have spare copies of your student’s memorised selections on hand in case they forget them on the day!
- Schedule a break for the examiner every 2 hours – a morning and afternoon break should be approximately 15 minutes so that the examiner has time for a light refreshment and bathroom break.
- Schedule a 45-minute lunch break for the examiner – please ensure you provide a simple lunch and check with the examiner before hand if they have any dietary requirements.
- Students and audience members should not be in the room whilst the examiner is having lunch.
- Remember to introduce the examiner to the audience, remind them that there are strictly NO photos or videos to be taken during the exams, and to turn their phones to silent

ENJOY

Check list for Teachers before the Exam day is contained in the Syllabus on Page 2.

The Syllabus sets out specific details regarding timing of Exams, arrangement of the Room, Consideration and Treatment of Examiners and Listening groups.

SOME WISE WORDS ...

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do ” Edward Everett Hall

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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 Australian Speech Communication Association Inc

Affiliated with the English Speaking Board (International) Ltd

Phone Dr Paul March 0418 234 386

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*

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