



2019 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

1st March 2019

2018 in Review

For your President, 2018 was an enjoyable and productive year of consolidating our core functions, building relationship. In line with the research about the psychological benefits of small wins, we achieved everything we set out to do, including our expanded offerings through the leadership of new committee members. Importantly, we have presented a highly-assured public profile which has resulted in deeper engagement with the Fulbright Commission and US Department of State. We have clearly demonstrated our value proposition as a unique vehicle for providing a vibrant, confident independent platform for alumni to speak out and engage the wider community.

Key events

Fourteen events were promoted on our website. Seven of these were formally organised by AFAA Chapters. Six others alerted members to upcoming events featuring alumni. One was an event organised by the Commission.

Date	Event	State
9 Mar	Fulbright Alumnus, Dr Donna Coleman, free solo piano concert	VIC
22 Mar	Victoria New Fulbright Scholar Welcome	VIC
22 Mar	Australian Fulbright Alumni Association 2018 Annual General Meeting	CBA
23 Mar	Fulbright Alumnus, Dr Donna Coleman, performing at the Melbourne Sinfonia	VIC
29 Apr	NSW New Fulbright Scholar Welcome event - fish and chips at Balmoral	NSW
13 May	Professor Carole Fink: Two remarkable Rebels	NSW
20 May	Alumnus Danae Killian: Recital and launch of CD Ernest Bloch: Viola and Piano	VIC
22 May	Victoria Chapter Quarterly Social Gathering	VIC
24 May	TEDxFulbright Canberra hosted by Australian-American Fulbright Commission	CBA
27 May	Professor Carole Fink: Jewish Diplomacy and the Politics of War and Peace, 1914-1919	NSW
03 Jun	Professor Carole Fink: West Germany and Israel: Nine Tumultuous Years 1965-74	NSW
29 Aug	Victoria Quarterly Gathering: Telling the story of the Fulbright program: From 'war junk' to 'the greatest action taken'	VIC
20 Nov	Some 80 people attended the 2018 Salon – Melbourne, <i>Finding a voice in a post-truth world: valuing a critical perspective</i> . Official launch Prof Diane Kirkby and Dr Alice Garner's book, " Academic Ambassadors, Pacific Allies: Australia, America and the Fulbright Program ".	VIC
26 Nov	2018 WA Fulbright Annual Dinner	WA

Relationships built during 2018

- University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor and Fulbright Scholars, November-December 2018
- Incoming US Scholars to Victoria
- New Consul General to Victoria and Tasmania
- US Consulate has been extremely supportive, and sought funding for us in 2018- Kathryn Laguara, Sydney
- NSW Alumni (introduced by Commission)
- Connections with Brisbane-based alumni (introduced by Commission)
- US Fulbright Association – cemented plans to hold joint Conference in Sydney, 7-8 November 2019

Other milestones

- From late 2018, new committee member, Daniel McNamara organised highly successful Salon held in Canberra 1st March 2019. Daniel secured funding from US Embassy.
- Iain spoke at the Commission's formal 2019 Induction for new Australian and visiting US Scholars, 1st March. Eighty AFAA fliers and 100 business cards distributed
- Commission has formally, publicly acknowledged AFAA's custodianship of WG Walker Scholarship

The year ahead

- We will make individual contact with friendly Commission Board members (e.g., Tasmania, US Consulate, Barney Glover/Western Sydney University VC)
- Excellent progress to co-host Welcome event for new US Scholars in Sydney, 11th March. We have a critical mass forming of Sydney-based alumni
- Fulbright Commission and AFAA have agreed to co-host informal events in capital cities for new Scholars
- Quarterly meetings with Pablo Jiminez, Fulbright Commission
- Four event dates arranged for Victoria. Melbourne University continues to host Vic meetings. First event will be 20th March. Visiting US Scholars are already registering
- Expecting UTas to become formal host for Tasmanian alumni events
- Interest from NT scholars to begin networking
- Optimistic that QLD alumni will organise an event
- Joint Conference in Sydney, 7-8 November 2019
- Possibility of funding US Fulbrighter, Dr Mara Adelman, to conduct Salons in Sydney and Melbourne on the Global Refugee Crisis, November 2019
- Liaising with 2019 NSW Scholar to explore professional development opportunities for alumni

Sincerely,



Iain Butterworth, AFAA President