

Australasian Association for Logic. AAL history: mid 60s up to 2005.

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In the mid-60s the University of New England (UNE) was a centre of Logic for Australia, essentially due to the presence of Len Goddard and Richard Routley. A Logic conference was held there in 1964, attended by 25 people, and after this conference a meeting of 18 of those people occurred, to discuss the setting up of a logic association. Such a motion was passed, to be ratified at the next meeting. The inaugural conference was held in 1965 at UNE, with Len Goddard as President and Richard Routley as Secretary. At the AGM, the ratification took place, initiating the Australasian Association for Logic (AAL).

The object statement of its Constitution, as amended in 1991, reads: "Its object shall be the furtherance of studies in logic, in particular, in formal logic, history of logic, foundations of mathematics, philosophy of mathematics and philosophy of logic, and the applications of formal logic to problems in philosophy, computer science, artificial intelligence, and any other appropriate science or technology." Further, "The Committee shall arrange a Conference . . . , normally at least once in each calendar year" and "Such Conferences shall be held in New Zealand . . . , normally once in every three years".

In order to achieve this breadth, it has often been worthwhile to co-locate the AAL conference with a related conference in an adjunct discipline. Generally, this has been the Australasian Association of Philosophy conference, but has recently included the Australian Artificial Intelligence Conference, the Australasian Computer Science Week, the Australian Mathematical Society Conference, and the International Advances in Modal Logic Conference.

In 1967 the American-based Association of Symbolic Logic agreed to sponsor the AAL conferences and to publish the abstracts of its papers in the *Journal of Symbolic Logic* and later in the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*. The publication details of these abstracts are listed in the Appendix.

During 1969-74, there were no official conferences organised. Nevertheless, there were five papers presented under the AAL banner in 1970 at the University of Sydney, and Richard Routley presented an AAL paper in 1971 to the AAP conference at the University of Queensland, announcing the semantics for relevant implication.

By 1975, the centre of Logic had moved to the Australian National University, essentially due to the presence of Richard Routley and Robert Meyer. There, Michael McRobbie provided the impetus to revive the AAL conference as its secretary. John McGeachie, as last president from 1968, presided over the meeting in 1975 to re-constitute the AAL. This was then consolidated in 1976 with Routley taking up the presidency and with McRobbie continuing as secretary.

We list all the AAL conferences in the Appendix. These conferences have attracted a number of international visitors, the most notable being the following: Grattan-Guinness in 1977, Wojcicki in 1979, van Fraassen, Lewis, Skyrms and Zalta in 1981, Brink, Chellas and Seldin in 1986, Pollack in 1988, Deutsch, Hugly, Lewis and Teichman in 1989, Hindley in 1990, Chellas, Dunn and Lance in 1992, Hjorth in 1993, Chellas, Lewis and Hindley in 1994, Detlefsen in 1995, Zalta in 1997, Akama, Griffin, Lycan and Zalta in 1998, Lewis in 1999, Beall and Lycan in 2000, Beziau in

2001, Bueno in 2003, Wansing and Weiermann in 2005. The following distinguished logicians have come as invited speakers: Suppes in 1978, Cresswell in 1979, Chellas, Dunn, Segerberg, Smiley and Thomason in 1983, Hamblin, Meyer and Tichy in 1984, Hughes in 1986, Tennant in 1989, Field in 2000, Read in 2001, Dezani-Ciancaglini in 2002, Venema in 2006.

The AAL conferences have hosted a number of ground-breaking papers. The following come to mind: Goddard, "Towards a Logic of Significance" in 1966; Priest, "The Logic of Paradox" in 1976; Brady and Routley, "The Non-Triviality of Extensional Dialectical Set Theory" in 1979; McRobbie, Thistlewaite and Meyer, "A Mechanised Decision Procedure for Nonclassical Logics – The Program KRIPKE" in 1980; Meyer, "Relevant Arithmetic" in 1982; Segerberg, "Logics of Change" in 1986; Sylvan and Priest, "Much Simplified Semantics for Basic Relevant Logics" in 1989; Mortensen, "Inconsistent Pictures" in 1999.

Also, a number of the conferences were special in various respects. In 1979, Rod Girle introduced an Academic Issue of the *Australian Logic Teachers' Journal*. In 1986, there was a discussion on logic teaching, led by Brian Chellas and Martin Tweedale, initiating the introduction of Critical Thinking in Australasia. In 1989 we held the 20-year memorial conference for Arthur Prior, with a conference volume, *Logic and Reality: Essays on the Legacy of Arthur Prior*, OUP, 1996, edited by Jack Copeland. This was the largest conference we have ever had, with 100 people attending and 62 papers presented, only a selection of which were published as abstracts in the JSL. In 2002, approval was given to initiate an internet journal to be called the *Australasian Journal of Logic*, with editors Greg Restall (manager, philosophy), Martin Bunder (mathematics) and Errol Martin (computer science). Hans van Ditmarsch has been added to Martin. (See AJL website below.)

Appendix

We list below the conferences of the Australasian Association for Logic, giving the year, the university or location, the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and Organizer (if different from either of these). [From 1989 onwards, we drop the annual Secretary-Treasurer and make on-going appointments.]

This is followed by a list of published abstracts of papers presented at the AAL conference of the stated year, together with the AAL e-mail address and the web-sites for the AJL and the AAL.

Conferences:

- 1966: UNSW, Goddard, Routley, Hamblin.
- 1967: VUW, Goddard, Routley.
- 1968: UMelbourne, McGechie, Townsend.
- 1975: ANU, McGechie, McRobbie.
- 1976: ANU, Routley, McRobbie.
- 1977: UMelbourne, Taylor, Galle.
- 1978: UQueensland, Girle, Hinckfuss.
- 1979: MonashU, Crossley, Humberstone.
- 1980: UWollongong, Bunder, McKenzie. *Tribute*: Rennie.
- 1981: VUW, Cresswell, McRobbie.
- 1982: ANU, Meyer, Mortensen, Thistlewaite.
- 1983: UWA, McRobbie, Priest.
- 1984: UNSW, Hamblin, Staines.
- 1985: UMelbourne, Goddard, Hazen. *Tribute*: Hamblin.
- 1986: UAuckland, Segerberg, Kroon.
- 1987: UQueensland, Girle, Hinckfuss.
- 1988: UWA, Priest, Slaney. *Celebration*: Australia's Bi-Centenary.
Priest becomes the standing Secretary-Treasurer 1988-1995.
- 1989: UCanterbury, Copeland.
- 1990: USydney, Bunder.
- 1991: Darling Harbour, Staines, Girle.
- 1992: ANU, Slaney. *Celebration*: Meyer's 60th birthday.
- 1993: UAdelaide, Mortensen Roper.
- 1994: University of Otago, Tichy. The George Hughes Memorial Conference.
- 1995: UNE, Sylvan, Roberts. *Celebration*: The 30th anniversary of the AAL. *Tribute*: Tichy.
Mortensen becomes the Secretary-Treasurer 1995-2002.
- 1996: UQueensland, Hinckfuss. *Tribute*: Sylvan.
- 1997: UAuckland, Girle.
- 1998: MacquarieU, Slaney, Restall. *Tribute*: Hinckfuss.
- 1999: UMelbourne, Brady. *Visitor*: Lewis. *Tribute*: Thistlewaite.
- 2000: Noosa Heads, Hyde, Roberts.
- 2001: VUW, Mares.
- 2002: ANU, Restall, Bimbo.
Brady becomes the Secretary-Treasurer 2002-.
- 2003: UAdelaide, Mortensen, Quigley.
- 2004: UOtago, van Ditmarsch.

2005: UWA, Slater.
Priest was made a standing Committee Member of the AAL.
2006: Noosa, Governatori.
2007: UMelbourne, Restall.
2008: UAuckland, Girle.

Abstracts:

JSL 1967-1993:

1967: Vol.32 (1967), pp.574-577.

[The Bulletin of the Section of Logic just published the abstracts:

1976: Vol.6 (1977), pp.123-145.]

1979: Vol.46 (1981), pp.424-426.

1980: Vol.47 (1982), pp.717-718.

1981: Vol.48 (1983), pp.519-526.

1983: Vol.49 (1984), pp.1426-1429.

1984: Vol.51 (1986), pp.503-506.

1986: Vol.53 (1988), pp.330-334.

1987: Vol.53 (1988), pp.1283-1286.

1988: Vol.54 (1989), pp.678-685.

1989: Vol.56 (1991), pp.372-382.

1990: Vol.56 (1991), pp.1108-1114.

1991: Vol.57 (1992), pp.1500-1503.

1992: Vol.58 (1993), pp.1477-1484.

1993: Vol.59 (1994), pp.1443-1449.

BSL 1994-2005:

1994: Vol.1 (1995), pp.351-358.

1995: Vol.2 (1996), pp.112-120.

1996: Vol.3 (1997), pp.363-366.

1997: Vol.4 (1998), pp.459-464.

1998: Vol.5 (1999), pp.485-494.

1999: Vol.6 (2000), pp.248-255.

2000: Vol.7 (2001), pp.287-290.

2002: Vol.9 (2003), pp.257-265.

2003: Vol.10 (2004), pp.290-294.

2004: Vol.10 (2004), pp.447-51.

2005: Vol.12 (2006), pp.517-23.

E-mail and Websites:

AJL Website: <http://www.philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/ajl/>.

In 2002, Restall set up the AAL information e-mail system under:
aal-info@unimelb.edu.au. This is now defunct, and has been replaced by ***
something or other ***

In 2006, van Ditmarsch set up the AAL website: <http://www.aalogic.org>. This is now
defunct, and has been replaced by <http://aal.ltumathstats.com>.