



27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear AMS Member,

This month's newsletter is a slight deviation from the usual format, as we focus on several important announcements and interesting events. This includes details for the 2021 AGM, a call to nominate for positions on the AMS council, an introduction to the inaugural World Fungus Day, and a special event we have planned for December.

It's been a tumultuous few weeks and months for AMS members on both sides of the Tasman, dealing with the impacts of COVID and more rounds of lockdowns, restrictions to travel and changes to plans. We're all coping (or not) in our own ways and are probably quite sick of talking about it, but we hope the news enclosed can provide some measure(s) of distraction!

All the best to you and your loved ones at home and abroad,

Dr Tracey Steinrucken  
Australasian Mycological Society President  
Website: <https://www.australasianmycologicalsociety.com/>  
Facebook: [AMSstudents](#) and Twitter: [@ausmysoc](#)

## 2021 AMS Annual General Meeting

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Time:** New Zealand 2:00pm; NSW/VIC/ACT 12:00pm; QLD 11:00am; SA/NT 11:30am; WA 9:00am



**Put it in your calendar today!**

This year we will again hold our AGM virtually via Zoom. The AGM will be kicked off with a presentation by Prof. Levente Kiss (USQ) as a part of our monthly Virtual Seminar Series. More information about his talk is on the next page. You can register here: [October Virtual Seminar Registration Link](#)

After Levy's talk (one hour later) we'll begin the AGM which we expect will take less than an hour. You can register for the AMS 2021 AGM here: [Registration Link](#). (Please note: you will need to register at both links to attend the talk and AGM). Send any agenda items to our Secretary Laszlo [geza25@hotmail.com](mailto:geza25@hotmail.com). The agenda will be sent out to all registered attendees the week of the AGM.

### NOMINATION TO COUNCIL POSITIONS

Our long-serving Secretary Laszlo Irinyi and our Treasurer Adam Frew are both stepping down from AMS Council. I would like to thank Laszlo and Adam for their hard work and dedication to the society.

This means we have two positions opening for nomination: Secretary and Treasurer. We would like to invite all members, but especially our ECRs to consider joining the council. If you are considering nominating for a position and would like more information about the requirements of each council

role, please contact Tracey ([ausmysoc.president@gmail.com](mailto:ausmysoc.president@gmail.com)). A nomination form for council positions can be downloaded from [here](#). Nominations must be sent to the Secretary ([geza25@hotmail.com](mailto:geza25@hotmail.com)) by 13<sup>th</sup> October.

## AMS Virtual Seminar Series

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Our seminars occur on the last Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm Sydney Time. Talks are 30 minutes long and are followed by 15 minutes of questions from the audience. To see upcoming seminars, and to register, please visit our website [www.australasianmycologicalsociety.com/virtual-seminars-2](http://www.australasianmycologicalsociety.com/virtual-seminars-2). Want to present? Contact us: [ausmysoc.president@gmail.com](mailto:ausmysoc.president@gmail.com).

### **29<sup>th</sup> September:** *Looking in the cupboard: the hidden diversity of microfungi in Australia*

Dr Yu Pei Tan

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Australia's history of biological collection began when Joseph Banks visited Australia as part of James Cook's expedition in 1770. Following Banks, Australia's scientists and natural historians built the foundation of Australia's collections of algae, fish, insects, plants, mammals, birds, fungi, and microorganisms. The Queensland Plant Pathology Herbarium (BRIP) was established at the Federation of Australia. Its unique collection of Queensland microfungi dates back to 1850s. The specimens in BRIP include microfungi that cause or are associated with diseases on plants or on insects, and from the environment (e.g., air, soil, phylloplane). Specimens collected in the past were identified based on morphology and/or host association. Using DNA sequence-based methods to examine the specimens kept in the "cupboard" of BRIP has uncovered a hidden diversity of undescribed species. The discovery of cryptic species and species complexes has implications for Australia's biodiversity and biosecurity. [Register for Yu Pei's talk here.](#)



### **27<sup>th</sup> October:** *Mycoparasitic fungi in action*

Professor Levente Kiss

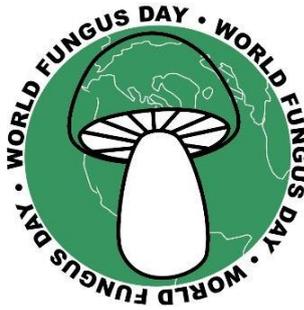
University of Southern Queensland

Fungi that parasitize other fungi, known as mycoparasites, are commonly found in most terrestrial ecosystems. The best known mycoparasites are those that attack plant pathogenic fungi. Some of these have long been studied and commercially utilized as biocontrol agents of crop pathogens. Others have been in focus as components of natural multitrophic relationships. In Australia, mycoparasitic fungi are largely understudied. This lecture will provide a general introduction to interfungal parasitic relationships, followed by a more detailed presentation of a common group of mycoparasites, which have already been commercialized in the European Union, USA, and elsewhere as biofungicide products used in crop protection. These mycoparasites have long been investigated by our group using GFP-transformants, gene knock-out studies, and phylogenetics, population genetics, and genomics tools. Currently, and ARC Discovery Project led by our laboratory, and carried out in collaboration with University of Melbourne and University of Zurich (Switzerland), is focusing on as yet unknown aspects of this particular mycoparasitic interaction, to reveal brand new ways of controlling an important group of crop pathogens. [Register for Levente's talk here.](#)



## World Fungus Day – a Letter to AMS Members from Professor Lynne Boddy

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*Although we all know that fungi are crucial to our very existence, most lay people, and even many biologists, do not realise this. They do not know that our planet's ecosystems would not function without fungi - there would be no fertile soil, no plant life, no herbivores, no carnivores, and no humans. This matters from many perspectives. For example, when people understand and care about fungi, there will be a much stronger chance that they will protect them, and even invest in trying to find out more about them.*

*In the UK, as in many other places, we have for a long-time put-on events to introduce the general public to fungi. If you attended IMC9 in 2010 you may have visited the "Amazing Fungi" exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. In 2011 it moved to the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where I was privileged to open it. After the opening, we had a brainstorming session to come up with ideas on how to broaden awareness of fungi. Someone asked whether there was a world fungus day. The answer at the time was sadly no, so we decided to aim to have one. We started on a small scale and organised Wales Fungus day in 2012. The next year we extended it to UK Fungus Day, and in 2013, there were 50 events across the country. UK Fungus Day has gone on from strength to strength, though in 2020 it had to be entirely online because of COVID.*

*Usually we have indoor events, outdoor events, and combinations of both, including talks, displays, films, fungal inspired fashion, arts and crafts, growing edible fungi, making fungus models, fungal microscopy, spore printing, quizzes etc. etc., and, of course, forays and organised fungus walks. Some of these are illustrated in the special editions of the BMS newsletter reporting on the annual event (<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/publications>) and on the UK Fungus Day website (<http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/>).*

*This year we want to start World Fungus Day, which would have far greater impact than National Fungus Days or more disparate fungal events. It is obviously totally unrealistic to have a huge World Fungus Day instantly, and cynics say that we could never get a day that all Mycological Societies would agree upon, but if we don't try to start something then we will never have a World Fungus Day. To start the ball rolling, I have organised an online [One Day International Symposium](#) with talks from or about all continents, and hosted by the Arboricultural Society UK. I don't think that it is feasible for a single place to co-ordinate World Fungus Day now, but we can start advertising World Fungus Day on our own Society websites. Ultimately, we should aim for a World Fungus Day website that has links to the national/regional websites. I am starting to contact mycological colleagues/societies/organisations and would value your help in spreading this idea. So, I am appealing to all to join in parallel with BMS to try to get something going, even if only in a small way to start with.*

*I am hoping that, if you and few other Mycological Societies of Mycophiles could put on a few Fungus Day (October 2nd) events this year (even if they are only virtual due to COVID etc.), we may be able to build up to a full launch of World Fungus Day next year. It is OK to start in a small way. A few events are better than none. To quote a common saying "From small acorns mighty oak trees grow". I guess that a fungal equivalent might be "From tiny spores extensive mycelia develop"!*

*Prof Lynne Boddy  
Cardiff University, UK  
(August 2021)*

In light of Lynne's letter and the inaugural *World Fungus Day* we'd like to encourage AMS members to host or promote any Fungus-related events or news on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Also, consider registering for the World Fungi Day Seminar below – the line-up of speakers is incredible and the talks look fascinating!

As a society, AMS will also be making available all our Virtual Seminar recordings to our members on World Fungus Day. Keep an eye out for an email from us with the details. You can follow World Fungus Day on Twitter [@FungusDay](https://twitter.com/FungusDay) or use the hashtag [#WorldFungusDay](https://twitter.com/WorldFungusDay).

## **Upcoming Mycology Events – Announcements and Changes**

### **NEW AND COMING UP SOON: World Fungi Day Seminar**

*Organisers:* The Arboricultural Association UK

2 October 2021 | [Website](#) | Online & On Demand



To celebrate World Fungi Day we're pleased to present a world of fungal talks. Once registered you can access these talks on-demand! Hear from 11 renowned speakers spanning all continents, in this online series.

- Prof Erute Magdalene Adongbede: University of Lagos, Nigeria
- Prof Amanda Black: Lincoln University, New Zealand
- Prof Bob Blanchette: University of Minnesota, USA
- A/Prof Yu Fukasawa: Tohoku University, Japan
- Giuliana Furci: Foundress and Executive Director of the Fungi Foundation
- A/Prof Sydney Glassman: University of California Riverside, USA
- Prof Sarah Gurr: University of Exeter and University of Utrecht
- A/Prof Teppo Rämä: Arctic University of Norway
- Prof Marc-André Selosse: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
- Prof Suzanne Simard: University of British Columbia, Canada
- Prof T.S. Suryanarayanan: Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, India
- Prof Michael J. Wingfield: University of Pretoria, South Africa

### **16th Congress of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists**

*Organisers:* FAOMB and NZMS Hybrid Congress

22 – 25 November, 2021 | [Website](#) | Christchurch NZ & Online



Joint with the New Zealand Microbiology Society, session topics will include biotechnology; protein structure and function; molecular microbiology; industrial microbiology; gene regulation and signal transduction, genetics and genomics; the molecular basis of disease (including plant pathology); and plant biology, mycology and biochemistry.

### **Australasian Plant Pathology Conference**

*Organisers:* APPS

23 – 26 November, 2021 | [Website](#) | Online



We welcome the Australasian plant pathology community to what will be both the 23rd Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference and our 1st fully online conference! This event was originally planned to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, however, due to the potential for ongoing impacts from COVID-19, we have decided to hold a fully online conference.

### **POSTPONED: Asian Mycology Congress AMC 2021**



*Organisers:* BIOTEC, the Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, School of Science, Walailak University, Thailand Mycological Association, Thai Medical Mycology Forum  
August 2022 | [Website](#) | Pathum Thani, Thailand & Online

It has been more than a decade since the AMC was held in Thailand and we are delighted to host this conference in Pathum Thani. The theme of the congress is Asian Mycology in the 21st century: the new generation, and we will focus on the young generation of mycologists who will be at the forefront of Mycology in the future. The congress will cover a wide range of topics from basic science (taxonomy, ecology, pathology) to the applied aspects (biological control, biotechnology, genomics, metabolomics).

### **CHANGED LOCATION: 18<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Microbial Ecology**



*Organisers:* International Society for Microbial Ecology  
14-19 August, 2022 | [Website](#) | Lausanne, Switzerland

ISME18 is the 18th edition of our non-profit symposium which takes place every two years. The conference is the front runner in the field of microbial ecology, with an average of around 1,750 international scientists that attend the conference.

### **POSTPONED: 2021 Australian Biosecurity Symposium**



*Organisers:* The Biosecurity Collective  
**New Dates: 3-5 May 2022** | [Website](#) | Gold Coast, Queensland

Animal Health Australia, the Invasive Species Council, the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and Plant Health Australia are excited to host the 2021 Australian Biosecurity Symposium. This will once again focus on biosecurity prevention and provide the opportunity to share research and innovation, explore outside-of-the-box thinking and exchange knowledge and ideas across the biosecurity collective – agriculture (animals and plants), pest animals, weeds, wildlife, aquatics, humans, and the environment. This year's theme is 'a decade of biosecurity: turning a moment into a movement.'

### **NOW ONLINE: ESA2021: 61st Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Australia**



*Organisers:* ESA  
22-26 November | [Website](#) | Online

In 2021 the Conference theme is 'Renewal'. In a post-covid, post-black summer world, at ESA2021 we will explore a renewal in our relationships with each other and with nature, as our land recovers from fire, drought and flood. In light of the current COVID-19 situation in Australia and associated travel restrictions we have made the decision to move ESA2021 online. This will enable the conference to be accessible to as many people as possible and best reflect the breadth and depth of work being conducted on Australian ecology.



## **IMC12**

Given the alarming development of the pandemic in various regions of the world, and subsequent travel restrictions, the International Mycological Association has made the difficult decision to postpone the IMC12. The COVID-19 pandemic has had negative consequences for planning the upcoming IMC, and will still restrict international travel for some time to come. One of the main aims of IMC meetings is to engage the youth, facilitate face-to-face meetings, and hands-on workshops in mycology. To this end, we have decided to postpone IMC12 to July 2024. The IMC12 meeting has to occur before the International Botanical Congress, which has since also been postponed to later in July 2024, and relocated from Brazil to Madrid, Spain.

## **SPECIAL EVENT: 2020 AMS Research Grant Recipients: Joint Seminar**

AMS aims to promote the understanding of fungi, and a key component of this aim is to support research activities by Australasian mycologists. Applications for the AMS research award are welcomed from all current financial members of the AMS, especially junior members. The project must be carried out within Australasia and the applicant must be associated with an Australasian research organisation.

Successful applicants are asked to present the outcomes of their research at the AMS conference immediately following their award. Unfortunately, due to the many interruptions from COVID, we were not able to hold our conference so the award recipients could not present their work. Instead, we're hosting a special event to hear about the research conducted by these three amazing mycologists, with the help of the AMS Research Grant.

Last year our award recipients were

- Elaine Davison, Research Associate, Curtin University, Project title: "*Amanita umbrinella* and its relatives".
- Leanne Greenwood, PhD Candidate, Charles Sturt University. Project title: "How does fire effect arid fungal communities?"
- Rebecca Webb, PhD candidate, James Cook University. Project title: "Glutathione biosynthesis in the amphibian fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*".

You can hear about their progress at our Special Joint Webinar.

Details: **Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> December at 12pm AEST**. More details will be sent out closer to the event.

PS. We will once again be offering the AMS Research Grant in 2022, so keep an eye out in the New Year for a call for applications.

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I hope you enjoyed the September edition of the AMS Newsletter. If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the next edition, or if you would like to have your research, photos or event featured, please contact our Secretary Laszlo Irinyi ([geza25@gmail.com](mailto:geza25@gmail.com)) or our President Tracey Steinrucken ([ausmysoc.president@gmail.com](mailto:ausmysoc.president@gmail.com)).