



Australasian Mycological Society

Annual General Meeting 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Introduction

My first year as Society President has certainly been an interesting one. I hope you've all been keeping well despite everything that has been going on. Hopefully there is a feint light at the end of the tunnel too.

Despite not being able to hold our 2021 Scientific Meeting in Tassie as planned, we have certainly been trying to keep busy and bring as much new research to you as possible.

Our monthly virtual seminars have been growing in popularity, our social media accounts have more and more followers, and our newsletter has been packed full of contributions from across Australasia. I hope you've all had a chance to view them each month.

We have two council members departing us: our wonderful Secretary Laszlo Irinyi, who has served ___ terms, and who's organizational skills we will miss! And our Treasurer Adam Frew, to whom we are grateful for filling the role this past year alongside all his commitments at USQ. Two of our three student reps will also be handing up her boots this year – thanks to Hannah McCarthy and Ellie Bradley for their work across 2021. We are therefore looking for a new New Zealand Student Rep for 2022. Before we get to that I will outline the activities of the society since the AGM of August 2020.

Finance and membership

The society's financial health is good. Our only expenditures have been a Zoom subscription, website hosting and financial service fees. Considering it was clear from early on this year that there would likely not be a scientific meeting, we didn't expect many people to sign up as members, and hence this year we only have 43 active memberships. A full outline of the society's finances and membership has been prepared by the Treasurer, Adam Frew.

We did not award any grants this year but will do so again next year. We are also working on a new Research Grant in collaboration with FungiMap who are hoping to offer a grant to fund a project focused on citizen science, conservation or other FungiMap objectives.

AMS Virtual Seminar Series

This year we started hosting mycologists from around the world in our monthly seminar series, an initiative of past Vice-President Jeff Powell. Hopefully you were able to join us prior to the AGM for Levy Kiss' seminar. For anyone that hasn't yet attended one, they've been on at noon Sydney time on the last Wednesday of each month. I've been the moderator every month and I feel like I've been spoilt to get to have a chat with each of our presenters in the "technical run through" and hear more about their experiences and research prior to their presentation.

We've so far featured 10 researchers, which include distinguished professors, renowned taxonomists and ground-breaking early career researchers. We've had attendees from all over the world, with our last four seminars having over 40 attendees each.

We plan on continuing this series into the new year, so are seeking nominations or expressions of interest for anyone wanting to present their work. We had planned to make several of the talks

available to members online but quite honestly have not had the time to do this. We're hoping to fix that soon and if anyone has some basic video editing skills and spare time, please get in touch. Note that we only record and publish talks when we have approval to do so.

Our final seminar this year is a special event featuring two of our AMS Research Award Winners – Elaine Davison and Rebecca Webb. This will be held on Wednesday the 1st December 12pm Sydney time. Please join us!

AMS newsletter, Website and Social Media

We've reformatted the AMS newsletter for 2021, with everyone on the council getting a chance to prepare a newsletter for circulation every second month. We've tried to feature a researcher in every edition, alongside news about the society, seminar series, exciting research and Mycological events. Dee Carter has continued to update and refresh the webpage as needed and we appreciate her hard work keeping the website looking great. We have started to redirect any mushroom ID enquiries to the New Zealand or Australian iNaturalist pages.

Responsibility for the AMS student Facebook page, has been well managed by our student representatives. The Facebook page currently has over 1,700 followers, an increase from last year's 1344 followers.

Our Twitter page has 860 followers, with consistent engagements from Pedro Crous and the Westerdijk institute, international mycological societies and mycophiles from around the world. So if you have any new research to promote, please send us a link.

AMS subcommittee in Fungal Education

The AMS Education subcommittee this year is on hiatus as Susan Nuske returns from leave. They're always looking for new initiatives and members so get involved in 2022.

AMS subcommittee in Fungal Conservation

This subcommittee is co-chaired by Tom May and Peter Buchanan of the Australasian Fungi Conservation Group (AFCG). Tom will present their report on the groups recent activities, as well as the activities of Taxonomy Australia, which Tom is involved in. If you would like to become involved with the AFCG please contact Tom via the AMS website.

ICPP2028

A quick note to let you know that the Australasian Plant Pathology Society APPS has put in a bid to host the 2028 International Congress of Plant Pathologists on the Gold Coast. AMS has supported this bid and we should hear who the successful host is next month. Should it be awarded to us, 2028, AMS will hold a satellite meeting alongside ICPP. Office Bearers for 2022

AMS Meeting 2022

With the COVID situation in our part of the world starting to change, we are going to start planning for our next AMS meeting. We plan to hold this as a joint meeting in New Zealand in 2022. Stay tuned for more information.

Finally, I would like to thank the 2021 AMS Council, Laszlo Irinyi, Adam Frew, Bevan Weir, Anna Hopkins and Jonathan Plett, and student representatives Christina Stephenson, Hannah McCarthy and Ellie Bradley. I also wish our departing office bearers Laszlo, Adam, Hannah and Ellie all the best. Thanks to Pam and David Catcheside for their continued support as AMS Patrons.

Tracey Steinrucken

AMS President

27th October 2021
