

Dear AMS Members,

The past three years at President of AMS have been better than I could have imagined. Despite a two-year long series of lock downs, working from home, travel embargos and almost zero face-to-face interaction, we've managed to keep AMS strong and even improve our position in terms of memberships, our social media following, and our finances.

While AMS has all been extremely rewarding for me on a professional and personal level, I have had to make the difficult decision to step down early as AMS President. This was a decision I thought long and hard about over the summer break, but my commitments have been stretched and I have had to step back somewhere. I'm finishing up my postdoc this month and am starting a new position at CSIRO as a Research Scientist focusing on airborne eDNA and genetic technologies. I also have a lot of exciting opportunities coming up including a stint at ETH Zurich next month, and my most important and ongoing role as mum to two young kids.

Over the past 5 years I've made many professional connections, and many more good friends through my involvement with AMS. For anyone considering joining the Council, it truly is fun and rewarding.

One of the things I'm most proud of is the AMS monthly [Virtual Seminar Series](#) which has reached thousands of mycologists and fungi-enthusiasts around the world. Our very first Virtual Seminar was in January 2021 after we had to cancel our planned 2021 AMS Meeting in Hobart due to COVID. Since then, I've had the privilege of hosting virtual speakers from Japan, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand, representing all aspects of mycological research, with regular attendees from over 15 different countries.

Our social media following has enriched, and we now boast well over 1,000 [Twitter](#) followers since I started the page in 2018, a brand-new [Instagram](#) page, a [YouTube](#) channel, and even a presence on [LinkedIn](#)!

We've fostered ongoing relationships and initiatives with other societies such as the Research Grants with FungiMap, the [AMS2022 Symposium](#) in Wellington with the New Zealand Microbiological Society and FUNNZ, collaboration with the Queensland Mycological Society, and as a planning partner with the Australasian Plant Pathology Society to host the International Congress of Plant Pathologists on the Gold Coast in 2028.

We've awarded five [Research Grants](#), three [Student Travel Awards](#) and two Student presentation prizes. We have established a regular, exciting, and richly informative bimonthly [newsletter](#) which everyone on council has contributed to over the past three years. We've had an ongoing contribution to the important initiatives by Taxonomy Australia, led by Tom May and the [Fungi Conservation Subcommittee](#), and to the International Mycological Association. Then of course, the (well overdue!) AMS Symposium last year was an incredible opportunity to meet, reunite with, and learn from mycologists around Australasia.

The Society is being left in extremely capable hands. [Jonathan Plett](#) will be taking over as interim President, with all other council members continuing in their roles. My term as President was due to end at the next AGM, so there will be an opportunity to nominate for the position of President then.

I'm grateful to Jeff Powell for nominating me for council as Treasurer back in 2018, and then as President in 2020. The guidance and friendship I've received from past President Leona Campbell, and current Vice-President Bevan Weir has also been invaluable. Thank-you to the other members of the AMS Council I've worked with over the years: to Bevan, Johanna, Jordan, Anna and Jonathan, our current Student Reps Christina and Finn, and to Laszlo, Celeste, Adam, Genevieve, Ellie and Hannah.

Thank-you also to our members, for your ongoing support over the past three years. Please continue to attend our seminars, renew your memberships, engage with the newsletters and register for our meetings. I hope to see you at the next one, and please don't hesitate to get in touch!

All the best,

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