



21st September 2020

Dear AMS Member,

Spring has arrived with some great weather and lower COVID numbers across the country. I know this is still a challenging time for many but there is now a glimmer of hope for Victorians, and the rest of the country is grateful to everyone in Melbourne for adhering to the lockdown.

2020 AMS AGM

This is the first AMS newsletter since our AGM, held on 19th August. The virtual AGM was possibly the most well-attended in our history owing to the “new normal” of Zoom meetings in our everyday lives. Thank-you to all who attended, particularly those dialling in from the US and New Zealand.

Also thank-you to Andrew Urquhart for his presentation on “Eukaryotic transposable elements as “cargo carriers”: the forging of metal resistance in the fungus *Paecilomyces variotii*”. Andrew was a 2018 Research Grant awardee and it was great to hear how he used the funding from his grant.

The AGM was the last for Leona Campbell, Jeff Powell and Genevieve Gates as members of the AMS Council. All three have been involved in the council for several years and we are very grateful for their contributions to AMS through conferences, new initiatives, time and effort.

President’s Report

As Outgoing President, Leona presented the President’s Report. This will be uploaded to our website alongside the AGM minutes in due course.

Some highlights of the President’s Report:

- The Society currently has 79 financial members and 32 student members (via lab memberships), a combined 111 members, which is an increase from last year
- Three AMS Research Award grants was awarded this year because no travel grant was awarded due to travel restrictions. The recipients were Elaine Davison (Curtin University), Leanne Greenwood (Charles Sturt University) and Rebecca Webb (James Cook University). Each award was for \$3000. This year, all applications were high quality and it was good to see the increased interests towards the Research Grants. Congratulations to Elaine, Leanne and Rebecca!
- A new section was added to the Society’s website which promotes eTalks and eMeetings in Mycology. If anyone has any online mycology talks to promote, please contact our webmaster, [Dee Carter](#) or anyone on the committee
- The 2020 AMS Scientific Meeting which was planned for July 2020 in Hobart was cancelled because of the pandemic. However, the new committee will contribute to developing an online scientific symposium, the format of which is to be decided at our next council meeting. Plans for a 2021 meeting are also underway

New AMS Council Members

With Leona, Jeff and Genevieve stepping down after the AGM, we were able to announce the new members of the AMS Council, with only Laszlo Irinyi continuing in his previous role as Secretary.



President	Tracey Steinrucken, Postdoctoral Research Fellow Biological Control of Weeds, CSIRO Health and Biosecurity
Vice President	Bevan Weir, Research Leader Systematics Team, Landcare Research New Zealand
Treasurer	Adam Frew, Lecturer in Environment and Sustainability University of Southern Queensland
Secretary	Laszlo Irinyi, Curator of the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology Westmead Institute for Medical Research at the University of Sydney
Councillor	Anna Hopkins Lecturer in Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Edith Cowan University
Councillor	Jonathan Plett, Senior Lecturer Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University
Student Rep	Christina Stephenson, PhD Candidate Fungal Pathogenesis Lab, University of Queensland

You can read more about all our council members on the [AMS council webpage](#).

Update: Fungal Conservation Subcommittee

The [Fungal Conservation Subcommittee](#) held the highly successful Australasian Fungi Red List workshop last year. Their actions have resulted in the listing of endangered fungal species on the IUCN Red List. There are also continuing discussions about rare and threatened species and fungi monitoring protocols. If you are interested in joining the Conservation Subcommittee, please contact Tom May: tom.may@rbg.vic.gov.au

Update: Fungal Education Subcommittee

One major initiative of the [Education Subcommittee](#) has been to include a list on the website of any tertiary courses related to mycology available in Australia and New Zealand. This is a great resource for anyone interested in studying mycology at a tertiary level. If you have any courses to add, please visit the [page](#), and while you're there, check out the other mycology teaching tools available.

The Education Subcommittee would like to make videos with mycological content to engage people and highlight the field. Two new members of the Committee, Catherine Marciniak and Steve Axford have expertise in this area and have offered their help. Anyone keen to be in a short video about your work, please get in touch with Committee Chair, Susan Nuske: amseduchair@gmail.com.

Susan is also looking to step down as the Education Subcommittee Chair to go on her upcoming maternity leave. If you are interested in nominating for the role, please contact her or another member of council.

Nominate a *New* Zealand Student Representative!

We currently have one Student Representative on our council – Christina Stephenson. Christina runs the [Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter](#) account and will be involved in other initiatives throughout the year such as planning student involvement in our 2021 Scientific Meeting. **We are now looking for a mycology student in New Zealand who would also like to join as our New Zealand Student Rep.** If you know of someone or would like to self-nominate, please email me: ausmysoc.president@gmail.com

If you have anything you'd like to add to our next newsletter including photographs or drawings, or you want to share your mycology-related ideas or initiatives, please contact AMS Secretary Laszlo Irinyi: geza25@gmail.com.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook: [AMSstudents](#) and Twitter: [@ausmysoc](#)

Stay safe,

Dr Tracey Steinrucken

President - Australasian Mycological Society

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