



Astronomical Society of Australia

54th Annual General Meeting

Agenda

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 53rd AGM
- 3. Business arising from the Minutes
- 4. President's Report on behalf of the Council
- 5. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited accounts
- 6. Election of Auditor
- 7. Editorial Board Report
- 8. Any other business

Minutes of the 53rd AGM

Available at:

<http://asa.astronomy.org.au/council.php#report>

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Please raise hand, or place your name in the Chat

President's Report

Council 2019/2021

Cathryn Trott
John Lattanzio
Stuart Wyithe
John O'Byrne
Marc Duldig
Yeshe Fenner

Elisabete da Cunha
Krzysztof Bolejko
Ilya Mandel
Barbara Catinella
Daniel Zucker
Christopher Matthew

Stas Shabala
Tanya Hill (Co-opted)
Michael Brown (Co-opted)

President
Vice President
Immediate Past President
Secretary
Secretary
Treasurer

Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Student Representative

Chair, PASA Editorial Board (from January 2020)
Prizes and Awards co-ordinator
Media and Outreach co-ordinator

HWSA and Annual Scientific Meeting

Virtual-HWSA (Chair Adam Watts)

172 registrants; 114 max online, >100 at all times
Australia, NZ, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Italy

Virtual-ASM (Chairs Ilya Mandel, George Heald, John Lattanzio, Barbara Catinella)

315 registrants

Activity: highlights – Sustainability Committee

- After input from the community, the ASA created a Sustainability Committee in late 2019
- The committee is formed from interested members of the community
- Committee discussed the Carbon Footprint white paper that was prepared for the Decadal Plan Mid-Term Review by Adam Stevens and others, and was planning to undertake a census of university departments and institutions of their carbon usage
- Recently, committee has mostly focused on finding optimal online conferencing and meeting solutions, but activity has been reduced in the past few months.

Activity: highlights – Group for Astroparticle Physics

- Gavin Rowell from the University of Adelaide proposed to the ASA and the AIP the creation of a joint group in Astroparticle Physics to represent the astroparticle community and help to bridge the gap between the astronomical and physics community
- ASA and AIP have been working through their by-laws to allow for a joint group of both societies – “Group for Astroparticle Physics (GAP)”
- The Letter of Intent is currently under review by the AIP Council
- The initial group developing the Charter is Gavin Rowell, Clancy James, Hayley Bignall, Marc Duldig and Yvonne Wong.

Activity: Code and Conduct and Equity and Conduct Committee

- Committee is convened by Vice-President, and includes the President, IDEA Chapter Chair and non-Council members of the community
- ECC is charged with oversight of the ASA Code of Conduct and Statement of Ethics as well as handling of potential breaches
- During 2020, this committee discussed one case . After this initial case, the documents have been revised to provide a more streamlined process, and also expanded to cover conflicts between members, and between the Society and members

Activity: Internal Disputes Committee

- In 2020, an Internal Disputes Committee was also instituted as an extension to the ECC, to handle disputes between members where these were outside of the codes, or disputes between one or more members and the Society itself
- This was a requirement of a recent change to the Associations legislation in the ACT, where the ASA is registered
- Clause 13 of the ASA Constitution will have to be changed through a vote of members to comply with the new legislation and that this will be progressed soon.

Activity

- In 2020, ASA President and Heads of Department explored the potential for Australia to host the IAU GA in the next ten years
- ASA Council discussed the Annual Scientific Meeting being hosted in New Zealand in the next few years (potentially 2023)
- The ASA contributed to the 2020 IAU membership costs as a single, one-off payment (~\$7,500). ASA surplus funds were used for this. ASA will not be contributing to fees in future years.

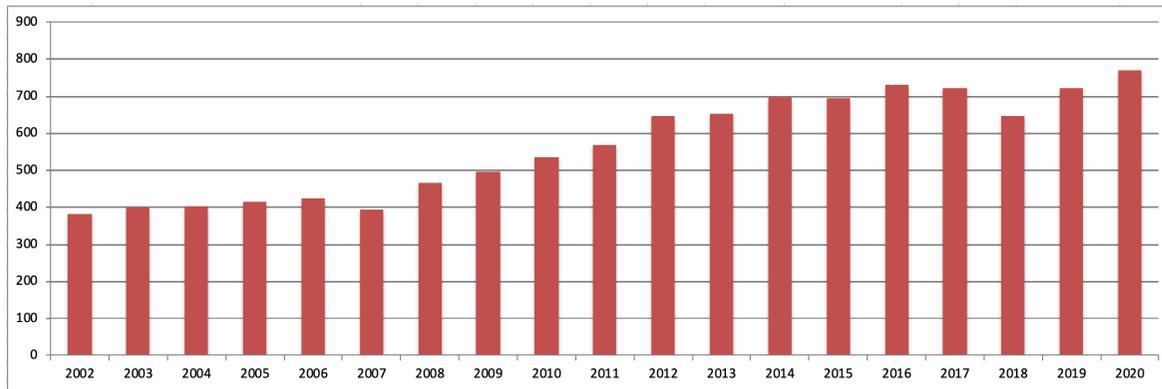
Highlights - Awards

- Professor Rachel Webster AO FAA, from the University of Melbourne, was awarded as an Officer of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours. Rachel was awarded "For distinguished service to education in the field of astrophysics, to astronomical research, and to young women scientists."
- Professor Tamara Davis AM, from the University of Queensland, for significant service to astrophysical science, to education, and to young astronomers.
- Professor Tim Bedding, from the University of Sydney, was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. This is recognition of Tim's leadership in the field of asteroseismology and service to Australian science. He joins a distinguished group of the country's leading scientists.

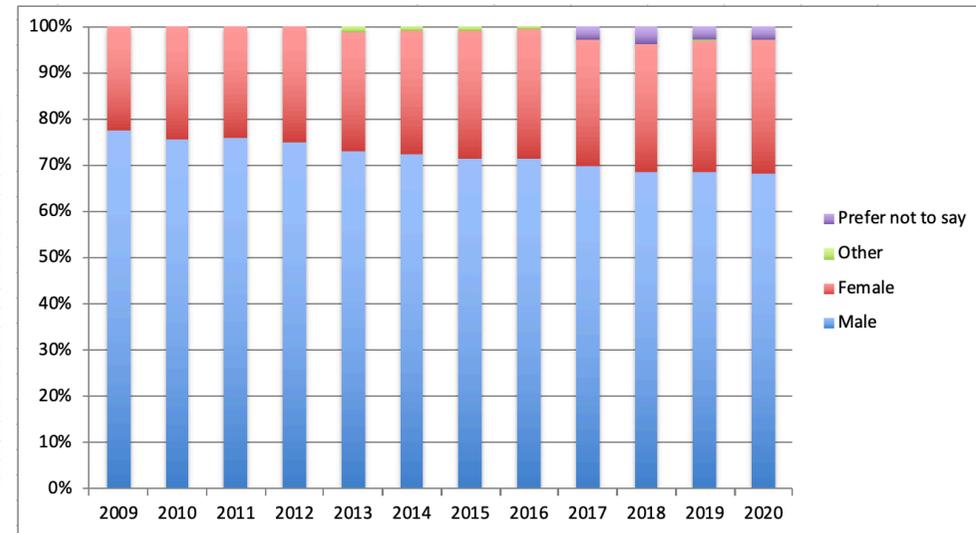


Membership

- The Society has 769 members, including 230 students



Membership size



Gender breakdown

Honorary Fellow

- The ASA Council elected Professor Lister Staveley-Smith for Honorary Fellowship of the Society. Lister is elected for his service to ASA Council and the Society over the years, but also his broader service and contribution to the Australian community.



Deaths

Richard Hunstead – University of Sydney



Jean-Pierre Macquart – Curtin University

ASA Prizes

Bok Prize for outstanding research in astronomy by an Honours or eligible Masters student

Awarded to **James Beattie** – The Australian National University

Charlene Heisler Prize for the most outstanding PhD thesis in astronomy

Awarded to **Hayley Macpherson** - Monash University

Louise Webster Prize for outstanding research by a scientist early in their post-doctoral career

Awarded to **Katie Auchetti** - The University of Melbourne

Anne Green Prize for a significant advance or accomplishment by a mid-career scientist

Awarded to **JJ Eldridge** - The University of Auckland

Awarded separately:

Berenice and Arthur Page Medal is awarded to TG Tan for his outstanding Perth Exoplanet Survey Telescope Observations. TG designed, built and operates the Perth Exoplanet Survey Telescope Observatory, which co-discovered nearly 50 exoplanets, including one potentially habitable planet.

Communications

The ASA provided input into several processes over the past year:

- Satellite constellations: the ASA, along with several amateur astronomy societies, co-wrote a letter to Ministers Andrews (DISER) and Fletcher (Communications), and Dr Megan Clark (Australian Space Agency) voicing concern about the proliferation of mega-constellations of satellites, and their potential impact on professional and amateur astronomy in Australia
- NSW curriculum review process: Kathryn Ross, a PhD student at ICRAR, is leading an initiative to increase the representation of female scientists in the NSW school science curriculum. Women are currently extremely under-represented in the syllabus
- ARC grants process: the ASA wrote a letter to Minister Tehan (Education) about the timeliness and process of ARC grants announcements and the impact on ECRs and MCRs of the uncertainty around this process

Strategic Priorities: progress

- Deb Gooley was retained to support the Society's administrative processes
- Feedback from the Heads of Department focused our attention on supporting and developing the student and ECR members of our community. Council approved an increase in the availability of domestic travel funding for travel to the APRIM meeting, in combination with the HWSA
- ASA Council also supported an initiative by the ECR Steering Committee to provide some funding support for members using sustainable travel options for the meeting
- ASA Council have discussed the availability of small amounts of seed funding for ASA workshops, to be sought via a competitive process. This workshop funding has been placed on-hold during COVID

ASA History Project

- Nick Lomb published an article about the 1973 IAU General Assembly, hosted by Australia

Web upgrade

- The upgrade is ongoing, and new materials have been developed. Deb Gooley and John O'Byrne are working with options to host the website and materials.

Strategic Priorities: 2020/2021

Support for students (and ECRs) in our community. Council has been discussing ways in which we can support the community.

Proposing a COVID-fund to re-purpose some of the unspent funds. Points for consideration, with feedback requested from the membership:

- Open to all members, but priority for students and ECRs
- Available for non-salary related expenses associated with scientific research. Options include, but are not limited to, online conference registration fees, interim childcare during conferences, travel to observatories, travel to domestic meetings, professional development and career development programs to increase job prospects.
- Proposals capped at \$1,500 per person (but with the expectation of smaller requests), and a total available capped fund from ASA surplus.

Implementation of “Green Fund” for ASA workshops and events. This is a fund to support choice of sustainable options in ASA events.

Questions? (In Chat
window please)

Motion to accept
President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Questions?

Motion to accept
Treasurer's Report

Editorial Board's Report

Questions?

Motion to accept
Editorial Board's
Report

Close of meeting