



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Incorporated in the ACT
ABN 37 660 297 848

Strategic plan: 2019-2022

The Astronomical Society of Australia (ASA) is the professional organisation of astronomers in Australia. During 2018 the ASA Council has undertaken a strategic planning exercise to understand the short, medium and long-term goals of the Society, and to allow short term priorities to be placed in a broader strategic context.

Mission:

The aim of the ASA is to promote the advancement of astronomy and closely related fields, especially in Australia. The ASA seeks to

- represent the interests of its members, individually and collectively
- support students and early career astronomers
- promote equity, diversity and inclusion in astronomy
- provide a community and forum for its members, independent of their employers
- convey the excitement and importance of astronomy to the public
- encourage the activities of the amateur astronomy community
- recognise achievement and service to the Australian astronomical community

ASA will continue to undertake work in all areas for which it aspires to contribute but will look to expand the scope and impact of its activities. The 5 strategic goals of the ASA Council over the next 3 years are listed along with objectives and proposed actions. The accompanying description of activity and priorities provides additional context.

Goal 1) Enhance the ASA's role as the pre-eminent body representing Australian astronomers

- *Identify any gaps in ASA member interest that could be addressed by a new chapter*
 - *make links with instrumentation and space research societies*
 - *consider formation of ASA Chapters based on scientific interest*
- *Expand the ASA's influence in public debate and the strategic development of Australian astronomy*
 - *seek greater role in proposing and supporting STA goals and initiatives*
 - *nominate ASA members for STA executive positions*

- *Investigate the potential and benefits of an ASA role in IAU governance*
 - *determine, with the Academy of Science, the benefits to Australia of IAU membership*
 - *determine benefits to ASA of formal representation at the IAU*
 - *determine whether a contribution can be made to IAU membership*
- *Expand PASA's reputation and standing as a first-rate astronomical journal*
 - *solicit high quality Dawes Reviews and high-impact, timely collections of papers*
 - *encourage the use of PASA by the community publishing astronomical software and pipelines, and as an outlet for major Australian facilities and surveys*

Goal 2) Expand the scope of the reach and impact of ASA activities, and build on the ASA's role as a facilitator of Australian professional astronomy conversation and networking

- *Determine the viability of a paid ASA executive officer, in addition to the bookkeeper currently retained, to efficiently progress ASA initiatives*
 - *develop a business model for paid ASA executive support*
 - *determine the appropriate and available level of resourcing*
 - *consider whether the ASA should pursue activities for additional income*
- *Broaden and enhance the ASA's professional astronomy conferences and meetings*
 - *update or reaffirm the statement of purpose, focus and timing for the ASA ASM*
 - *consider allocating larger annual budgets for ASA Chapter meetings*
 - *consider financial or in-kind sponsorship of workshops on science-specific topics*
- *Improve communication to and among the ASA membership*
 - *develop a strategy for the ASAs social media within the membership*
 - *augment email exploder with discussion on social media platforms*
 - *move Chapter web sites onto the new ASA web platform*
- *Broaden the ASA astronomers professional network, and strengthen links between astronomy and industry*
 - *create a network of ECRs and provide linkages to the IAU Office of Young astronomers*
 - *maintain a list of ASA affiliated astronomy trained alumni working outside the field*

Goal 3) Enhance the ASA's role as a leader in promotion of diversity and inclusion in science

- *Work towards an environment in all institutions associated with Australian astronomy that is welcoming and supportive of all academic staff, professional staff and students*
 - *mentor all Australian astronomy institutions to at least Bronze Pleiades Award level*
- *Contribute to broader equity and diversity issues beyond the astronomy community*
 - *sponsor and participate in events dealing with diversity in STEM*
 - *increase engagement and mentoring of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students*
- *Improve diversity in publication*
 - *develop a program to solicit papers to PASA from under-represented groups*
 - *track gender statistics in publications*

- *Encourage diversity among ASA prize recipients*
 - *identify unconscious bias in eligibility, application and selection within the prize offerings*
 - *actively seek to raise the level of applications from underrepresented ASA members*
- *Increase the visibility and understanding of the ASA's Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics*
 - *formulate mechanisms for investigating and responding to breaches of the Code*

Goal 4) Harness the positive impact of Australian astronomy by maximising the effectiveness of educational and public outreach activities undertaken by members

- *Provide the focal point of interaction between Australian professional astronomers and the broader astronomy education and outreach community*
 - *maintain knowledge of EPO capability and staffing across members*
 - *facilitate collaboration with other national and international EPO associations*
 - *secure funding for workshops and host an international astronomy EPO conference*
 - *contribute to programs of STEM skills using examples from Australian astronomy*
- *Work with ASM organisers to showcase Australian astronomy to the Australian public*
 - *provide best practice advice on engaging media, education and outreach audiences*
 - *advise on coverage of ASA prizes to raise awareness of Australian astronomy*
- *Outline and drive the strategy for ASAs public social media reach*
 - *determine and achieve goals for public facing social media*
- *Leverage the skills of ASA members to benefit their communities*
 - *consider ASA goals for development in addition to education and outreach*

Goal 5) Broaden the ASA's support for student training, with focus on equity of access to activities and opportunity for all Australian astronomy students

- *Expand the size, allocation and number of student travel scholarships*
 - *determine the priorities for student travel funding, and whether funding is effective*
 - *consider whether student funding should be needs based and how this is best achieved*
- *Prepare PhD students to take advantage of the full breadth of career opportunities*
 - *increase training/internship opportunities with industry partners*
- *Update or reaffirm the statement of purpose for the Harley Wood School of Astronomy*
 - *identify key gaps in student training and experience that can be filled by the HWSA*
 - *identify and communicate with the students who would most benefit from the HWSA*