**WSCS – ASPS Council Report 2022**

Contents: Social Media, Phytogen, National Science Week and member metric and webpage updates

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ASPS Social Media

In the past year, the ASPS WSCS has continued to make use of our social media platforms to raise the profile of the Society, highlight Australian plant science research and facilitate networking between our members. Since our last annual report, our tweets have been viewed over 117,000 times, and we have had over 44,000 new profile views and gained >600 new followers on Twitter. We make a concerted effort to find and follow Australian plant scientists, particularly students/ECRs who are not yet members to foster new connections with our Society. We continue to add Twitter-active ASPS members to our Twitter ASPS member list to help us to see and amplify content from our members and to help our members connect with each other. We already have >130 Twitter-active ASPS members included on this list, and encourage members to DM us to be added. We also continue to encourage members to tag @asps\_ozplants on Twitter so that we can share content we may have otherwise missed. We retweet ASPS member papers, particularly from students and job opportunities when they are relevant or tagged, with an average of 5 tweets/retweets per day. The ASPS Facebook page now has over 2400 followers, up more than 300 followers from last year.

This year saw substantial discussion on social media around concerns regarding the postponed ASPS-sponsored IPMB2022 conference. The ASPS Social Media team has been engaging with ASPS Diversity and Inclusion Representative Dr. Eloise Foo and the ASPS Executive Committee to bring about some positive changes in response, including the drafting of a new Indigenous Travel Grant that we hope to have in place for the next ASPS-sponsored conference.

We hope to continue to learn and grow as we engage with our members and the wider community on these social media platforms into 2023.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion

WSCS helped the Executive Team to update and improve our DEI philosophy and progressed actions to improve ASPS DEI.

ASPS Phytogen

In the past year, editions of Phytogen have been sent out by the WSCS each month. Again, it felt like a very different year with the COVID19 pandemic still continuing. As outlined above, The Twitter, Facebook and emailing out were excellent in helping to get the content out. Reflecting on editions, Phytogen provides a wonderful environment for cataloguing activity of the society, inspiration for students and communication of events.

Phytogen in 2021/2022 published issues starting with September 2021 onwards. September 2021 was the issue asking for feedback for the societies diversity and inclusion policy. Responses were collated and after the ASPS 2021 hybrid conference held concurrently across Australia on 25th November 2021 and the ASPS AGM held on Friday 26th November, with Eloise as the societies Diversity and Inclusion Representative and with the Executive, it has been encouraging that in the leadup to ComBio 2022 this year in Melbourne, that support is available for carers to accompany presenters with an application form available in the July 2022 Phytogen issue.

In December 2021, Peter Ryan introduced Science Meets Parliament, which occurred early in 2022 over a week of online meetings from Monday 28th February until 4th March 2022. This year, ASPS were well represented by Megan Shelden from University of Adelaide and Benjamin Schwessinger from ANU with reports by both in April Phytogen.

February 2022 had a report for the R.N. Robertson Travelling Fellowship award recipient Xiaoyang Wei, who started his PhD at University of Newcastle, and was fortunately able to complete his studies later in 2020 with Dr Yuan Huang from the Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) in Wuhan, China. Also, in February 2022 Phytogen were reports from Jan Anderson 2021 award recipient Kim Johnson from La Trobe University and Education and Outreach 2021 award recipients Kim Johnson and Monika Doblin from La Trobe University for their Taste Tomorrow: what will you be eating in 2050? Series of education and outreach activities held in August 2020 hosted by La Trobe University for National Science Week. Activities included live online events with audience participation through polls and Q&A, a ‘future food box’ social media videos, and a website providing educational resources ([https://www.tastetomorrow.edu.au](about:blank)).

March 2022 had a report from Joanna Melonek, ASPS 2021 Peter Goldacre Medal Recipient. June 2022 Phytogen had an article about horticultural production, problems with all the flooding in NSW and Queensland and lettuce shortages. July 2022 was announcing ASPS society 2022 awards, release of State of the Environment 2021 inline with the 2021 census, and promotion of science week for 2022 and Superstars of STEM, both with events occurring and applications due in August respectively. August Phytogen had wonderful reports from students attending meetings for the ASPS 2021 hybrid conference introduced by Simon Williams from ANU, to give inspiration for students and researchers preparing posters and talks for ComBio 2022 in September 2022.

Janet’s ASPS member metrics and ASPS page views

Current ASPS membership

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Membership type** | **Number of members** |
| Ordinary membership 1 year\* | 47 |
| Ordinary membership 2 years\* | 60 |
| Ordinary membership 4 years\* | 44 |
| Student membership 2 years\* | 193 |
| Retired | 11 |
| Life | 15 |
| Corresponding | 12 |
| Honorary (reciprocal Societies) | 1 |
| Sustaining\* | 0 |
| **Current financial members\*** | **344** |

Over the past 60 days ASPS web page top views have been;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plants in Action 2nd edition | 1142 |
| ASPS membership | 986 |
| ASPS job board | 440 |
| Phytogen | 349 |
| ASPS awards | 158 |

In the last year we posted 20 jobs on the jobs page.

**Draft 2022-2023 ASPS blog post calendar**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Usual eg GPC, employment | Committee contributions | WCSC contributions | Student contributions | Phytogen related | Secretary |
| September 2022 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  | ComBio 2022 | Council meeting  AGM |
| October 2022 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  |  |  |
| November 2022 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 2022 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  | Poster and oral student winners  RN Robertson Travelling Fellowship  Any outstanding winners reports? |  |
| January 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | President’s welcome | Call for Jan Anderson, Peter Goldacre, award application |  | Winner reports (student posters ASPS) | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| February 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Environmental & Ecophysiology Rep | Call for Teaching and outreach Award application  Welcome to new student reps (hopefully) |  | Robertson recipient report  Applications for ALL awards close 14th Feb? | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| March 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | State report…SA | Science meet parliament report and call for nominees for 2022 SMP |  | Reminder IPMB and ComBio | Close of Jan Anderson, Goldacre award  Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| April 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Plant-Microbe Interactions Rep | Remind members end of Earlybird Registration for ASPS meeting/ComBio  Friday 26 June 2022  Abstract Submission Deadline  Friday 26 June 2022 |  | Winner reports (student) | Close of Teaching and outreach award  Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| May 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Whole Plants Rep | Call for student travel grants to IPMB/ComBio  Fascination in Plants Day |  | Call for student travel grants to IPMB/ComBio | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| June 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | State report …NSW | What did you do for Fascination in Plants Day? |  | Early bird registration and abstracts due for ComBio | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| July 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Plant Development Rep |  |  | Early bird registration and abstracts due for IPMB? |  |
| August 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Secretary AGM docs |  |  | Reminder IPMB/ComBio | Secretary AGM docs  Minutes of AGM. Action items from Council/AGM. Instructions for ASPS reps on LOC of next ASPS meeting/ComBio. Welcome to new discipline/student reps.  Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| September 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Cell Biology Rep |  |  | ComBio |  |
| October 2023 | GPC E-bulletin | Genetics & Molecular Biology Rep |  |  | IPMB |  |
| November 2023 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 2023 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  | Poster and oral student winners  RN Robertson Travelling Fellowship |  |