**WSCS – ASPS Council Report 2023**

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

WSCS team: Janet Wheeler, Georgia Koerber, Beth Loveys, Frances Sussmilch, Scott Boden, Caitlin Byrt

**Open call for Phytogen editor**

**Scott taking up WCSC Chairing Role**

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, we have made 1662 posts (including tweets/retweets), our tweets have been viewed over 94,000 times, and we have gained 785 new followers on Twitter/X. 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 social-media-active ASPS members to our social media ASPS member list to help us to see and amplify content from our members and to help our members connect with each other. We have 124 Twitter/X-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 so that we can share content we may have otherwise missed. We retweet ASPS member research 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 2700 followers, up more than 300 followers from last year. The Facebook page has attracted 2600 likes and each post is reaching approximately 200 people.

We hope to continue to learn and grow as we engage with our members and the wider community on these social media platforms into 2024.

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

As outlined above, The Twitter, Facebook and emailing out were excellent in helping to get the content out. October 2022 had reports from students who had travelled to Melbourne for Combio2022. November 2022 saw announcement of grants and prizes, Superstars of STEM and from the Australian government. There were lots of plant scientists amongst Australian Academy of Science induction of Fellows and Honorific awards, making up for the Covid years. December 2022 had reports from Jan Anderson awardee Frances Sussmilch and Education and Outreach awardees, Megan Shelden, Beth Loveys and Georgia Koerber. In February 2023 we welcomed Martha Ludwig as our President and there was a reflection piece by our Past President Peter Ryan. In March 2023 was promotion of our society awards and fascination of Plants day to occur May 18th every year. There was twitter feed and promotion of Women of Crop Science. In May 2023 excitement was building for ASPS 2023 preparations and registration soon to open. Scott Boden prepared reports by poster prize winners from Combio2022. There was promotion for National Reconciliation week from 27th May to 3rd June 2023. June, July-September saw promoting ASPS2023 submission of Abstracts, registering and encouraging applications for awards and travel awards. October 2023 was incredible where awards were announced accompanied by biographies giving wonderful flavour of talks for us to look forward to at ASPS2023. Georgia Koerber is finishing her time on the committee at our meeting and we are promoting for new people. Georgia would like to express it has been a wonderful time preparing Phytogen, it provides a wonderful environment for cataloguing activity of the society, inspiration for students and communication of events. Thank you to all for support and for being a wonderful lot of people to document.

Janet’s ASPS member metrics

Current ASPS membership

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Membership type** | **Number of members** |
| Ordinary membership 1 year\* | 48 |
| Ordinary membership 2 years\* | 58 |
| Ordinary membership 4 years\* | 61 |
| Student membership 2 years\* | 173 |
| Retired | 26 |
| Life | 17 |
| Corresponding | 24 |
| Honorary (reciprocal Societies) | 5 |
| Sustaining\* | 0 |
| **Current financial members\*** | **340** |

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

**Draft 2023-2024 ASPS blog post calendar (plan to add grant outcomes focussed section in 2024 for feeding into Phytogen articles)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Usual eg GPC, employment | Committee contributions | WCSC contributions | Student contributions | Phytogen related | Secretary |
| November 2023 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  |  |  |
| December 2023 | GPC E-bulletin |  | Science meet parliament report and call for nominees for 2022 SMP |  | ASPS Meeting HobartScience meet parliament report and call for nominees for 2022 SMP |  |
| January 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | President’s welcome | Call for Jan Anderson, Peter Goldacre, award application | Winner reports (student posters ASPS) | Winner reports (student posters ASPS) | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| February 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Environmental & Ecophysiology Rep | Call for Teaching and outreach Award applicationWelcome to new student reps  | Poster and oral student winners | International Day for Women and Girls in Science Feb 11th Poster and oral student winnersRN Robertson Travelling Fellowship Any outstanding winners reports?Robertson recipient reportApplications for ALL awards close 14th Feb? | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| March 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | State report…SA |  |  | Science Meets Parliament in MarchInternational Womens Day 8th MarchReminder IPMB and ComBio  | Close of Jan Anderson, Goldacre awardSend reminder for Committee Contribution |
| April 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Plant-Microbe Interactions Rep |  |  | Winner reports (student) | Close of Teaching and outreach awardSend reminder for Committee Contribution |
| May 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Whole Plants Rep | Call for student travel grants to IPMBFascination in Plants Day |  | Fascination in Plants Day 18 MayCall for student travel grants to IPMB | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| June 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | State report …NSW | What did you do for Fascination in Plants Day? |  | IPMB Cairns 24-28th JuneEarly bird registration and abstracts due for Hybrid ASPS2024 | Send reminder for Committee Contribution |
| July 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Plant Development Rep |  |  |  |  |
| August 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Cell Biology Rep |  |  | National Science Week 10-18 August (theme is Species Survival) | Secretary AGM docsMinutes 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 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Secretary AGM docs |  |  |  |  |
| October 2024 | GPC E-bulletin | Genetics & Molecular Biology Rep |  |  | IPMB reports |  |
| November 2024 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  | ASPS 2024 hybrid conferences | ASPS 2024 hybrid conferences |
| December 2024 | GPC E-bulletin |  |  |  | Poster and oral student winnersRN Robertson Travelling Fellowship  |  |