



President's Report – Annual General Meeting – 3 December 2014

Over the past year this council has concentrated on routine running of the Society, with several notable improvements that have ensured more streamlined processes regarding branch management, publications, and website administration. These include the following:

- The change of *Molluscan Research* publisher to Taylor and Francis has resulted in financial savings, increased online capability, stronger support services, and a more professional appearance of the publication. T & F also provide an early career research award which will be given based on a panel assessment in early 2015;
- Communication with the Victorian branch has markedly improved, and much of this is due to the involvement of Victorian council member Platon Vafiadis. The Branch now has its own webpage on the MSA website, in which its Bulletins are hosted, and is in regular contact with the MSA council.
- The Newsletter has become a well-oiled machine, with digital versions (pdfs) sent to all Members regularly throughout the year. Production and postage costs for hard copies remain substantial.
- The Queensland Branch changed to an incorporated society and is no longer officially linked to the MSA. Our communication and relationship with the group remains good, but since most of the members are not MSA members, it was decided in 2013 that we could not keep calling the group a Branch.
- As of November 2014, the Facebook group had 263 participants (up from 116 a year ago). Most posts focus on species identifications, media links with interesting facts, MSA news and shared photos of molluscs.
- The MSA website administrator Shane Penny resigned, but before he left, he migrated the MSA website (www.malsocaus.org) to a content management system. As such, council is able to undertake normal maintenance and updates with our existing skill set. It was therefore decided that a designated website administrator was not a role which needs to be immediately filled.

In addition, the quality of the Molluscan Research 2014 grants was extremely high. The MSA awarded \$1500 each to two research grant recipients (Priscila Goncalves of Macquarie University and Jonathan Parkyn of Southern Cross University). Kirsten Benkendorff yet again led the grant committee, and we're very grateful to her, Simon Hills and Carmel McDougall who also assessed grant applications in 2014.

Several IT and programming issues related to the membership database and online access to previous journal issues are becoming more and more of a problem. The approach previously adopted by Council of engaging family or friends to manage these programming aspects does not

allow for easy or quick updates, nor account for the rapidly progressing available technology and support. It is therefore likely that we'll need to hire a designated external programmer to overhaul these systems within the next 2-3 years.

I continue to be extremely grateful to all our council members and office bearers for volunteering their time and skill to help keep the MSA professional, welcoming, and useful to a broad range of people.

The upcoming year will see the MSA focus on our 2015 conference in Coffs Harbour, including conference logistics, sponsorship requests, promotion, and the development of a scientific program. I look forward to seeing another great turnout at what continues to be one of my favourite conferences!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rachel Przeslawski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

~ Rachel Przeslawski, MSA President