



## President's Report – Annual General Meeting – 2 December 2015

Over the past year this council has concentrated on securing the future of our publications, preparing for our triennial conference, maintaining our website and social media presence, and discussing membership and potential new councillors and executives. Several notable achievements this year include:

- The inaugural Achievement Award for the best paper in *Molluscan Research* by early career researchers or amateurs was granted to Drs Jonathan Parkyn and David Newell for their paper 'Australian land snails: a review of ecological research and conservation approaches'.
- As of November 2015, the Facebook group had 380 participants (up from 263 in 2014 and 116 in 2013). Most posts continue to focus on species identifications, media links, MSA news and shared photos of molluscs.
- A new membership module is being developed using open-source and web-based software (CiviCRM). As part of this, the membership types were simplified, with the removal of the extra family member option and the additional charge for overseas members. The integration of this new module with Taylor and Francis access to *Molluscan Research* will be a priority for 2016.
- Honorary Memberships were awarded this year to Des Beechey and Winston Ponder for their long-standing service to the MSA, as well as their substantial contributions to malacology.

In lieu of our standard *Molluscan Research* grants, the MSA Council offered student travel grants to our conference this year. The following students were awarded financial support to offset their travel to Molluscs 2015 in Coffs Harbour: Felix Vaux (Massey University), Gustav Kessel (Victoria University of Wellington), Ting Hui Ng (National University of Singapore), Luisa Teasdale (University of Melbourne), Vineet Vaibhav (Macquarie University), and Kehani Manson (University of Wollongong). We're very grateful to Kirsten Benkendorff and Steve Smith for taking on the challenge of assessing these grant applications in 2015.

A couple of issues came up in 2015, although nothing major:

- The manual management of our membership database and inability to provide consistent online access to *Molluscan Research* are long-standing issues that we need to address in 2016.
- Several long-standing senior council members expressed a desire to resign. This was not indicative of unhappiness with their role in the MSA, but rather a reflection of the years of dedicated service shown by many of our Council members. In lieu of a mass exodus, it was agreed that most of these members would stay on for 2016 and groom potential

replacements within the new 2016 Council, particularly encouraging a larger pool of general councillors to be elected at the AGM.

I want to highlight the commitment and enthusiasm of the MSA Council members, all of whom volunteer their time to ensuring the Society continually improves and promotes molluscs to scientists and public alike. Several of our Council members are long-standing and have contributed an enormous amount of time and effort to the MSA over the years and decades. I'd like to thank our outgoing Newsletter Editor Mandy Reid for her commitment to producing a high-quality newsletter over the past few years. I'm also extremely grateful to outgoing Treasurer Don Colgan who has undertaken the crucial but often unglamorous number-crunching for the Society for the past 8 years. You will be missed!

The upcoming year will see the MSA focus on public outreach to make molluscs (and malacologists!) more relevant, establishing a succession plan for senior Council roles, and completing the online membership module.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rachel Przeslawski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

~ Rachel Przeslawski, MSA President