



## President's Report – Annual General Meeting – 8 December 2016

Over the past year this council has concentrated on developing and launching a new membership system, supporting early career researchers, securing the future stability of the MSA council and publications, and starting a working group on outreach programs. Several notable achievements this year include:

- The Achievement Award for the best paper in *Molluscan Research* by early career researchers or amateurs was granted to Kris Cooling for the paper 'Population dynamics of *Turbo militaris* on rocky shores in a sub-tropical marine park', based on his Honours project.
- A travel grant was awarded to Kara Layton for attendance at the World Congress of Malacology in Malaysia.
- 13 research grant applications were received. Two research grants were awarded to Renzo Balboa and Matt Nimbs, and four honorary mentions received a 1-year MSA Membership.
- As of November 2016, the Facebook group had 464 participants (up from 380 in 2015, 263 in 2014 and 116 in 2013). Most posts continue to focus on species identifications, media links, MSA news and shared photos of molluscs, although with the increased participant numbers we have had to be more vigilant of spam and private sales.
- A new online membership system has been developed, and all Members migrated to the new system. Importantly, the new system allows members immediate online access to *Molluscan Research* and makes membership management far easier.
- Archives of old MSA newsletters, correspondence, and journals have been catalogued and are being digitalised as time allows.

The main challenges this year were establishing succession plans for 2017 Council, managing an outdated Constitution, and adapting to our new Skype meetings – all in all, not serious challenges at all!

The upcoming year will see the MSA further its efforts on public outreach, begin preparations for Molluscs 2018, transition new volunteers (journal editor, newsletter editor, Council officers), and discussion updates to the Constitution.

As always, I am extremely thankful for the commitment and enthusiasm of the MSA Council members, all of whom volunteer their time to ensure the future of the Society. Their dedication and the time they spend on various activities are impressive and crucial to the running of the MSA. I'd like to thank our outgoing councillors: Newsletter Editor Johnathan Parkyn for his tireless efforts to source material and make it look good over the past few years, Caitlin Woods for her ability to share the magic in molluscs, and Hugh McIntosh for his enthusiasm for both the MSA and all things molluscs. Two other outgoing councillors also deserve a very special mention: After several attempts, Winston Ponder is stepping down from Editor of *Molluscan Research*, and he will leave

some very large shoes to fill. Under his leadership the journal has earned international recognition as a scientifically important resource in malacology and indeed biology in general. Kirsten Benkendorff is stepping down as Vice-President after years of service on Council starting early in her career as a postgraduate student. She has been integral in maintaining the key capability of the MSA to support early career researchers and will be missed.

Coincidentally, both Winston and Kirsten were the reason I took on the President role in 2009. After their words of encouragement (and perhaps a few glasses of wine) at the Molluscs 2009 conference, I agreed to take the helm for a few years. During this time, I've met an incredible group of people very dedicated to malacology and its future importance in Australia. It's been a great way for me to stay connected to a field that I've shifted away from in a professional sense, and I truly value all the support, honesty and wonderful ideas that my fellow Council members have given me over the years.

After six years as President I will now be stepping down and lurking in the background as the website administrator. I leave the Council with some newer blood and in very capable hands.

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

~ Rachel Przeslawski, MSA President