



## President's Report – Annual General Meeting – 27 November 2019

As always the council has been instrumental in its support of both early career researchers and students through research grants and best paper awards as well as long-standing and dedicated members of the malacological community through provision of Honorary Membership recognition.

Details of key notable accomplishments include:


- 2019 Malacological Research Grants with Paige Maroni (first prize), for 'The ecology and evolution of an adaptive marine radiation of Antarctic sea slugs', James Peyla (second prize) for 'Investigating the Long-Term Effects of Ocean Acidification on the Giant Australian Cuttlefish', and Angus Lawrie (third prize), for 'Evaluating the taxonomic status of the endemic salt lake gastropod *Coxiella striata* in south-eastern Australia',
- Molluscan Research Achievement Award for the best paper published in the journal by an early career researcher or amateur in 2018 to Tsuyoshi Takano, for the paper 'DNA-based identification of an echinoderm host for a deep-sea parasitic snail (Gastropoda: Eulimidae)',
- Honorary membership awarded jointly to Don and Val Cram for longstanding contributions to MSA at the national but also branch level (Victoria), in mentoring younger members and ongoing research on *Notocypraea*,
- Steady growth of our online community with regular increases of 100 members each year (27 November 2019: 790, 27 November 2018: 665 members, 27 November 2017: 572),
- Launching a new slogan 'Molluscs more than just a shell' (thanks to Steve Smith)
- A clear and recognizable presence (thanks for the sharp t-shirts Kerry Walton) at World Congress of Malacology in Monterey mid year
- Transitioning to yet another teleconferencing system (Zoom) for council meetings!

Thank you to the MSA Council who again have donated willingly of their time and energy to the Society so we can continue to foster a love of malacology in the region. MSA thrives due to the enthusiasm and commitment of this group. Dedicated members include Platon Vafiadis pushing us to deliver interesting newsletters geared to a range of readers on time replete with eye-catching photographs and vignettes. Don Colgan ensures Molluscan Research is an attractive outlet for molluscan research and testament to this are the interesting papers that continue to vie for space in our journal. Rachel Przeslawski, our Website Administrator, maintains her presence and her problem solving acumen time and

again. Carmel McDougall, our Treasurer, steadies the course and keeps us solidly in the black, a wonderful position for a small society. Matt Nimbs has ensured we continue to grow and our members are well looked after while Priscila Salloum has handled her new role as Secretary with ease (running our meetings, not to mention organizing the AGM!). Thank you also to our council members from across Australia and New Zealand for their continued attendance at meetings and sage advice when needed.

In 2020, a new decade, will see another chapter for MSA with new faces in leading roles and a changing of the guard. I would like to take this opportunity as outgoing president to thank everyone who welcomed me to the council and believed in me along the way. I have felt constant support and assistance during my tenure as President, even for quite ambitious initiatives (MSAturns60), and want to say how lovely it has been being part of such a positive community and family really. I am excited to remain on council (if elected) and also to realize our triennial conference in 2021 for all of you to visit and enjoy my adopted city of Perth and the New Museum. I am excited to welcome the incoming President and enjoy the energy and enthusiasm they will bring to the role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Kirkendale', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a dashed horizontal line.

~ Lisa Kirkendale, MSA President