

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Minutes

DATE: 30 November 2011 TIME: 6.00pm local time

VENUE: Cab Bar, Rosie O'Grady's, Northbridge,
Perth, Western Australia

[Meeting opened at 6.14pm]

Items for Discussion

1. Confirmation of members attending, apologies

- 17 members attended (see attached list)
- 11 members offered apologies (see attached list)

2. Notification of proxies

11 sent their proxies to member attendees (see attached list)

3. Minutes of 2010 AGM

- Correction to 2010 AGM Minutes:
 - Treasurer's Report (5a) – instead of \$36000, \$16000 received as membership income
- David Ellyard moved to accept minutes; Jesse Shore seconded → motion carried, minutes accepted

4. President's report

- (see attached report for details)
- Updates and highlights:
 - Conference update – model is based on successful 2010 format (panels, discussions, rather than lectures)
 - Continuing engagement with Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research with the Inspiring Australia program
 - Branches are seeking new ways of engaging across states, some branches are looking to reinvigorate through new leadership at the state level
 - Branches – planning to implement a new online system for branch management – series of highlights from program across the year
 - ASC Conference 2012 – planning is well underway and the program looks good
 - Inspiring Australia (IA) conference – ASC well represented during conference, JS continued engagement beyond conference; IA are aware of ASC member discussion regarding IA aims and focus
 - An agreement with the Australian Institute of Policy and Science enables winners of the Tall Poppy Awards to deliver an event for ASC, which counts as part of the quota they must deliver during the year
 - Website – new look in late 2011, Tim Thwaites (Past President) has been participating in the website development
 - Scope – Sally Miles took on editorial duties

- Discussion of President's report:
 - SL: what will be the biggest challenges in 2012?
 - JS: running a successful conference, which meets budget, attendance targets and delivers a strong program
 - Other challenge is communication – our channels of communication with and between members (through website etc.) need to be easier to use by members and to be more engaging. Implementing a new improved system is challenging but will have many benefits as it brings together diverse communication modes of the association (website, email lists, membership registrations etc.).
 - Mentoring – first speed mentoring session will be held at the National Conference
 - Jay Ridgwell: How many people will come?
 - JS: We will break even at 300, and we are aiming for 400
 - Alan Gill: where would you like to see ASC go after a successful conference?
 - JS: the conference offers professional learning opportunities, which is one of the biggest benefits to members and meets their requests. A program of professional conferences also allows people to meet and share experiences. A successful conference will also raise funds which will allow the association to further develop.
 - Michael CurranNagasawa: are there many registrations so far?
 - DE: early days, numbers are low at the moment
 - JS: have some high profile guests and speakers in attendance, Graham Durant has accepted an invitation, which should boost numbers
 - Wiebke Earling: is the deadline for submissions coming up?
 - JS: we will probably extend it
 - Michael CurranNagasawa: are we taking advantage of state science network-based advertising opportunities?
 - JS: Everything is flowing from having locked in organisational components (like venue, professional conference organiser); we can now shift into promotion
 - Pete Wheeler: does the membership include key media people around Australia?
 - JS: Of the membership, we have around 20 people who identify themselves as 'editors' in some way. We have 320 members currently.
 - Seattle meeting of Council of Science Editors invited JS to speak regarding science editors in Australia, who redirected the enquiry to another ASC member.
 - David Ellyard moved to accept President's Report; Kirsten Gottschalk seconded → motion carried
 - The members present at the AGM wish to formally record their thanks to Jesse Shore for his inspiring leadership of ASC in the past year

5. Treasurer's report

a. presentation of statement of accounts

Items to note include:

- Total Members Funds of \$26,072 (with provision for current liabilities)
- The association sustained a loss of \$10,053 for the trading year, however the major expenditure was on the secretariat position, fulfilled by Kali Madden
- Income from membership has increased significantly and reflects a growth in the member base
- In the past year a number of branches requested financial support for a number of events

- Fees – expenditure of fees increased in 2011 to cover costs of contracting the firm Acuvent to collect membership subscriptions
- Honoraria – increase is associated with paying office bearers
- Liability – capitation for the previous financial year not paid by the end of financial year, also GST liabilities
- Made a significant profit from the previous conference, and a similar outcome is expected from the upcoming conference
- MS: Do you think Acuvent represents good value for the services we get?
 - DE: Probably not, and we have identified another service provider that will replace Acuvent and do more, for almost the same annual fee
- Jesse Shore moved to accept both audited reports; Sophia Bickford seconded → motion carried

b. determination of annual membership fee

- DE: Recommend that membership fee remain at current levels of \$80.00 for full membership
- WE: How many members are universities etc? How many students join ASC?
 - DE: The majority of members are individual members, 10 or 15% of members has been students
 - JS: The mix of membership is very diverse, approximately 20% of members identify as journalists, there are currently 5 corporate members – these are generally bringing new members rather than existing under a corporate membership
- MCN: Is there no other reason to adjust the membership fees, such as inflation, indexing etc.?
 - DE: There is currently no justification for an increase. We are better to increase membership rather than fees
 - JS: With the new web system, we may have justification for increasing the fees as we'll be able to offer more
- KH: Is membership the only real source of revenue for ASC
 - DE: Yes, as well as profits from conferences
- SB: Any expectation that the profit from the conference will be lower?
 - JS: This is all part of the budgeting for the conference, and we are aiming for 300 people
- David Ellyard moved that the full membership fee remains unchanged at \$88 inc GST; Alan Gill seconded → motion carried

c. determination of capitation to be returned to branches

- DE moved that capitation remain at current levels – 10% is returned to branches, 10% goes into a pool for bidding by branches
- AG: Is capitation based on current membership levels?
 - DE: Yes, and historical distribution and usage patterns
- WE: Is there an opportunity for a 'member-poor' state to bid for more funding
 - DE: Yes, we are very interested in supporting smaller branches
- PW: Who has been successful in getting funding? What sorts of events? What are you looking for?
 - DE: looking primarily for events looking to build profile and membership of ASC – make the branch more visible and reach out into new groups
 - JS: SA applied for \$750 for launching a book during NSWk, in conjunction with RIAus, which supported the running of the event – they had a full house at 120 people
 - DE: Needs to be an outreach-type activity
- MC: What kind of relationship do we have with a partner organisation in New Zealand

- PW: Graham Durant is very linked in with NZ, they have a significant science communication presence
- JS: Not aware of a group in New Zealand dedicated to science communication, but aware of other professional groups
- KH: Partnering with other groups – such as AAEE – has this eventuated?
 - JS: Ran events in conjunction with these groups, and whilst they broke even, they didn't have as big an impact as hoped. Meeting with Scitech staff tomorrow, and hope to build relationship with the National level
- WE: What is the main problem with low numbers and branch representation in Tasmania?
 - DE: There are currently eight members, and there are not really enough members to get more branch activity happening. The National Council could perhaps look at the National level looking to work with Tasmania to run a branch event.
- MC: Is it possible to link Victoria and Tasmania?
 - JS: Victorian branch has been less active this year, and an active branch is needed to help build this level of interaction
- David Ellyard moved that capitation arrangements remain unchanged for the ASC financial year; Jay Ridgewell seconded → motion carried

d. determination of honoraria

- David Ellyard noted that the following honoraria are payable, in recognition of those who take on these roles:
 - Honoraria of \$1000 payable to the President, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Honoraria to \$150 per issue to Scope Editor, Laura Miles, for the publication of Scope
- Kimiko Holder moved that honoraria arrangements are continued; Miriam Sullivan seconded → motion carried

e. appointment of auditor

- David Ellyard moved that John Gigis and Co are retained as auditors; Jesse Shore seconded → motion carried

f. appointment of public officer

- DE recommends that the public officer is appointed by the National Council next time it meets.
 - We are incorporated under ACT legislation and therefore our public officer must reside in the ACT with a 'proper street address'
 - It is proposed the appointment is deferred and discussed by the National Council
- DE moved, Mmazowe seconded
- All agreed
- David Ellyard moved that the appointment of the public officer is deferred and discussed by the National Council; Muza Gondwe seconded → motion carried

g. tabling of 2011 budget

- It is not a requirement that the budget is tabled at the 2011 budget, and therefore the budget will be presented at the first meeting of the National Council in December

6. Election of 2011 ASC President

- One nomination received: Jesse Shore (nominated by Rob Morrison and seconded by Sarah Lau)

- All attendees voted in favour of returning Jesse Shore as ASC National President → motion carried
- JS was formally returned for another term as ASC President
- JS recorded an acceptance speech – see attached for further details
- The members present formally recorded thanks to Jesse Shore for representation of ASC at the national level

7. Motions to amend the Constitution

- A motion was put amending a clause in the Constitution relating to branches and branch ‘rules’, rather than a branch ‘constitution’
 - Branches not incorporated, so they do not have constitutions
 - Branches are more likely to have rules, and therefore this is the proposed constitutional change
 - JS moved, RM seconded
- JS moved the amendment of the Constitution as proposed, Ron Morrison seconded → motion carried

8. Any other business

- Jay Ridgewell noted thanks to the National Executive for holding the meeting in Perth
 - JS: the National bodies felt it was important for the National representatives to travel to Perth to recognise the activity and efforts of the local branch

7.18pm meeting closed

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Attendees

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?
Lum	Magdeline	1
Gondwe	Muza	1
Rowles	Cassandra	1
Holder	Kimiko	1
Ridgewell	Jay	1
Ellyard	David	1
Shore	Jesse	1
Lau	Sarah	1
Wheeler	Pete	1
Ebeling	Wiebke	1
Gottschalk	Kirsten	1
Sullivan	Miriam	1
Bickford	Sophia	1
Castelli	Joanne	1
CurraNagasawa	Michael	1
Gill	Alan	1
Roxby	Jessie	1
TOTALS:		17

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Apologies and Proxies

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?	PROXY TO
Barclay	Adam	1	Sarah Lau
Belcher	Teresa	1	Sarah Lau
Drok	Kitty	1	Sarah Lau
Gasgoine	Toss	1	Sarah Lau
Korczinski	Yarra	1	Sarah Lau
Longnecker	Nancy	1	Sarah Lau
Rive	Meg	1	Sarah Lau
Searle	Suzette	1	Sarah Lau
Selinger	Adam	1	Sarah Lau
Smith	Cobi	1	Sarah Lau
Trudinger	Melissa	1	Sarah Lau
TOTAL:		11	

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting President's Report

For much of this year, the ASC's management committees focussed their attention on the planning for the National Conference in 2012. We have engaged a professional conference organiser to manage the time-consuming infrastructure of the conference and have selected a centrally located major Sydney conference venue. The program is nearly complete and features involvement by the Commonwealth and state Chief Scientists. Sessions feature new topics to keep the conference fresh and relevant. There will be a number of professional development activities in the mix and most sessions will encourage much interaction between speakers and audience.

We have maintained communication with the Inspiring Australia (IA) team in the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. IA replaced the previous science communication program, Science Connections, and has a wider range of responsibilities.

The activity at the branch level has been very mixed this year. Several branch committees are looking for new people to organise events and attract audiences. The branches are also seeking improvements in communicating with each other and the Executive is working to achieve this.

The main goal for early 2012 will be to deliver a successful National Conference. But throughout the year energy will also go into assisting the branches, delivering more members benefits and making our increasing number of communication channels more effective. The ASC will continue to encourage discussion about science communication issues of national and local importance, and to be active in promoting the contribution that science communication makes to society. By maintaining our activity we continue to increase the profile of the ASC across Australia and overseas.

Now to some of the many highlights of this year:

1. **Planning for the next ASC conference, 27-29 February 2012, Sydney:**
 - 1.1 Rod Lamberts accepted my offer to be the conference convenor. Rod worked closely with the Executive to select the city and date for the conference. We appointed WSM as our professional conference organiser (PCO) to manage the registration and other aspects of the conference, and selected the Sydney Masonic Centre as the conference venue.
 - 1.2 Rod Lamberts with Toss Gascoigne and Kali Madden formed the program planning committee. Other ASC members who previously expressed interest in assisting in conference planning will be called upon as specific tasks are identified.
2. **Inspiring Australia program and conference:**
 - 2.1 I actively participated in the Inspiring Australia conference and encouraged members of the Executive to attend to maintain ASC's profile with the national IA program. I produced a session of the conference and was on a panel for another session.
 - 2.2 I spoke up about ASC interests and concerns during the conference and especially at the final plenary session.
 - 2.3 To fulfil ASC strategic aims of active involvement with IA I met with Brenton Honeyman, Manager of the Inspiring Australia program and other IA staff to discuss how the ASC and IA can work together. I have corresponded or met with several of the IA state project officers. I invited input from IA staff for my Scope articles about IA activities, such as National Science

Week. IA staff were aware of ASC members' active discussions in response to various IA topics I posted on the asc-list.

3. ASC branches:

- 3.1 Branches ran at least 33 events during 2011. This compares well with last year and I note that the pace of activity is picking up. To support this we will implement a new online system will make some event tasks easier for the branches.
- 3.2 Most branches organised at least one major event during the year. Highlights include: ACT's evaluation workshop and New media forum; SE-QLD's writing skills workshop; SA's workshops in blogging and media training, and a forum on communicating bushfire risk; and WA's huge Astrofest (3000 attending) and their hosting of Professor Carmen Lawrence to discuss 'Psychology for social change'. VIC's 'The brain that repairs itself' was among its interesting events and NSW ran a well-attended 'Joy of chocolate' evening and has several events planned well into 2012.

4. Travel:

- 4.1 I met with ACT and NSW branch committees
- 4.2 Met with the coordinator and members of the SA branch and WA branch members
- 4.3 Attended a two day Science Communication Research and Education Network (SCREN) meeting (ACT). SCREN is a special interest group of the ASC.
- 4.4 Inspiring Australia meetings - met twice with the Inspiring Australia Manager and staff at Questacon (ACT).

5. Networking:

- 5.1 ASC signed a letter of agreement with the Australian Institute of Policy and Science which runs the Tall Poppy Campaign.
- 5.2 ASC supported media140's science communication forum in Brisbane and Liquid Learning's National Science Communication Forum in Sydney
- 5.3 Met with the new director of RiAus, Paul Willis
- 5.4 Attended the Forum for National Science Week activities in NSW
- 5.5 Attended 'Science Meets Business' networking function organised by the NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer

6. Web site:

- 6.1 Continues to be developed and improved by James Hutson of the Victorian branch
- 6.2 The website received a new look in 2011
- 6.3 Tim Thwaites has joined the ASC's communications group and now regularly liaises with James. Kali Madden continue to support James' work.

7. Scope

- 7.1 Laura Miles gave up the mantle of editor after three years. Sally Miles was appointed to the position and with energy and purpose quickly made her stamp on the members' newsletter.

To finish I would like thank the membership for their constructive responses to my various requests for information and advice. I have special thanks for the many people who contribute to ASC at a national level — and some of you are in attending this AGM:

- 1. All those on the National Council
- 2. Kali Madden, as Executive Officer, for her enthusiasm and hard work in contributing to the running of the Association and her valuable input into numerous meetings.
- 3. Sally Miles, Silvia Piviali and Laura Miles for their editorial contribution to Scope.
- 4. James Hutson and Tim Thwaites for their contribution to continued improvements to the website and for setting up the conference website.

5. Also thanks to Emma Donnelly, Sarah Lau and the rest of the ASC WA team who organised this AGM.
6. Finally to the members of the National Executive, who all put in many hours on ASC-related business— Tim Thwaites, Rob Morrison, David Ellyard and Sarah Lau. I also thank Phil Dooley, who left the Executive in July, and welcome Claire Harris, who recently joined the Executive.

Jesse Shore

30 November 2011

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Accounts

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 August 2010

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974 Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 31 August 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Income		
Full Memberships	16,438.38	18,898.95
Projects Income		13,309.28
Conference registration	52,920.13	
Conference Sponsorship	6,500.00	
Interest received	18.47	183.78
Total income	75,876.98	32,392.01
Expenses		
Fees	1,689.19	493.00
Bank Charges and Fees	192.33	331.30
Conference costs	52,179.24	
Capitation	3,332.00	9,246.00
Honoraria	3,300.00	2,000.00
Projects	2,414.00	22,437.64
Secretariat	18,127.78	11,203.74
Communications	72.93	1,618.01
Website and Elists	2,728.00	5,803.00
Travel	1,749.86	1,488.07
Total expenses	85,785.33	54,620.76
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Total changes in equity of the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Opening retained profits	46,033.47	68,262.22
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Closing retained profits	36,125.12	46,033.47

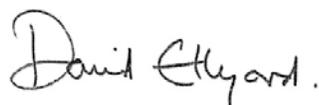
Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report 2011

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS Annual General Meeting: 30 November 2011

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. I take pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's report for the Association for the year ending 31 August 2011, including the audited statements of income and expenditure.
2. The Association has completed the financial year in a sound fiscal position. The Balance Sheet shows total Members Funds of \$26,072, once provision is made for current liabilities.
3. The Income and Expenditure statement shows that the Association sustained a loss on trading for the year of \$10,053, a similar figure to the loss sustained in the previous year. This loss should be no matter for concern. The Association has adequate financial reserves. The major item of expenditure to which such loss may be attributable is on the maintenance of an active and well equipped Secretariat, staffed by Kali Madden, through which the Association has been able to build its membership and improve its services to members.
4. Income from membership fees the Association for the year has totaled \$29,210. This is a substantial increase over the preceding year, reflecting the rising membership of the Association. Membership numbers are continuing to rise and we can expect a parallel rise in income through the current fiscal year
5. A parallel rise is seen in the payments to the Branches for capitation, which for the year totaled \$4032 (\$3332 in the preceding year). Current policy is for 10% of membership fees to be automatically returned to the Branches to support their activities. A further 10% is available for branches to bid for to support activities designed to raise their profile and membership.
6. Expenditure under the heading Fees is substantially higher this year, since this has been the full year of operation of our relationship with the firm Acuvent which charges us \$10 per member for their services in managing membership subscriptions.
7. Expenditure under the heading Honoraria was higher this year due to the inclusion of an honorarium for the President and payments to the editor of Scope.
8. Costs associated with Communications have been constrained by the increased use of Skype for the regular meetings of the National Council and the National Executive.

I commend this report to the meeting.



David Ellyard
National Treasurer 2010-2011

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Treasurer's Report 2011

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974

Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 August 2011



CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT
Suite 3, 10-12 Woodville Street
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

Phone: 9585 9301 Fax: 9585 9804
Email: john.gigis@bigpond.com

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report 2011

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974

Independent Audit Report to the Members

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

- (i) The financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Australian Science Communicators Inc as 31 August 2011, and of its performance and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the ; and
- (ii) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

Signed on : 22/11/11

John Gigis, Certified Practising Accountant
John Gigis & Co Pty Limited
Suite 3, 10-12 Woodville Street Hurstville NSW 2220

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report 2011

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 August 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Income		
Full Memberships	29,210.29	16,438.38
Conference registration	-	52,920.13
Conference Sponsorship	-	6,500.00
Interest received	19.92	18.47
Total income	29,230.21	75,876.98
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	865.10	-
Fees	5,309.44	1,689.19
Bank Charges and Fees	-	192.33
Conference: Catering	-	21,852.29
Conference: consumables	-	4,114.18
Conference: miscellaneous	548.61	812.73
Conference: PCO	-	9,700.00
Conference: Promotions	-	4,471.36
Conference: speaker expenses	-	5,875.06
Conference: staffing	-	3,000.00
Conference: travel and accomodation	-	2,353.62
Capitation	4,032.00	3,332.00
Honoraria	6,600.00	3,300.00
Projects	(255.14)	2,414.00
Secretariat	20,140.39	18,127.78
Communications	-	72.93
Website and Elists	712.73	2,728.00
Travel	1,329.74	1,749.86
Total expenses	39,282.87	85,785.33
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(10,052.66)	(9,908.35)
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	-	-
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(10,052.66)	(9,908.35)
Total changes in equity of the association	(10,052.66)	(9,908.35)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report 2011

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974 Statement of Financial Position As At 31 August 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	2	31,152.18	37,670.10
Total Current Assets		<u>31,152.18</u>	<u>37,670.10</u>
Total Assets		<u>31,152.18</u>	<u>37,670.10</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	3	4,032.00	-
Current tax liabilities	4	1,047.72	1,544.98
Total Current Liabilities		<u>5,079.72</u>	<u>1,544.98</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>5,079.72</u>	<u>1,544.98</u>
Net Assets		<u>26,072.46</u>	<u>36,125.12</u>
Members' Funds			
Retained profits		<u>26,072.46</u>	<u>36,125.12</u>
Total Members' Funds		<u>26,072.46</u>	<u>36,125.12</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Science Communicators

Annual General Meeting

Nominations for President

To date there has been one nomination for the role of ASC President in 2012: Jesse Shore, nominated by Rob Morrison and seconded by Sarah Lau.

Jesse Shore is the current ASC president. He was first elected in December 2009 and is now seeking his third term. During 2010 Jesse aligned a number of our activities with the recommendations in the Inspiring Australia report to raise the profile and influence of the ASC. He encouraged the branches to have active program of events and organised a series of workshops in Sydney in collaboration with two other associations. In 2011 Jesse formed and worked with the conference planning committee which is now making good progress toward developing the national conference for 2012. Membership exceeded 525 before the September 2011 renewal date and Jesse expects the conference will spark a renewed growth in members. Jesse continued developing links with the Inspiring Australia program and wants to build on this in 2012.

Improving communication at all levels of the ASC has been explored during 2011 and the new-look website is a start in the right direction. Jesse anticipates that new online systems will be in place soon to increase the exchange of information and interaction between branches, making it easier to stage events.

Jesse sees new opportunities in 2012 flowing from the conference. These in part involve outcomes from new subjects for sessions and a speed networking activity. Improved systems of communication will enable more networking between members. Features will be added to the website to provide profiles about individual members, and more news of the present activities of the ASC as well as important stories of its history.

Jesse will continue to seek and use feedback from members on ASC related issues and opportunities, and he will seek working relationships between the ASC and compatible professional associations and organisations.

Jesse has over 28 years of experience as a science communicator. Currently he works through his business, Prismatic Sciences, to develop science-based programs for various audiences and media. He recently developed five travelling exhibitions for the Royal Australian Chemical Institute for the 2011 International Year of Chemistry. From 1984 through 2008 he worked at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney where he was an exhibition project leader during the building of the museum and then Senior Curator of sciences for 21 years. He was one of the founders of the Ultimo Science Festival, a major National Science Week activity and was involved with National Science Week events and organising committees from 1997 through 2008. He has been an active member of the Australian Science Communicators for many years.

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Acceptance Speech for re-election as President for 2012

It is an honour to be re-elected to serve in 2012 as President of the ASC. Next year the Association will build on the hard work of 2011. Our primary focus has been on delivering a stimulating and well attended National Conference in 2012. I am excited by the range of sessions in the conference, many of which address issues and opportunities facing science communicators. Notably we are attracting significant speakers, such as the Federal and state Chief Scientists, to offer their views.

I also look forward to the Association putting in place important improvements in how we communicate with members and others. This results from feedback and research done during 2011. Better communication will assist the branches to get ideas for events and to promote them. Active branches attract new and renewed members and also energise people to join the local committees. And we are always looking for energetic and capable contributors.

Both branch and national committees need a mixture of new and old hands. I look forward to several people continuing on the Executive and National Council and to some new people joining the groups. I thank members of the 2011 National Council for their efforts and I look forward to working with the new National Council starting with its first meeting in December.

I also appreciate the enthusiastic and creative efforts of our Executive officer, Kali Madden, our new Scope editor, Sally Miles, and web manager, James Hutson. The ASC is fortunate to have such effective people in these roles.

My final thank you goes to the membership for re-electing me as President. I think the ASC has an exciting year ahead. May we all have good fortune in 2012.

Jesse Shore
30 November 2011

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Motions to change the ASC Constitution

Motion to change the ASC Constitution – for ASC AGM 2011

1. Motion to change the Constitution – Motion made by Jesse Shore and seconded by Rob Morrison. We propose the constitution is amended as follows:

[The proposed change to the wording in the revised clause is underlined.]

[Definition from clause 2.9: “Association” means Australian Science Communicators Incorporated.]

Section 5.4 of the constitution - ‘BRANCHES’

Current wording:

5.4.2 Branches may have their own constitutions, but wherever any discrepancy exists, the Constitution of the Association shall prevail.

Proposed new wording

5.4.2 Branches may have their own rules or constitutions, but wherever any discrepancy exists, the Constitution of the Association shall prevail.

Reason for proposed amendment:

This minor change in wording acknowledges that the ASC branches, which are unincorporated bodies, are more likely to have their own **rules** than **constitutions**.

We want the branches to be aware they have the right to have rules and to encourage them to adopt rules if they haven’t done so already. The new wording still allows for branches to have constitutions and makes it clear that whether they have rules or constitutions, the Constitution of the Association is the overriding document.