

## ASC branch events 2012 – list of events of ACT, NSW, SE-QLD, SA, VIC, WA

### ACT (9)

#### February - The Science of Beer -

Proudly presented by Lachlan McOmish the owner of the Wig n Pen - Canberra and supported by ASC ACT branch.

Our first social event of the year will be a great way for those new (and old) ASC members to meet and mingle in a nice social setting. Lachlan will again provide a brief talk about beer brewing and the science involved and then lead tours of the on site brewing facilities below for those interested.

Please let us know in your RSVP if you are interested in attending the tour as a number limit applies (first in first served).

Where: Wig n Pen - 53 Alinga St - <http://www.wigandpen.com.au>

When: Wednesday 15th of February, 2012

Time: 530pm (official festivities for about an hr, then feel free to stay as long as you like and mingle)

Cost: FREE for ASC members and \$5 for non members

#### May - Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement!

Facilitated by Jesse Shore

\*When:\* 5:30pm-7pmish Thursday 31 May

\*Where:\* Green Couch Room, CPAS, Ground Floor, Physics Link Building 38a, Australian National University (Map at seminars webpage:

<http://cpas.anu.edu.au/news-events/seminars>)

\*Sustenance:\* hell yes; drinks and food provided.

\*Cost:\* nada; it's free!

#### June - Clean Energy Future: Using market research to inform strategy (ACT event)

27 June 2012

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Join the Australian Science Communicators Canberra Branch and CSIRO Discovery for a session with Trish Johnston from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Trish was part of the team that carried out extensive market research to inform the communication and advertising strategy around climate change and the Clean Energy Future campaigns. Hear about what her team did, how the research informed the communication strategy, how things have played out, and the communication challenges and opportunities ahead.

This event is for communicators wanting to know what it's like to be working with one of the most complicated and politically-charged topics of our time.

Date: Wednesday 27 June.

Time: 6pm for a 6:30 start (will finish about 7:30pm).

Venue: CSIRO Discovery, Black Mountain (map and parking directions here).

Catering: Nibbles and drinks provided.

Cost: Free for members. Non-members gold coin contribution.

RSVPs required by 25 June: <http://ascact20121.eventbrite.com>.

Enquiries to: [ascanberra@gmail.com](mailto:ascanberra@gmail.com) or 0413 883 414.

#### Trish's bio:

**Trish Johnston** is the acting Director of the Campaigns and Engagement Team at the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Trish is a communications specialist with almost 20 years experience in developing, implementing and evaluating Australian Government communications campaigns. Trish started her career with the Department of Health working on social marketing campaigns on issues as diverse as childhood immunisation and recruiting doctors to rural areas. Trish spent several years as a senior communications advisor at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet where she provided advice to the Government and government departments on best

practice approaches to communications. Trish has led workshops on the use of market research in Government campaigns and how to write effective communication strategies. In her current role, Trish leads the team responsible for the recent Clean Energy Future advertising campaign. The team is now working on a range of other related community outreach initiatives. Trish has an abiding interest in what makes people tick and how effective communication and social marketing interventions can lead to meaningful change.

### **July - Communicating the "State of the environment"**

**CSIRO Discovery Centre Lecture Theatre, Clunies Ross St, ACTON**

**Tuesday July 17th, 530pm arrival for 6pm start. Nibbles and drinks provided**

#### **All welcome**

The ACT Branch of the Australian Science Communicators invites you to attend a panel discussion about how science communicator professionals are currently communicating the state of the environment. Environmental issues are becoming increasingly important in Australia and worldwide, so come and hear about how some of these challenges are faced head on.

#### **Panellists include:**

**Peter Kanowski** is Professor of Forestry at the ANU Fenner School of Environment & Society ([fennerschool.anu.edu.au](http://fennerschool.anu.edu.au)); he is currently on extended leave as Deputy Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research ([www.cifor.org](http://www.cifor.org)). Peter's academic work focuses principally on forest policy and governance. Prior to his membership of the 2011 SoE Committee, he has played significant roles in various forest-related policy processes at international, national, state and local levels.

**Steven Cork** is an ecologist and futurist. As an ecologist he spent 25 years in CSIRO researching the interactions between humans and the natural environment around the world. As a futurist he played a leading role in developing scenarios for the World's social-ecological futures for the United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and has run similar projects with government and non-government groups around Australia. He has worked extensively as an advisor to governments on policy issues and as a government employee developing and implementing environmental policy. He now works privately as a futurist, strategist and ecological advisor as the Principal Consultant of Ecolnsights and leads a project on the resilience of Australia in the private sustainability R&D organisation Australia21. He is an adjunct Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. He was a member of the committee that prepared the 2011 National State of the Environment Report.

**Nancy Dahl Tacconi** is the Director of the National Environmental Reporting section in the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. She has worked with the department in decision-support and science management roles for over 10 years. Most recently, she was the project manager for the latest five-yearly national State of Environment report (SoE 2011), coordinating all aspects of the project from initial plans through to delivery of the report and a review of its impacts.

**Kylie Evans** is the principal Communications Writer and Editor for Biotext. She has written and edited documents for a range of clients, including the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, ACT Government, Pedestrian Council of Australia, and the World Health Organization. One of her most important projects has been substantive editing and informational design for the Australia State of the Environment report for the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

**Kirstin Duncan** is the senior graphic designer for Biotext. She gained her formal qualification in graphic design at the Canberra Institute of Technology whilst working as an infographics adviser for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and running a flourishing freelance graphic design business. Clients included the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, DonatLife ACT and The Australian Institute of Horticulture ACT. Highlights since joining Biotext in

2011 include sourcing photography for Australia State of the Environment 2011, developing design concepts and layouts for a Sandalwood Growers' Guide and the University of Queensland's Health Information Systems Hub's working paper series

### **July - ACT social event: Are you $\pi$ -curious? July 22nd**

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

ASC ACT Branch is celebrating Pi Approximation Day

Join us for trivia and maths fun at The Duxton!

Proudly presented by Jamos McAlester and David Shaw. Our second social event of the year is an opportunity for ASC members to meet, mingle and pi-que their interest in the amazing world of maths.

Jamos and David will be spinning a fruity mix of pi-based maths in their usual way; these two don't mince their words when talking about pi! Join them for entertainment and trivia with great prizes.

When: Sunday, July 22, 2012 from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Venue: The Duxton, O'Connor Shops Macpherson St

Cost: FREE. Food and drink available for purchase at the bar.

### **August - ACT: CSI vs Real Forensic Science**

#### **Crime scene tape.**

A woman is reported missing. Blood and other physical evidence have been found in her office. Has she met with foul play?

A team of forensic scientists have been called to assist in investigating the case.

Join a team of Australia's leading forensic experts as they work through this hypothetical scenario and discover how each of the specialist forensic scientists work together to examine evidence and solve crimes – classically it's not quite as it appears on TV!

**Where: CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross Street, Acton (Directions)**

**When: Wednesday 8th of August**

**Time: 5.30pm – 7.00pm with light refreshments provided once event concludes**

Discover hidden talents that even you may not have known you had. There will be prizes for audience members who can answer various forensic-related questions, including:

**What is Locard's Exchange Principle?**

**Who is considered the father of the science of fingerprints and why?**

**Sir Alec Jeffreys was the first forensic scientist to use what technique in forensic cases?**

**Who was Calvin Goddard and what was his contribution to forensic science? What forensic techniques were used to determine that the Hitler diaries were fake?**

There will also be a special opportunity for ASC members to network in the industry link room post event.

### **September - Science Communicators: where would science be without them?**

Communicating complex topics such as climate change, human health, water management and biotechnology can be challenging. Scientists and their organisations often need to manage attacks on credibility, mistrust and misinformation. So who is working with scientists to help them communicate their research and participate in the public and political debate? Peek behind closed doors and you will often find science communicators.

If you've ever wondered how successful science communicators learned to master the art of conveying the complexities, relevancy and potential implications of new scientific knowledge, then this interactive forum will give you a glimpse into the careers of six passionate science communicators in the ACT. They will share their experiences, both good and bad, in communicating science to various audiences and reveal the challenges of understanding the needs, expectations and concerns of specific audiences.

**Speakers:**

**Kylie Walker** is Director of Communications and Outreach at the Australian Academy of Science. After more than a decade in mainstream journalism in Sydney, Perth and the federal press gallery, she has spent the past six years as a Canberra-based communications professional advocating on the federal political and media stages for not-for-profit and membership groups in the health and science sectors.

**Simon Copland** is Science Communications Officer in the Colleges of Medicine, Biology and Environment; and Physical and Mathematical Sciences at the Australian National University (ANU). He is experienced in a range of science communication activities and is currently studying his Masters in Science Communication. He is also an active writer – he is the political editor of FUSE Magazine and has published material in ABC's The Drum, New Matilda and the Sydney Star Observer.

**Chris Cassella** is Managing Director of ScienceAlert Pty Ltd, an ex-Microsoft programmer and failed neuroscientist. Over the last five years, he has transformed ScienceAlert into the #1 provider of science news on Facebook. With almost two million fans worldwide, ScienceAlert's Facebook page is more popular than the Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine and the Economist. Chris is a strong proponent of Facebook as a platform to inspire and engage young people around the world with science.

**Janet Salisbury** has a background in cancer research and 10 years of postdoctoral research experience. Since 1990, she has built up her own company, Biotext, a science information consultancy specialising in health, biomedical science, agriculture and the environment. Janet's work has covered topics such as evidence-based medicine, infectious diseases, air and water quality, and sustainable development. She has an interest in the interaction of scientists, decision makers and the public in the development of science policy.

**Mary Mulcahy** is Communication Manager for CSIRO's Energy Group. She has oversight of the Energy Group communications strategy, and leads a national team responsible for communicating about the outcomes from CSIRO energy research to government, industry and community. After completing a science degree, Mary's first job was as an ecologist with the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Commission looking at instream flow requirements for four major Tasmanian rivers. After a stint as a high school teacher, and completing a Graduate Diploma in Science Communication, Mary worked in a range of education outreach programs including managing the Graduate Diploma in Scientific Communication at ANU and Questacon and then took on the challenge of helping to set up a similar interactive science centre in Malaysia. Following that, she managed the science outreach centre at the University of New South Wales and then joined the University of Technology in Sydney to manage research communications across the University.

**PANEL FACILITATOR**

**Toss Gascoigne** is a consultant specialising in science communication, and with broad experience working across all disciplines. He has served as Executive Director for three national organisations over the last 15 years: the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS); the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS); and Australian Science Innovations (ASI). Toss is a former President and life member of Australian Science Communicators and the inaugural President of an international group called the Network for the Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST). Since 1995 he has regularly published articles, book chapters, policy documents and commentaries on matters relating to science communication and science and research policy.

Date: Monday, 24 September 2012

Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm (Please arrive at least 15 minutes early for seating)

Location: CSIRO Discovery Centre Lecture Theatre, Clunies Ross St, Acton

Cost: Free for members. Gold coin donation from non-members

<http://www.asc.asn.au/blog/2012/09/10/act-scicommwhere/>

### **October - Improving your writing: how to edit your own work**

Australian Science Communicators ACT

Friday, 26 October 2012 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM (EST)

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Cost: member \$80; non-member \$120

### **November - ASC Canberra AGM and Special Guest speaker Professor Ken Freeman - 2012 Prime Minister's Science Prize recipient**

It's that time of year again where the committee for next year is elected; all members are encouraged to attend the AGM. Following the AGM we will hold a public event (sponsored by Inspiring Australia and CSIRO Discovery) where attendees will hear from Canberra local, Professor Ken Freeman, recipient of this year's Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

When: Wednesday 28th November

Where: CSIRO Discovery Centre, CSIRO Discovery, Lecture Theatre, Clunies Ross St, Black Mountain, ACT (map and parking info)

Time: 5:30-8:00pm

- Hear from Professor Ken Freeman about his career, what work led to receiving the prestigious PM's Science Prize, how important communication has been throughout his career and more recently with the media interest around him winning the award.

Cost: Non-members: Gold coin donation on entry. Members: free and members also get tickets for lucky-door prizes.

### **NSW (5)**

#### **March - 26 March: AGM + *Reel Science Communication* talk**

Speaker: Derek Muller (Veritasium)

Where: City of Sydney RSL

<http://www.asc.asn.au/topic/nsw-branch-meeting/>

#### **April - 30 April: *Interactive Intro to Marketing & The biggest snapshot of science engagement in Australia***

Speakers: Anthony Katsikas (MAK Consulting Group) and Jesse Shore (for National Audit focus group session)

Where: City of Sydney RSL

[listed on ASC events page]

#### **August - 11 August: *Make a science film with your iPhone***

Talk by Daniel Keogh and workshop at the Apple store, Sydney

Where: Australian Museum, and the workshop at the Apple store in George St, Sydney

[listed on ASC events page]

#### **September - 21 September: *New Models for Science Centres***

Speaker: Cris Kennedy (Director, CSIRO Discovery Centre, Canberra)

Where: City of Sydney RSL

[listed on ASC events page]

#### **October - 10 October: *Housekeeping with Nature***

Speaker: Martyn Robinson (Australian Museum)

Where: City of Sydney RSL

[listed on ASC events page]

**SE-Qld (8) (includes events and get-togethers)**

**February - South East Queensland AGM, 2012:** Monthly get-together and branch AGM. We also had our local IA officer, Jayne Keane, attend as a guest speaker

**When:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 6-8pm

**Where:** Ship Inn, Cnr Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- Month newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1366245>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

**March - ASC Speed mentoring:** Speed mentoring offers students and early career science communicators a chance to get tips and cautionary tales from those who have spent years honing their skills and advancing the craft.

Guest speakers/mentors included:

- Dr Joan Leach, senior lecturer in science communication @ UQ
- Dr Andrew Stephenson, science communicator @ UQ
- Paul Brandon, science teachers in residence @ Queensland Museum
- Susan Burchill, manager @ CSIRO education
- Heidi Jones, senior communications project officer @ Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist

**When:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm

**Where:** University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- Monthy newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1366245>  
<https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1400841>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>
- UQ email circulated

**March - ASC 2012 Wrap up:** Monthly get-together. ASC President Jesse Shore was a guest speaker and gave us his take on the ASC Conference, held the previous month in Sydney.

**When:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 6-8pm

**Where:** QPAC cafe, South Brisbane

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- Monthy newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1366245>  
<https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1419517>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

**April - Tall Poppy – brain plasticity:** Monthly get-together. Qld 2011 Tall Poppy winner Dr Siobhan Schabrun from the University of Queensland was our guest speaker and talked to us about her research on brain plasticity

**When:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 6-8pm

**Where:** QPAC cafe, South Brisbane

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- Monthly newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1419517>  
<https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1446673>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

**May** - Science-connect and The Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement:

- Science-connect is a one hour [social media workshop](#) from which you will receive feedback on your use of social media applications from experts in the field. This was an event organised by UQ Science Communication students after I attended their pitch evening and suggested they align with Snapshot event. Guest speakers from Queensland Government and a local marketing agency attended.
- The Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement offers you the chance to [contribute to a nationwide project](#) by Inspiring Australia to gather information about the who, what, where, when, why and how we communicate science. Jenni Metcalfe from Econnect Communication helped facilitate the evening.

**When:** Tuesday 22nd May, 6-9pm

**Where:** The Story Bridge Hotel, Kangaroo Point

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- ASC website <http://www.asc.asn.au/topic/queensland/>
- Monthly newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1466049>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>
- Students also circulated their own paraphernalia
- ASC list

**September** - What bugs you?: Monthly get-together. President of the Queensland Entomology society Geoff Thompson was our guest speaker. He shared his passion for insects, particularly drawing and photographing them for the Museum.

**When:** Wednesday 26th September, 6-7:30pm

**Where:** QPAC cafe, Brisbane

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- ASC website <http://www.asc.asn.au/topic/queensland/>
- Monthly newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1576269>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

**October** - Total eclipse of FNQ?: Monthly get-together. Solar eclipse chaser Terry Cuttle was guest speaker and talked about his experience with solar eclipses (viewed 14 so far), the upcoming solar eclipse in Cairns (November 14<sup>th</sup>) and the educational material he helped develop for the Qld eclipse, which was distributed to all school in Queensland.

**When:** Monday 22nd October, 6-7:30pm

**Where:** QPAC cafe, Brisbane

**Cost:** Free

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- Monthly newsletter - <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1576269>  
<https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1602981>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

**November** - National AGM and Brisbane Science Trivia Night: The National AGM will be held in Brisbane this year. To coincide with the event, we will also host a science trivia night which will be hosted by David Ellyard.

**When:** Tuesday 27th November, 6-10pm

**Where:** Ship Inn, Cnr Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands

**Cost:** Free for members \$10 for adult non-members, \$5 for student non-members

**Write-up on ASC website (or where event was listed):**

- ASC website <http://www.asc.asn.au/topic/queensland/>
- Monthly newsletter <https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1576269>  
<https://us2.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview?id=1602981>
- Eventbrite <http://brisciquiz2012.eventbrite.com.au/>
- Eventful <http://eventful.com/brisbane/events/brisbane-science-trivia-night-/E0-001-052232898-4>
- Personnel Twitter account
- ASCseq Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Science-Communicators-ASC-SE-Queensland/>

## SA (9)

**Feb / March** – ASCSA members offered discount to a number of Fringe events through RiAus

**April** - Bringing Home the “City of Adelaide”

When: 2 April 2012

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**May** - Kristen Alford: The Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement (National Audit focus group session)

When: 14 May 2012

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free

**May** - Tour of Penfolds Winery

When: 20 May 2012

Where: Penfolds Winery, Magill

Cost:

**June** - Science Communication Journal Club

When: 12 June 2012

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**June** - Botanic Illustrator at State Herbarium

When: 27 June 2012

Where: State herbarium

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**July - Social Media in Science Communication**

When: 9 July 12

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**July - Networking Dinner**

When: 23 July

Where: Local city hotel

Cost: Cost of meal

**September - Museum National Conference Speakers**

When: 25 Sept 12

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**November - AGM / Networking**

When: 20 Nov 12

Where: RiAus

Cost: Free for ASCSA or RiAus member; \$10 per non-member

**VIC (6)**

**March - Building healthy community engagement about the impacts of climate change**

Tuesday 6 March, The Clare Cafe Bar Bistro, Carlton

BOOKINGS: <http://www.trybooking.com/19911>

Australian Science Communicators and the Australasian Medical Writers Association jointly present a dinner conversation with leading researchers and communicators.

One of the greatest challenges surrounding the climate change debate is how to effectively communicate its impact to policy makers and the wider community. Are the messages getting to the right people and being communicated in the best way?

Discussion panel includes:

- \* Fiona Armstrong, Convener of the Climate and Health Alliance
- \* Dr Marion Carey, VicHealth Senior Research Fellow at Monash Sustainability Institute
- \* Amanda McKenzie, Communications Director at the Climate Commission

Despite exhaustive debate of climate change science using environmental, economic, moral and social frameworks, Australian community consensus on appropriate responses to climate change can sometimes seem more distant than ever. A recent approach has been to reframe climate change consequences as major public health issues. Some communities may more readily engage with this approach but are there also disadvantages?

The panel will help us consider:

- \* Could a communications focus on health consequences of climate change break through the current polarised positions?
- \* What are the predicted health consequences of climate change and how is this scientific understanding developing?
- \* What mitigation and adaptation approaches need to be developed?
- \* How can we responsibly communicate future health consequences when outcomes depend upon multiple environmental, biological and social systems?

WHEN: 6pm (for 6.30pm start), Tuesday 6th March 2012

VENUE: The Clare Cafe Bar Bistro, 421 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, Vic 3053

CONTACT DETAILS: E: vic\_president@asc.asn.au / Ph: 03 9017 2188

TICKETS: \$20 Members, \$25 Non-members (main course included, excludes drinks)

**May - The AGM of the Victorian branch of ASC** will be held on Tuesday 22 May including elections to the new committee. Nominations are open and the current committee is encouraging interest from ASC members who would like to get involved in shaping and leading activities and events. The AGM will be followed by an interactive session forming part of the "Big Snapshot of Science Communication".

Further Details

6.00pm-6.45pm ASC Victoria AGM

- ASC Members only.
- Nominations for positions on the ASC Victoria Committee are open.
- The Committee encourages new applications from ASC members who would like to get involved in shaping and leading activities and events.

7.00pm-8.30pm The Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement • Welcome to all science communicators.

- How are we engaging people with science in Australia, and how do we do it better?
- The ASC with Bridge8 and Econnect are creating a high definition picture of Australian science engagement.
- This is your chance to contribute right at the start.
- The new project is funded by the Australian government's Inspiring Australia Strategy to gather information about the who, what, where, when, why and how we communicate science.
- It will be a fast paced session, led by Kristin Alford, Founding Director of Bridge8.
- Your input and ideas will help shape a forthcoming national survey of science engagement activities.

This event is kindly hosted by Melbourne's Embiggen Books, 197-203 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.

<http://www.asc.asn.au/state-and-national/victoria/shape-future/>

### **June - Evaluating Science Communication activities**

An ASC professional development workshop

Booking for the evaluation workshop is now open via Try Booking. Simply follow instruction at following link:

<http://www.trybooking.com/BMEY>

#### **The workshop**

We all want to do it, some of us attempt to do it, but how many of us evaluate our communication activities effectively?

When it comes to our public engagement and communication activities, evaluation is often a last minute thought, done poorly or in a way that doesn't align with your objectives.

This hands-on workshop will take you one step beyond the evaluation basics and get you started on ways to produce meaningful evaluation data. So bring your own case studies and events that you would like to or wished you had evaluated. You will get a chance to scrutinise your objectives, work out how to align your objectives with what you are trying to evaluate, and consider what evaluation tools and techniques will work for your project.

The Presenter

**Cobi Smith** is a PhD candidate at the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS), as well as Science in Society Facilitator at the Royal Institution of Australia. She has recently returned from science communication evaluation workshops in the UK, including the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement's (NCCPE) Evaluation Masterclass. Cobi has drawn on the UK Masterclass to develop this workshop for the needs of Australian Science Communicators.

For more about Cobi see <http://cpas.anu.edu.au/person/cobi-smith>

Venue. The University of Melbourne Graduate Union (Graduate House)

220 Leicester St, Carlton

Date: 18 June 2012

Time: 5:30pm – 8:30pm

A light supper will be provided

Cost: ASC Members \$20; Non ASC members \$35

### **August - Science Week after-party**

Come along and celebrate the end of Science Week after-party, a networking evening for Melbourne science communicators.

When: August 21, 2012, 6:30 pm

Where: Three Degrees, QV Square

First drink and nibbles are on us!

ASC members (& guest): Free

Science Week organisers: Free

Non-members: \$15

(Discounted memberships on the night)

### **November - What role for two-way communication and community engagement in the process of science?**

**When:** Wednesday, 21 November, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**Where:** Graduate House, University of Melbourne, 216-220 Leicester St Carlton

Two-way engagement has been the buzz phrase in science communication for over the last decade, but how can this process be genuine and meaningful?

As engagement and communication practitioners we regularly connect the public with science, but can this connection go beyond the transmission of information? Can we facilitate engagement to actually improve the way science is carried out?

A lively panel discussion and case studies for audience will bring together researchers and science communicators and will explore why and explore how engagement practitioners can implement deliberative engagement into their practice.

**Associate Professor Megan Munsie** is a scientist who has combined her extensive technical expertise in stem cell science with an interest and understanding of the complex ethical, social and regulatory issues associated with stem cells in research and in the clinic. She is the Head of the Education, Ethics, Law & Community Awareness Unit, a position jointly funded by the University of Melbourne and Monash University and also the Policy and Outreach Manager for the Stem Cells Australia initiative.

**Chris Krishna-Pillay** is one of Australia's most prominent science science communicators and performers. His writing and performing credits include, Dante's Laboratory and The Great Big Science Gig. He recently directed Faraday's Candle for Re-science. Chris has worked for CSIRO for more than 18 years and is Victorian Manager of CSIRO Education.

**Dr Elisha Riggs** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in the Healthy Mothers Healthy Families Research Group. She has considerable research experience in refugee health inequalities, social determinants of health, ethics, mixed methods intervention implementation and evaluation. Her research utilises qualitative, participatory and culturally competent methodologies always in partnership with culturally diverse communities. Her forthcoming book 'Values and vulnerabilities: The ethics of research with refugees and asylum seekers' will be of interest to those wishing to pursue participatory research with vulnerable populations.

**December** - The ASC Victoria Branch is joining forces with the Australasian Medical Writers Association for a fun night of festive season science communication, comedy and food.

**Ben McKenzie**, aka The Man in the Labcoat (actor, scientist, comedian, feminist, improviser, geek, voice-over artist, gamer, presenter and ginger) will be kicking the night off at Embiggen Books, followed by dinner at Three Degrees at QV.

**When:** Tuesday 11 December, 6:30 pm

**Where:** Embiggen Books, 197-203 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

## **WA (5)**

**March - WA Science Awards** present a \$10,000 prize to the most outstanding and innovative science communication initiative in Western Australia. This year it could be you, your organisation or someone you work with.

Hear from previous winners about their experience in building unique science communication programs:

- Roger Harris – Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre 2007 winner- Science values education
- Cecelia Cmielewski - SymbioticA 2008 winner - Articulating scientific knowledge through art

A networking session will follow the presentations. This will offer time to identify opportunities for collaboration over complementary drinks and nibbles.

Date: Friday 30th March

Time: 4-6pm

Venue: Rosie O'Grady's Function Room, 205 James St, Northbridge

Cost: Free for ASC members, \$15 for non-members

RSVP: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3144247529> by the 30th of March

More information: please contact ASC member Miriam Sullivan at [miriam.sullivan@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.sullivan@gmail.com)

## **June - The Big Snapshot of Australian Science Engagement**

Focus group session facilitated by Kristin Alford

## **July - WA Event – Communicating Space**

19 July 2012

4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

It's one of the hottest topics in science at the moment – space. As seen by the recent public interest in the Square Kilometre Array bid and visit to Australia by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, people are hungry for more information on life, the Universe and everything.

So what are the challenges of 'communicating space' to the many and varied interest groups? How do you engage the general public in a 'far out' topic? And how can we translate these insights and initiatives to other fields of science?

Join our expert panel to hear more about the challenges and rewards of science communication in the astronomy and astrophysics fields, and ask your own burning questions.

This event will include a 15 minute live presentation in Horizon – The Planetarium.

Our panel

Carley Tillett – Manager at Horizon – The Planetarium

Pete Wheeler – Manager, Outreach and Education at ICRAR, the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research

Dr Wiebke Ebeling – Education and Outreach Coordinator at CAASTRO, the ARC Centre of Excellence for All-Sky Astrophysics

Thursday 19 July

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Horizon – the Planetarium at Scitech

Refreshments provided

Free for ASC members, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for students

## **September - Social Media for Science**

The WA Branch of Australian Science Communicators in partnership with the WA Branch of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute will be hosting a panel to discuss the use of social media for communicating science. The aim of this is to discuss what works and perhaps what doesn't. We will be examining how different individuals and organisations have found a place in social media. Come along for a night of sharing ideas and generating new approaches to using social media for communicating science.

The panel will consist of three speakers:

**Jason Boudville**, Editor of ScienceNetwork WA

ScienceNetwork WA is a website with science news, events and information from around Western Australia. Social media use employed by ScienceNetwork WA includes Facebook and Twitter.

<http://www.snwa.net.au>

**Ebony Frost**, Digital Communications Specialist at Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research is one of the largest, and most successful medical research institutes in Australia, comprising a dedicated and diverse team of more than 500 staff and students.

Established in 1990 by Founding Director Professor Fiona Stanley, the Telethon Institute was among the first to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to major health issues: clinical research, laboratory sciences and epidemiologists all under the one roof, to tackle complex diseases and issues in a number of ways.

Social media use includes Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

<http://www.childhealthresearch.org.au>

**Kirsten Gottschalk**, Outreach and Education Officer at the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research

The International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, (ICRAR), is a collaborative centre that is international in scope and that achieves research excellence in astronomical science and engineering.

As a coherent and unified part of Australia's national effort, ICRAR makes a fundamental contribution to the realisation and scientific success of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

ICRAR is an equal joint venture between Curtin University of Technology and The University of Western Australia. The Centre's headquarters are located at UWA, with research nodes at both UWA and the Curtin Institute for Radio Astronomy (CIRA).

Social media use includes Facebook, and Twitter.

<http://www.icrar.org/>

Date: 18th September 2012

Time: From 5.30pm. Seminar/presentation commences at 6.00pm.

Refreshments prior and at conclusion

Venue: Exhibition Space in Building 500, Curtin Chemistry Precinct

Cost: \$5 charge to cover refreshments

## **December - ASC WA AGM and Christmas Party**

Australian Science Communicators

Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 5:45 PM (WST)

City Beach, WA

Where: City Beach Surf Club (Balcony), Challenger Parade, City Beach

Time: 5.45pm AGM and 6.30pm Sundowner

Catering:

- Woodfired oven with a Personal Chef

- ALL YOU CAN EAT: Entree pizzas, main pizzas (vegetarian, meat, chicken and seafood) and dessert pizzas (GLUTEN FREE pizzas bases upon request)

- First drink FREE

ASC WA Members: FREE

Non-Members: \$15.00

Book/RSVP at [www.ASCWAChrisTmas2012.EventBrite.com](http://www.ASCWAChrisTmas2012.EventBrite.com)

For more information, contact:

[asc.events.wa@gmail.com](mailto:asc.events.wa@gmail.com)

42 events listed

Jesse Shore

Immediate Past-President