

OUR MODERN HISTORY 1984-PRESENT

The history of the first two decades of the Australian Marine Sciences Association was very ably described in 1984 by one of AMSA's founding members, Dr Jim Thomson. As AMSA moves towards celebrating its first half century at the annual conference on the Gold Coast in July 2013, it is timely to bring the history up to date. Two of AMSA's most prominent leaders, Prof. Lynnath Beckley and Dr Fred Wells have spent the past few months delving into the AMSA archives.

The past thirty years have been an exciting time in the development of AMSA. Indeed, the growth of the association has paralleled the advancement and expansion of marine sciences in Australia. As one example, in looking back on those three decades, it is amazing to think that the anomalous Leeuwin Current that dominates marine

processes off the western half of the continent was only described in 1980 by George Cresswell and Terry Golding. It is staggering that this 5,000 km long feature, which now can be traced from its complex origins in the north, down the entire west coast of the continent, across southern Australia as far east as Bass Strait, was so recently scientifically recognised.

Membership of AMSA

In keeping with the growth of marine sciences in Australia, the membership of AMSA has increased, and now hovers around 1,000 members from year to year. There are members in all parts of Australia and New Zealand, and a sprinkling in overseas countries (Figure 1). AMSA has members in all disciplines of marine science, but is still naturally dominated by marine biologists, who comprise most of the marine scientists in Australia. For some years (1985-2000), the physical oceanographers met as a separate group but, in recent years, they have merged back into the main AMSA fold.

Those scientists who maintain continuous membership of AMSA for forty years are granted honorary life membership in recognition of their long association with AMSA and, each year, a new cohort joins their illustrious ranks (Table 1). Indeed in 2013, we will have our first ever fifty year members!

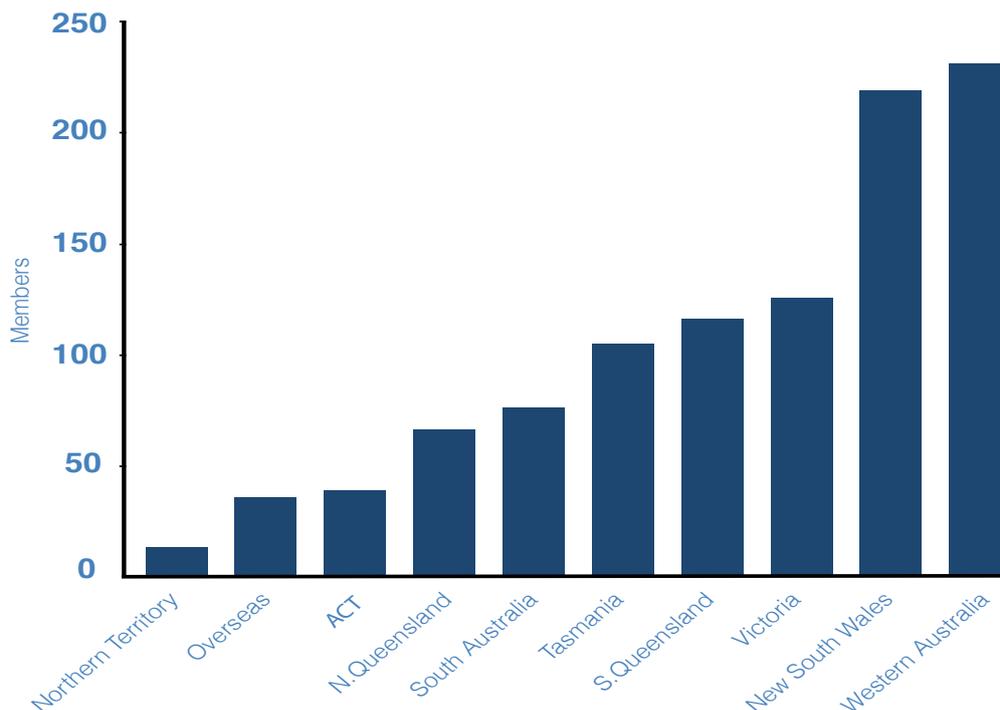
One source of considerable pride for AMSA is the encouragement it gives to student members and they

generally comprise about a third of the membership (Figure 2). Students receive discounted membership rates and have reduced registration fees at the conferences. Over the years, substantial funds have been allocated to student prizes and assisting students in travelling to the annual conference in order to present the results of their thesis research.

AMSA Council

National affairs of AMSA are conducted by the annually elected Council. As a national organisation, AMSA has always maintained the practice of encouraging a broad geographical and disciplinary membership on the Council. In fact, although the first AMSA Council was based in Sydney, it had three members residing in other states: Hope Macpherson from Victoria, Ernest Hodgkin from Western Australia and Brian Womersley from South Australia. However, because of the tyranny of distance that affects many aspects of Australian life, it remained a fact that, for practical matters, the Council was for many

Fig. 1. The geographical distribution of AMSA Members (as of the Annual General Meeting of July 2012). Total= 1028.



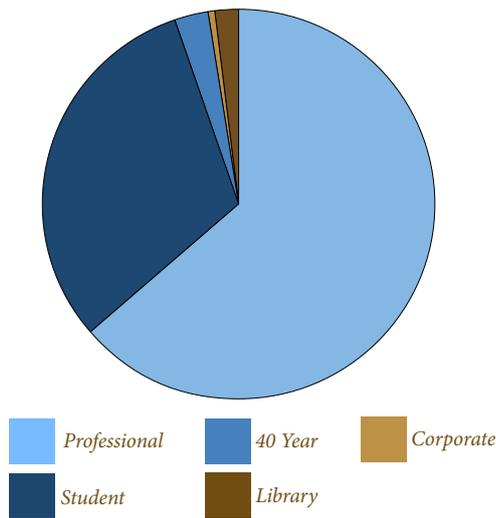


Fig. 2 Split of AMSA membership categories as at the AGM in July 2012 (n= 1028).

Table 1. List of members who maintained forty years of continuous AMSA membership. There were no 40 year members in 2004, 2007 or 2008.

Year	40 Year Members
2002	Alberto Albani, Joe Baker, Isobel Bennett, Raymond Brown, Albert Caton, Alan Cribb, Don Fielder, Jack Greenwood, Bruce Hamon, George Humphrey, Scoresby Shepherd, James Thomson, Jeannette Watson
2003	John Lucas, Bruce Phillips, Dave Pollard
2005	Ian Brown, Frank Talbot
2006	Rod Simpson, Alan Jones
2009	Loisette Marsh, Chris Smalley, Ross Winstanley, Wolfgang Zeidler
2010	Ian Kirkegaard, Helene Marsh, Gary Poore
2011	Pat Hutchings
2012	Rob Day, Neville Exxon, Ross Quinn
2013	Alan Butler, Penny Berents, Terry Done, Bill McCormick, Richard Thompson

years dominated by members from Sydney. Council members from other states could receive notices of meetings and write letters expressing opinions on key issues, but could rarely attend Council meetings. The distance issue has decreased considerably over time as first, faxes and later, emails, conference calls and now the internet have all assisted with communication. In addition, with the relative decrease in airfares, AMSA now provides limited financial support to help enable Council members to attend meetings.

In the last 50 years there have been nearly 200 members that have ably served AMSA in various Council portfolios. The Council is, in fact, the glue that keeps AMSA functioning as a national body, and without the voluntary work of these members, the society would cease to exist. Some have served on Council for periods of up to 20 years! AMSA sincerely appreciates the continuing efforts of members working on Council and in the other aspects of running the Association. The Council Executive members of the past 50 years are listed in Table 2. It should be noted that, in terms of the constitution, AMSA Presidents are limited to a two-year term in office. It is pleasing to be able to draw attention to several people who have made enormous personal contributions to AMSA. However, in doing so, we hasten to caution that this is not meant to minimise the considerable efforts of many other people.

Dr Kay Radway Allen was a leading scientist of his generation and was head of what is now the CSIRO Division of Marine & Atmospheric Research, from which he retired in 1977. Following retirement, Kay remained active on the AMSA Council for many years and was awarded the AMSA Jubilee Prize in 1995 for his career-long excellence in marine research. His wife, Rosa, was Treasurer for 17 years, and together they undertook countless tasks for AMSA. It was not unusual to receive a short note from Rosa thanking you for paying your annual subscription! Both were made honorary life members of AMSA in recognition of their considerable contributions to the Association. Rosa and Kay were the major contributors to the endowment fund that supports the Ron Kenny awards, and then Kay generously left a bequest which is now used to fund the annual AMSA Allen Award.

Following the retirement of Rosa from being AMSA Treasurer (at the tender age of 84!), it rapidly became apparent that a scientist working full time was not able to undertake all of the tasks (including membership) that were required. Accordingly, AMSA provided some funds towards clerical assistance for

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor
1963	Geoffrey Kesteven	Bill Stephenson	Jim Thomson	John Yaldwyn	Elizabeth Pope
1964		Bryan Womersley			
1965					
1966	Jim Thomson	Ernest Hodgkin	H.J. Robin	Alan Carter	Bruce Campbell
1967					
1968					
1969	Reg Sprigg			Des Griffin	Brian Newell
1970					
1971	Frank Talbot			Peter Roy	
1972		C. Wallington	Pat Dixon	Des Griffin	Roger Braddock
1973	Alistair Gilmour				
1974		Kay Radway Allen			
1975		John Noye	Robert King	Rosa Allen	Darwin Evans
1976	Des Griffin				
1977					
1978	David Rochford	Joe Baker	Peter Young	Rosa Allen	Norm Milward & Ron Kenny
1979					
1980					
1981	Don Anderson				
1982		Kay Radway Allen	Stephen Brandt	Rosa Allen	Ron Kenny
1983	Joe Baker		Phillip Gibbs		
1984					
1985		Laurie Hammond	Di Walker	Rosa Allen	Ron Kenny
1986	Jorg Imberger				
1987					Alan Dartnall

1988	Laurie Hammond	Jason Middleton	Helen Lew Ton	Rosa Allen	Vivienne Mawson
1989					
1990	Jason Middleton	Meryl Williams			
1991			Stefica Andrijanic		
1992	Wendy Craik	Peter Rothlisberg			
1993	Peter Rothlisberg	Craig Johnson	Roland Pitcher		Ian Tibbetts
1994					
1995	Craig Johnson	Alan Butler	Judy O'Neil	Fred Wells	
1996					
1997	Alan Butler	John Keesing	Anne Brearley	Ron Gough	Jon Havenhand
1998					
1999	John Keesing	Maria Byrne		Mary Spehr Andea Mayfield	Emma Johnston
2000			Jon Havenhand		
2001	Maria Byrne	John Sherwood			
2002			Chris Smalley		
2003	John Sherwood	Gina Newton			
2004					
2005	Gina Newton	Fred Wells		Narelle Hall	Megan Huggett
2006					
2007	Fred Wells	Anthony Boxshall			Patricia von Baumgarten
2008			Iain Field		
2009	Anthony Boxshall	Lynnath Beckley			
2010					
2011	Lynnath Beckley	Sabine Dittmann			Claire Smallwood
2012			Karen Miller		
2013	Sabine Dittmann	Tim Lynch		Craig Styan	Luke Hedge

Date	Location
1963	Cronulla NSW
1964	Canberra ACT
1965	Eaglehawk Neck TAS
1966	Brisbane QLD
1967	Geelong VIC
1968	Perth WA
1969	Kangaroo Island SA
1970	Melbourne VIC
1971	Brisbane QLD
1972	Sydney NSW
1973	Rottnest Island WA
1974	Noosa Heads QLD
1975	Canberra ACT
1976	Paynesville VIC
1977	Christie's Beach SA
1978	No conference
1979	Tutukaka NZ
1980	Glenelg SA
1981	Brisbane QLD
1982	Sydney NSW
1983	Mandurah WA
1984	Geelong VIC
1985	No conference
1986	Hobart TAS
1987	Townsville QLD
1988	Sydney NSW
1989	Wirrina SA
1990	No conference
1991	Brisbane QLD
1992	Mandurah WA
1993	Melbourne VIC
1994	Townsville QLD
1995	Sydney NSW
1996	Hobart TAS
1997	Auckland NZ
1998	Glenelg SA
1999	Melbourne VIC
2000	Sydney NSW
2001	Townsville QLD
2002	Fremantle WA
2003	Brisbane QLD
2004	Hobart TAS
2005	Darwin NT
2006	Cairns QLD
2007	Melbourne VIC
2008	Christchurch NZ
2009	Adelaide SA
2010	Wollongong NSW
2011	Fremantle WA
2012	Hobart TAS
2013	Gold Coast QLD

Table 2. (previous page) Past and present AMSA Council Executive and Bulletin Editors, from 1963 to 2013. Table is arranged in half yearly 'blocks'.

Table 3. Dates and locations of AMSA conferences (1963-2013).

the Treasurer and, over time the role grew. In late 1999, Narelle Hall, then of the Centre for Marine Sciences at the University of Queensland, became Treasurer and was paid on a part-time basis to deal with AMSA subscriptions and membership matters. She worked tirelessly, not only as Treasurer, but also assisting the Bulletin editor, organising conferences, maintaining the website and in many other ways. In recognition, AMSA awarded her a Jubilee pin in Hobart 2012 and sincerely appreciates her continuing support of the Association in her current role as a contracted business manager and professional conference organiser.

At the 2007 annual conference in Melbourne, AMSA acknowledged Professor Joe Baker AO, OBE, FTSE, FRACI, CChem for a distinguished career and contribution to marine science by awarding him the honour of becoming the inaugural AMSA Patron. During his 40+ years in marine science, Professor Baker has been an inspirational leader of the Australian marine science community, mentored many key figures in Australian science, and increased knowledge about Australia's marine biota. Joe has been very active in AMSA, both before and after becoming Patron, and his wisdom and knowledge of how to get things done is still very much appreciated by Council and other members.

Branches

As a large, sparsely populated country, it is not possible for all the members to attend the annual conference. Branches (constituent bodies) maintain a key role in maintaining the focus of members on AMSA activities and, on a rotational basis, each year a branch provides the key members of the local organising and scientific committees for the annual AMSA conference. Branches can be organised as regional organisations or by discipline. Aside from the physical oceanographers and a group of chemists, the branches have all been convened as regional (usually state) bodies. Naturally, individual branches

wax and wane over the years depending on enthusiasm and distribution of members but, at present, AMSA is fortunate to have active branches in most areas of the country (Figure 1).

The branches undertake a wide range of activities and are often called upon to assist with science-based solutions to marine issues in their geographical area. Branches usually organise seminars on particular topics, often when a visiting scientist is in town, and some branches have organised state symposia that have been up to two days in length and included multiple sessions. Local symposia may also be on a particular topic to provide a scientific basis for public discussion on important marine issues (e.g., the proposed construction of a desalination plant in one of the South Australian gulfs). The student members are also active in the branches and, for example, those of the WA branch organise an annual student workshop at Rottnest Island. This provides an opportunity for student members to present short talks on their research, meet and socialise with students from the other local universities and discuss career options with representatives from government laboratories, universities and private consulting companies.

AMSA publications and communication

The *Australian Marine Science Bulletin* is the key AMSA publication, and is now in its 190th issue. Over

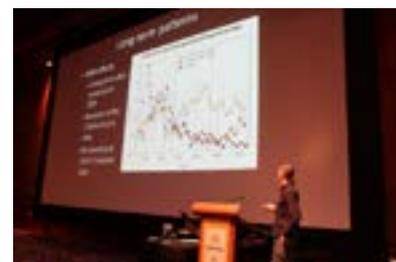
the years, the hard working editors (Table 2) have expanded it from a simple newsletter of a few pages stapled together to a professional, full-colour layout of about 40 pages. It provides information on a wide range of marine science topics, covers many AMSA activities, has a letter from the AMSA President, Council minutes, reports of meetings of consequence to AMSA members, notices of conferences, articles on scientific diving, a list of new members and reports from the various branches. With advances in technology over the last 50 years, the Bulletin is now produced in electronic format, which allows it to be easily distributed to members. Some copies are still published as hard copies, primarily for formal registration purposes and library holdings.

Careers in Marine Science was one of the early AMSA publications and has been through a number of print runs in which thousands of copies were printed and distributed to students, teachers and others seeking information on the various types of employment opportunities available in marine science in Australia. During the 1990s and 2000s the booklet was completely rewritten and updated and is now available electronically from the AMSA website.

AMSA has made effective use of the advent of computer technology and, since an early homepage in 1995, has maintained a formal AMSA website (www.amsa.asn.au). In addition to providing information about AMSA, the website also serves as



© Narelle Hall IAMSA



our membership data-base and repository of much institutional information. The website is currently being re-developed for the Golden Jubilee! In addition, since 2003 there has been a national communication forum, AMSA list, which allows individual members to rapidly exchange information with all other AMSA members or with those in their specific branch.

AMSA Annual Conference

The AMSA annual conference has grown tremendously since the small inaugural meeting that was held in Cronulla, New South Wales in 1963. Initially, AMSA met the weekend prior to the conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science but the meetings rapidly grew large enough to stand on their own. The independent AMSA annual conferences now routinely attract between 300 and 400 delegates and have conference themes, keynote speakers, several concurrent sessions, posters and a lively social programme.

The conferences are held throughout Australia, with all the capital cities of the various states hosting conferences in an irregular rotation (Table 3). The AMSA conference has also been held in regional areas, such as Geelong (1967 and 1984), Wirrina (1989), Mandurah (1983 and 1992), Cairns (2006) and Wollongong (2010). With the concentration of marine scientists in Townsville, this regional city has been a venue for the annual conference three times. The 2013 conference will be on the Gold Coast and, in 2014, the conference will be held for only the third time in Canberra.

As opportunities have arisen, AMSA has met with other societies, such as with the Australian Coral Reef Society in Townsville in 1994 and at the conference in Sydney in 1995 a joint day was held with the Malacological Society of Australia. The conference in Darwin in 2005 was timed so AMSA members could also attend the subsequent meeting of the Australian Society for Fish Biology. The largest venture in holding joint conferences was the meeting held in Cairns in 2006, where AMSA joined with the International Society of Wetland Scientists for a successful joint conference with 590 delegates.

A long term relationship has been established with our sister society across the Tasman, the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society. AMSA and NZMSS have instituted a pattern of having joint conferences at mutually convenient times, alternating between the two countries. The first such meeting was held in Tutukaka, New Zealand, in 1979, but few AMSA members were able to attend. A joint meeting in Auckland in 1997 had better attendance, and the two societies met in Christchurch in 2008, with nearly 100 AMSA members attending. The aftermath of the shocking earthquake that devastated Christchurch in 2011 was acutely felt by the AMSA members who had so much enjoyed the conference and the city of Christchurch. AMSA members have been pleased to welcome NZMSS members to several AMSA conferences, most recently the conference held in Hobart in 2012. We look forward to future joint meetings with NZMSS.

As the AMSA conferences grew in size over the



The AMSA Bulletin has undergone several transitions since 1963. The original newsletter has been transformed into a mainly digital magazine format. However, printed copies are still produced for libraries, government and other individuals who still enjoy reading the printed word.



Early on, AMSA formulated a code of practice for scientific diving and by the late 1980s had accumulated a register of about 600 scientific divers operating in Australia.

© Shea Cameron

decades, organising the meetings became infinitely more complex. A meeting of 300 to 400 delegates is much more difficult to organise than one for a few dozen scientists! Not only have the numbers of delegates expanded, but the demands for electronic facilities for registration, payment, upload of abstracts and sophisticated audio visual equipment for presentations have increased the skill sets required to manage a large conference. In the early days, occasionally helping to organise a scientific conference in one's research field was considered to be part of the job of a scientist. In recent years, as budgets have become increasingly constrained, jobs have been restricted more to core functions and such outside activities have been curtailed. This combination of outside influences has resulted in AMSA relying increasingly on professional conference organisers to manage the conferences with associated increases in costs. Also, as the conferences have grown they have outstripped the capabilities of many universities, and there have been a number of recent conferences organised in venues such as hotels,

conference centres and even casinos!

AMSA very much appreciates the long term, and continuing, financial and other support for AMSA conferences provided by key scientific organisations in marine science such as the CSIRO Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Geoscience Australia.

Workshops

Over the years there have been many AMSA workshops, with some of the most successful being those in a series of marine biological workshops (modelled on the Hong Kong series) at a range of localities around the country. The workshops had a simple but highly effective format and involved a group of local and international scientists converging at one locality to examine the marine biota in detail. Much organisation of facilities, field equipment, vessels, vehicles, local habitat knowledge, collecting equipment,

Table 4. Winners of the AMSA Jubilee Award for excellence in Australian marine research.

Year	Winner
1988	Shirley Jeffrey
1989	Tony Underwood
1990	Not awarded
1991	William Dall
1992	Patricia Mather
1993	Bruce Hamon
1994	Bryan Womersley
1995	Kay Radway Allen
1996	Charlie Veron
1997	Scoresby Shepherd
1998	Howard Choat
1999	Stuart Godfrey
2000	Jack Greenwood
2001	Not awarded
2002	Arthur McComb
2003	John Lucas
2004	Terry Hughes
2005	June Olley
2006	George Cresswell
2007	Not awarded
2008	Winston Ponder
2009	Peter Nichol
2010	Pat Hutchings
2011	Graham Edgar
2012	David Griffin

collecting permits, accommodation and meals are required. The scientists worked on individual projects in their field of expertise, or with colleagues on joint research projects, and there are obvious synergies in having a large group working concurrently in the same place. Three years were allowed to prepare papers, undertake peer review, and edit the material into a volume documenting the collective efforts. The WA branch of AMSA organised marine biological workshops in Albany (1988), Rottnest Island (1991 and 1996), the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (1994), the Dampier Archipelago (2000) and Esperance (2003).

The NT branch of AMSA organised a workshop in Darwin Harbour in 1993, and the southeast Queensland branch held one at Moreton Bay in 2005. Together, these workshops have provided considerable information on the marine biota of Australia, with the publications totalling 13 volumes and over 5,000 pages of scientific information.

Representation on National marine science issues

The Australian Marine Sciences Association was established to advance marine science in the country and is not a lobby group for particular issues or purposes. However, as the largest grouping of Australian marine scientists, AMSA members have substantial expertise and collective wisdom in matters pertaining to marine science and policy and seek to use that expertise for the common good by providing a sound scientific basis to public discussions. AMSA Council can correspond directly with key national political leaders to ensure scientific information is made available in the appropriate venues.

AMSA was involved in the McKinnon marine science review in the 1990s and lobbied hard for a national marine science policy, simultaneously launching AMSA's document to this effect in both Canberra and Hobart in 1997. This led to the AMSA President being invited to serve on a Ministerial Advisory Group on Oceans Policy (MAGOP) and AMSA played an important part in the subsequent development of the national Ocean's Policy and the Marine Science and Technology Plan which were both launched in 1999 by the federal government. Subsequently, AMSA had a seat on the National Oceans Advisory Group (NOAG) and, in 2004, was invited to join the Ocean's Policy Scientific Advisory Group (OPSAG) where AMSA has been the only non-agency member serving the interests of marine scientists, especially those from the university sector. Recent documents generated by OPSAG include "A Marine Nation" (2009) and "Marine Nation 2025; Marine Science to Support Australia's Blue Economy" (2013).

AMSA has been particularly active with respect to the science of Marine Protected Areas. In 1975, AMSA generated a set of guidelines for the protection of underwater areas which was widely distributed. About a decade later, a document on the selection of Marine and Estuarine Protected Areas was prepared and, in 1991, AMSA produced a position statement on MPAs. This position statement has been updated regularly with the most recent version dated 2012 and available

Table 5 Winners of the AMSA Award for student travel to an international conference.

** Since 2008 named the AMSA Allen Award and funded from the Allen bequest.*

Year	Winner
1997	Regina Counihan
1998	Jo-Anne Cavanagh and Paulina Selvakumaraswamy
1999	Naomi Parker, Anne Trevana and Leslie Brooker
2000	Nathan Knott and Napur Smith
2001	Mary-Ann Lea
2002	Megan Watson and Claire Bennett
2003	Adam Pope and Brenda McDonald
2004	Rebecca McIntosh and Belinda Thompson
2005	Krystyna Saunders
2006	Inke Faulkner
2007	Alex Rattray
2008	Alex Wyatt and Ben Pitcher
2009	Jessica Andre
2010	Kate Naughton
2011	Emma Wilkie
2012	Gareth Belton

on the AMSA website. With the recent roll out of the National Representative System of Marine Protected areas, AMSA has been very involved in responding to government about regional marine plans including a flurry of five submissions in 2012. In addition, the various branches have been vigorously engaged in MPA issues in state waters around the country.

For many years AMSA has been concerned about the declining number of taxonomists in Australian public institutions. These scientists provide critical information on the marine biodiversity of the vast Australian seas, an area that is larger than the continent of Australia itself. In this era of concern over

substantial biodiversity losses, declines in fisheries, climate change, ocean acidification and the like, it is the taxonomists who provide the critical information on the species present in the various Australian marine ecosystems. Yet, the present cohort of marine (and other) taxonomists is nearing retirement. In fact, many have already retired, though several individuals are still actively researching their particular taxonomic groups. As these individuals retire they are not replaced by a new generation. This has led to a steady decline in Australian taxonomic capability that has now become critical. Unfortunately, AMSA's considerable efforts in this regard, which have included representation on the National Biodiversity Council and a position paper for OPSAG on marine taxonomy in the new millennium, have not been able to help reverse this trend.

Scientific diving has been another matter that has occupied AMSA for several decades. Early on, AMSA formulated a code of practice for scientific diving and by the late 1980s had accumulated a register of about 600 scientific divers operating in Australia. Nevertheless, scientific diving was deemed to fall under the government's national standards for commercial diving but eventually after complex and lengthy negotiations led by AMSA, specific scientific diving standards were released (S2299.2). AMSA has provided a representative on the national SF 17 diving standards committee since the 1990s. More recently, AMSA has dealt with various health and safety regulations as they pertain to scientific diving as well as proposed changes to boating regulations.

Since 1986, a small proportion of the annual subscription of each AMSA member has been used for membership to Science and Technology Australia (STA ex FASTS) that provides a national voice in Canberra for about 60,000 scientists. Along with the Australian Coral Reef Society, the Australian Society for Limnology, Australasian Society for Phycology and Aquatic Botany and, more recently, the Australian Society for Fish Biology, AMSA is part of the aquatic cluster and, on a rotational basis, serves as the representative of the group. Amongst its various activities, STA organises an annual Science meets Parliament gathering in Canberra that provides opportunities for scientists to visit parliament and personally meet and discuss marine issues with individual parliamentarians. AMSA normally sends a senior scientist and an early career scientist and they report back about their experiences in the corridors of power via a report in the AMSA Bulletin.

Table 6. Recipients of the Ron Kenny Awards for student presentations at the annual AMSA conference.

Year	Ron Kenny Award Oral presentation	Ron Kenny Award Poster Presentation
1988	Ian Tibbetts	Rocky de Nys
1989	Shane Lavery	Not awarded
1990	Not awarded	Not awarded
1991	Ian Turner	Scott Wilson
1992	Karen Parsons	Not awarded
1993	Katrina Roper	Ursula McCann
1994	Angela Grice	Ben Stobart
1995	Guillermo Moreno	Paulina Selvakumaraswamy
1996	Geordie Clapin	Brett Glencross and Michael Holloway
1997	David Carson and Carolyn Barnett	Toby Bolton and Liz Morris
1998	Jane Williamson and Regina Counihan	Rachel Waters
1999	Vicki Barnaby and Jo Rush	Troy Gaston
2000	Michael Noad, Melinda Coleman, Stuart Newman and K. Wilton	Not awarded
2001	Danielle Liubicich, Carolyn Smith and Elizabeth O'Brien	Sharon Longford
2002	Jeremy Shaw	Jonathan Werry
2003	Nick Paul and Conor Jones	Nicola Fox
2004	Rebecca Habeeb	Rosemary Golding and Richard Piola
2005	Rosemary Golding and Patrick Lewis	Jessica Lee
2006	Joanne Oakes	Jana Guenther
2007	Kate Naughton	Katie Robertson
2008	Peter Macreadie	Joanne Banks
2009	Simon Hart	Virginie van Dongen-Vogels
2010	Jan Tebben	Helen Donald
2011	Kade Mills	Candice Wilson
2012	Helena Baird	Hailey Durrant

Awards

To commemorate its Silver Jubilee Year in 1988, AMSA established an award for excellence in marine research in Australia, known as the Jubilee Award. It was introduced at the conference in Sydney in December 1988 and the inaugural winner was Dr Shirley Jeffrey of CSIRO (Table 4). AMSA's premier award is presented to a scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to marine research in Australia and is bestowed at the AMSA annual conference when the recipient presents a plenary talk to the conference. Selection criteria include such aspects as the development of new insights into Australian marine environments and systems, the initiation of new fields of study or applications, and the creation of techniques now regarded as standard methods. Contributions to the administration and promotion of marine science and technology are not within the scope of the award.

In 2009, AMSA initiated a Technical Award to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of technical support to marine science in Australia. This prize serves to emphasize the valuable contribution made by those who provide the technical and logistical support services which make much marine research possible. To date, Lyndsay Pender, Rod Watson and Matt Sherlock have received this award.

AMSA instituted an annual travel award in 1996 to assist a post-graduate student to participate in an international conference and present their results to a broader audience and serve as an ambassador of Australian marine science (Table 5). The competition for this award is intense with about 15 applications each year. Initially, the overseas travel award was funded directly by AMSA and several institutional sponsors

until Kay Radway Allen generously left a bequest to AMSA, the interest from which is now used to fund most of the AMSA Allen Award.

Over the years, AMSA has provided considerable and substantial prizes to students, generally based on oral or poster presentations at the annual conference (Table 6). Not only are the prizes much appreciated, but the recognition is a key feature in the curriculum vitae of a new graduate looking for that first job. The premier student award at the annual conference is the Ron Kenny Award (instigated in 1988), which honours the late Associate Professor Ron Kenny of James Cook University, for his long term work in support of AMSA, in particular, his tireless editing of the AMSA Bulletin. When the oceanographers returned to the main AMSA fold in 2001, their accumulated funds were earmarked to support an annual prize for oceanography named after the late Peter Holloway. In the past decade there has been a proliferation of other prizes, many of which are specific to particular disciplines and these vary from year to year. All student prize winners and the recipients of the AMSA Allen Award are expected to publish short articles on their work in the AMSA Bulletin. The issue in which these articles appear is a testament to the diversity and quality of marine research in Australia by our younger scientists and bodes well for the future.

The future

As AMSA celebrates the completion of its first 50 years, the Association is a vibrant organisation with a sound history of accomplishments achieved over the last five decades. We look forward to AMSA building on this foundation and continuing to advance marine science in Australia over the next 50 years. ■



© Lynnath Beckley