



**Ri Aus**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT 2016**



## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN Peter Yates AM

This year we completed the second year of our three-year strategy to position our public engagement operations under the brand of Australia's Science Channel. The second

year in a major strategic plan is a challenge for any organisation. Maintaining our progress in strategic development is critical for The Royal Institution of Australia if we are to achieve the mission of promoting public awareness and understanding of science to the community, through a world-class digital platform.

From the beginning, Council determined that this three-year strategy required a significant investment in year two, and this has now occurred. Our technology and content production platform has reached its objective of allowing us to be the biggest player in science media in Australia. We are very grateful to have the best of platform partners in Hostworks.

As the largest digital science media player in Australia we will be the leading aggregator of STEM based content from Australian institutions for the public. During the past year viewers and members will have seen the evolution in our platform, and those many thousands who are regular viewers will have seen many improvements in content quality and user experience. We anticipate more improvements as the strategy continues to roll out.

Whilst there has been a very heavy focus on our digital platform, it remains key to our operations that we maintain the three main areas of deliverables to the Australian public: digital, live events and publications. During the past year The Royal Institution of Australia has worked hard on all these key areas.

In the live events space, we delivered two more significant live broadcasts to schools across Australia, when we presented Commander Chris Hadfield in August 2015, and David Suzuki in March 2016 to a combined audience of over 16,000 students.

Another major initiative for the year was the development of the long standing SCINEMA International Science Film Festival into a national event. Major premiere screenings were held concurrently in each capital city in June, with over 250 community groups screening to over 8,000 people during National Science Week. We thank our major sponsors BBC Knowledge and Hostworks for their support of this major undertaking.

In the publications space, we are delighted with the progress of The Ultimate Science Guide. The Guide is the most significant source of STEM career content available in Australia – and its distribution of 75,000 copies nationally to every school in Australia is unparalleled. In the secondary school level, a major step forward was the request from the South Australian Minister for Education, the Hon Susan Close MP, that every year nine and ten student in South Australia receive a printed copy of our Ultimate Science Guide. We are working hard to further grow this distribution in other states across Australia.

I would like to thank our Bragg Members for their continued support as ambassadors for the organisation, its mission and Australia's Science Channel. The Council is committed to working closely with this esteemed group of science leaders, on a number of new initiatives.

My thanks go to the Council and all staff for their ongoing work and commitment. I truly believe the innovation and development we have undertaken has been remarkable for a small organisation, and it is down to these two groups that this has occurred so successfully.

I would like to acknowledge our Council Member, Martyn Myer AO who retired at the November 2015 Annual General Meeting. Martyn has been a significant contributor of time and resources since the Institutions establishment in 2007 and was a major assistance to myself, and our Management.

I also welcome our newest Council Member, Mr Will Berryman, CEO and MD of Hostworks, who has also contributed a significant amount of time and resources to our recent developments. His expertise in everything from science journalism, through to content production, and mainstream broadcasting at an international level has been a huge asset to the Council.

The next year requires us to continue to meet significant challenges as we roll out more elements of Australia's Science Channel to the wider scientific and Australian communities. Already in the first quarter of the next financial year, we have seen some significant partnerships locked away that will help us on our journey. Whilst there is still a great deal of work yet to be completed, the Council remains confident that the strategy we have developed will be achieved and that The Royal Institution of Australia will deliver on our mission.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR Dr Paul Willis

It's been another constructive year for The Royal Institution of Australia, building a strong online presence with Australia's Science Channel and across our social media platforms as well as firmly establishing

ourselves within the scientific community. Our public profile has grown significantly and we have continued to expand our resources in STEM career guidance for young Australians.

Our most high-profile achievement this year has been building Australia's Science Channel with a wide range of science content offerings including articles, podcasts, video and e-publications. This includes our first commissioned content, the video series The Wild Life by Christina Choate and the creation of a new vodcast Brew Ha Ha targeted at 13-25 year olds.

We have strengthened our social media presence across a number of platforms, including doubling the number of Facebook followers, and maintained other audience engagements through radio, newsletters and other media opportunities.

Being part of the scientific community is important to us and we have consolidated our position in several ways. We worked with the Australian Academy of Science to produce and broadcast the series On The Job promoting STEM careers. We were the only media channel offering full coverage of the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science and were the major media partners for Science Meets Parliament in Canberra as well as the Driverless Car Convention in Adelaide. We've also built on our network of volunteer contributors to Australia's Science Channel.

To be seen in public, engaging the Australian community with the ideas of science, is critical to our mission. This is the first year that we have run the SCINEMA International Science Film Festival which received 1,357 entries from 80 countries. This reached out to 8,000 people across the country with 250 community screenings (including one in Antarctica!).

Tapping into popular culture to reach a wider audience, we produced the mini-doc Mars on the Horizon to coincide with the cinematic release of The Martian and covered the science behind Australia's largest world music, art and dance festival WOMADelaide. We worked with renowned adventurer Tim Jarvis in the lead up to the Paris Climate Talks (COP21) to highlight the science of climate change, producing a number of videos and articles published on a dedicated sub-channel 25Zero.

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

As a national charity, The Royal Institution of Australia values and is very thankful for the ongoing generosity of the individuals and organisations that support us.

**Gold Corporate Members** include APPEA, ARC Centre of Excellence for Particle Physics at the Terascale (CoEPP), Australian National University, Australian Synchrotron, Australian Geographic, Defence Science and Technology Group (Australian Government - Department of Defence), Flinders University, GSK – Glaxo Smith Kline, La Trobe University, PwC, RMIT University, Swinburne University, Telstra, The University of Adelaide, University of New South Wales, The University of Queensland, University of South Australia, University of Tasmania and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

**Corporate Members** include BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, Life Sciences Queensland, Murdoch University and The University of Sydney.

**Foundation Members** include the Australian Government, Government of South Australia and Santos.

**Corporate Partners** include ATSE – Australian Academy of Technology Sciences and Engineering, Australian Academy of Science, Science & Technology Australia, CSIRO and Hostworks.

**Individual Members** are an integral part of The Royal Institution of Australia, whose support allows us to achieve our mission of promoting public awareness and understanding of science to a broader community.



COMMANDER CHRIS HADFIELD



## DAVID SUZUKI SPEAKS TO AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS

We have engaged young audiences around STEM careers and made teacher resources available on **iTunes U**. We joined the Chief Scientist of South Australia, in association with the Department of State Development, to produce the **Future Innovators Series** which included a livestreamed discussion with singing astronaut **Commander Chris Hadfield** beamed into classrooms across the nation and New Zealand, and a live event, **Digital Futures**, where we showcased innovators in the creative industries including game development, visual effects and digital fabrication.

We took inspirational role models such as the legendary **David Suzuki** into classrooms across Australia using our livestreaming facilities and increased our STEM career resources with the production of three videos about the Food and Wine Industry, Shipbuilding Industry and Entrepreneurship.

**The Ultimate Science Guide** continues to be our flagship STEM careers publication. This year we increased distribution to 75,000 printed copies, with many more downloads from the site. By years end every Year 9 and 10 student in South Australia had received a copy and we are working towards doing the same nationally in 2017.

Our **Early Careers Research Network** continues to provide support to ECRs at universities across South Australia and the whole nation.

Proudly supported by Flinders University, UniSA and The University of Adelaide, we produced four livestreamed events in Adelaide. This network started with just 150 participants three years ago and has now grown to over 700 members.

So what are the results of all this activity at The Royal Institution of Australia? We have effectively doubled the visitors to Australia's Science Channel and tripled the number of page visits since launching the platform. Our reach through social media has shown dazzling growth and we have directly engaged thousands of school students with our livestreams and career resources. We have spoken to a collected radio audience of over 13 million people. And, most importantly, we have promoted and conducted the discussions around science-based issues that this nation needs to have for a prosperous and constructive future.

Of course, this is a team effort and I need to recognise and thank the wonderfully creative and capable team here at The Royal Institution of Australia. They couldn't have performed such stunning feats without the wise and careful stewardship of our Council or without the support of our members, volunteers and others who have joined us in our mission to provide Australia with the interactions with science that will build a better country for all. To all who have done their bit, I thank you and look forward to another year of working together to engage Australia with science.

# OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2,147 downloads  
iTunes U Climate  
Challenge Course from  
1 April to 30 June 2016

16,000+ students  
tuned in to our livestream  
to watch astronaut  
Commander Chris Hadfield,  
and David Suzuki

1,357 film entries to  
SCINEMA International  
Science Film Festival  
from 80 countries  
globally.

250 screenings of  
SCINEMA International  
Science Film Festival  
across 8 states  
and territories, to an  
audience of 8,000

## Income Statement

	2016	2015
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	64,780	191,956
Funding/Grants	423,799	455,366
Fundraising	2,500	-
Publishing	75,730	218,614
Membership	105,423	115,077
Investment Income	779,517	1,270,237
Venue Hire	213,320	215,433
Other	86,326	98,578
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,751,394</b>	<b>2,565,261</b>

## Expenses

Programs	364,988	450,465
Management & Administration	2,159,392	2,165,425
Investment Costs	35,075	36,840
Venue Hire	24,266	23,287
IT & Website	123,158	100,237
Depreciation	406,752	295,544
Other	42,156	12,889
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,155,787</b>	<b>3,084,687</b>
<b>Net operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(1,404,393)</b>	<b>(519,426)</b>

## Summary of Position

	2016	2015
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,910,738	3,622,064
Other Current Assets	278,940	277,443
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Investments	7,054,161	7,232,037
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,475,215	1,650,046
Other non-current assets	3,148	2,925
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,722,202</b>	<b>12,784,515</b>
Current Liabilities	281,082	342,306
Non-Current Liabilities	67,577	94,355
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>348,659</b>	<b>436,661</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>10,373,543</b>	<b>12,347,854</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>10,373,543</b>	<b>12,347,854</b>





Commonly referred to as Peacock spiders, the Maratus is a spider genus of the family Salticidae (jumping spiders) and was the subject of the winner of the People's Choice Award at SCINEMA International Science Film Festival 2016.

This documystery, MARATUS, follows the story of a garbage collector who takes a photo of a spider and posts it online. He gets a call from a scientist telling him it might be an undiscovered species. There follows an epic three-year quest to re-find the spider – a journey of extraordinary self-discovery for a colourful citizen scientist.

The Royal Institution of Australia recognises and is grateful for the financial and in-kind support of its partners:

**Foundation Partners:** Australian Government, Government of South Australia and Santos Ltd.

**Australia's Science Channel:** Development - Hostworks, Channel Sponsors - Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Hostworks and BBC Knowledge.

**Education Partner:** Department of Education and Child Development (South Australian Government).

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Foundation Partners:



**Santos**  
We have the energy.



Australian Government

### Project Partners:

**SCINEMA International Science Film Festival:** Major Partners - BBC Knowledge and Hostworks, Premiere Screening Partners - National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA), SciCED at the University of South Australia, University of Tasmania, Murdoch University, University of New South Wales (Science), University of Queensland, RMIT University. **SpiRit of Science:** Department of Education and Child Development (Government of South Australia) and Families SA (Government of South Australia). **Early Career Researcher Network:** Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia. **The 2016 Ultimate Science Guide:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). **Future Innovators Series:** The Department of State Development (South Australian Government) and the Chief Scientist of South Australia. **In Class with Chris Hadfield:** Lateral Events. **Channel 25zero:** 25zero and Tim Jarvis. **Driverless Cars Convention:** Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (Government of South Australia). **Science Meets Parliament:** Science & Technology Australia.

### Event Partners:

Lateral Events, National Science Week 2015, Australasian Society for Immunology, SALA Festival 2015, Adelaide Fringe Festival 2016, WOMADelaide 2016 Planet Talks, The Science Nation, RAA Street Smart High 2016, Science & Technology Australia, University of South Australia, The University of Adelaide, Flinders University, South Australian Science Excellence Awards (Government of South Australia), Media Resource Centre, BBC Worldwide, ARC Centre of Excellence for Particle Physics at the Terascale (CoEPP).

**Philanthropic Partners:** Thyne Reid Foundation, The Nielson Foundation.

### The Royal Institution of Australia Council Members

Mr Peter Yates AM, Chairman  
Mr William Berryman  
Sir Rod Eddington AO  
Prof John Yovich AM  
Mr David Knox  
Prof Peter Andrews AO  
Dr Gregory Clark  
Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield CBE

### Patron

HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC

Photography courtesy Grant Nowell.

Foundation Partners: