

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



RIAUS VODCAST



RIAUS EDUCATION



LIVESTREAMING



FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dr Paul Willis

It was a good year for RiAus, a year of settling down and getting on with our mission to engage Australia with science – and the end of year figures clearly demonstrated that we did exactly that! There were almost 300,000 interactions with our online content including our popular vodcast A Week In Science. We spoke face-to-face with over 20,000 people and we talked science to a weekly radio audience of over 150,000 people through regular radio spots across Australia. Our blogs were widely read both on our own website and other platforms including ABC Science Online.

The spread of our audience has also been impressive with our livestreamed events being picked up across Europe, Asia, North America, and even Antarctica! We reached out to people across Australia with events in regional areas of Victoria and South Australia as well as in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Our education resources, particularly our popular PDplus programs for primary and secondary teachers, provided a useful palette of material specifically tailored for those teachers who have no formal training in science.

We had a very exciting year for talking science in Australia with Nobel Laureate, Professor Brian Schmidt, visiting Adelaide to present the Science Inspiration to a live audience and to over 2000 students online; and the discovery of the Higgs Boson, a feat that went on to win the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physics.

Our membership has continued to grow and our newsletter had almost 6,000 subscribers. Support from the education and business sectors has also been strong with more corporate memberships being taken up. Similarly, our social media results continue to improve as more people take an interest in science and the role of RiAus.

Our achievements this year would not be possible without the continued and unstinting efforts of our RiAus staff members. Their creativity and vision helps keep RiAus fresh and surging forward with new and clever ways to communicate science. I personally thank them and our Council members whose hard work and wise governance of RiAus is integral to our success.

SUPPORTING SCIENCE

As a national charity, RiAus has the unique role of promoting public awareness and understanding of science. As RiAus strives to highlight the importance of science in everyday life it creates online content, public events, and education and teacher support programs across the broad range of science topics.

The financial and in-kind support of members, corporate partners, donors and venue hire clients enables RiAus to deliver high quality public programs. RiAus values, and is very thankful for the ongoing generosity of individuals and organisations who work with us to help achieve our goals.

The Science Exchange, home of RiAus, is one of Adelaide's premiere boutique venues offering a wide range of outstanding and versatile facilities for corporate functions. In the last financial year, 90 different clients staged over 295 events including board meetings, teleconferences, cocktail parties and graduation ceremonies and, by doing so, contributed to the ability of RiAus to generate income for its ongoing science engagement activities.

MEMBERSHIP

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Partnering with RiAus provides a unique opportunity to align a corporate brand with the goal of creating a science-literate society: one that encourages innovation; values education in science, technology, engineering and maths; and ensures a future science-savvy workforce.



RiAus thanks its Gold Corporate and Corporate Members who have demonstrated their commitment to Australia's future including: Australian Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (ACEAS); Australian Institute of Management (AIM SA); BAE Systems; BioSA; Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (South Australian Government); Flinders University; Intellectual Ventures; Leighton Holdings; Motor Accident Commission (South Australian Government); Novartis; The University of Adelaide; The University of Sydney; University of New South Wales; and University of South Australia.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Significant changes to the individual membership offering now provide an affordable and inclusive way of joining the RiAus community. As a result, membership grew to 344, and continues to grow.

With benefits including access to member-only events, discounted or free tickets to paid events, priority booking and free digital subscription to COSMOS Magazine; RiAus membership offers individuals an opportunity to join a unique community of supporters with a shared interest in science.



Free Range Science: 3D Printing, Bairnsdale, Victoria

ENGAGING OUR AUDIENCES

RiAus engages with its audiences through various online and live activities, events and programs. From panel discussions to vodcasts to art exhibitions, RiAus content is designed to educate, entice and entertain individuals in the wonders of science in everyday life.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RIAUS VODCAST: A WEEK IN SCIENCE provides the latest science news and promotes discussion of science through social media channels. Commencing in September 2012 it has continued to build its audience steadily. Widely acknowledged by peer organisations and the science communication community as fulfilling a vital niche by communicating science at a high level of engagement.

SCIENCE BEHIND THE HEADLINES (SBTH) touches on controversial topics taken straight from the headlines. Topics have included drugs in sport, marine parks and 'no-take' zones, and Australia's food security. Broadcast live on the RiAus livestreaming channel, SBTH showcases how RiAus programs are interacting with audiences across the nation.

THE CLOCK was a play commissioned to explore the science of ageing, supported through the Inspiring Australia initiative. Produced by RiAus in association with ActNow Theatre, it toured regional communities and schools with additional performances in Adelaide. Evaluation of this project by the University of Western Australia has shown that the use of theatre can effectively engage people not usually interested in science.

The conclusion of the four year **FREE RANGE SCIENCE** program of science activities across regional Victoria culminated with an Art-Science workshop at Mansfield Farmer's Market; Music Lab at Queenscliff Music Festival; and Spin, Sweat and Success focusing on sports science at the Great Victorian Bike Ride. The key to the success of this program was embedding science into the existing cultural fabric of regional communities, taking science to places that people might least expect to find it.

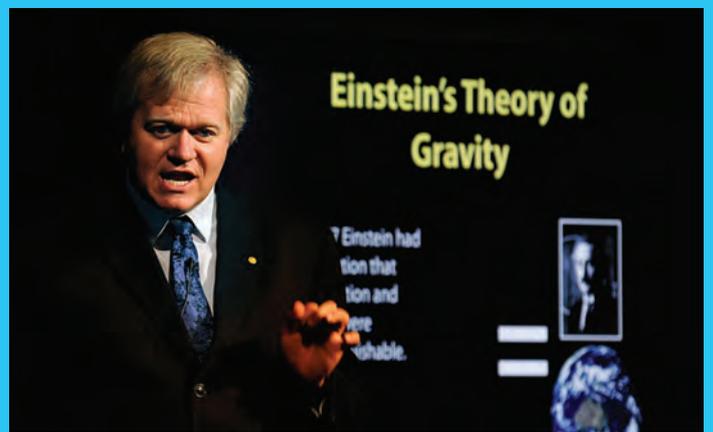
The **3RD ANNUAL RIAUS SCI-KU COMPETITION** searched the country for the best sci-ku (a science haiku or three lined science-themed poem). With a farming or agricultural theme in recognition of the 2012 Australian Year of the Farmer, there was a record number of entries including one from Test Cricket legend Glenn McGrath.

RIAUS ART IN THE FUTURESPACE GALLERY

During the year our science/art exhibitions included **DOMESTIC + SCIENCE** staged during the South Australian Living Artists Festival and comprising needlework, cooking and bookmaking; **ILLUMINATIONS BY ANDREW BAIRD** - with a collection of 50 portraits of Australian scientists, highlighting their individual work and the collaborative nature of science research; **INCREDIBLE INNER SPACE** exploring inner space at the micro, nano and atomic levels to help our understanding of the properties of materials, which is key to much scientific problem-solving in areas such as medicine, engineering and archaeology; and **LAND IS LIFE**, a collaboration with Oxfam, looking at the impacts of climate change.

SPECIALIST AUDIENCES

RiAus delivers a range of special projects and initiatives that target and provide opportunities for diverse audiences.



Prof Brian Schmidt AC presenting The Science Inspiration 2012

EDUCATION

The RiAus education program supports teachers of middle-school science and maths through the following programs:

PDPLUS A highlight of this teacher professional development and resources program was our collaboration with the Motor Accident Commission (MAC), which resulted in two new resources highlighting the impact of driving distractions and the science and myths of low level speeding. These resources take a realistic road safety scenario and break it down into its component topics, affording students a deeper learning experience by combining curriculum content with the issues facing young drivers. Teachers incorporated individual activities, or the resource as a whole, into their science and psychology lessons.

STEM CAREERS PACKS In partnership with the Department for Education and Child Development, RiAus has produced four STEM careers packs linked to the Australian science curriculum. The packs highlight career options in strategically important industries including mining, defence and engineering. The packs are available at no cost on the RiAus website.

THE SCIENCE INSPIRATION for 2012 was Nobel Laureate and Bragg Member, Prof Brian Schmidt AC who presented to an audience of over 1000 students across the country via the RiAus livestreaming channel. Prof Schmidt spoke about his life-long preoccupation with the world around him and gave the audience an insight into the journey that led to his Nobel Prize for Physics.

VOLUNTEERS

RiAus has been a member of Volunteering SA&NT since opening in 2009. A total of 16 live event and 22 online volunteers helped RiAus deliver events and programs. Volunteers undertook various tasks including blogging, ticketing, stewarding, tour guiding and contributing to our social media presence.

Volunteers are a crucial and valued part of RiAus operations, and we thank them for their continued efforts to bring science into the daily lives of our audience members.

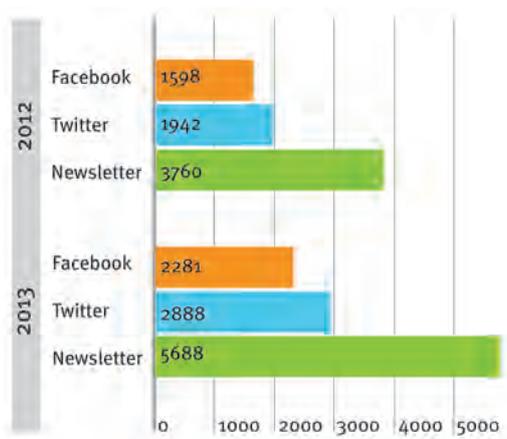


COMMUNICATING ONLINE

Further improvements were made to the RiAus website to increase useability. New features will continue to streamline the user experience.

An emphasis on growing our social media reach and engagement across a number of different platforms saw our Facebook followers increase to 2281 (from 1598) and Twitter followers increase to 2888 (from 1942). In mid 2013, Google+ and LinkedIn platforms were added with 124 and 128 followers respectively. Strong growth in this area is anticipated as social media and digital marketing continue to be a major focus for RiAus.

Online engagement growth



We have also seen strong growth in subscribers to our weekly newsletter with 5688 people subscribed (up from 3760).

Livestreaming with RiAus has continued to be very successful with over 100,000 people accessing the page in the last year. Livestreaming allows RiAus to share its events world-wide.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIA INC ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

INCOME STATEMENT

	2013	2012
INCOME		
Donations	88,428	171,540
Funding/Grants	775,052	1,820,676
Fundraising	8,469	90,700
Membership	45,957	26,213
Investment Income	413,898	616,597
Venue Hire	282,251	198,757
Other	105,671	189,094
Total Income	1,719,726	3,113,577

EXPENSES

Programs	397,954	702,246
Management & Administration	2,206,406	2,572,507
Investment Costs	38,586	49,089
Venue Hire	23,200	31,670
IT & Website	89,692	123,135
Depreciation	322,388	469,094
Other	27,144	61,641
Total Expenses	3,105,370	4,009,382
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	(1,385,644)	(895,805)

SUMMARY OF POSITION

	2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	5,963,594	8,054,284
Other Current Assets	544,567	343,413
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	6,036,859	4,367,501
Property, Plant & Equipment	2,102,259	2,417,878
Other non-current assets	2,925	2,625
Total Assets	14,650,204	15,185,701
Current Liabilities	661,324	740,344
Non-Current Liabilities	34,634	-
Total Liabilities	695,958	740,344
Net Assets	13,954,246	14,445,357
Total Equity	13,954,246	14,445,357



Preserves, Niki Sperou, Domestic + Science exhibition, July-August 2012



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Peter Yates AM

When a new organisation begins, there is hope, vision and enthusiasm to ensure the organisation can be all that it was intended to be. Now, after its fourth full year of operation, I can report that RiAus is well positioned to launch its next phase of operations: a phase that will see its reach become truly national.

As I reflect on the past year, RiAus has matured significantly. Year four will go down as one based around consolidation, strategic decision-making, and a great deal of groundwork designed to make year five our best yet.

There are a number of projects that emanated from planning undertaken during the year, which we are still not able to announce publicly due to confidentiality agreements. However, we expect to be able to make some important announcements shortly – I expect our members and stakeholders will be delighted.

After our Council planning day in November 2012, our management team was provided with a clear mandate to focus on three distinct areas of operation: teachers and students; public engagement, particularly engagement with those less interested in science, yet still opinion forming in our community; and specialised audiences. This has provided the organisation with greater focus.

Our public program continues to deliver high quality activities. These outreach activities are being captured and spread widely across Australia (and even the world) through our various digital content channels. A distinct digital presence, which was the original idea behind establishing our HD broadcast studio at The Science Exchange, has grown significantly during the reporting year. Our vodcast: A Week in Science is a high quality weekly digital newscast regularly viewed by thousands.

Our financial situation is significantly improved, in fact we have had our most successful financial year to date, reducing our operational loss by over half a million dollars. Due to a change in accounting policy recommended by our new auditors and accepted by Council, the figures in this report are hard to compare with past years. Our advice was that initial seed funding received from our foundation partners should have been recognised in the year it was received, ie in 2009, rather than over the period in which we have completed various programs. This has led to a significant recasting of our previous and last year's results suggesting deterioration, rather than improved condition.

We continue to strengthen our presence in the corporate market, which is something that is essential to ensuring the long term sustainability of RiAus. In South Australia, and nationally, we are building our relationship with CEDA (the Committee for Economic Development of Australia) to facilitate discussions with the business community about the important business of science.

We have welcomed new and renewing corporate members, including such significant organisations as DSTO and Novartis. Our individual membership has become an area of focus, with an excellent range of benefits being offered for a great value. This has seen real growth in membership numbers.

The Science Exchange achieved its best result ever as a corporate venue for hire in the heart of the Adelaide CBD. It must be remembered, that whilst the Government of South Australia very generously provided the venue on a long term lease, there are significant costs associated with running such a high-tech facility located in a Federation-era heritage building. We need this area of our business to grow even further to cover these costs.

A highlight of the year was an Australia House, London function held in June and hosted by RiAus Council Member and High Commissioner to the UK, the Hon Mike Rann and Council Member Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield. Her Excellency, the Hon Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of Australia was our guest of honour, along with a range of influential business leaders with strong Australian ties.

I thank the Council and all RiAus staff for their continued dedication and hard work. I also thank our members, both corporate and individual, sponsors, donors, volunteers and others who have helped RiAus over the past twelve months. With your continuing support, we are well-positioned for the future and to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Our fourth year sees our business consolidated and the challenge to grow nationally beginning to be realised. The Council is keenly aware of the need to ensure that we stretch out to all corners of our great Australian community, and to do so with a sustainable business model. It is a challenge that I am confident we can achieve.



Best of the Best: Women in Science, Melbourne, Victoria



Free Range Science: Backyard Dinosaurs, Illuminations: Andrew Baird, Scale Free Network, DonateLife

RiAus Council Members

Peter Yates AM, Chairman
 Prof Peter Andrews AO
 Dr Gregory Clark
 Sir Rod Eddington AO
 Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield CBE
 David Knox
 Javier Moll
 Martyn Myer AO
 The Hon Mike Rann CNZM
 Prof John Yovich AM

Front cover: teeth of a chiton, a primitive marine mollusc that eats algae off the rocks. To be strong enough to scrape rocks all day, their teeth are reinforced with iron (shown in orange) and are constantly being replaced. Visualised using X-ray microtomography by Dr Jeremy Shaw, University of Western Australia and A/Prof Allan Jones, University of Sydney (size: the green area is about 1 mm wide). From the Incredible Inner Space exhibition created by Australian Microscopy & Microanalysis Research Facility (AMMRF) at the RiAus FutureSpace Gallery, September 2012.

RiAus recognises and is grateful for the financial support of its partners:

Foundation Partners:

Australian Government, Government of South Australia and Santos Ltd.

Series Partners:

Free Range Science:

Victorian Government: Department of Business and Industry (DBI)

Road Safety Science:

Motor Accident Commission (MAC) South Australian Government

Education Partner:

Department of Education and Child Development (South Australian Government)

Project Partners:

Community outreach:

Inspiring Australia, an initiative of the Australian Government

PDplus:

COSMOS Magazine, West Beach Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank and Adelaide Shores

SpiRit of Science:

Department for Education and Child Development and Department of Premier and Cabinet (South Australian Government)

Scinamations:

Donate Life SA: Organ and Tissue Authority (Australian Government).

Science Behind the Headlines:

Inspiring Australia and the Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC)

Event Partners:

ABC TV's Catalyst; About Time 2013; South Australia's History Festival; ActNow Theatre; Adelaide Fringe Festival; Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility (AMMRF); Australian Mushroom Growers Association; Australian Network for Arts and Technology (ANAT); Australasian Society for Immunology; Bendigo Community Farmer's Market; Botanic Gardens of Adelaide; British Council Australia; Country Arts SA; CSIRO; Flinders University; Grampians Film Society; Joanna Briggs Institute; National Enabling Technologies Strategy; National Science Week; Oxfam Australia; Royal Adelaide Wine Show; SALA Festival 2012; Scale Free Network; SCINEMA; South Gippsland Conservation Society; The University of Adelaide; University of Melbourne; University of South Australia; and the Victorian Institute of Sport.

RiAus

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The Royal Institution of Australia Inc (RiAus) is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA). The Royal Institution of Australia Inc is a Charitable Institution and is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). ABN 98 638 459 658.

Foundation Partners:

