An aerial photograph of a coral reef. The water is a deep blue, and the coral reef is a lighter, textured blue. Several divers are visible in the water, some with blue fins. The image is oriented vertically, with the reef running from top to bottom.

**Ri Aus**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015





## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Peter Yates AM

The past year has been transformational for RiAus, building Australia's Science Channel which we believe will significantly assist us deliver on our objective of repositioning science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in the Australian cultural psyche.

In partnership with Hostworks, on 25 November 2014 at a gala event hosted by Mrs Jeanne Pratt at historic Raheen, we announced our plan to launch a free, on-demand platform to deliver the best of Australian science supported by the Australian scientific community.

We believe the online, interactive digital platform for Australia's Science Channel will play a major role in raising public awareness and understanding of STEM and provide forums for people to discuss the issues in science.

In April we were delighted that our Patron HRH The Duke of Kent visited Australia and hosted major events for RiAus in both Melbourne and Adelaide, including the induction of 14 new Bragg members. We are very fortunate to have such an active and engaged Patron.

This past year we furthered our mission to enhance the perceived value of STEM as a career path in the eyes of young Australians. An outstanding example of this was the presentation of international science superstar, Professor Brian Cox, live to over 16,500 students in 404 locations across Australia, supported by Lateral Events. Beamed into classrooms, Brian answered many questions posed by students, and encouraged them to look at the wide breadth of careers available to them in the STEM fields. Feedback from students and teachers alike was overwhelming. Impressively – the recording of this event has had over 100,000 views.

Such live events support the most comprehensive STEM careers and study guide in Australia – our publication, The Ultimate Science Guide. Delivered in hard copy to

every secondary school nationally, we are working hard to achieve our aim of delivering a hard copy into the hands of every year 9 and 10 student in Australia – all 650,000 of them.

We are delighted that the South Australian Government has requested a copy for their students for 2016 – and we will continue in conversations with the Federal and other State Governments about ways to make this happen.

Financially, the past year achieved our best result to date – and it is pleasing to see us moving in the right direction. We will continue to solicit further corporate, government and philanthropic support for Australia's Science Channel.

Strategically, the new branding of RiAus as Australia's Science Channel has allowed us to cut through a number of perception barriers, and open a wider dialogue with government and industry with a view to supporting our mission. Since our announcement in November 2014, we have been able to garner significant additional support from both sectors, with a 100% increase in our Gold Corporate Members (from 10 to 20).

A strategic repositioning of this type requires a great deal of work at Board and Management level – and this has been the predominant focus of the organisation over the past year. A new strategic plan, and heavily revised business plan have been developed to give us the best possible chance to deliver Australia's first ever science channel.

My thanks go to the Council and all RiAus staff for their ongoing work and commitment during what has been a transformational period. It is never easy to undertake such bold work and directional changes – but all within the RiAus team have been outstanding in their support. I also thank all our partners, Bragg members, corporate and individual members, and volunteers, for their ongoing support.

Special thanks must go to two of our retiring Council Members, The Hon Mike Rann and Mr Javier Moll, who's combined aspirational vision is the cornerstone of where we are today.

The next year will be outstanding for RiAus as we launch Australia's Science Channel to the wider public and add to our STEM program with a digital career-mapping tool generously supported by the Thyne Reid Foundation. We look forward to your continued support in spreading the message of RiAus as we deliver Australia's Science Channel across the nation.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR**  
Dr Paul Willis

We have had another exciting year at RiAus, working hard to establish ourselves as Australia's Science Channel. After several years of consolidating and experimenting we have a clear path ahead and that is as an online broadcaster dedicated to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Chief among the many high points for the year was a visit from our patron HRH The Duke of Kent, to award 14 new Honorary Bragg Memberships.

RiAus increased its public profile through a number of initiatives this year, most prominent was the launch of

RiAus TV – a free dedicated science channel providing high-quality science content from RiAus and other major Australian science-based organisations.

We have expanded our audience reach through social media and our newsletter now reaches over 9,000 subscribers weekly. We continue to grow and interact with audiences through regular radio segments and live events throughout the country.

Our traditional offerings enjoyed expanded success over the last year. **A Week in Science** averaged 35,000 views per week and was broadcast by over 18 radio stations around Australia. Our annual **Sci-ku** competition on the theme of food attracted a record 1,058 entries from across the globe.



**WATCH OUR SCIENCE  
INSPIRATION FOR 2014  
PROFESSOR TANYA MONRO**

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

RiAus values and is very thankful for the ongoing generosity of those individuals and organisations that work with us.

**Our Gold Corporate Members** include University of South Australia, Defence Science and Technology Organisation (Australian Government – Department of Defence), CQ University, Flinders University, University of NSW, The University of Adelaide, Telstra, RMIT University, the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA), CoEPP – ARC Centre of Excellence for Particle Physics at the Terascale, The University of Queensland, La Trobe University, Department of State Development (Government of South Australia), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (State Government of Victoria), GSK, PwC, Bauer Media - Australian Geographic, Australian Synchrotron, Simulation Australasia and Hostworks.

**Corporate Members** include The University of Sydney, BBC Worldwide Australia and New Zealand, Aurora Expeditions, Micro Planning International and Murdoch University.



**WATCH IN CLASS  
WITH BRIAN COX**

**Individual Members** continue to be an integral part of the RiAus community with numbers growing annually. New Honorary Bragg Members recognised for their excellence in scientific achievement were Professor John Shine AO, Professor Ian Chubb AC, Professor Michelle Simmons, Professor Carola Vinuesa, Dr Basil Hetzel AC, Dr John O'Sullivan, Dr Alan Finkel AO, Professor Lyn Beazley AO, Professor Marcello Costa, Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO, Professor Caroline McMillen, Emerita Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich, Emeritus Professor Christopher Burrell AO and Dr Andrew S.W. Thomas AO.



## ADELAIDE'S OWN ASTRONAUT ANDY THOMAS, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE INNOVATORS



RiAus celebrated science and art with a succession of wonderful exhibitions in our FutureSpace Gallery. We embraced popular culture to reach out to a wider audience by hosting a variety of Adelaide Fringe Festival acts, including a fun and entertaining show by Paul Livingston (AKA Flacco). We also recorded an exclusive interview with the man behind the infamous curl for viewers at home.

We delved into the world of big screen entertainment this year. To complement the release of Jurassic World, we created a mini documentary, **Dinosaurs on the Big Screen**, exploring the science behind the blockbuster film.

RiAus has established itself as a premier location for STEM careers and pathway promotion in Australia. We believe the future of science lies with our students and teachers, and are dedicated to providing inspirational role models and guidance to encourage students to pursue careers in STEM.

Astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas was the first presenter in our **Future Innovators Series**. This program hosts a number of speakers who share their inspirational stories with teachers and students. We also produced a series of thought-provoking videos featuring interviews with Dr Thomas.

We livestreamed the **2014 Science Inspiration**, Professor Tanya Monro, and international science superstar Professor Brian Cox to 8,500 and 16,500 students respectively, across Australia. Both speakers shared stories of their personal journeys and an explanation of their science, whilst encouraging students to keep searching for answers.

RiAus is committed to delivering teacher and student resources. This was our second year for publishing the **Postgraduate Survival Guide**, and the **Ultimate Science Guide**, focussing on new careers that may exist in the future.

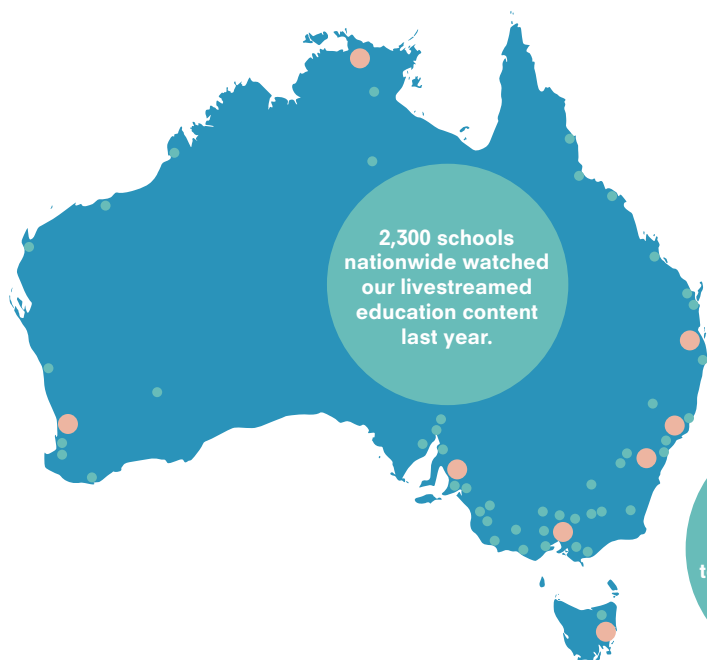
In line with the Australian curriculum, four **STEM Careers Packs** were produced for teachers covering 3D printing, Art Conservation, Robotics and Forensics. With over 5,000 downloads this year, these packs have proven to be a popular classroom resource.

Three new sets of **PDplus teacher notes** on the subjects of Sustainable Vehicles, Photonics and Crystallography were produced this year, providing professional development for teachers, with supporting events livestreamed across the country.

Our **Early Career Researchers Network (ECRN)** program is designed to equip researchers with the knowledge and skills to increase the impact of their research. This year we widened entry for the network to include late-stage PhD students and mid-career researchers and saw membership grow from 150 to over 600.

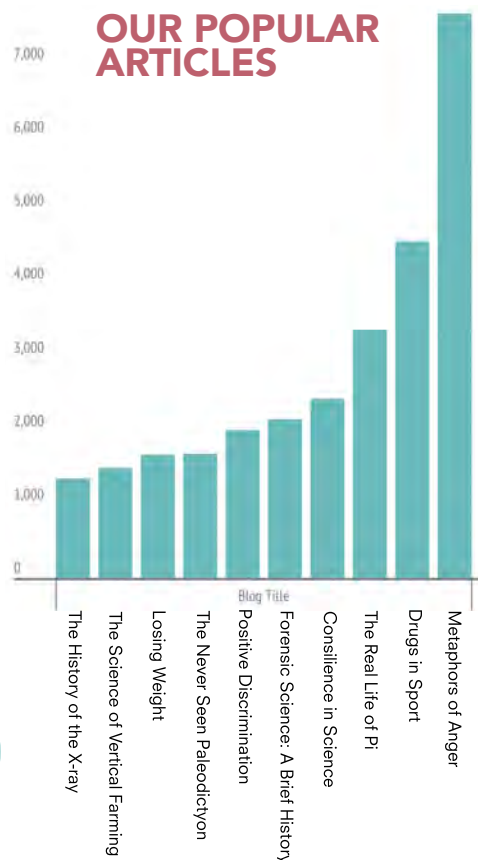
All this would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and creative energies of all RiAus staff. I would also like to acknowledge our Council and Chairman, Peter Yates AM, for their continued wise and knowledgeable stewardship of the organisation. To our members, corporate members, partners, volunteers and other supporters of RiAus, a special vote of thanks for helping to make this a very special and exciting year.

# ENGAGING WITH OUR AUDIENCES ONLINE



Over 16,500 students were in class with Brian Cox in October to pose their questions about STEM.

## OUR POPULAR ARTICLES



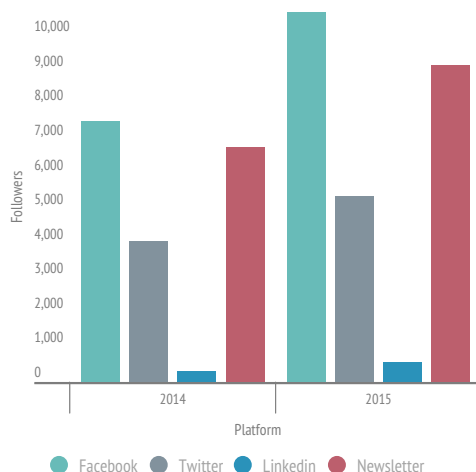
More than 50,000 students at regional and city schools tuned in to watch Brian Cox, Carin Bondar and Destin Sandler.

The Ultimate Science Guide was distributed to 40,000 readers; 5,000 more downloaded the e-magazine.

## OUR POPULAR VIDEOS



- In class with Brian Cox
- What causes traffic jams?
- Do beards make men sexier?
- How fast can humans run?
- How do animals see the world?



### Income Statement

2015

2014

#### Income

Donations	191,956	55,009
Funding/Grants	455,366	553,824
Fundraising	—	4,773
Publishing	218,614	—
Membership	115,077	66,123
Investment Income	1,270,237	849,342
Venue Hire	215,433	272,966
Other	98,578	375,145
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,565,261</b>	<b>2,177,182</b>

#### Expenses

Programs	450,465	514,487
Management & Administration	2,165,425	2,239,530
Investment Costs	36,840	42,268
Venue Hire	23,287	23,895
IT & Website	100,237	83,212
Depreciation	295,544	299,424
Other	12,889	21,409
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,084,687</b>	<b>3,224,225</b>
<b>Net operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(519,426)</b>	<b>(1,047,043)</b>

### Summary of Position

2015

2014

#### Current Assets

Cash	3,622,064	4,911,144
Other Current Assets	277,443	363,070

#### Non-Current Assets

Investments	7,232,037	6,920,998
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,650,046	1,822,694
Other non-current assets	2,925	2,925

**Total Assets** 12,784,515 14,020,831

Current Liabilities 342,306 518,336

Non-Current Liabilities 94,355 68,198

**Total Liabilities** 436,661 586,534

**Net Assets** 12,347,854 13,434,297

**Total Equity** 12,347,854 13,434,297

RiAus 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.

**RiAus TV Platform Partner:** Hostworks.

**Project Partners:** **STEM Career Packs:** Department of Education and Child Development (South Australian Government). **PDplus Teacher Notes:** University of South Australia. **SpiRit of Science:** Department of Education and Child Development (South Australian Government) and Families SA (South Australian Government). **Scinamations:** Hydrography Commission National Committee (Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute), Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing (University of South Australia), SA Health (South Australian Government). **Early Career Researcher Network:** Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, and University of South Australia. **The 2015 Ultimate Science & Engineering Guide:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). **The Future Innovators Series:** an initiative of The Chief Scientist of South Australia supported by The Department of State Development (South Australian Government). **In Class with Brian Cox:** Lateral Events. **CEDA Science Future Series:** Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).



From left, Chairman Peter Yates AM, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC; Director Dr Paul Willis, His Excellency the Governor The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, and General Manager Bradley Abraham.

**RiAus**  
55 Exchange Place, Adelaide, SA 5000  
08 7120 8600 | [science@riaus.org.au](mailto:science@riaus.org.au)  
[riaus.org.au](http://riaus.org.au) | [riaus.tv](http://riaus.tv)

**Event Partners:** Lateral Events, National Science Week 2014, Australian British Chamber of Commerce, John Monash Science School (Monash University), Hon Gail Gago MLC (Minister for Science and Information Economy – South Australian Government), WOMADelaide 2015, RAA Street Smart High 2015, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), Royal Automobile Club Western Australia (RAC WA), Country Fire Service South Australia, Carlton Connect Conference (The University of Melbourne), The Waite Research Institute (The University of Adelaide), Robinson Research Institute (The University of Adelaide), Exhibition Studios, CSIRO - Food, Nutrition & Bioproducts Flagship, South Australian Science Excellence Awards (South Australian Government), Science Nation, Think Inc, Canberra Skeptics, The Hawke Centre (UniSA), Philanthropy Australia, Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), ARC Centre of Excellence, The Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, Birdlife Australia, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research, Penfolds.

**Philanthropic Partners:** Mrs Jeanne Pratt AC, Thyne Reid Foundation, The Nielson Foundation.

#### **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

#### **Patron**

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

Photography courtesy Grant Nowell and Jo-Anna Robinson.

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:

