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**THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN Peter Yates AM

The 2017–18 year was one of significant transformation for The Royal Institution of Australia. As I reported last year – we undertook some major structural changes

to develop our capacity and focus our business to grow our publishing activities through Australia's Science Channel and our other platforms.

As I reported last year, the Council undertook an operational review of the management structure to assess the skills and abilities required to meet our objectives against the personnel currently in place. This structure was fully put in place during the 2017–18 year and has already seen some significant early results.

Establishing our organisation in the minds of the public, university and industry as a freely accessible, credible and trusted science media outlet have been of critical importance to us achieving our mission of promoting public awareness and understanding of all things science, technology, engineering and maths to the Australian community.

Australia's Science Channel has been established as a major public-facing brand of The Royal Institution of Australia, and we have witnessed continued growth in audience numbers, on both Australia's Science Channel and our social media platforms, as more and more people recognise the service we provide to the Australian community.

Ultimate Careers has seen significant growth through our partnership with NewsCorp, and I would like to thank both Ms Penny Fowler and Mr Mel Mansell for their support on this critical resource for Australian secondary students. We look forward to working with NewsCorp to ensure we deliver this critical STEM careers information to over 1.1million Australians through newsprint.

The SCINEMA International Science Film Festival doubled its participation this year and grew to become the largest nationally delivered National Science Week event with over 89,000 participants. This is an outstanding growth from the previous year of 37,000 participants.

In November 2017, the Council was presented with a proposal to open dialogue with Alan and Elizabeth Finkel to explore the long-term potential of COSMOS Magazine. Management with particular support from Council Member Will Berryman, undertook a full evaluation of our business, its processes, and the COSMOS business to determine the benefits of becoming the publisher of what is in our view Australia's most respected scientific newsstand publication. After some significant work, we were pleased to secure an agreement to take custodianship of COSMOS Magazine which was announced in July. This took effect from 1 September this year.

On behalf of our organisation, I would like to thank both Alan and Elizabeth Finkel for their amazing support and generosity in working with us on such an important step for The Royal Institution of Australia. Both we, and the wider Australian public is fortunate to have such visionary and committed individuals working to further the understanding of science in the community.

During the year we made two changes to the Council. Mr Christian Bennett was appointed to the Council at the November 2017 Annual General Meeting taking the place of retiring foundation Council Member, Baroness Susan Greenfield. In addition, following the resignation of Professor Peter Andrews, Professor Jennifer Martin AC was appointed from amongst our Bragg Members to fill a casual vacancy.

I would like to thank Baroness Professor Greenfield for her extraordinary energy and vision in establishing The Royal Institution of Australia as well as her long service on the Council and Professor Andrews for his service and guidance as a Council Member. Their wisdom and leadership on many matters were of great support to the entire Council and me.

We were also honoured to appoint six new inductees into our Bragg Membership during the year. The inductions of Professor Jennifer Martin AC, Professor Robin Batterham AO, Professor John Long, Mr Tim Jarvis AM, Professor Steven Hopper AC, Assoc Professor Paul Willis and Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla were strong additions to a growing list of eminent scientists and science communicators. We can be proud of the role the Bragg Members play in the organisation, and we will be looking to work even further with them to provide amazing opportunities for them to communicate with the Australian community.

My thanks go to the Council and Staff for their ongoing work and commitment to this rapidly changing organisation. With the acquisition of COSMOS Magazine, we are now a significant player in the online and print media space, and this is thanks to the courage of those on this journey.

With an established audience now in place, the next year will require us to fully develop our corporate and public financial support to ensure our long-term sustainability as an organisation. We are calling on many Australian companies to support our critical mission to promote the importance of science in the community and are confident of getting some real results in this area given our new offerings.

The year will go down as probably the most significant one since our establishment in 2009. As we head towards our tenth anniversary in 2019, we look forward to cementing our place in the Australian media landscape as our way of achieving our critical mission.



FROM THE DIRECTOR Bradley Abraham

As I report on my first full year in the role of Chief Executive and Director (and my seventh with the organisation), there is no doubt that we have undertaken major change. As mentioned

in the Chairman's Report, following Council review, Management was significantly restructured to better position the organisation as Australia's largest dedicated science multi-media outlet.

A number of senior signings in the first half of the financial year saw us recruit a Lead Scientist, Head of Publishing and Head of Partnerships (Sydney based). With this – we added some significant profile and significant experience from the media landscape into the Team.

Our biggest challenge had always been having sufficient resources to build our audiences for Australia's Science Channel, SCINEMA, Ultimate Careers and Education offerings. Audience acquisition through public campaigns is an expensive and lengthy activity – two things that were challenging for us.

As a result – in November 2017 we opened conversations with Elizabeth and Alan Finkel with a view to explore opportunities for The Royal Institution of Australia and COSMOS Magazine to join forces and combine the many benefits of our charitable operations with the significant reach COSMOS Magazine had accumulated over the years. As reported by The Chairman, we took custodianship of COSMOS Magazine and their 1m per month viewership in September 2018. The Chairman has thanked both Elizabeth and Alan in his report, but I would like to add my thanks to them both, and to Daved Lambert for working with us on what has been a very enlightening and beneficial journey.

I would also like to thank Council Member Will Berryman for his extraordinary time in working with our Management Team to prepare our organisation from the bottom up to be able to successfully integrate what is Australia's most respected publication into our operations. We could not have done it without him, and the outstanding support we received from the entire Council.

As such, we have added to our own significant growth in our audience throughout the year, both on Australia's Science Channel and our social media platforms, as we continue to build our brand within the community.

We have been fortunate to have worked with some great partners who have helped us achieve our goals. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors CISCO, ICRAR, GSK and BBC Earth for supporting our important work. As an organisation – we are working hard to build on this list of corporate supporters now that we have a commercially viable audience to present.

We are also very proud to have continued our dedicated Women in STEM theme on Australia's Science Channel, thanks for the support of The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science WISE Grant. A highlight of this was working with our Institutional Partner ATSE, to host 10 of their Women in STEM video profiles on ABC iView during National Science Week this year. A great result in bringing multiple partners to the table.

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.

Institutional Members

Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, Australian National University, Defence Science and Technology Group, Flinders University, Queensland University of Technology, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, Reserve Bank of Australia, Swinburne University, The Australian Academy of Science, The University of Adelaide, University of New South Wales, University of South Australia, University of Tasmania, University of the Sunshine Coast.

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

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.

DR PIA WINBERG WOMEN IN STEM ATSE PROFILE





The 2018 SCINEMA International Science Film Festival saw the finalists from 1,539 entries being curated into a sold-out national event at Palace Nova cinemas during June – with a doubling of this audience from 1000 to 2000 attendees. Significantly those hosting National Science Week community screenings increased by 64% representing 89,576 people who participated in the festival. This is up from 317 registered venues and 37,000 participants the previous year. We believe that this now makes SCINEMA the largest National Science Week event delivered across Australia.

In further developing the reach of our Ultimate Careers print publication and associated content – we approached NewsCorp with a view to delivering 1.1million copies through their Saturday print publications in each state. Whilst this has taken some time to work through, the first production occurred in the Mercury throughout Tasmania on 15 September. We are looking forward to rolling these out across Australian over the next twelve months.

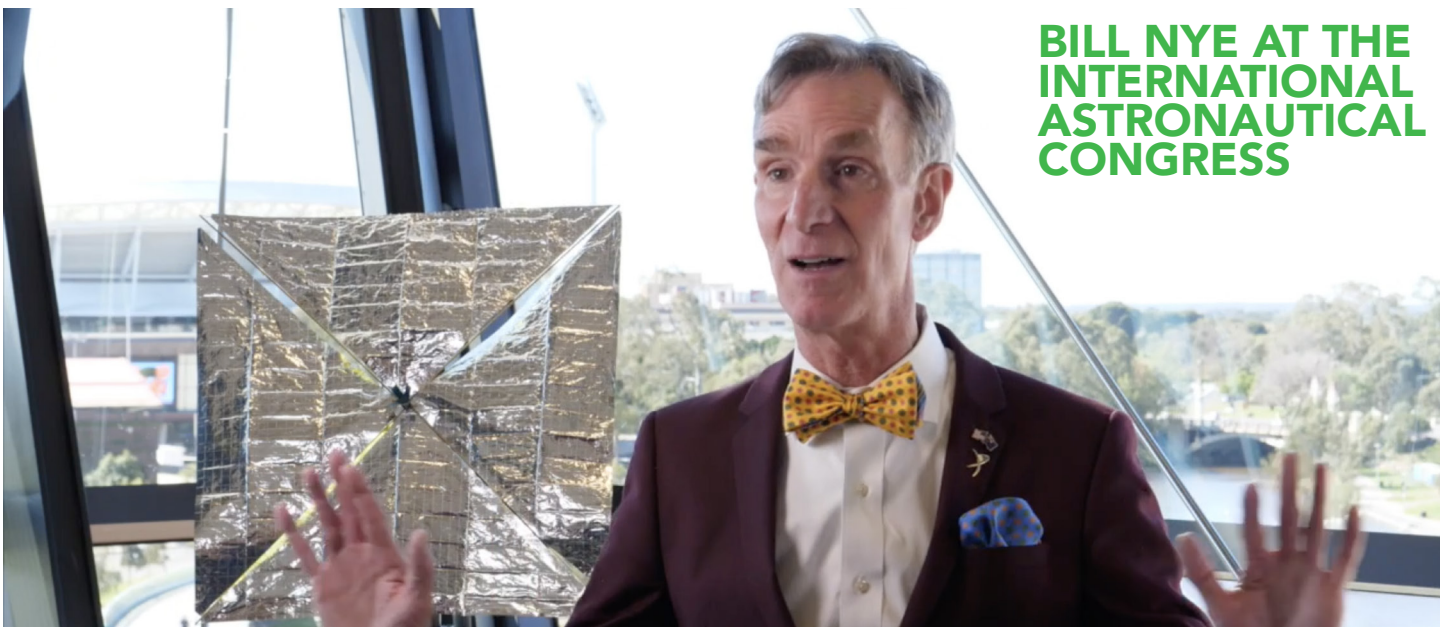
With the support of the South Australian Department of Education, we stepped up our commitment to STEM education with the launch of a new platform for free teacher resources, Australia's Science Channel – Education.

All resources are mapped to the Australian Curriculum using content from Australia's Science Channel, with a focus on developing student's understanding of science as it relates to the everyday world.

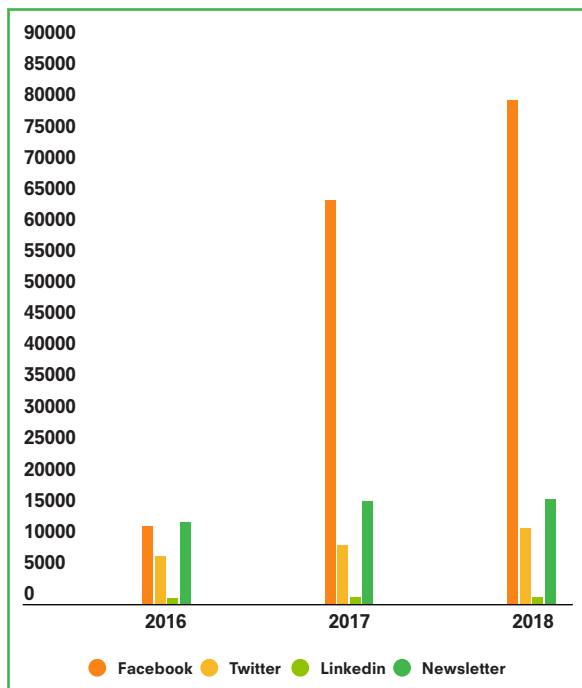
I would like to thank the Council and Team at The Royal Institution of Australia for their hard work and dedication in building this organisation. I welcome our new Team Members who have joined us from COSMOS and look forward to working with them as we fully integrate COSMOS Magazine into all our existing activities.

There are many others around Australia who have contributed to the work of The Royal Institution of Australia - volunteers, partners, content contributors, subscribers and others who have supported our vision - far too many to list. We look forward to delivering the most trusted and credible source of Australian STEM content to the world on Australia's Science Channel, SCINEMA, Ultimate Careers, Education and now, COSMOS Magazine.

It's an exciting time – and we now must meet the challenge to deliver on our promise of becoming Australia's largest dedicated science multi-media outlet.



OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Media Partnership with
International Astronautical
Congress (IAC)
25–29 September 2017

12,647 views
to dedicated theme on
Australia's Science Channel

6,559
livestream
registrations for
In Class with Brian Cox

SCINEMA International
Science Film Festival 2018

1,539 film entries
89,576 participants
Sold out premiere screenings
818 community screenings

Income Statement	2018	2017
Income		
Donations	74,190	17,040
Funding/Grants	267,550	321,179
Fundraising	–	–
Publishing	47,100	227,640
Membership	131,295	76,541
Investment Income	809,670	554,458
Venue Hire	209,888	195,187
Other	75,693	76,136
Total Income	1,615,386	1,468,181
Expenses		
Programs	321,104	380,241
Management & Administration	2,015,777	1,807,620
Investment Costs	39,134	37,062
Venue Hire	16,092	15,843
IT & Website	157,122	150,329
Depreciation	427,111	408,362
Other	173,763	139,537
Total Expenses	3,150,103	2,938,994
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,534,716)	(1,470,813)
Summary of Position	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash	205,437	402,834
Other Current Assets	793,008	413,981
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	6,439,154	7,744,185
Property, Plant & Equipment	786,293	1,051,923
Other Non-Current Assets	3,402	3,148
Total Assets	8,227,294	9,616,071
Current Liabilities	455,457	264,901
Non-Current Liabilities	6,751	36,270
Total Liabilities	462,208	301,171
Net Assets	7,765,086	9,314,900
Total Equity	7,765,086	9,314,900

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

Channel Sponsors - BBC Earth, GlaxoSmithKline, The International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research.

Partners

SCINEMA: Major Partners BBC Earth, Premiere Screening Partner The University of Queensland, Community Screening Partner National Science Week, ABC iView. **Early Career Researcher**

Network: Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia. **Australia's Science Channel – Education:** Department of Education and Child Development (South Australian Government) **Women in STEM:** Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Media Partnerships

FameLab (British Council), Prime Minister's Prizes for Science (Department of Industry, Innovation and Science), Hybrid World 2017, 68th International Astronautical Congress 2017 (IAC)

Event Partners

Lateral Events, National Science Week, Science Nation, ANAT

The Royal Institution of Australia Inc Council Members

Mr Peter Yates AM, Chairman
Mr William Berryman
Sir Rod Eddington AO
Prof John Yovich AM
Mr David Knox
Dr Gregory Clark
Mr Tony Clark
Prof Lyn Beazley AO
Christian Bennett
Professor Jennifer Martin AC



VANESSA PIROTTA
FAMELAB AUSTRALIA
2018 WINNER

Patron

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

Honorary Bragg Members

Prof Michael Archer AM, Prof Robin Batterham AO, Prof Lyn Beazley AO, Prof Elizabeth Blackburn AC, Emeritus Prof David Boger, Emeritus Prof Max Brennan AO, Emeritus Prof Christopher Burrell AO, Prof Ian Chubb AC, Laureate Prof Adrienne Clarke AC, Prof Graeme Clark AC, Dr Megan Clark AC, Prof Suzanne Cory AC, Prof Marcello Costa, Prof Brian Cox OBE, Prof Peter Doherty AC, Dr Alan Finkel AO, Prof Ian Frazer AC, Peter Gago AC, Scientia Prof Martin Green AM, Dr Basil Hetzel AC, Prof Stephen Hopper AC, Prof Terry Hughes, Tim Jarvis AM, Alan Joyce AC, Prof John Long, Emeritus Prof Ian Lowe AO, Prof Barry Marshall AC, Prof Jennifer Martin AC, Prof Caroline McMillen, Prof Tanya Monro, Emeritus Prof Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE, Dr John O'Sullivan, Prof Michael Reade, Scientia Prof Veena Sahajwalla, Prof Brian P. Schmidt AC, Prof John Shine AC, Scientia Prof Michelle Simmons, Emeritus Prof Maree Smith, Prof Fiona Stanley AC, Dr Andrew S. W. Thomas AO, Adjunct Prof Zee Upton, Emerita Prof Patricia Vickers-Rich AO, Prof Carola Vinuesa, Dr J Robin Warren AC, Robyn Williams AM, Associate Prof Paul Willis, Prof Fiona Wood AM

Cover image: Bioluminescent mushrooms. The glowing fungi use melanin to harvest the energy of gamma rays.

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Foundation Partners:

