

The background of the cover is a composite of two microscopic images. The left side features a close-up of a fly's head, showing its large, textured compound eyes and the fine hairs on its face. The right side shows a detailed view of plant cells, with prominent purple, oval-shaped structures that appear to be chloroplasts or other organelles.

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**THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN Peter Yates AM

In what was our tenth full year of operation, the 2018–19 financial year has seen The Royal Institution of Australia achieve some of its greatest results to date for its activities

in promoting the public awareness of science to the Australian community.

Following our operational review in 2016–17, and the implementation of our full strategy last year to become Australia's only independent multi-media STEM outlet – I can report that we have seen some amazing results in the last year.

The inclusion of Cosmos Magazine, kindly donated by Alan and Elizabeth Finkel, has allowed us to expand the presence of all our activities and position ourselves as the major source of trusted Australian science content. Having produced four print editions at the time of writing, I can report to our members how pleased the organisation has been with the quality of our publications and the content we produce digitally. We are constantly improving – and look forward to building our revenue from this product in the coming years.

We have seen growth in all our metrics of audience and engagement. It is amazing that Australia's Science Channel, having been established as a major public-facing brand of The Royal Institution of Australia a few years ago, has now had over 16.3 million minutes of video played.

Following a doubling of the audience for the SCINEMA International Science Film Festival last year, we again increased its participation this year making it the largest science event in the country with over 101,000 participants – more than attend the AFL Grand Final each year. This is an amazing achievement for which the entire organisation is particularly proud.

Our education activities continue to grow as well. For example, our well recognised In Class With series where we broadcast famous scientists directly into classrooms has had an audience of over 700,000 since we started it. Our activities empower over 8,000 teachers each year through free resources to assist them to teach current science issues against the national curriculum.

During the year, Professor Jennifer Martin AC resigned from her role on the Council owing to new work circumstances. I thank Jennifer for her short time on the Council and for her continued support of the Institution. We are undertaking some refreshment of the Council as I write this – and we should have some announcements shortly on some very positive changes to the Council.

We were honoured to appoint four new inductees into our Bragg Membership during the year. The inductions of Emeritus Professor Maree Smith AC, Professor Michael Reade, Dr Megan Clark AC and Mr Alan Joyce AC were strong and diverse additions to a growing list of eminent scientists in academia and industry. 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.

During the year, we announced the resignation of our Director and Chief Executive, Bradley Abraham. Bradley finalises his time with The Royal Institution around the November 2019 AGM, at which time he would have served for 8 years in the roles of General Manager, Secretary and Director of the Institution. Whilst we are disappointed to see Bradley depart, I commend him for his commitment and for driving the well-coordinated and planned succession strategy implemented between Bradley and the Council. My thanks go to Bradley for his service, and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

My thanks go to the Council and Staff for their ongoing work and commitment to this rapidly changing organisation. In particular, I would like to thank Lyn Beazley, Will Berryman and David Knox who have assisted me significantly through their service on various Council Committees.

I am pleased to report as well that whilst this past year has seen the Institution grow its Team, its audience dramatically, increase its range of activities, and grow its existing activities – we have maintained our financial operations in line with previous years.

With an established audience now in place who value and support our activities, the next year will require us to further develop our financial support models with these audiences to ensure our long-term sustainability as an organisation. We are calling on all Australians, both individuals and 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.

Our tenth year has been our biggest since our establishment in 2009. We are now Australia's largest independent multi-media STEM outlet. As we head into 2020, we look forward to developing our business even further and to cementing our place in the Australian media landscape for the long term.



FROM THE CEO/DIRECTOR Bradley Abraham

As I write my final annual report after nearly 8 years working for The Royal Institution of Australia, I thought it appropriate to look back at what I consider to be the highlights for the organisation over the past

few years. These highlights are not in any particular order.

The Science of Doctor Who, which we produced and delivered fully in conjunction with BBC Worldwide (ANZ) was an amazing opportunity to reach new audiences and engage a wider public. From an idea in 2013, to a fully-fledged tour across Australia in 2014, we delivered 14 live performances to over 6,000 people. To have had the permission and support of the BBC to use a brand as powerful as Doctor Who was an amazing credit to the Team, and we did not disappoint in our delivery of an amazing show.

For something completely different, who could forget **World Vasectomy Day** in November of 2013. Twelve vasectomies over 10 hours, live on stage and broadcast around the world, accompanied by a program of public discussions around men's health, fertility and population effects on the planet. The only time in my life I have witnessed a press conference with all four major networks present, and they had to be kicked out at the end!

The establishment of **Australia's Science Channel** as both a public brand and a collective platform of the best of Australian science in 2015 was an innovative step changing our dynamic with the Australian public. A unique platform, developed by Hostworks, where Australia's leading academic and scientific institutions could upload their own content. Whilst the concept has not been a perfect process or delivery, the platform still has a substantial and highly engaged audience which is constantly growing.

The relaunch of the **Scinema International Science Film Festival** has been a particular highlight. In our first year in 2015 we had an audience of 8,000 at 250 screenings. In 2019, we had an audience of 101,139 through 1,388 screenings in 654 locations. This is now the largest science event in the country. An amazing achievement in such a short period of time.



Our most recent addition, **Cosmos Magazine** has been an amazing journey in how to take a well established and reputable brand and integrate it in its entirety into a well established national charity. To say the process was easy would be a lie. It was challenging on so many fronts, from technical, to cultural and everything in between. However, now that we have produced four print editions to very positive feedback from all quarters, it was a major coup for our Institution, and the benefits have been enormous. I can not thank enough both Alan and Elizabeth Finkel for their generosity in the gifting of the magazine, the time they took to help us in every step, and their continued support as we evolve and make it fully integrated into our other activities.

There are many other highlights over the past eight years I can mention. Assisting our Chairman with the coordination of multiple royal visits. The opportunity to meet so many outstanding individuals who inspire so many people across the world. The opportunity to work with an amazing group of Council Members and Staff who have made the journey we have had as an Institution possible.

It is appropriate that I take the time to thank our Chairman, Peter Yates. Peter has given us nothing but his 100% support in every step we have taken as an Institution. He has personally coached me in many different aspects of senior leadership, has offered the most thoughtful words of advice and encouragement in what were sometimes, difficult times. Most importantly though, he believes in the Team and our ability to deliver, and for that I am very grateful.

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, Edith Cowan University, Flinders University, La Trobe University, Questacon, RMIT, Swinburne University of Technology, 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, Western Sydney

Corporate Members Brand South Australia, APPEA

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.



In any Institution where the venture is so meaningful and important, you need dedicated and passionate staff to drive and deliver on the mission.

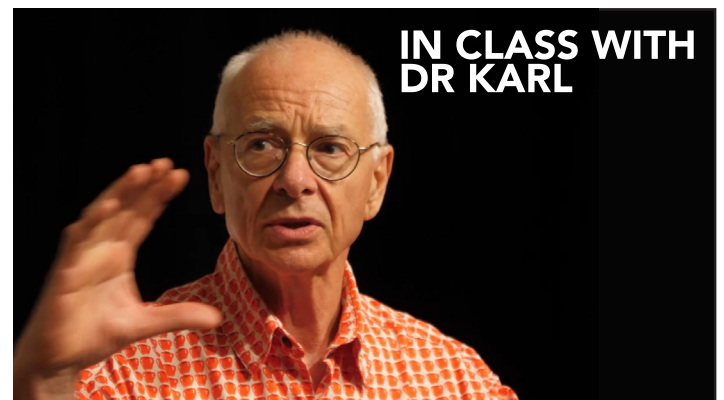
Over the past eight years, I have worked with so many wonderful people at all levels who have made it a joy to come to work every day. There are too many to name, but I thank them all.

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. It is with their help that we look forward to delivering the most trusted and credible source of Australian STEM content to the world.

I wish the Council, the entire Team and my successor all the very best in continuing what has been an amazing journey with The Royal Institution of Australia. In today's modern media environment, there could be no more important time to be good at what we do.

I would also like to thank Council Member Will Berryman for his extraordinary time in working with the Management Team and I to prepare our structure and operations from the bottom up to enable our Institution to successfully negotiate a number of major step changes over the past few years.

The entire Council of The Royal Institution of Australia is a passionate and dedicated group of individuals who have assisted us along the way. I have been personally fortunate to have had an amazing group lead me in leading the organisation in the past few years.



**In Class With....
Jane Goodall
Dr Karl**

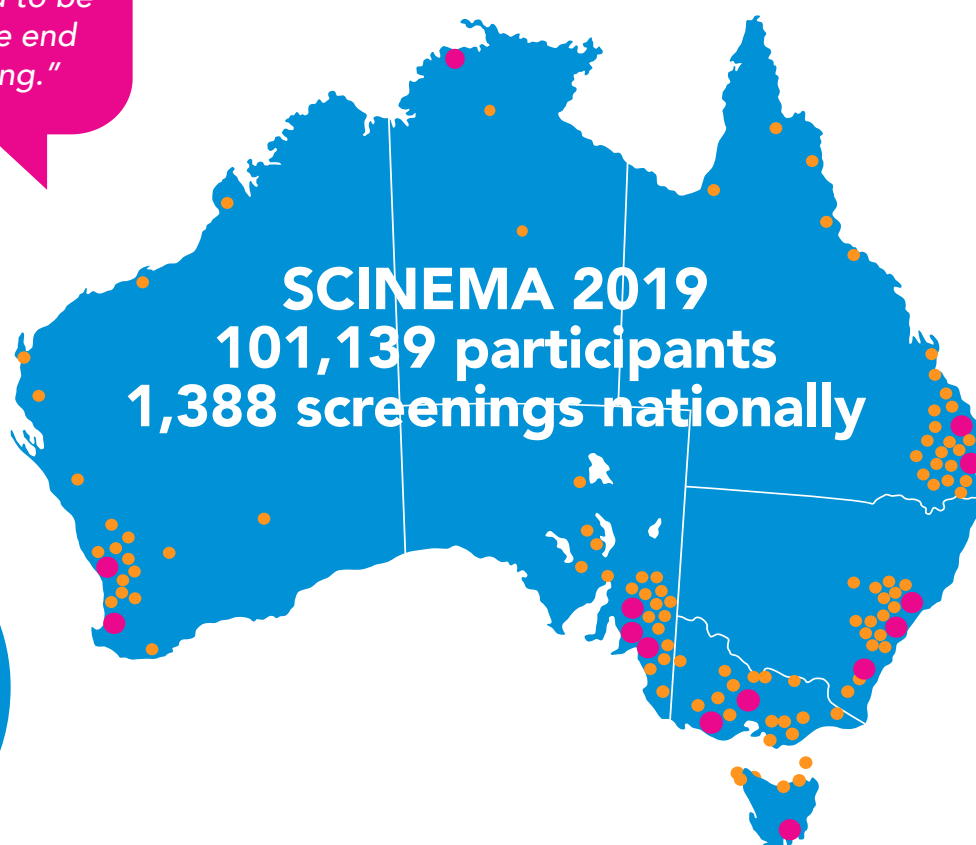
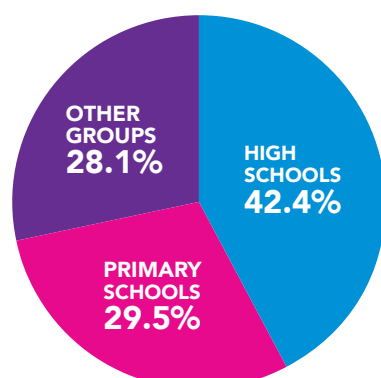
7,359 page views
across Education and
Australia's Science Channel
427 questions submitted

**Empowering
8,324** teachers

3,444
people accessed
SCINEMA For Schools
2019 resources

*"The films raised a lot
of questions...a third of
my class wanted to be
scientists at the end
of the screening."*

**Community
Screening
Audiences
in 2019**



Income Statement	2019	2018
Income		
Donations	533,704	74,190
Funding/Grants	131,981	267,550
Publishing	206,886	47,100
Membership & Subscriptions	38,045	131,295
Investment Income	671,496	809,670
Venue Hire	172,118	209,888
Other	82,184	75,693
Total Income	1,836,414	1,615,386
Expenses		
Programs & Publishing	941,966	321,104
Management & Administration	1,907,484	2,203,161
Investment Costs	36,919	39,134
Venue Hire	18,629	16,092
IT & Website	215,044	157,122
Depreciation	313,284	445,205*
Other	144,932	173,763
Total Expenses	3,578,258	3,355,581
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,741,844)	(1,740,194)
Summary of Position	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Cash	113,362	205,437
Other Current Assets	556,554	793,009
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	5,666,487	6,439,154
Property, Plant & Equipment	280,182	580,815
Other Non-Current Assets	–	3,402
Total Assets	6,616,585	8,021,817
Current Liabilities	837,749	455,457
Non-Current Liabilities	15,350	6,751
Total Liabilities	853,099	462,208
Net Assets	5,763,486	7,559,609
Total Equity	5,763,486	7,559,609

*Restated

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, The International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research.

Partners

SCINEMA: BBC Earth, Community Screening Partner National Science Week, ABC iView. **Ultimate Careers:** News Corp. **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), WOMADelaide

Event Partners

Lateral Events, National Science Week, Science Nation, ANSTO

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Mr David Knox
Dr Gregory Clark
Mr Tony Clark
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Cover image: Damselfly (*Zygoptera*). In addition to its large compound eyes, the damselfly has three light-sensors called ocelli on top of its head, which are very sensitive to light intensity and may be used to maintain stability while flying.

CREDIT: ALBERTO GHIZZI PANIZZA / GETTY IMAGES

SCINEMA OUTDOOR SCREENING IMAGE COURTESY OF URBAN SCREEN PRODUCTIONS

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Santos
We have the energy.

