



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

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Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250340155042466/>

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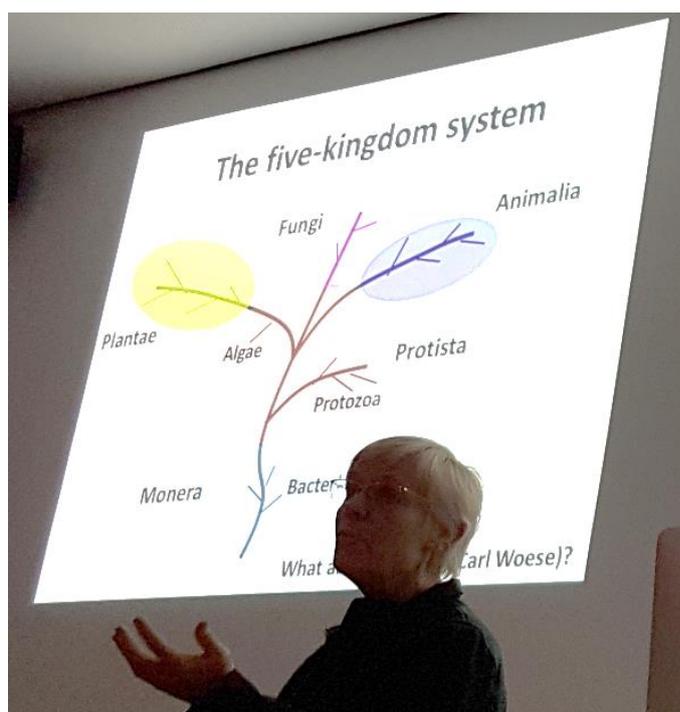
All notices should be emailed to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au or cbutler@unimelb.edu.au



ASM Vic Branch Environmental Microbiology - Event Report -

ASM Vic Branch held its first 'Environmental Microbiology Evening' on October 10th 2017 at The University of Melbourne's Turner Theatre. The program brought together six eminent Speakers whose research interests spanned a diverse range of environmental microbiology specialties.

Dr Linda Blackall opened the evening by providing an overview of environmental microbiology and the ongoing work at the recently established Environmental Microbiology Research Initiative at Melbourne Uni. Linda and Colleagues are exploring the many facets of how environmental microbes influence our planet, ranging from human health impacts to the health and biochemistry of the planet itself.



Dr Linda Blackall of the Environmental Microbiology Research Initiative at The University of Melbourne

Dr Steve Petrovski leads La Trobe University's research program in wastewater microbiology, and he presented the novel application of bacteriophage to control foaming in aeration basins at wastewater treatment plants. Foaming presents serious implications including environmental contamination and has significant associated costs to industry as well as requiring use of chemicals to control it. Steve's research provides a promising cost-effective alternative with environmental benefits.

Dr Chris Greening leads Monash University's Integrative Microbiology Laboratory and his Group focus on mechanisms bacteria employ to survive and persist under the various harsh conditions associated with the planets diverse environmental niches. Chris explained how bacterial species can scavenge trace elements from the atmosphere to drive metabolic function and persist in nutrient deprived niches.

Dr Eleonora Egidi of La Trobe University then showed how utilising cutting-edge genomic approaches in the area of fungal ecology and systematics her work is providing a new understanding of fungal diversity in Australian ecosystems. Her research has unravelled hugely diverse fungal communities in soil ecosystems and in particular is highlighting how this crucial component of the microbiota must be considered when monitoring natural systems.

Dr Doug Brumley is a Lecturer in Applied Mathematics at The University of Melbourne and has pioneered new research into deconstructing biological systems at the microscale using fluid mechanics approaches. Doug's research has developed new mathematical frameworks which have been successfully applied to understand many biological phenomena ranging from the active search strategies of marine bacteria in their ecosystems to the dynamics of invading pathogens in the intestine.

Plastic pollutants in the marine biosystem is one of the most critical issues facing this ecosystem today. Prof Mark Osborne of RMIT University discussed insights into the microbial ecology of the marine plastisphere arising from his Groups research. This knowledge will be of significant importance in directing global initiatives to address this pollution problem, by understanding the dynamics of the ecology and metabolomics of microbial populations.

Stay tuned for the next Environmental Microbiology Evening coming in 2018! 😊

Event report contributed by: Ed Fox

Call for Audience Members

Come along to the

ASM Student Travel Awards 2018

Where: Ground Floor Auditorium, Doherty Institute
Cnr Grattan and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne VIC 3000

When: Tuesday 20 February 2018, commencing at 6.30pm
Supper and drinks will be served on conclusion of the presentations

Presentations: Competing post-graduate students from Microbiology research laboratories from several tertiary institutes will deliver 10 minute presentations and answer questions for a further 5 minutes about their area of study.

Presentations will cover a broad range of topics and are sure to interest and inform you. Cutting edge technologies and new concepts will be discussed. This is an exciting and enjoyable way to update your knowledge and a very positive way of supporting and meeting the next generation of microbiologists.

The ASM VIC Branch undergraduate academic prizes will also be presented.

All welcome

Email enquiries to: Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

This is a free event but booking is needed for catering purposes, so please **register your attendance by 5pm Thursday 15 February 2018** using the link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/TLHE>

START PLANNING NOW!

ASM Victorian Branch

Microbial Art Prize

Calling all artistic individuals! The 2018 Microbial Art Prize will be up for grabs mid-year. Start planning now if you want to be in to win and have your eye-catching scientific image displayed at ASM events.

Image Details:

All types of scientific images are welcome

- Images - must have a microbiological theme
- should be high resolution and suitable for printing on a 1x2m banner
 - must be accompanied with a description of what the image illustrates and how it was generated

Prize:

The 2018 Microbial Art Prize winner will have their image printed on ASM banners to be displayed at events and used in ASM promotional material.
Plus more!

Competition Entry Conditions:

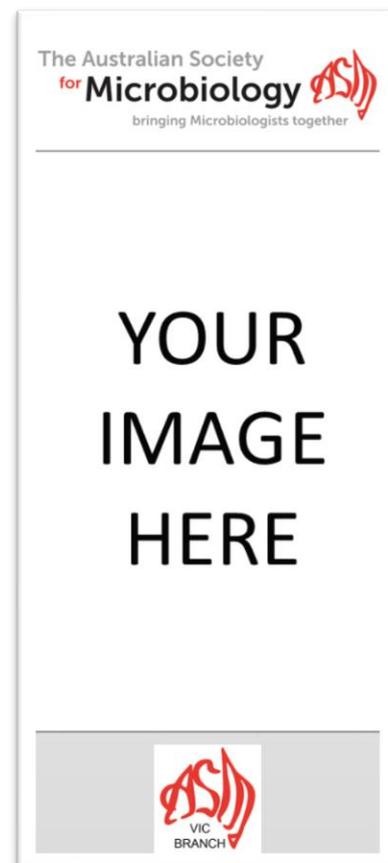
- Maximum 2 entries per person
 - Submitter must be the owner of the image
 - Submitter must be a member of ASM
- A complete entry consists of:
- (1) Image, (2) a description of the image (<100 words), and
 - (3) the submitter's details (name, position, institution)

Winners will be selected by the ASM Vic Branch committee

Competition date will be released closer to the time

Please send all entries (and questions) to: **Sarah Baines** bainess@unimelb.edu.au

Please note that by submitting an entry you agree that if your image is selected the ASM Victorian Branch Committee reserves the right to use the image as promotional material at ASM-organised and ASM-sponsored events. The image may be edited at the discretion of the ASM Victorian Branch Committee. The submitter's name will always be included with the image when used.





How to join the Australian Society for Microbiology at a reduced rate!

Did you know that non-members can join the Australian Society for Microbiology at a reduced rate? Well, you can!

As a non-member, by paying the fee to attend an event hosted by ASM VIC Branch, you can use this amount to put towards an annual membership of the Australian Society for Microbiology. To do so, please follow these instructions:

1. Register to attend the event hosted by ASM VIC Branch via the advertised trybooking link, and pay the attendance fee.
2. Attend the event, and then within 2 weeks after the event, go to the ASM membership area at <http://www.theasm.org.au/membership/>
3. Choose the appropriate membership for you and then click on:
[Click here to join or update your details](#)
4. Click 'Begin here' and create a Currinda membership profile for yourself. Then, pay the membership full fee.
5. Following payment, download the paid receipt (showing your payment) and email it along with your postal address to:
Priscilla Johanesen, Treasurer VIC Branch priscilla.johanesen@monash.edu
6. A cheque refunding the event fee will be posted to you.

Please note: you must complete the above process within 2 weeks following an event to take advantage of this offer. After this time, the event fee cannot be used to pay membership fees.

ASM Member Awards Apply Now

The ASM offers a variety of awards to its members. Take full advantage of your membership by applying now for one of the awards listed below with deadlines approaching. For more details and additional awards please refer to the National webpage <http://www.theasm.org.au/awards/>

The deadlines for all award applications are now **March 31st** of each year.



ASM History SIG – Column

The Upfront Section of the *GoodWeekend* (27-28 January 2018) featured Michael and Mark Rubbo, in an article titled “*The Two of Us*”.

These two men are the sons of Sydney Datillo Rubbo, the man the ASM commemorates each year at the Annual Scientific Meeting with the Rubbo Oration and Supper. In fact, at the 2002 Meeting in Melbourne, Mark Rubbo attended the Function.

In 1970, the Rubbo Memorial Trust was established at the University of Melbourne. The President and Past President or President-Elect of ASM together with three other distinguished microbiologists are members of the Rubbo Memorial Trust.

Submitted by: Dr Diane Lightfoot, Convener of ASM History SIG

ASM Memorabilia

If any ASM members have significant ASM memorabilia that they would like to donate to the ASM archives or would like to suggest topics suitable for possible symposia at future ASM Annual Scientific Meetings, please send details of the memorabilia or suggested symposia topics to:

History SIG convener
c/o Australian Society for Microbiology Office
9/397 Smith Street
Fitzroy VIC 3068

Visiting Speakers Program

Do you know of an outstanding speaker coming to Australia?

If so, consider them for the Visiting Speakers Program (VSP).

Further information about the VSP and the speaker recommendation form can be found at:

<http://www.theasm.org.au/events/visiting-speakers-program/>

Alternatively, contact Catherine Satzke (catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au), who is the VSP Coordinator for the ASM VIC Branch.

MICRO NEWS and VIEWS

- First global atlas of the bacteria living in your dirt
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180118142728.htm>
- Strange Antarctic Bacteria That Live Off Air Alone Could Be Key to Finding Alien Life
<https://www.sciencealert.com/antarctica-bacteria-lives-off-air-alone-key-to-alien-life>
- Surfers three times more likely to have antibiotic-resistant bacteria in guts
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180115094243.htm>
- Bacteria Living in Our Gut Are Hijacking And Controlling Our Genes
<https://www.sciencealert.com/microflora-promotes-epigenetic-crotonylation-histones-gut-epithelial-cells>
- 'Aussie flu'? We can't be sure where flu originates, and that doesn't really matter anyway
<https://theconversation.com/aussie-flu-we-cant-be-sure-where-flu-originates-and-that-doesnt-really-matter-anyway-89960>
- Unusual gene evolution in bacteria
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180106103424.htm>
- Scientists design bacteria to reflect 'sonar' signals for ultrasound imaging
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180103132740.htm>
- What is kombucha and how do the health claims stack up?
<https://theconversation.com/what-is-kombucha-and-how-do-the-health-claims-stack-up-87180>
- Bacteria acquire resistance from competitors
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/12/171227100042.htm>
- Artificial intelligence used to identify bacteria quickly and accurately
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/12/171215143252.htm>

Advertise in the ASM VIC Branch Newsletter!

Would you like to advertise your event, job vacancy or other news item in our newsletter?

Advertising rates are:

Not-for-profit adverts: free of charge

For-profit adverts: \$50 per advert

If so, please contact Karena Waller
(klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

ASM VIC CALENDAR 2018

When planning meetings, please book dates with Karena Waller
(Phone: (03) 8344 0045, Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

- **ASM Student Travel Awards – 20th February 2018, Melbourne VIC**
- **ASM Annual Scientific Meeting and Trade Exhibition – 1st to 4th July 2018, Brisbane Convention Center, Brisbane QLD**
- **ASM EduCon Microbiology Educators' Meeting – 4th & 5th July 2018, Queensland University of Technology (QUT; Gardens Point Campus), Brisbane QLD**
- **Bi-State Conference 2018 (VIC / TAS) – 16th & 17th November 2018, Hobart TAS**

**Submission Deadline for March ASM Victorian
News:
March 4th 2018**

Email submissions to: jhea@unimelb.edu.au or
cbutler@unimelb.edu.au