



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

December 2016, Vol 496

Victorian Branch ASM:

The Australian Society for Microbiology
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Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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



Call for Abstracts

Apply NOW to participate in

ASM BD Student Awards 2017

It's a great way to attend next year's ASM Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart (2nd to 5th July 2017)

Where: Monash University, Clayton Campus

When: Tuesday 21st February 2017

Presentations: Competitors will deliver 12 minute presentations and receive 3 minutes of question time

Awards: Two major awards are available to help students attend the national ASM meeting. Winners will receive:

- ASM BD Award – conference registration, an airfare and \$300 towards the cost of accommodation and is awarded to the best student presenting research carried out as part of a PhD or Masters by Research
- Victorian ASM Branch Award – conference registration and \$200 towards the cost of an airfare and is awarded to the best student presenting research carried out as part of a Masters by Coursework or an Honours degree

Applications close: 5pm on Friday 3rd February 2017

**Further details (including application forms and instructions)
can be obtained by emailing:**

Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

**ASM Victorian Branch and ASM Food Microbiology SIG are
presented**

2016 Bi-State Conference, Victoria / Tasmania

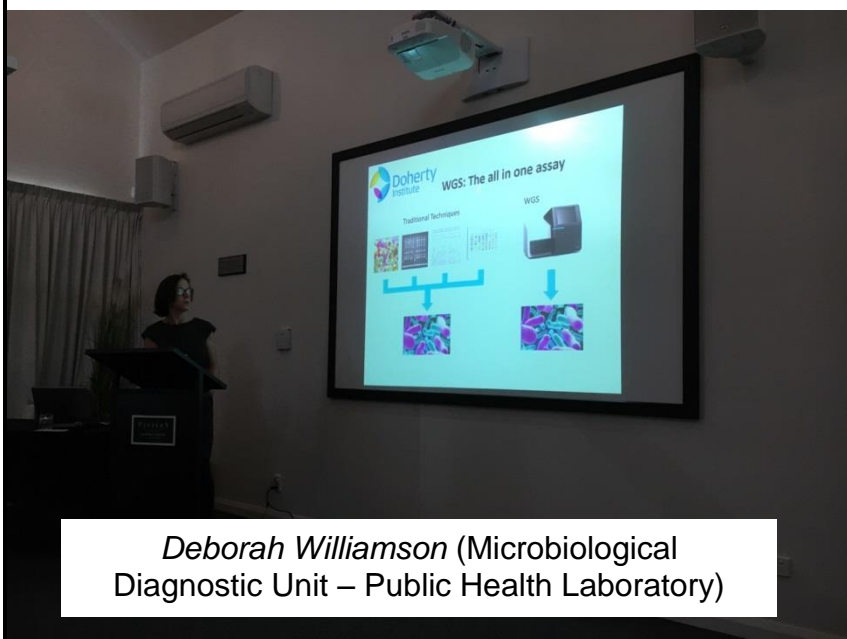
Event Report

Just a couple of weeks ago, on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th of November, the 2016 Bi-State Conference took place at the Peppers Seaport Hotel in Launceston, Tasmania. This year's Bi-State Conference was



jointly organised by the ASM VIC Branch and the ASM Food Microbiology SIG. The combination of these energetic working parties resulted in the compilation of an

excellent and diverse scientific program for the meeting. The speaker program consisted of a series sixteen 30 minute engaging and informative presentations, drawn from the areas across food, environmental / agricultural / veterinary and medical / clinical / diagnostic / public health microbiology. Look out for an



article in an upcoming issue of *Microbiology Australia* for a more detailed report on the Bi-State scientific program.

At this year's Bi-State, the organising committee introduced a couple of new features to complement the Conference:



Heather Haines (Department of Health and Human Services, VIC)

- Poster Presentation sessions were held over each of the lunch breaks during the meeting. A total of 15 posters were accepted by the selection committee for presentation during these vibrant sessions. In recognition of the best poster presentation by a PhD student, the ASM VIC Branch contributed a poster prize, which was awarded to Tamsyn Stanborough (CSIRO Agriculture and Food, VIC).
- Two technology presentations were included in the main speaker program. These were presented by two of our conference sponsors, Thermofisher and Microgenetix.
- Trade displays were also incorporated into this year's meeting. These displays were presented by our sponsors Sysmex and BD Biosciences. Both the technology presentations and trade displays provided conference attendees an excellent opportunity to see and discuss the latest technologies on offer from



From left: Tamsym Stanborough, Karena Waller, Edward Fox

these companies.

In total, 64 people attended and enjoyed the activities offered by Bi-State at this wonderful river-side location. The welcoming and very helpful staff at Peppers Seaport Hotel provided for our seamless use of their facilities, and kept us extremely well fed during the meeting! For those of you who attended, we hope you enjoyed Bi-State 2016 as much as we did, and we look forward to hosting you again at Bi-State 2018.

And finally, thank you once again to our very generous conference sponsors:



Contributed by: Karena Waller

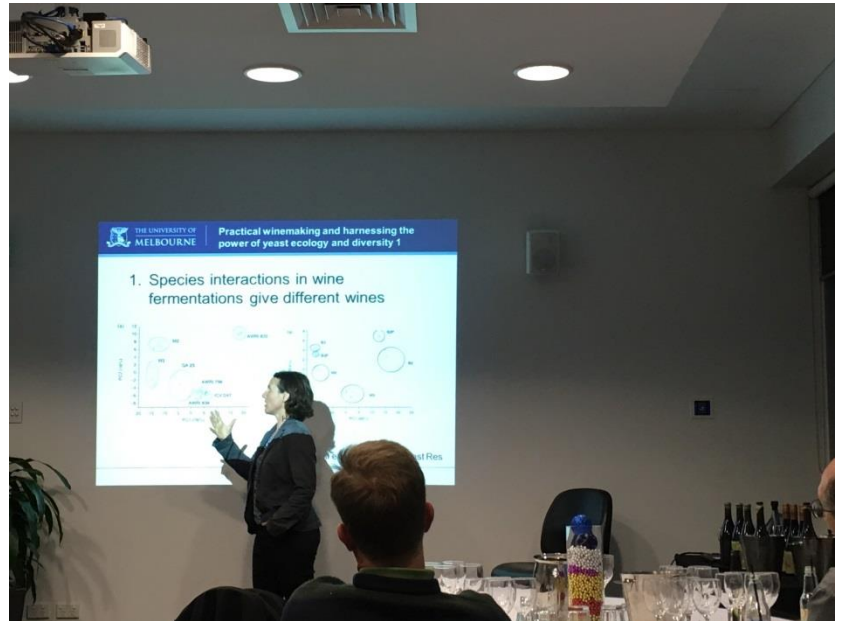


ASM Vic Branch Christmas Party

Microbiology of the Grape

Event Report

On Thursday December 8th Branch members gathered at the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne CBD to celebrate an evening of microbiology and some Christmas festivities. The theme of this year's Christmas Party was microbiology of the grape, and we were treated to two fantastic talks followed by refining our wine tasting skills. Dr Kate Howell of the University of Melbourne introduced us to terroir, which considers how



environmental factors contribute to the characteristics of wines produced in a given locality. Kate described how different yeasts can impart an array of characteristics to wines based on their metabolic capabilities and discussed how wild yeast strains can bring unique qualities to wines. They also play an important role in provenance, with



studies showing distinct geographical lineages. Matt Aulich of Blood Moon Wines then gave us a fascinating insight into winemaking using wild yeast varieties, and we learned of some approaches used by artisan producers which differ to the more standardised approaches used by larger-scale production. Matt then guided us through tasting a panel of white and red wines. The different characteristics imparted by

using different winemaking approaches and yeasts were striking. We were also treated to a sneak-taste of one of the first bottles of a delicious red wine produced by Blood Moon Wines, which was certainly very popular at our table! The attendees then enjoyed some socialising for the rest of the evening and tasty canapes provided by the talented chefs at the Institute.



Contributed by: Ed Fox





ASM History SIG – Column

A Tribute to Jennifer Taplin -- RIP October 2016

When I became the Senior Scientist of the Enteric Reference Laboratory at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit in 1989 I felt as if I had received an inheritance from Jennifer Taplin.

Jennifer (Jenny) had held this position from 1962 and assisted particular members of the Victorian Health Department in many outbreak investigations.

Her meticulous records helped me gain a comprehensive knowledge of enteric organisms and the various outbreaks, including food poisoning ones, which had occurred throughout Australia, particularly Victoria.

Jenny was responsible for the introduction of routine phage typing of *Salmonella* Typhimurium and she also used the International *S. Typhi* phage typing scheme to type *S. Typhi* strains obtained Australia – wide (1).

She wrote the Chapters *S. Typhi* and *Shigella* for the Fourth Edition for the Green Book which helped many food microbiologists in their understanding of enteric organisms (2).

(1) History of Microbiology in Australia. Edited by Frank Fenner.

(2) Foodborne Microorganisms of Public Health Significance. AIFST (NSW Branch) Food Microbiology Group. 4th Edition 1989.

Contributed by: Diane Lightfoot

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.

Conference Themes:

Aquatic
Terrestrial
Symbiosis
Engineered systems
Microbial toolbox

KEY DATES

16th November 2016 | Early Bird Deadline
16th November 2016 | Oral Abstract Deadline
2nd December 2016 | Poster Abstract Deadline



Prof Jennifer
Martiny



Prof Gene
Tyson



Prof Madeleine
van Oppen



A/Prof Timothy
Cavagnaro



A/Prof Peta
Clode



A/Prof Justin
Seymour



Prof Brajesh
Singh



Prof Sue
Harrison



19TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ADVANCES IN OTITIS MEDIA

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Gold Coast, Australia **4-8 June 2017**



INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
**OTITIS
MEDIA**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
3 FEBRUARY 2017**

For further information and to submit an abstract,
please visit www.otitismedia2017.com.au

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The Australian Society
for **Microbiology**



bringing Microbiologists together

Annual Scientific Meeting and Trade Exhibition



Planetary Health

2-5 July 2017

Hotel Grand Chancellor, HOBART



Microbial impacts on human health and the
natural systems that sustain civilisation

As in previous years, ASM 2017 will be co-run with ASM EduCon 2017:
Microbiology Educators' conference



Save the date: ASM EduCon, Sunday 1st July 2017

ASM Educon brings together Microbiology educators from across Australia who share a common goal to advance the teaching and learning of Microbiology.

As part of an initiative to support Victorian based Microbiology educators ASM VIC Branch would like to announce a VIC Branch Educators Award of \$500 to support travel/registration costs of the 2017 meeting. Further information on the application process for this award will appear in the January newsletter.

If you are interested in presenting at ASM Educon or have any other enquires please contact Dr Helen Cain hmccain@unimelb.edu.au or A/Prof Priscilla Johanesen. (nriscilla.johanesen@monash.edu)

SA/NT BRANCH of ASM
and
PARASITOLOGY & TROPICAL MEDICINE SIG
proudly present

BACK-TO-BACK
2017 TRI-STATE
SCIENTIFIC MEETING

&
PARASITOLOGY MASTERCLASS

Darwin

22-25 September 2017

— Save the Date —



The Australian Society
for **Microbiology** 
bringing Microbiologists together

www.theasm.org.au

What you can expect?

Tri-State meetings have been initiated and supported by ASM branches in SA, WA and NT for over 25 years. The aim is to bring delegates together in an intimate and unique environment and provide good food, social and networking opportunities. You can expect a varied and engaging scientific program presented by some of Australia's top microbiologists.

The Parasitology Masterclass began with its inaugural meeting in Tasmania in 2009, In this, the 6th Parasitology Masterclass, it aims to again provide an excellent blend of wet workshops, classroom teaching, and formal presentations.

What you need to know?

Registration

- Places may be strictly limited so we will encourage to book early and to avoid disappointment (when registrations open).
- You can register for one, or both. Registration for both provides great cost savings.
- Register your interest to receive updates and early meeting details.





The Victorian Branch Committee would like to wish all our members the very best of Seasons Greetings and a very Happy New Year.

We'd also like to thank you for supporting the many wonderful events that we've held during 2016.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2017 events!

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 2016-17

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

- **ASM BD Student Awards – 21st February 2017, Monash University, Clayton**
- **AUSME 2017 – 13th – 15th February 2017, Melbourne**
- **19th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media – 4th to 8th June 2017, Gold Coast QLD**
- **ASM EduCon Undergraduate Educators' Conference – 1st July 2017, Hobart TAS**
- **ASM Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition – 2nd to 5th July 2017, Hobart TAS**
- **Tri-State Scientific Meeting & Parasitology Master Class – 22nd to 25th September 2017, Darwin NT**

**Submission Deadline for February ASM Victorian
News:
February 4th 2017**

Email submissions to: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com