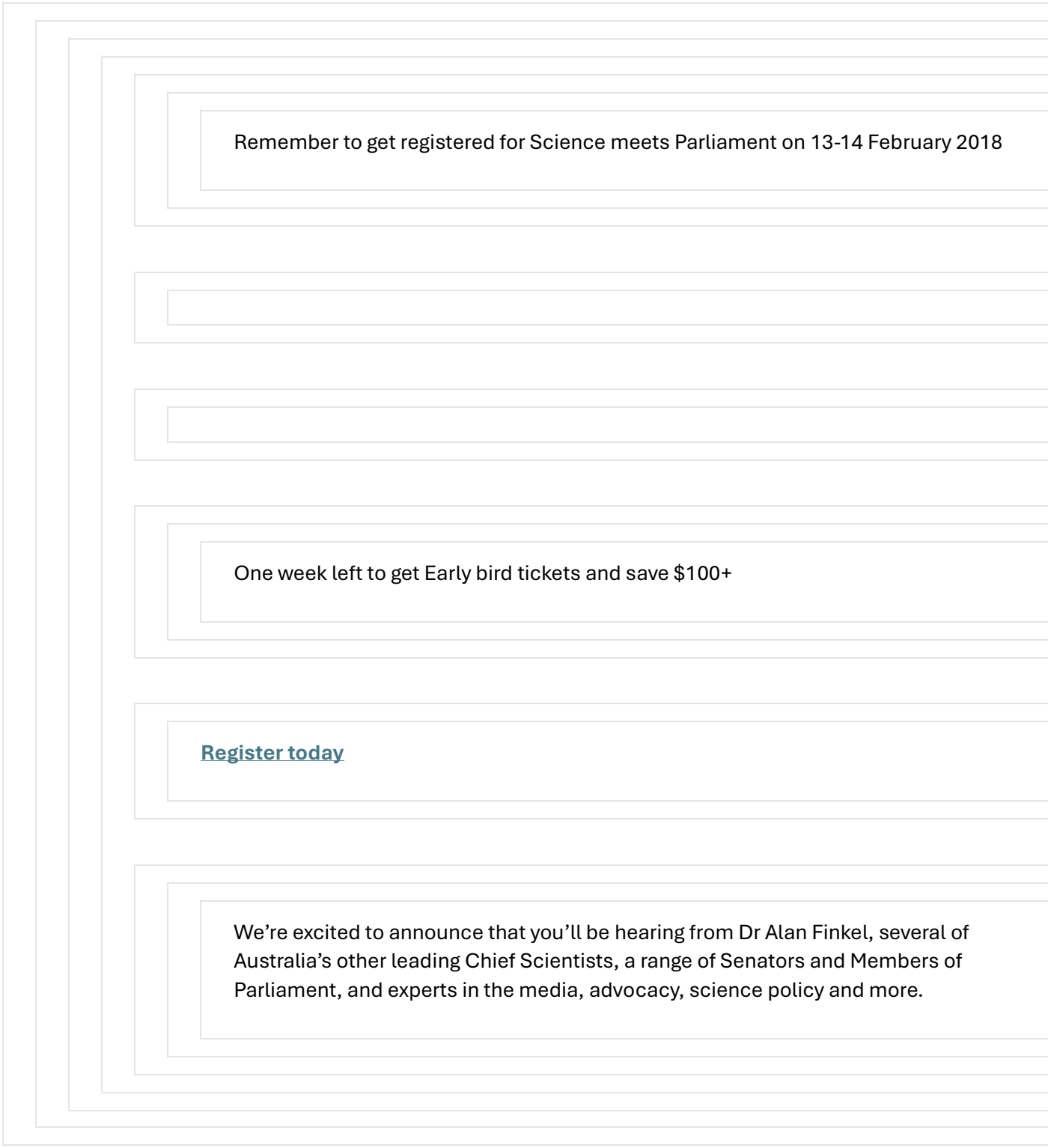
Phytogen December 2017

Science meets parliament

21 December 2017

One week to get discounted registration for Science meets Parliament



- Earlybird STA Member Registration – $920
- Earlybird STA Member (Early career) Registration – $560
  (STA member registrations are limited to 2 per member organisation)
- Earlybird Corporate Registration – $1,430
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Visit the event webpage

With an election looking likely in the next 12 months, make sure your voice is heard at this vital time for Australian science and technology policy – be an advocate for your science!
To be held from 13 – 14 February while Parliament is sitting, the 2018 event will build on the strong tradition of fostering relationships and understanding between scientists and technologists, MPs and Senators.

Attendees at last year's event described it as "a fantastic opportunity to see the inside operation of our Government", "a rewarding experience" and "very motivational and educational".

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2018 ASPS teaching award winner Dr Beth Loveys

21 December 2017

It is with great pleasure that ASPS can announce that Dr Beth Loveys has been awarded the ASPS Teaching Award 2018 for her development, implementation and evaluation of innovative teaching practices in plant sciences.

Beth gained her PhD in plant ecophysiology under the supervision of Professor Steve Tyerman in 1998 from Flinders University in South Australia. During her first post-doctoral position at the University of York with Professor Owen Atkin, Beth began broadening her interest in plant physiology to examine the effects of climate change on plant growth, specifically temperature effects. This theme continued with her second post-doctoral position at the Australian National University where her work, with Professor Marilyn Ball as part of the CRC for Greenhouse Accounting, focused on impacts of elevated CO2. In her current position as an Education Specialist at The University of Adelaide Beth is able to inspire the next generation of plant scientists teaching into Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology and Applied Biology. Improving student engagement in all areas of plant science has been Beth's motivation in recent years by the use of blended and active learning pedagogy. Beth's success in implementing innovative teaching methodologies has been recognised by an Office of Learning and Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in 2015.

Beth will give an award lecture at COMBIO 2018, to be held in Sydney 23-26th September 2018, detailing her many innovations in plant science teaching.

Many congratulations from ASPS.

Professor Matthew Gilliham

ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology

Deputy Head of School (Research)

School of Agriculture, Food and Wine

University of Adelaide

Ph: +61 8 8313 8145 | Twitter: @IonPlants

Lab website: Plant Transport and Signalling Lab

Honorary Secretary, Aust Soc Plant Scientists

President's letter announcing the Jan Anderson Award and Lecture

03 December 2017

Dear ASPS members,

It seems like only yesterday I wrote to you in my new role of the Society's President, and now it is time to wrap 2017 and reflect on events and achievements. Indeed, time flies.

For me the last 12 months have been extremely busy and rather hectic and I can bet that most of you will probably say the same. What worries me the most is that, in a constant chase of deadlines, we often do not have to time to enjoy what we are doing. The joy of getting some exciting result or having a grant funded or a paper accepted is usually short-lived and is soon replaced by a pressing need to meet yet another deadline. Do you have the same feeling?

To change this worrisome pattern I have decided to break the tradition of spending Sunday morning editing student's papers (isn't this our usual routine these days?) and spend a few minutes reflecting on what the Society has achieved in 2017.

The Combio meeting in Adelaide was a great success. Many thanks to all ASPS members involved in making it happening and, specifically, to Matt Gilliham and Rachel Burton who took a major workload in organizing this event. We are also looking forward towards equally successful Sydney meeting in 2018.

Many thanks to all of you who have managed to find a time in a busy schedule and attend AGM meeting at Combio. Those who can't make it or did not attend the conference for one or another reason, can find a brief snapshot of major events and achievements in my report on ASPS website. Right now I want to briefly inform you on some progress made after the meeting, to implement new initiatives approved by the Society.

One of the central topics during the ASPS executive meeting in Adelaide was an issue of a gender equality in plant science. In order to bridge the existing gap, we have decided to introduce a new award that will be given to an early or mid-career female researcher in recognition of outstanding research conducted subsequent to her PhD. This award is named after Jan Anderson – a pre-eminent scientist and a foundation member of this Society. Now I am very pleased to inform you that this award has been formally launched, and the application for the inaugural 2018 Anderson Award is opened from Dec 1, with submission deadline being Feb 28, 2018. For more details and submission guidelines please visit ASPS website. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to three of the sponsors of this award: CSIRO Agriculture and Food, the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis. We are looking for your nominations and thrilled to celebrate excellence in research by our leading Society female members.

Talking about awards, the decision has been also made to introduce several discipline-specific awards given to ECR on a bi-annual basis. We are working on this right now and hope to finalize the rules in early 2018. I will keep you posted on progress.

I thank you all for your contribution to the Society and also for the front line work as a researcher you are doing to promote the image of Australian plant science. I wish you all the best for the new 2018 and hope you can soon get a well-deserved rest and enjoy a break.

Sergey Shabala