April Edition

24 April 2024

This month in Phytogen we introduce our new Website and Communications Sub Committee including the new editors of Phytogen, Razlin Azman and Lucas Auroux.





Fascination of Plants day is 18th May 2024. Get in contact with Scott Boden if you have ideas or want to get involved.

We have the first 2024 Science Meets Parliament report for Lim Chee and the 2023 ASPS Education and Outreach Award report by winners Robert Sharwood, Michelle Donovan-Mak, Jayakumar Bose, David Randall, Jing He, Oula Ghannoum and Zhonghua Chen.

Announcing an extension to 2024 ASPS award applications to Sunday April 28th for the;

Peter Goldacre Award

Jan Anderson Award

ASPS Education and Outreach Award

R.N. Robertson Travelling Fellowship

And a call to join ASPS members Matt Gilliham and Michelle Watt on the ARC College of Experts. Nominate HERE.

Science Meets Parliament 2024 report

Lim Chee Liew, School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment, La Trobe University.

In March 2024, I had the pleasure of representing the Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS) as a delegate to the Science Meets Parliament (SMP), an annual event at the parliament house, Canberra, organised by Science and Technology Australia (STA). This year was the biggest ever event with 360 delegates, 90 Parliamentarians, and more than 50 amazing speakers.

Over the two-day event, I have the opportunities and privileges to hear from leaders and policy maker about how to play an active role in shaping our scientific policies and future. One of the highlights was the incredible speech by Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley who emphasised the fundamental science is equal to if not more important than translational science because of the social benefits and "be a well and not a waterfall of expertise" to engage effectively with parliamentarians and public as an expert. Minister of industry and science, Ed Husic acknowledged Australian researchers for advancing science, health and

Archive of Phytogen PDFs

All Phytogen issues published as PDF newsletters can also be downloaded by clicking here.

Tags

ASPS 60 | Awards | Global Plant Council | Phytogen | Plant Nutrition Trust Travel Scholarship | RN Robertson Travelling Fellowship | Science Meets Parliament | Women in science

Archives

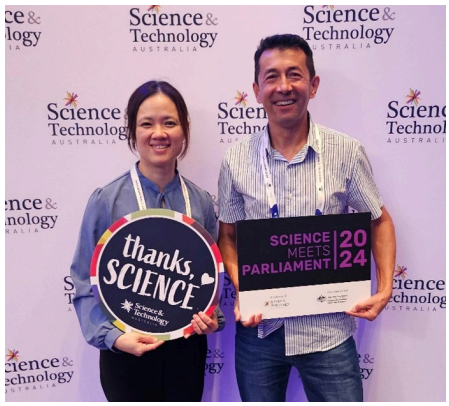
June 2025
May 2025
April 2025
March 2025
February 2025
January 2025
December 2024
November 2024
October 2024
September 2024
August 2024
July 2024
June 2024
May 2024
April 2024
February 2024
January 2024
November 2023
October 2023
September 2023





tech and announced new STEM funding that supports for collaboration with research institutes in Asia and the passing of Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2023 in Parliament. On top of these, I was really impressed by the insightful National Press Club addresses from STA president Prof Sharath Sriram which highlighted the need of Australia to boost R&D spending to 3% GDP as a bold investment to create an innovation ecosystem and more job opportunity of high value jobs. "Be a smart country, rather than a lucky one" was my take home message from Prof Sharath Sriram.





There is more work to be done in order to bridge the gap on what the parliamentarians do and what we scientists know through science communication and engagement. As scientists, we need to be equipped with advanced skills in policy engagement, communications, advocacy, and influence. Feyi Akindoyeni on the panel of advocacy also stressed on communication being persuasion, cut through and relevance, build a relationship and make sure your ask is clear. I have also increased my understanding about how scientists can engage with the media from media representatives and science communicators Brandon How, Donna Lu, and Nate Byrne. CEO of CSIRO, Doug Hilton highlighted the importance of collaboration by using metaphor of "just like food, science is much better, and far more enjoyable, when shared".





On top of the excellent seminars and talks, the Gala Dinner at the Great Hall, Parliament House was the networking highlight of the SMP. I got my opportunities to engage with scientists and parliamentarians from different area of expertise. Attending Question Time was another highlight for me where I get to watch Parliament in action in person.

It was a great honour to represent ASPS to attend SMP2024. It was a great fun and eye-opening event! It provided me an excellent opportunity to learn about communicating and engaging with policy makers and also to network with scientists from diverse area of STEM.

2023 ASPS Education and Outreach Award winners report.

Ensuring Food Security Through Innovative Food Production at Western Sydney University.

August 2023
July 2023
June 2023
May 2023
April 2023
March 2023
February 2023
December 2022
November 2022
October 2022
September 2022
August 2022
July 2022
June 2022
May 2022
April 2022
March 2022
February 2022
January 2022
December 2021
November 2021
October 2021
September 2021
August 2021
July 2021
June 2021
April 2021
March 2021
February 2021
January 2021
December 2020
November 2020
October 2020
September 2020
August 2020
July 2020
June 2020
May 2020

The Team: Robert Sharwood, Michelle Donovan-Mak, Jayakumar Bose, David Randall, Jing He, Oula Ghannoum and Zhonghua Chen.



Image – From Left to Right: Michelle Donovan-Mak, Jing He, Zhonghua Chen, Jayakumar Bose, Robert Sharwood, Oula Ghannoum and David Randall.

Summary:

Our team has created an innovative learning environment tailored to current and future leaders in the horticulture, plant biology, and food science sectors with the long-term vision of providing healthier, and more sustainable, plants and food. In 2017, Western Sydney University and Horticulture Innovation jointly established the National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre (NVPCC), which is used to train the next generation of growers, food practitioners, plant scientists, corporate leaders and educators. We developed three courses to bridge the protected cropping career pathway gap, Graduate certificate, Graduate diploma, and Master of Science with relevant majors. Industry informed and tailored subjects use innovative pedagogical approaches, including: flexible learning, online learning pods, and live flipped-learning tutorials. Academic materials are presented in multiple forms to engage all VARK learning styles, visual (YouTube, pictorial, graphical) audio (sound clouds, recorded lectures), reading/writing (written documents, checklists, writing tasks), kinaesthetic (hand-on practical in greenhouses, laboratories, entomological field collections).

Social Share

April 2020
March 2020
February 2020
January 2020
December 2019
November 2019
October 2019
September 2019
August 2019
July 2019
June 2019
May 2019
April 2019
March 2019
February 2019
January 2019
December 2018
November 2018
October 2018
September 2018
August 2018
July 2018
June 2018
May 2018
April 2018
March 2018
February 2018
January 2018
December 2017
November 2017
October 2017
September 2017
August 2017
July 2017
June 2017
May 2017
April 2017
March 2017

February 2017
January 2017
December 2016
November 2016
October 2016
September 2016
August 2016
July 2016
June 2016
May 2016
April 2016
March 2016
February 2016
January 2016
December 2015
November 2015
October 2015
September 2015
August 2015
July 2015
June 2015
May 2015
April 2015
March 2015
February 2015
January 2015
December 2014
November 2014
October 2014
September 2014
August 2014
July 2014
June 2014

Copyright 2017 Australian Society of Plant Scientists **Disclaimer & Privacy**

Website by **Michael Major Media**