



Adelaide University Sciences Association
c/o AUU Clubs
Lady Symon Building
University of Adelaide
Victoria Drive
Adelaide 5005

To the members of the Adelaide University Sciences Association

It has been a privilege to serve you as president over the past year. I would like to begin my address by thanking the committee from the past year, for without their dedication and efforts, AUScA surely would not be where it is today. Secondly I would like to thank those members who are not on the committee and still volunteered their time at AUScA events, your efforts are always deeply valued. Finally I have some special mentions for those who did some outstanding work. I thank the team who put together the Quiz night, Kirsten, Ellen, Catisha, and Kieran. I thank Emi for this years sticker design and Jason for his design of our recent pubcrawl shirt. Finally I'd like to thank all of those who helped out in the long hours at a barbecue, or sat signing people up on a stall. I understand how much effort goes into keeping AUScA active, and I truly appreciate everyone's contribution to the club.

The membership of AUScA in 2015 reached 486 members, a slight decline on the 519 members of the previous year. However, this year we have already reached 319 and we have noticed attendance at events has increased, with record numbers at recent movie nights and meet and greets. Analysis of membership data has revealed that there were three peaks in our membership recruitments throughout 2015, the first and largest peak was at O'Week, where AUScA gained 287 members. The remaining peaks came from both of our pubcrawls (Beer-N-A and Schodinger's Crow). Two important conclusions can be made from this data. Firstly, in order to sign up large numbers of members in O'Week, it is important to talk to the faculty and ask to promote AUScA to first years. Secondly, pubcrawls are intrinsic to the promotion and involvement of AUScA members. It is my recommendation to remain close to the faculty for recruitment purposes, and always keep pubcrawls on the AUScA event calendar.

In terms of the interests of our members, those with an interest in Molecular Biology are the most represented group, comprising 24% of the cohort. Following closely is Physics with 21%. Chemistry, Evolutionary Biology and Animal Science are similar with 13%, 11% and 10% respectively. Geology, Agricultural Science, and Oenology/Viticulture are our least represented groups, being represented by 5%, 4% and 2% of the membership in total.

Our most popular events remain to be pubcrawls. We have learned that the most successful pubcrawls are those with either witty pop culture references involving a science reference or a timeless, non-cheesy science idea. A classic example for a pop culture reference is Schrodinger's Crow or our current shirt, Gravitational Raves. Both capitalise on current events. An example for a timeless, non-cheesy slogan is cell-fie, which has no event relevance, but was a phenomenal concept which led to our best selling shirt. My recommendations in regards to future pubcrawls are: choose a design wisely, if the joke

needs explaining, it isn't worth it. Secondly, choose a bright colour for the shirt, pubcrawls always look better when everyone is wearing something identifiable. Lastly, keep everyone together as much as possible on the route. Splitting up the group into separate pubs can ruin the mood.

Lastly, I would like to mention that AUScA is gaining a reputation surrounding our annual Quiz night. We always receive compliments predominantly about our science and pop culture rounds. I hope that as the years progress, AUScA retains its excellent standard of questions.

At the end of 2015, AUScA awarded lecturers for outstanding teaching. The winners included Derek Leinweiber (Physics), John Conran (Evolutionary Biology), Greg Metha (Chemistry), Paul Thomas (Molecular Biology) and Karin Barovich (Geology).

Lastly, I wish to formally acknowledge that 2016 is the 125th year of AUScA. Although there have been times of dormancy in our history, we are able to say that we are part of a society that is the oldest non-sporting club on campus, we are older even than the Adelaide University Union.

AUScA is continually growing and maturing, and it is my pleasure to see so many students benefitting from our work. I believe that AUScA has the potential to bring people of all disciplines and year levels together, much more than our classes do. I've been apart of AUScA as first year rep, secretary and president, and I couldn't imagine my life without it. It is my wish that AUScA thrive, and always be a place for students to celebrate science.

Yours faithfully,

Brittany Howell

AUScA President
2015/16