

Annual Report

1 JULY 2019 - 30 JUNE 2020



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Australian Science Media
Centre Inc.

Annual Review 1 July 2019 to
30 June 2020

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The Year in Review



To say it has been a remarkable year sounds like a cliché. But from our viewpoint on the frontline of science and the media, it feels like an understatement! Without a doubt it has been the biggest year for science in the media in the Centre's 14+ years of operation. From the horrendous bushfire season starting in September to the COVID-19 pandemic, which took off in January, science has been in the headlines, informing our collective responses both personally and politically. Clear information and credible experts were in constant demand and the AusSMC has been run off its feet helping the media report these life changing events. As with most organisations, we also had to learn how to deliver our services while working from our living rooms and kitchen tables.

While it has been a challenging time, it has also been a rewarding time since it is during such crises that science media centres show their value. This year, AusSMC Expert Reactions, online briefings, and myth busters have helped inform more than 50,000 news stories in Australia

and overseas, double the number in the previous year. A grant from the Google News Initiative in April helped us expand our efforts and bring on extra staff to cope with the increased demand caused by the pandemic. It also enabled us to create a COVID-19 resource web page and daily email updates for journalists, jam packed with useful information like primary data sources, COVID-19 research news, experts and collated explainers and myth busters from trustworthy sources.

While fires and pandemics have dominated our work this year, we also had several projects that came to fruition. In February, we held our third Indigenous Media Mentoring workshop at the NITV-SBS studios in Sydney. Nine very engaged Indigenous scientists completed the program and we're indebted to SBS, CSL and ConocoPhillips for their support of the program.

In March, we launched the Collaborative Journalism program supported by the Judith Nielson Institute for Journalism and Ideas. The first of three projects involved 11

scientists working proactively with journalists at news.com.au to create 'Time is Now', a series of feature articles, videos and graphics on bushfires and climate change. And in May we launched our "labelling the evidence" project with the Science Media Centre of New Zealand, creating evidence labels for research stories on Scimex to help journalists assess the validity of research at a glance.

And finally, in June we introduced an Indigenous tag for stories on Scimex, enabling journalists to find new research that is relevant to Indigenous communities.

Yes indeed, it has been a remarkable year!

Peter Yates AM
Chair

Dr Susannah Elliott
CEO

By the Numbers

OVER

5350

EXPERTS ON THE AUSSMC DATABASE

OVER

50500

MEDIA CLIPS FROM AUSSMC BRIEFINGS AND REACTIONS
(ALMOST DOUBLE THE PREVIOUS YEAR)

326

NEW EXPERTS ADDED IN 2018-19

3517

STORIES PUBLISHED ON SCIMEX

1630

ACTIVE JOURNALISTS REGISTERED
WITH THE AUSSMC

650

ENQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM THE MEDIA

322

NEW JOURNALIST REGISTRATIONS

90

SETS OF EXPERT REACTIONS DISTRIBUTED TO JOURNALISTS
INVOLVING 578 EXPERT COMMENTS

29

NATIONAL MEDIA BRIEFINGS FOR
JOURNALISTS INVOLVING 70 EXPERTS

573350

SCIMEX PAGE VIEWS
(13% INCREASE ON PREVIOUS YEAR)

Latest Developments

Peer-reviewed

Systematic review

People

[What do these mean?](#)



Peer-reviewed: This work was reviewed and scrutinised by relevant independent experts.

Systematic review: This type of study is a structured approach to reviewing all the evidence to answer a specific question. It can include a meta-analysis which is a statistical method of combining the data from multiple studies to get an overall result.

People: This is a study based on research using people.

Labelling the Evidence Project

Media releases are a key intermediary between researchers and journalists, and they can often set the tone for what the public see, read and hear. As part of ongoing improvements to Scimex designed to promote accurate media coverage of research, we worked with the New Zealand Science Media Centre to develop a new labelling system for media releases in

both countries. The roll-out of these labels commenced at the end of April, enabling journalists to quickly determine the quality and stage of research with tags that define whether it was peer-reviewed, the type of evidence involved, and whether it was carried out in cells, animals or people.

Some labels are placed on all stories uploaded to Scimex while others are specifically for medical stories. The labels have been adapted from ones designed by the UK Science Media

Centre in collaboration with the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

In addition to helping journalists assess the significance of new research, it is hoped that labels will also help educate the public, who are increasingly accessing our material online, about the process of science and how they can look behind headlines to gauge for themselves the credibility of research.



Indigenous topic tag on Scimex

In June, we introduced a new Indigenous topic tag for stories uploaded to Scimex. This tag enables researchers and journalists in Australia and NZ to highlight and

find research that involves Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities. The Indigenous topic tag follows the Centre's introduction of Indigenous expert searches on Scimex and is part of our commitment to increasing the diversity of research and expertise in the media.



Indigenous Media Mentoring Program

In February 2020 the latest Indigenous Media Mentoring Program was held in Sydney at the SBS/NITV studios. Nine competitively selected Indigenous researchers from across Australia came together for two-days of tailored training with the aim of increasing their skills and confidence when dealing with the media. This year the program was sponsored

by CSL and ConocoPhillips. The program showcased our collaboration with valued media partner SBS and included a mentoring session led by previous participants Associate Professors Megan Williams and Jason Sharples. Mock TV and radio interviews were conducted by experienced news journalists, along with voice training, and a pitching session with media outlet The Conversation.

Further online training in social media was delivered in June by our Senior Media Officer, Dr Joseph Milton. Long-term supporters and program mentors, Dr Misty Jenkins and Professor Lisa Jackson- Pulver, also contributed to the virtual session.

A fresh new group of Indigenous scientists will be sought for 2021 with ongoing funding confirmed from CSL.



Google Initiative

A grant from the Google News Initiative (GNI) in April 2020 enabled us to expand our work on the COVID-19 pandemic with a strong focus on countering misinformation and providing journalists with daily research updates, informed opinion and online expert briefings. With the

support of the GNI, we were able to hire a dedicated media officer to focus on coronavirus news and develop a daily COVID alert which continues to be distributed to over 160 journalists each day. We established a user-friendly COVID-19 resource web page which provides a one-stop shop for journalists to obtain the latest information on coronavirus research, credible data sources, links to videos and details of media friendly experts available for commentary. To 30 June 2020 the AusSMC had generated 33 COVID-19 related Expert Reactions and nine online media briefings under this initiative. These resources informed more than 24,500 news items including more than 8,500 overseas news stories, giving local experts global exposure.

Emerging Technologies

The second half of 2019 saw us deliver two briefings in a series designed to look specifically at emerging technologies. 'The AI revolution – stunning opportunities and global risks' discussed the findings of a report calling for a national AI strategy, and 'Space 2.0' focused on the new opportunities and challenges facing the Australian Space Industry. These online briefings were supported by the Academy of Technology and Engineering and Bright-r (APPEA), with AusSMC retaining full editorial control, and generated over 500 news items.

Women in STEM

Our collaboration with Science and Technology Australia's Superstars of STEM program, which aims to increase the public visibility of women working in STEM, continued again this year. Our media team participated in the selection process for the second round of 60 Superstars and developed and facilitated the media training component.

Four full-day media training workshops were held across Australia in late July and August 2019 led by Lyndal Byford and Joseph Milton.

These sessions provided real world news media experience through the generous support of the session's hosting organisations: ABC (Brisbane), The Age/Channel 9 (Melbourne and Adelaide), SBS (Sydney) and the contributions made by working journalists from many different news outlets.



STEM Women Online

The Australian Academy of Science created a database specifically to

raise the profiles of women working in STEM and we are pleased to be acknowledged as a contributing partner in the 'STEM Women' online project.



Collaborative Journalism Project

Bringing scientists and journalists together to create unique content

Funded by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas, the Collaborative Journalism Project aims to deliver expert knowledge and skills into collaborating newsrooms to produce new and exclusive content on topical issues. Experts are active participants, brainstorming topics and angles with journalists and sometimes even writing content and creating multimedia.

The first of three planned collaborations was conducted in February 2020 with news.com.au. The newsroom and the experts worked together to create numerous stories on the impacts of climate change on Australia's way of life in a

series titled 'Time is Now'. Coming in the wake of the recent bushfires, the content included a mix of simple explainer videos, myth-busting stories, the presentation of evidence-based material on the future impacts of climate change, and stories on how individuals can affect genuine change.

The success of the collaboration was evidenced by over 350,000 page views for the top three online stories, which included a video featuring Professor Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick from UNSW offering a rebuttal to sceptical comments posted about the series by news.com.au readers.

The next collaboration with The Guardian in the second half of 2020 will be a series of six video explainers on a "green recovery" out of COVID-19 and will cover a range of topics such as green housing, electric vehicles and the circular economy.

Media Snapshots

Expert Reactions and media briefings help provide context and independent commentary on breaking news and complex or controversial research. Our media team organised 29 media briefings and sent out 90 sets of Expert Reactions during the year. Below is a sample of the stories we triggered or contributed to.

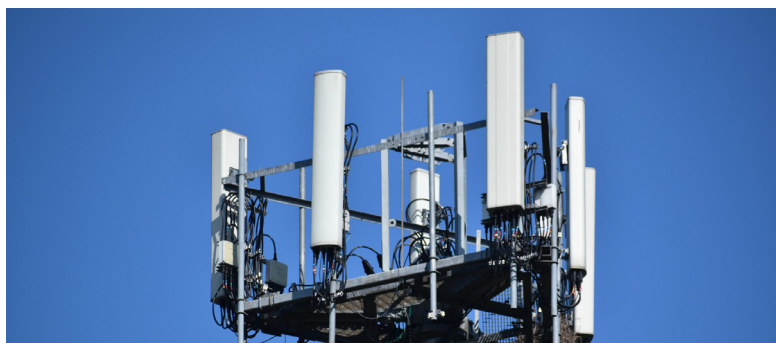
► **How healthy are 11-12 year old Aussies?** - July 2019

In late June, we were alerted to a series of 14 papers being published by the British Medical Journal, which were a one-off health check of 1,800 Australian children, aged 11 to 12 years. The series of papers showed that while most Aussie kids are healthy, there is room for improvement especially when it comes to physical activity, sleep, weight and early signs of chronic kidney disease. We approached the Murdoch Children's Research Institute with the idea of doing a media briefing to help journalists get their heads around the findings, generating close to 250 news stories including 39 TV slots and 144 radio items.



► **5G jitters - How safe is 5G for our health?** - July 2019

With the roll-out of 5G taking place around the country, concerns were raised on social media and in mainstream news outlets about a raft of potential health issues, from cancer to sleep. A background briefing featuring three technical experts was attended by more than 20 journalists despite no new data or a report being released. The event generated more than 100 news items with the experts also quoted by Chinese media outlets.



► **Queensland bushfires**
- Sept 2019

Bushfires are nothing new in Australia, but how many of us think of them occurring just one week out of winter? As more than 20 fires burnt across Queensland, our Expert Reaction, featuring seven independent experts, informed more than 450 news stories including 54 TV items and over 200 radio interviews.



► **Measles outbreak**
- Oct 2019

With concern growing about the spread of measles in Australia and overseas, we helped the Australian Academy of Science and the Department of Health launch a campaign to help tackle the problem and provide information to the public.

The briefing generated 50 news items including some made exclusively for news outlet's social media feeds.



► **New guideline questions health gains from eating less meat**
- Oct 2019

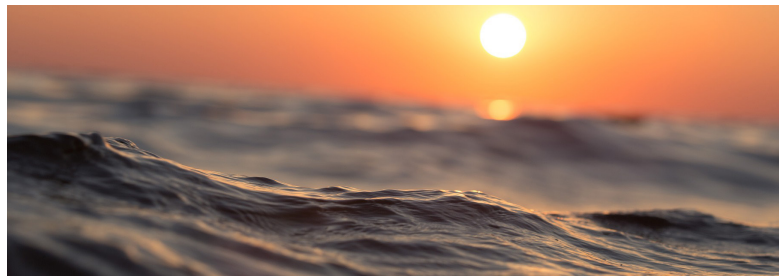
A new series of papers published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* concluded there were very few health benefits from cutting meat consumption, controversially recommending that most adults continue to eat their current levels of red and processed meat - a finding that is contrary to almost all other existing guidelines. We collected expert comments on the series, with most Australian experts questioning the study's conclusions, and highlighting the lead author's failure to disclose significant ties to the International Life Sciences Institute; a think tank that receives funding from large food corporations. The Expert Reaction informed the way the story was covered in around 170 news items, with the expert comments completely changing the story angle in many of the news reports.



▶ **IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate**

- Sept 2019

Days after the UN Climate Action Summit attended by world leaders, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. The report said that sea levels could rise by as much as one metre by the end of the century if we do nothing to combat climate change. Our Expert Reaction brought together both the Australian IPCC authors and

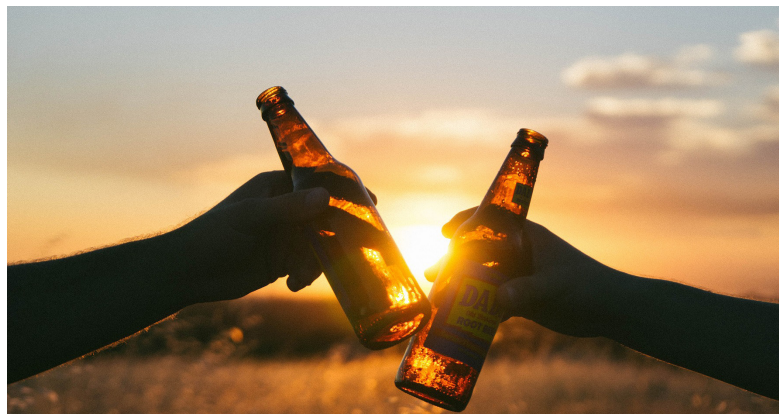


contributors, along with independent experts, to comment on the report. The experts were used in more than 1,300 news items both in Australia and overseas.

▶ **Reducing the health risks from drinking alcohol**

- Dec 2019

With Christmas parties in full swing, Australian experts had some sobering news for Aussie drinkers, with the release of the NHMRC's draft Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol. We ran a media briefing with key NHMRC panel members to launch the guidelines and conducted an independent Expert Reaction to help journalists gauge the broader views of the expert community. The briefing and reaction generated over 600 news items and reached an audience of more than 14 million.



▶ **White Island volcano eruption**

- Dec 2019

In the wake of the horrific eruption on New Zealand's White Island, we reacted quickly to source expert commentary and collaborated with Science Media Centre NZ. Our Expert Reaction generated over 2,800 news items with coverage both in Australia and overseas. Volcanologist Professor Ray Cas from Monash University, who had previously visited the location, commented that the island was a "disaster waiting to happen". This comment specifically was picked up



by hundreds of news outlets covering the story and featured in many of the story headlines.

▶ **Black Summer bushfires**

– Nov 2019 - Jan 2020

The devastating 'Black Summer' bushfires began in November 2019 and by the end of January, more than 11 million hectares of bush, forest and parks had burnt nationally. We responded to these dramatic events through a series of five related Expert Reactions and a media briefing, featuring experts on climate change, risk management and fire science. The reactions and briefings contributed to more than 10,000 news items and reached an estimated cumulative Australian audience of more than 127 million, and even more in overseas outlets. We also

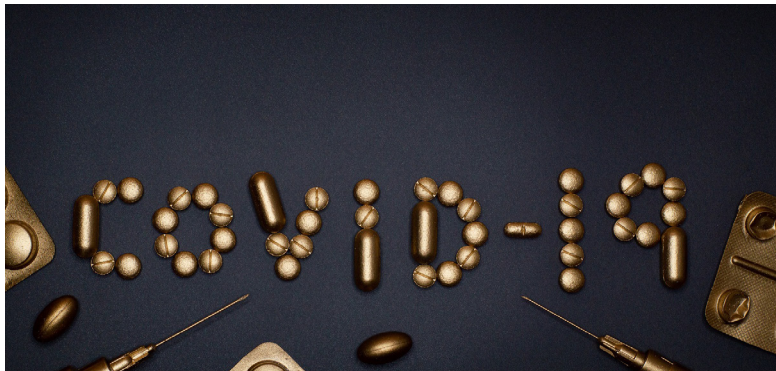


developed a resource page for journalists to bring all the bushfire related content on Scimex into one place.

▶ **CSIRO starts testing COVID-19 vaccines**

– April 2020

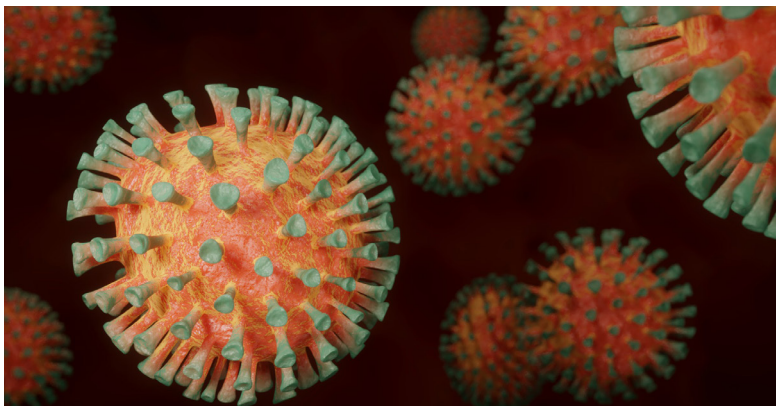
In April, as the COVID-19 pandemic gained pace in Australia, CSIRO began the first stage of testing potential vaccines. Two vaccines were being tested in ferrets at the CSIRO's high-containment facility in Geelong. AusSMC partnered with CSIRO to conduct a briefing with the key researchers. Close to 50 journalists tuned in to the briefing and it generated over 2,780 news items.



▶ **Coronavirus - your questions answered**

– March 2020

In mid-March, as the pandemic hit full speed in Australia, our media team asked journalists to send in their most burning questions. Questions were triaged, collated into themes and directed to appropriate experts to answer, allowing us to help experts from being overwhelmed with media requests. This series of "your questions answered" Expert Reactions proved highly popular with journalists and covered issues including social distancing, modelling, testing, treatments, herd immunity, reinfection, and even the best ways to clean. In total this series of



reactions contributed to over 3,500 news stories and reached an estimated cumulative audience of more than 81 million.

AusSMC Staff

With additional funding obtained under the Google News Initiative we were pleased to welcome back Annika Dean to the media team in April 2020 for a short-term contract. Timing was perfect as Annika was returning to Adelaide and could slot straight back into her previous media officer role to take on the coronavirus project.

The AusSMC had 8.8 full-time equivalents during 2019-2020.

Staff at the Centre during the year were:

Dr Susannah Elliott, CEO

Lyndal Byford, Director of News & Partnerships

Dr Joseph Milton, Senior Media Officer

Nigel Kerby, Project Manager

Marilyn Arnold, Office Manager

Deb Shaw, Project Officer

Ben Kaldi, Science Information Officer

Olivia Henry, Media Officer

Annika Dean, Media Officer

Steven Mew, Support Relations Officer



Dr Susannah Elliott

Chief Executive Officer



Lyndal Byford

Director of News & Partnerships



Dr Joseph Milton

Senior Media Officer



Nigel Kerby

Project Manager



Marilyn Arnold

Office Manager



Ben Kaldi

Science Information Officer



Steven Mew

Supporter Relations Officer



Olivia Henry

Media Officer



Deb Shaw

Project Officer



Annika Dean

Media Officer

AusSMC Staff Activity

Staff were regularly in demand to discuss interesting science stories in the media.

Media and professional development training continued to be a major commitment for our staff with group media skills sessions offered to our Affiliates in every major capital city prior to travel restrictions coming into place in response to the pandemic.

In September and October 2019 our media team provided two in-person training sessions for journalists at Nine mastheads including the Age, SMH, Brisbane Times and Financial Review. These sessions focus on some of the traps and pitfalls of reporting on research and were well attended by over 30 journalists.

Once again in 2019, the AusSMC released the Top Ten Science stories and Top Ten Weirdest Science Stories, which continued to be popular with journalists. This year, Dr Joseph Milton, who compiles and writes the lists, did nine radio interviews, mainly for ABC stations, and an interview for news.com.au.

Dr Joseph Milton was a major driver behind the development and switch from in-person media training to online training modules in the wake of pandemic travel restrictions. His first online session was delivered via Zoom on the 30th of April 2020 and

since then, staff from our affiliated organisations across Australia have embraced the opportunity for online training with excellent levels of attendance. Joseph also delivered online training tailored for SBS cadet journalists in May 2020.






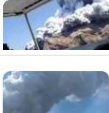


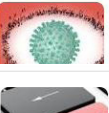
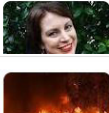



Joseph, Lyndal, Olivia and Susannah continued their regular appearances on ABC Radio National's Drive program with Patricia Karvelas, 2CC in Canberra, and fortnightly interviews with ABC Radio in Darwin and Southern Queensland.

Joseph Milton leads a training workshop on social media for Affiliates of the AusSMC in Perth, WA



AusSMC mentions

While media outlets are not required to refer to the Centre when using content from us, there were still hundreds of mentions during the year. Below is a small snapshot of some of the mentions.

<p>Gizmodo Australia</p> <p>Australia Postpones Vaping Ban By 6 Months</p> <p>Professor Wayne Hall, a public policy expert at the University of Queensland told the Australian Science Media Centre the changes could inadvertently create a ...</p> <p>Jan 26, 2020</p> 	<p>ABC News</p> <p>Which coronavirus quarantine measures are likely to be most effective?</p> <p>... their health and the health of those caring for and detaining them," Dr Mackay told the Australian Science Media Centre. Professor McCaw acknowledged that, ...</p> <p>Jan 31, 2020</p> 
<p>The Guardian</p> <p>Coronavirus health emergency declaration delayed by a week, Australian WHO expert panel member says</p> <p>Speaking about the announcement of a review into Covid-19, McLaws told an Australian Science Media Centre webinar on Wednesday that the politicisation of ...</p> <p>May 20, 2020</p> 	<p>Australian Hospital + Healthcare Bulletin</p> <p>Old whooping cough vaccine could protect against food ...</p> <p>... spoke to the Australian Science Media Centre, explaining that while the whole-cell vaccine was effective in providing long-lasting immunity, it resulted in more ...</p> <p>Jan 23, 2020</p> 
<p>The New Daily</p> <p>Coronavirus roadmap: Mental health experts hail PM Scott Morrison's easing of restrictions</p> <p>Soon after the announcement, the Australian science media centre released the following commentary from experts, with just about all of them calling on the ...</p> <p>May 9, 2020</p> 	<p>The Straits Times</p> <p>Australia recorded hottest and driest year in 2019 as weather ...</p> <p>... fire disaster should precipitate a mass shift in community sentiment about climate change," she said in a statement to the Australian Science Media Centre.</p> <p>Jan 9, 2020</p> 
<p>Gizmodo Australia</p> <p>Asymptomatic Cases of COVID-19 Might Be More Common Than We Think</p> 	<p>To Nέα Online</p> <p>Νέα Ζηλανδία: Φόβοι για πάνω από 25 νεκρούς</p> 
<p>Daily Mail</p> <p>True coronavirus infection rate could be FIVE times higher</p> <p>Melbourne epidemiologist Ivo Mueller told the Australian Science Media</p> 	<p>PÚBLICO</p> <p>Um "desastre à espera de acontecer": a erupção do vulcão</p> 
<p>Daily Telegraph</p> <p>Australian coronavirus restrictions: What is expected to be lifted last</p> <p>The lifting of restrictions may also vary among Australia's states and even between regions within the states, the experts told an Australian Science Media Centre ...</p> <p>Apr 23, 2020</p> 	<p>Irish Times</p> <p>New Zealand volcano: Rescue pilot recounts traumatic</p> 
<p>The Sydney Morning Herald</p> <p>Read about a new COVID-19 treatment study? It probably won't work</p> <p>... and some reporting on potential COVID-19 treatments has crossed this line," said Lyndal Byford, director of news at the Australian Science Media Centre.</p> <p>Apr 6, 2020</p> 	<p>ABC News</p> <p>White Island volcano eruption a 'disaster waiting to happen', Australian expert says</p> <p>He told The Australian Science Media Centre the fatal eruption was a disaster waiting to happen. "I visited White Island in 1986 and again in 2005 or 2006, and ..."</p> <p>Dec 10, 2019</p> 
<p>The Sydney Morning Herald</p> <p>'Like a genie': Researchers scramble to adjust to rising fire extremes</p> <p>"As scientists, nobody knows how this is shaping," Professor Bowman told a media conference arranged by the Australian Science Media Centre. "It's like a ..."</p> <p>Nov 13, 2019</p> 	
<p>The New Daily</p> <p>Coronavirus Q&A: An expert answers Australia's COVID-19 questions</p> 	<p>The Australian</p> <p>Scientists 'careful' in attributing fire weather signals</p> 
<p>The Guardian</p> <p>Coronavirus overload: five ways to fight misinformation and fear</p> <p>Lyndal Byford, of the Australian Science Media Centre says: "The main thing to consider is who is making the claim. Ask yourself what is the source of the ..."</p> <p>Mar 21, 2020</p> 	<p>The Sydney Morning Herald</p> <p>'Like a genie': Researchers scramble to adjust to rising fire extremes</p> <p>"As scientists, nobody knows how this is shaping," Professor Bowman told a media conference arranged by the Australian Science Media Centre. "It's like a ..."</p> <p>Nov 13, 2019</p> 
	<p>이코노믹리뷰</p> <p>온실가스가 극심한 가뭄 불렀다 < 종합 < 뉴스 < 기사본문</p> <p>... 국립 연구소(Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory)의 홀 두락 연구원은 호주 과학 미디어 센터(Australian Science Media Centre)와의 인터뷰에서 "이번 연구 ..."</p> <p>Aug 25, 2019</p> 

AusSMC Board

The Board is chaired by Peter Yates AM and meets four times a year. Deputy chairs are Robyn Williams from the ABC and Professor Merlin Crossley from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). At 30 June, board members included:

Peter Yates AM (Chair) Chairman, Business and Economics Board, Faculty of Business and Economics, The University of Melbourne

Dr Amanda Caples Lead Scientist, Victorian Government

Jim Carroll Director of News, Current Affairs and Sport, SBS

Professor Caroline McMillen Chief Scientist for South Australia

Professor Merlin Crossley Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, The University of New South Wales

Professor Graham Durant AM Director, Questacon

Jeremy Houghton Head of Strategy & Corporate Affairs, AIA Australia

Dr Michael Ellies Business and media consultant

Alexander Needs Partnership and Strategy Director, Nine Entertainment Co.

Professor Peter Rathjen (retired) Vice Chancellor, The University of Adelaide

Professor Kieran Kirk Dean ANU College of Science, The Australian National University

Melvin Mansell State Editorial Director, SA, WA, NT & TAS, News Corp Australia

Professor Melissa Brown Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, The University of Queensland

Professor Robert Saint Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Flinders University

Robyn Williams Presenter, Science Show, ABC

Noelene Buddle Chief Executive Officer, RiAus

The Hon Steven Marshall MP Premier of South Australia

Tanya Bowes Director of Corporate Affairs, CSIRO

Professor Chris Moran Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Curtin University

David Swinbanks Chairman, Springer Nature, Australia and New Zealand

Board meeting in Adelaide - November 2019



List of Media Briefings and Expert Reactions

The following is a full list of the media briefings (blue) and expert reactions the Australian Science Media Centre organised over the past year. Collectively, they generated over 50,500 media hits in Australia and overseas.

▶ June 2020

- Victoria's Jump in COVID-19 cases - is this a second wave?
- Ultra-rapid DNA sequencing helps critically ill Aussie kids
- Australia to ban import of e-cigarettes and nicotine refills
- Major cyber-attacks on Aussie governments and business
- Steroid dexamethasone as a treatment for COVID-19
- Pre-print indicates potential earlier start to COVID-19 in China
- Is this the right time to allow mass gatherings in Australia?
- WHO restarts hydroxychloroquine trials after study data raises concerns
- [COVID-19 testing - ask an expert](#)
- More than 500 species on the brink of extinction

▶ May 2020

- How common is asymptomatic COVID-19?
- [Uncovering the mystery behind the Universe's missing matter](#)
- WHO suspends hydroxychloroquine trial amid safety concerns
- Federal Government releases roadmap for climate/energy policy
- Expert Q&A: What is hydroxychloroquine?
- [How can Australia avoid a second wave? Ask the experts](#)
- [Murray-Darling Lower Lakes Independent Science Review – Findings](#)
- COVID-19 will significantly impact Australia's research capacity
- Kawasaki Disease and COVID-19 in children
- [What's next for COVID-19? Ask an immunologist](#)

- [TB vaccine being trialled for COVID-19 could also help reduce deaths in newborns](#)
- Australia to Lift COVID-19 restrictions in three stages
- [Treating serious COVID-19 cases with antibodies from recovered donors](#)

▶ April 2020

- Remdesivir for COVID-19 - Does it work?
- Mapping health risks for people with mental disorders
- COVIDSafe app released, but does it work on iPhones?
- [When can Australia start to lift COVID-19 restrictions? Ask an epidemiologist](#)
- [Ten threats to human survival - a call to action](#) (also an Expert Reaction)
- Coronavirus tracing app
- Did COVID-19 come from a lab in Wuhan?
- [Tracking COVID-19 spread through sewage](#)
- Drought's impact on society, ecology and agriculture
- Chinese wet markets, COVID-19 and the global wildlife trade
- EXPERT Q&A: To mask or not to mask
- EXPERT Q&A: Debunking the myth of COVID-19 and 5G
- Can we really predict who will get sickest with COVID? Concerns raised about clinical prediction models
- Federal Government releases Australia's COVID-19 modelling
- Tigers, cats and dogs oh my - can pets carry COVID-19?
- [Pandemic reveals need for tech revolution in healthcare](#)
- [CSIRO starts testing COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- Adelaide baggage handlers COVID-19 cluster

▶ March 2020

- AI-based blood test shows promise in detecting 50 cancers and pinpointing their location in the body
- Concerns over lack of masks and PPE for those treating COVID-19
- [Trial of TB vaccine to reduce COVID-19 infections](#)
- Modelling shows combined social distancing measures effective against COVID-19
- Antarctic ice loss
- Coronavirus - your questions answered
- COVID-19 Should we be cancelling all mass gatherings?
- WHO declares coronavirus a pandemic

▶ February 2020

- The latest on COVID-19
- Scientists debrief after Australia's unprecedented fire season
- Some antibiotics prescribed during pregnancy linked with birth defects
- WHO and UNICEF say our kids' future is under threat
- Mothers' paraben exposure linked to childhood overweight risk
- Genetic 'fingerprints' behind cancer drivers revealed
- Is eating meat, chicken or fish bringing us closer to death?

▶ January 2020

- WHO declares novel coronavirus a Global Health Emergency
- Novel coronavirus - quarantining Australians, Chinese lock down, and importing Chinese goods
- First Australian novel coronavirus case confirmed in Melbourne
- Novel coronavirus may have come from snakes
- Sunscreen chemicals absorbed into the bloodstream
- [Whooping cough vaccine could help in the fight against food allergies](#)
- Novel Chinese coronavirus found in Japan
- Bushfire aftermath
- [BoM Annual Climate Statement 2019](#)
- Australian bushfires

▶ December 2019

- [Reducing the health risks from drinking alcohol - New Australian draft guidelines released](#) (also an Expert Reaction)
- White Island volcano eruption
- Current GM food labels no longer fit for purpose
- [Fossil fuel emissions growth slows in 2019 - Global Carbon Budget](#)
- WMO Provisional Statement on the state of the climate
- Can being transgender be explained by differences in brain function

▶ November 2019

- 9 in 10 Aussie teens are not doing enough physical activity
- Keto diet protects mice from the flu
- Climate change is bad for our health and effects are getting worse
- [November bushfires - are they exceptional, could they have been prevented and is climate change to blame?](#) (also an Expert Reaction)
- Bushfires raging in NSW and QLD
- Long-acting birth control through microneedle patch
- World scientists declare climate emergency
- Measles may leave you more vulnerable to other infections

▶ October 2019

- Is paracetamol during pregnancy linked to ADHD and autism?
- Cracks in Qantas planes
- [Where it all began – Aussie led research tracks down the first home of modern humans](#)
- A high salt diet may be bad for the brain, mouse study shows
- Government plan to prevent fish kills
- [Measles outbreak - experts launch campaign to tackle the disease](#)

- [Aussie blue coasts our secret weapon against climate change](#)
- New guideline questions health gains from eating less meat

▶ **September 2019**

- [Space 2.0 - The new space age is small and cheap but harder to find](#)
- IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate
- UN climate action summit report - time to face reality on climate change
- [Australian immunology pioneer Jacques Miller wins Lasker Award](#)
- Queensland bushfires

▶ **August 2019**

- There is no single 'gay gene'
- HRT soon after menopause may increase breast cancer risk
- Humans were changing the planet earlier than we thought
- C-section birth linked to autism and ADHD
- First death related to vaping reported in the US
- Fires in the Amazon
- We're all drinking microplastics and we don't know if they're making us sick
- SA to lift ban on GM crops
- Mum's fluoride exposure might affect bub's IQ
- IPCC 2019 Special Report on Climate Change and Land
- Warm waters and overfishing may be increasing the levels of mercury in our seafood
- Poultry protection: Eating chicken may defend against breast cancer

▶ **July 2019**

- Prescription antacids associated with increased risk of allergies
- [The AI revolution - Stunning opportunities and global risks](#)
- Current climate warming is unprecedented in the last 2000 years
- Dental health crisis fuelled by Big Sugar and neglect
- [5G jitters - How safe is 5G for our health?](#)
- [Mental illness takes a toll on the body & years from your life: 20-year life expectancy gap](#) (also an Expert Reaction)
- Are sugary drinks giving you cancer?
- [How healthy are 11-12 year old Aussies?](#)
- [Apollo 11 and the future of space exploration](#)
- [HIV diagnoses drop to 18 year low, but it's not all good news](#)

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Financials

Income	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Sponsorship received	855,128.00	743,731.00
Scimex	23,000.00	22,976.00
Indigenous Media Mentoring	30,000.00	-
Google Project	73,014.00	-
JN Institute	49,840.00	-
Affiliation	155,100.00	167,725.00
Cost recovery	18,115.00	19,871.00
Subscriptions and uploads	19,140.00	12,230.00
Other income	77,084.00	14,346.00
Interest received	6,685.00	9,595.00

Total Income	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
	1,307,106.00	990,474.00

Expenditure	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Salaries and wages	746,717.00	673,790.00
Indigenous media mentoring	16,061.00	378.00
Google Project	9,045.00	-
JN Institute	8,235.00	-
Buzzfeed	-	5,000.00
Scimex	102,301.00	69,421.00
Media team/briefings	10,663.00	13,704.00
Office expenses	89,409.00	128,079.00
Board meeting expenses	3,194.00	7,872.00
Website Development	-	20,000.00
Depreciation	3,280.00	3,940.00
Travel expenses	20,278.00	29,268.00
Marketing and development costs	8,078.00	1,998.00

Total Expenditure	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
	1,017,261.00	953,450.00

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
Surplus*	289,845.00	37,024.00
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	289,845.00	37,024.00
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	387,858.00	330,834.00
Transfer from reserves	-	20,000.00
Adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058	240,798.00	-
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	918,501.00	387,858.00

*Due to changes in accounting standards, income is now accrued in the year that it is received. This explains the large surplus in the 2019-20 FY



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