



FIVE DECADES OF SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MARINE SCIENCE IN AUSTRALIA

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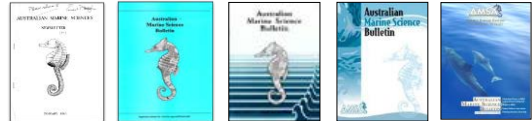



Data sources



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- Trawled through 190 Bulletins (Jan 1963 - June 2013)
- Held in various personal collections & libraries
- Constructed spread sheets of relevant information
- Analysed & collated into coherent story (hopefully!)
- Acknowledge help of librarians, photographers *et al.*

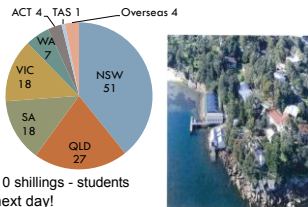


Origins of AMSA



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- ESA conference (Sydney, August 1962): no marine session
- 43 dissidents met & resolved to form AMSA
- Interim committee formed, encouraged membership & drafted constitution
- Inaugural meeting of 130 Foundation Members at CSIR lab, Cronulla on Saturday, 18 May, 1963
- First AMSA Council elected:
 - Geoffrey Kesteven - NSW
 - Jim Thomson - NSW
 - John Yaldwyn - NSW
 - Hope McPherson - Vic
 - Ernest Hodgkin - WA
 - Bryan Womersley - SA
- AMSA subscriptions:
 - £1 - professional members & 10 shillings - students
- Held first AMSA conference the next day!

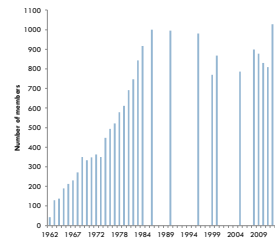


Growth in membership



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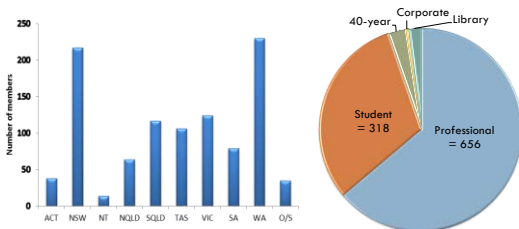
- Membership grew rapidly
- In 1965, the Treasurer reported that, of 159 members, 124 were in arrears!
- Reputedly, reached about 1,000 members in 1986
- Data more sparse in Bulletins of 1990s & 2000s
- Removal of non-financial members saw more realistic numbers in 2000s



Current membership



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N = 1,028 members as at AGM 2012



40 year members



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2002	Alberto Albani, Joe Baker, Isobel Bennett [†] , Raymond Brown, Albert Caton, Alan Cribb, Don Fielder, Jack Greenwood, Bruce Hamon, George Humphrey, Scoresby Shepherd, Jim Thompson [†] , Jan Watson
2003	John Lucas, Bruce Phillips, Dave Pollard
2005	Ian Brown, Frank Talbot
2006	Rod Simpson, Alan Jones
2009	Loisette Marsh, Ross Winstanley, Chris Smalley, Wolfgang Zeidler
2010	Ian Kirkegaard, Helene Marsh, Gary Poore
2011	Pat Hutchings
2012	Rob Day, Neville Exxon, Ross Quinn
2013	Alan Butler, Penny Berents, Terry Done, Bill McCormick, Richard Thompson

50+ year members!



AMSA Council & Branches AMSA

- AMSA affairs run by an annually elected national Council
- 200 Councillors over 5 decades
 - 24 Presidents, 22 Vice Presidents, 17 Secretaries, 11 Treasurers
- AMSA branches (*constituent bodies*) established early on to facilitate AMSA activities around Australia
- WA & Qld formed first branches in 1963
- State branch convenors first elected in 1965
 - A. Carter - NSW, J. Bowler - Vic, T. Hailstone - Qld, I. Thomas - SA, E. Hodgkin - WA & A. Olsen - Tas
- NT branch formed in 1984
- Physical oceanography branch (1985-2001)



AMSA Presidents 1963-1991 AMSA

Geoffrey Kesteven
Jim Thomson
Reg Sprigg
Frank Talbot
Alistair Gilmour
Des Griffin
David Rochford
Don Anderson
Joe Baker
Jorg Imberger
Laurie Hammond
Jason Middleton

Dr Geoffrey Kesteven
 Graduate of Sydney University
 Population dynamics
 CSIR Fisheries in Cronulla
 FAO Singapore, Bangkok & Rome
 Assistant Chief of CSIRO
 "He was an ideas man and believed that science should be socially responsible"



Dr Joseph Baker
 Graduate of JCU in chemistry
 Roche Institute of Marine Pharmacology
 AIMS - aquaculture & marine biodiversity
 ACT Commissioner of Environment
 OA, OBE and many other accolades
 Patron of AMSA since 2007

AMSA Presidents 1991-2013 AMSA

Wendy Craik
Peter Rothlisberg
Craig Johnson
Alan Butler
John Keesing
Maria Byrne
John Sherwood
Gina Newton
Fred Wells
Anthony Boxshall
Lynath Beckley
Sabine Dittman



AMSA Vice Presidents AMSA

- Most Vice Presidents subsequently became President
- Seven early Vice Presidents did not (various reasons)
- Ernest Hodgkin served for seven years in 1960s
- K Radway Allen served two terms in 1970s & 1980s
 - On Council for 20 years!

Bill Stephenson
Bryan Womersley
Ernest Hodgkin
C Wallington
K Radway Allen
John Noye
Meryl Williams



AMSA Secretaries AMSA

- Lt Commander Ken Robin kept AMSA ship-shape for 7 years
- Chris Smalley served for 6 year term (constitution rewrite)

Jim Thompson	Stefica Andrijanic
Ken Robin	Roland Pitcher
Pat Dixon	Judy O'Neil
Robert King	Anne Brearley
Peter Young	Jon Havenand
Stephen Brandt	Chris Smalley
Phillip Gibbs	Ian Field
Di Walker	Karen Miller
Helen Lew Ton	



AMSA Treasurers AMSA

John Yaldwyn
Alan Carter
Des Griffin
Peter Roy
Rosa Allen (1975-1992)
Fred Wells*
Ron Gough
Mary Spehr
Andrea Mayfield
Narelle Hall (1999-2010)
Craig Styan



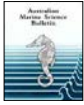
*Paid assistant to handle membership since 1993



AMSA Bulletin



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- AMSA's principal communication method
- 190 Bulletins
- 16 Editors
- Ron Kenny longest serving editor (1978 -1986)
- Narelle Hall assisted with layout for many years
- pdf version since mid-2000s
- Electronic since Dec 2012

Elizabeth Pope	Vivienne Mawson
Bruce Campbell	Ian Tibbetts
Brian Newell	Jon Havenhand
Roger Braddock	Emma Johnston
Darwin Evans	Megan Huggett
Norm Millward	Pat Baumgarten
Ron Kenny	Claire Smallwood
Alan Dartnall	Luke Hedge



Communication



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- 1965 - *Directory of marine scientists*
- *Careers in Marine Science*
 - Editions: 1965, 1976, 1982,1986, 1993 (10,000 copies) & 2002
 - 2007 CMS on website
- Three AMSA handbooks in 1960s
 - "We realise, all too late, unfortunately, that the publishing of books, most particularly those of an erudite technical nature, is a highly specialised trade, and the members of our Association concerned, however well meaning, are unqualified for the task!"
- Eight workshop volumes (Albany, Rottneest Island, Abrolhos, Dampier Archipelago, Esperance, Darwin, Moreton Bay; 1988-2005)



Website



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- 1995 AMSA website www.bio.uts.edu.au/amsa (Peter Ralph & David Booth)
- 1997 AMSA website transferred from UTS to UQ (Narelle Hall)
- 2002 AMSA website transferred to amsa.asn.au (with membership database)
- 2012 - 2013 Major website redevelopment



- AMSA list available since 2003
- Go to Meeting software bought for Council meetings 2013
- Social media Facebook, Twitter etc



Conferences



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- 48 conferences - local organising committees delegated by AMSA Council
- Linked with ANZAAS conference until 1983
- Some joint conferences with NZMSS, ACRS, ISWS etc.
- Initially free but fees introduced from 1972
 - \$200 cost of wine, ale & sherry in Melbourne in 1970?



- All states
- Venues initially small, fun places (Eaglehawk Neck, Rottneest & Kangaroo Islands)
- Then, universities, conference centres & now casinos!
- Broome?



Conferences



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- Steady increase in size
 - participants from 20 to 500+
 - number of papers from <10 to 300+
 - number of days from 1 to 4
 - Parallel sessions & key note speakers
 - First posters in 1991 (5 to 70 +)
- PCO since Glenelg 1998
- Electronic resources
 - First conference info on UTas website 1996
 - Abstracts electronic since Adelaide 1998
 - Conference app in 2013
- Conferences not run without hard work or dramas!
 - Wirrina 1989 - Pilots strike
 - Adelaide 2009 - Bird flu
 - Fremantle 2011 - Volcanic ash cloud



First AMSA conference 19 May 1963, Cronulla



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Speaker	Title of presentation
G.F. Humphrey	The CSIRO Division of Fisheries & Oceanography
H.B. Wisely	Fouling tests & rearing of pelagic larvae
D.J. Tranter	Zooplankton abundance in Australian waters
B.V. Hamon	The Eastern Australian Current
D. Vaux	Fisheries hydrology in SE Australia
J.P. Robins	Water type preferences of tuna
G.L. Kesteven	Marine stock assessment
J.M. Thompson	Counting salmon
W.G.H. Maxwell	Review of marine geological research in Australia
H.B.S. Womersley	Review of marine botanical research in Australia

AMSA 1965 AMSA Conference Eaglehawk Neck

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- Morning: Annual General Meeting
- Afternoon: Six talks
- "The members then adjourned for dinner and to fortify themselves for the evening session....."
- "In the evening, after the presidential address introduced an unexpectedly sober note (by contrast with the informal hilarity of the dinner), Professor Webb gave a most informative talk, illustrated by maps and charts, on the relationships between the atmosphere and oceanic circulation."
- "By this time your reporter was suffering from writer's cramp (or some other disability) and forgot to take notes!"



AMSA Conference themes

2001	Townsville	Changes in the marine environment
2002	Fremantle	Tropical-temperate transitions
2003	Brisbane	Marine biocomplexity
2005	Darwin	Biodiversity, biodiscovery & biosecurity
2006	Cairns	Catchment to coast
2007	Melbourne	Marine science in a changing world
2009	Adelaide	Marine connectivity
2010	Wollongong	Waves of change
2011	Fremantle	Crossing boundaries
2012	Hobart	Marine extremes & everything in between
2013	Gold Coast	Shaping the future



AMSA Conference activities

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- 1965 - Excursion to Port Arthur in steady rain!
- 1966 - Brisbane excursion - trawling in Moreton Bay
 - "Isobel Bennett expertly fried mullet fillets"
- 1980 - Glenelg - Barossa wine tour
- 1999 - Melbourne - Mornington wine tour & AFL matches
- 2000 - Sydney - Hunter Valley wine tour & fun run!
- 2013 Whales & glow worms!



AMSA Awards

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- Jubilee Award for excellence in marine science (22 since 1988)
- Technical Award (3 since 2009)
- Allen Award (student international travel)
 - Bequest from K. Radway Allen
- Ron Kenny Awards (student oral & poster)
 - Trust fund established by AMSA
- Peter Holloway Award (student oceanography)
- Proliferation of other student prizes
- Sherwood award
 - Melbourne 2000 - Pearly Shells Big Band
 - John Sherwood doing the Serpentine shuffle



AMSA Jubilee Awardees

Shirley Jeffrey		Jack Greenwood
Tony Underwood		Arthur McComb
William Dall		John Lucas
Patricia Mather		Terry Hughes
Bruce Hamon		June Olley
Bryan Womersley		George Cresswell
Kay Radway Allen		Winston Ponder
Charlie Veron		Peter Nichol
Scoresby Shepherd		Pat Hutchings
Howard Choat		Graham Edgar
Stuart Godfrey		David Griffin

Jubilee winner in 2003

First student prize winner in 1967

AMSA in action

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- 1960s: Establishing a learned society
 - Membership, branches, directories & careers
- 1970s: Flexing the muscles
 - Working groups on various topics
 - Engagement with government (two-way)
 - Reps on government committees (ANCOR)
 - Scientific diving qualification standards (1975)
 - Guidelines for establishment of Underwater Parks & Reserves (1975)
 - Guidelines for protection & management of estuaries & wetlands (1977: 32,000 copies)
 - Marine Science Policy for Australia (Griffin 1978)





AMSA in action



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- **1980s: Fully fledged**
- Many AMSA submissions
 - Senate enquiries (marine science, national parks)
 - AMSA recommendations to ABRIS on taxonomy
 - Investigations into needs of marine science
 - Funding through AMSTAC, then ARC
- AMSA reps on many government committees
 - ANCOR, Antarctic research, Environment, SF17 diving standards
- FASTS starts - 56 societies join
 - AMSA representative of aquatic cluster (1986)
 - AMSA tries to strengthen contacts among various societies (ACRS, ASPAB, ASFB, AMOS, ASL)

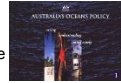


AMSA in action



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- **1990s: Steaming ahead**
- Major AMSA position statements and policies
 - *Marine & Estuarine Protected Areas (1991)*
 - *National Code for Scientific Diving (1995)*
 - *Towards a Marine Science & Technology Policy for Australia*
 - Launched 13 July 1997 in Canberra & Hobart
- Many AMSA submissions related to marine science
 - McKinnon Marine Science review 1994
 - AS2299 – Scientific diving section based on AMSA Code
 - Oceans Policy – major AMSA contribution
- AMSA reps on many government committees
 - Committee for Marine Industries, Science & Technology
 - Diving: S17 Diving & Expert working group for WorkSafe
 - Ministerial Advisory Group on Oceans Policy (1997)
 - NOAG to implement Oceans Policy

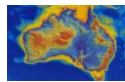


AMSA in action



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- **2000s: Keeping up with demand**
- Keeping AMSA house in order
 - Strategic planning (governance, budget, communication etc)
- Major position papers, statements & policies
 - *Marine taxonomy; Marine pests; MPA position statement*
- Countless AMSA submissions related to marine science
 - Batterham review; GBR RAP; National research priorities; Skills audit; NCRIS; Senate enquiry on Australia's national parks, reserves & MPAs; Productivity Commission; National strategy for conservation; H&S diving regulations; National biodiversity strategy; RV Investigator operation; Biodiversity in changing climate; ERA journals; Regional Marine Plans; Role of science in fisheries & aquaculture
- AMSA reps on government committees
 - SF17 Australian Diving Standards
 - Oceans Policy Scientific Advisory Group



Into the future



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- Avoiding senescence & complacency
- Retaining & engaging membership
- Maintaining strong branches
- Updating constitution to reflect modern practices
- Role of scientific societies in 21st century
- Advocacy for marine science priorities
- Representation of non-agency scientists
- AMSA on National Marine Science Steering Committee proposed in Marine Nation 2025?
- Based on past 50 years, AMSA will surely continue to shape Australian marine science into the future
- Writing the headlines of Australian marine science



History headlines



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1963
1965
1966
1966
1969
1971
1974
1975
1978
1979
1981
1985
1990
1990
1993
1994
1998
2002
2004
2006
2011
2012



International Indian Ocean Expedition
Nikonos U/W camera
Crown of thorns outbreak on GBR
Nerang beach erosion studies
Man on the moon!
Marine pollution legislation in all states
UNCLOS – 150 nations in Caracas
GBR Marine Park Act of 1975
Cape Grim: atmospheric monitoring
Australia bans whaling
Australia signed & ratified CCALMR
First Franklin voyage - GBR currents
Maiden voyage of *Aurora Australis*
Southern Surveyor commissioned
Satellite oceanography TOPEX/POSEIDON
Australia to establish 200nm EEZ
Australia's Oceans Policy
Argo float programme
GBR & Ningaloo Marine Parks rezoned
NCRIS – funding at IMOS
Census of Marine Life
Regional Marine Planning

