

Society for
**Reproductive
Biology**

May 2021 edition

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKING FORWARD TO SRB 2021

We are all very much looking forward to re-convening for SRB's annual meeting in Melbourne, Nov 21-24 2021.

Further details on page 8-9

MEET OUR ECR

Q & A with an outstanding reproductive biologist, Dr Brendan Houston

Further details on page 18-19

TIPS FOR WRITING A WINNING CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Further details on page 10

Inside this issue

President's Report 2
Secretary's report 5
Treasurer's Report 6
Membership 7
Awards 11
Communications report 20

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Tribute to the late Grant Stone 4
- Meet our NEW Exotic Species Liaison 12-13
- Could you be our next SRB Fellow or Life Member? 15-17



Some good news to start with. The 2021 SRB conference will go ahead in person from November 21st-24th at the Melbourne Convention Centre in partnership with the Endocrine Society of Australia and the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society. While everyone is strongly encouraged to attend in person, to reap the benefits of face-to-face conversations and the social interactions, we appreciate some of you will not be able to attend. As such, we will also live stream the majority of sessions including all plenary lectures.

In accordance, “virtual registrants” will be offered at a reduced registration fee. Of particular interest for SRB members, the President’s lecture will be given by Professor Bruce Murphy from the University of Montreal; Professor Neil Gemmell from the University of Otago will deliver the Founders’ lecture; and Professor Sarah Kimmins from the McGill University will deliver the ESA/SRB Plenary lecture. In what has become a highlight of our recent meetings we will also have exchange lectures from our sister societies - the Society for the Study of Reproduction (Dr Aileen Keeting) and the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (Dr Jorge Lopez-Tello and Dr Gillian Johnson). This will be a great conference and I look forward to seeing you all there in person - we’ve been separated for too long.

The closing date for abstracts and early bird registration is August 13th. As outlined below we have a wide range of award sessions, including the Mercy Perinatal Mid-Career Women’s Health Medal. Travel grants will be available to student and early career researchers who attend in person. For more information, please see <https://www.esa-srb-anzbms.org/>

As outlined in the Secretary's’ report, one of the consequences of moving the annual meeting to the end of the year, is that we will need to have the annual general meeting virtually i.e. within the timeframe that reasonably reflects the annual financial audits we have done. This will occur **Wednesday 18th Aug at 3.00pm** and detailed instructions will follow. We will attempt to keep this meeting to one hour, at a time when members can reasonably login.



Now is also the time to start thinking about whether you would like to join the SRB as a council member. I recommend you do. As outlined in the secretary's report, two council ordinary council positions will become available, plus the very important position of treasurer. There will also be an early career researcher and a student representative member position available. I can confirm that the council are a pleasure to work with, to network and get your research known. If you are potentially interested, please contact me or any one of our current council members if you have questions.

For those of you who like to look forward we can confirm that the 2022 meeting will be held in Christchurch in New Zealand.

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to rage around us. As a result, the World Congress of Reproductively Biology conference has been delayed for another year. While a virtual meeting was considered, it was determined an inferior model given the language and time barriers and the fact that we are all well and truly tired of online meetings. The meeting is now scheduled to occur 21-23th September in Beijing.
<https://wcrb2020.medmeeting.org/en>

Finally, take care of yourselves. I hope your daily lives have returned to normal.

*Professor Moira O'Bryan
President*



REMEMBERING PROF GRANT STONE



Society for
**Reproductive
Biology**



Life Member, long-time member and former Treasurer (1976-80) of SRB, Professor Grant Stone sadly passed away Friday 14th May. Grant had endured several maladies for much of his life but remained cheerful throughout. Last week he finally elected to discontinue dialysis and died peacefully at home with his family.

Grant Stone obtained a BSc Agriculture and a PhD in the Department of Veterinary Physiology at the University of Sydney. Following this, he relocated to the University of North Carolina, where he undertook research to determine the location and action of oestrogen receptor binding in reproductive tissues. In 1967, he returned to Sydney as a Lecturer in Veterinary Physiology and remained there until his retirement in 1999, becoming Head of the Department of Veterinary Physiology and then Animal Science. After his retirement, he became a member of the advisory committee for Sydney North Region of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. His main research area focused on the measurement of oestrogen and progesterone receptor concentration and metabolism in target tissues, predominantly in the uterus. In addition, the formation of dihydrotestosterone in various parts of the epididymis. This knowledge was used to characterise the oestrous cycle and hormone concentrations during pregnancy, as well as male reproductive physiology of domestic and non-domesticated species, including the Brush Tailed possum, koala, echidna, platypus, Nepalese Red Panda and various marine mammals.

Our thoughts are with Grant's family and friends through this difficult time



SRB AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will again be run as a virtual meeting and will be held on Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 3pm AEST (1pm WA, 2:30pm SA/NT and 5pm NZ). Similar to last year, it will be necessary to register in advance for the AGM and an invitation to do so will be sent out to members in the coming weeks.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all (hopefully face-to-face) at the annual meeting in Melbourne in November.

Upcoming Council elections

Vacancies will open shortly for the following council positions:

- two ordinary members
- treasurer
- early career researcher
- student representative

Nominations will be accepted from 28th June - 26th July 2021. Nomination forms will be emailed out shortly to all current SRB members, so please make sure your membership is up to date.

Best wishes,

David Sharkey
SRB Secretary



Financial Accounts

Despite attempts by a pandemic, the Society's financial position remains healthy. The value of our investments has increased back up to pre-covid levels. As of 30th March 2021, our equity totals \$514,992 (relative to \$517,836 at the same time last year).

Student Travel Grants and Early Career Research Registration Subsidies

Make sure you take advantage of the generous conference support grants available to students and early career researchers attending our Annual Conference in Melbourne (<https://www.srb.org.au/travel-grants-and-awards>).

Membership fees for 2020-2021

Don't forget to renew your membership! Why not invite a colleague to join as well?

- New Regular SRB Membership - \$150
- Renewal of Regular SRB Membership - \$130
- Regular 3 Year SRB Membership - \$350
- New Student SRB Membership - \$60
- Renewal of Student Membership - \$45
- Student 2 Year Membership - \$80
- Student 3 Year Membership - \$120
- New Professional Membership - \$120
- Renewal of Professional Membership - \$105
- Professional Member 3 Year Membership - \$310
- Age-retired Membership - \$40
- Age-retired 3 Year Membership - \$65
- Overseas Membership (excludes New Zealand) - \$60


Ngā mihi,

Jane Girling



Breakdown of financial members as of May 2021:

Type of membership	Number
Life	30
Regular	136
New Zealand	4
Professional	1
Retired	6
Student	67
Overseas (excl NZ)	10
SSR affiliate	1
	256

 Please consider renewing your membership. Non-financial members have until May 31st to renew or their membership is cancelled. JOIN/RENEW here <https://www.srb.org.au/join-srb>

Benefits of being a SRB member:

- Access to the premier organisation representing the interests of reproductive scientists throughout Australasia
- Invitation to attend the annual conference
- Subsidised conference registration fees
- Access to e-mail news
- Subscription to the Newsletter published bi-annually
- Eligibility for awards
- Eligibility to nominate for committee positions
- Reduced subscription fees to Journal of Reproduction, Fertility and Development
- Membership in Science and Technology Australia (STA)
- Eligibility for discounted affiliate membership with SSR

Kylie Dunning
Membership Secretary



We are excited to announce that the 2021 conference will go ahead in a hybrid format in **Melbourne from 21-24th November**. Again, we will join forces with ESA and ANZBMS to provide you with an exciting program of cutting edge science.

The program will be a little shorter than usual (Mon-Wed, with welcome reception on the Sunday afternoon/evening), and with the hybrid format the program grid is a little tighter than usual. We have made the meeting shorter as to not interfere too much with the work life balance of those who cannot attend. However, we are working hard to ensure we bring you a diverse and exciting conference including lots of award opportunities for our students, ECRs and MCRs (details on page 11).

You will see on page 9 of this newsletter a flyer outlining key dates around abstract submissions and early bird registrations - please note these down; your early registration will help reassure us of a great face-to-face turnout later in the year. We also encourage you to read page 10 with details on how to write a winning abstract.

After a difficult 2020, we really look forward to seeing lots of you in Melbourne in November, and to showcasing the amazing science that has continued in our field despite the global pandemic.



POC: Andrew Pask, John Schjenken and Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u-Lino

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

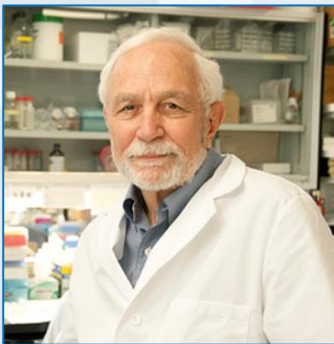


Society for
**Reproductive
Biology**

The 2021 SRB conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21-24 November 2021, in partnership with Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) and the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS).

The plenary speakers for the 2021 SRB meeting are:

Bruce Murphy



University of Montreal,
SRB President's Lecturer

Neil Gemmell



University of Otago,
SRB Founders' Lecturer

Sarah Kimmins



McGill University,
SRB-ESA joint lecturer

*We look forward to re-connecting with you all in 2021
at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.*

The 2021 Annual Scientific Meetings of

The Endocrine Society of Australia, The Society for Reproductive Biology
& The Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

SAVE THE DATE: 21 - 24 NOVEMBER 2021



WWW.ESA-SRB-ANZBMS.ORG

2021 THEMES

ESA

- » Diabetes - 100th anniversary of Banting and Best
- » Sport and Endocrine Disorders
- » Adrenal
- » Neuroendocrine control of behaviour
- » COVID Hot Topics
- » Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 30th anniversary of "endocrine disruption"
- » Transgender health
- » Award Presentations from selected abstracts

SRB

- » Advances in contraception
- » Reproductive ageing and sustaining a pregnancy
- » Novel technologies in Reproduction
- » Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 30th anniversary of "endocrine disruption"
- » Award Presentations from selected abstracts

ANZBMS

- » Cellular mechanisms of bone disease
- » Advanced therapeutics in bone
- » Transgender health
- » Award Presentations from selected abstracts

KEY DATES:

Early bird registration deadline: Friday 17th September

Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday 13th August

Award Submission Deadline: Friday 13th August





1. **BEFORE you start:** Read a minimum of 5 abstracts from papers in your research field.
2. **REMEMBER** that many people reading your abstract will not be experts in your field of research, so avoid detailed field-specific terminology and extensive use of acronyms.
3. Your abstract should be organised similarly to the structure of a manuscript, with introductory sentences, your research aim(s), an overview of the methods used, the key findings, and conclusions/significance.
4. **WHY:** Start your abstract with 1-2 framing sentences that introduce the research question/problem.
5. Then, outline what you are aiming to achieve through your study. Use the words “aim”, “goal”, “objective” to make your study aims obvious to the reader.
6. **HOW:** Give a brief overview of your methodological approach. Specific details are not necessary, just enough detail to provide context for the results. There is no need here to describe routine laboratory techniques.
7. **WHAT:** In a few sentences (one per sub-study), summarise your key findings. Highlight your mean differences, and the magnitude of those differences (e.g. % or fold-change values). It is not enough to simply state that “differences were found” - figures and quantitative descriptions must be included.
8. But...**FIGHT THE URGE TO SQUEEZE EVERY PIECE OF DATA IN!** Stick to the key findings.
9. Then, clearly and concisely wrap up with 1-2 sentences that conclude what your data has found in relation to your aims.
10. Finalise your abstract with 1 sentence that summarises the broader significance of your findings.
11. **ONCE YOU HAVE DRAFTED YOUR ABSTRACT**, give it to 3 people to look over and provide comment. Asking someone outside of your immediate research field will help to improve clarity.
12. If you have written what you think is a great abstract, but you are over your character or word limit, get someone else to read it to help you cut down on unnecessary words (see also point 1). Are there words that should be hyphenated (e.g. sex-specific)? Are you using a phrase repeatedly that is the focus of your study and could be abbreviated after the first mention?
13. Don't include references/citations.
14. Don't include results/conclusions that you have not presented in text (or in your presentation).



A highlight of the SRB conference includes our prestigious awards that recognise your important contributions to reproductive biology. Together with our sponsors, we are delighted to hold the awards at the SRB conference in 2021.

Awards with a CV and track record component include (Application deadline 31st July 2021)

- **The Robinson Research Institute Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology** (established researchers)
- **Newcastle Reproduction Emerging Research Leader Award** (early - mid career researchers)

★ **NEW Mercy Perinatal Award** (Mid-career researcher) ★

Awards selected from abstract (Application deadline 13th August 2021)

- **SRB David Healy New Investigator Award**
- **ANZPRA New Investigator Award** (ANZPRA president assists with short listing applicants for this award) - 4 speakers
- **ART lab solutions Gamete and Embryo Award** - 4 speakers
- **Hudson Institute of Medical Research award for best poster.**
 - a. ECR (students and post docs up to 2 years post PhD)
 - b. MCR (>2 up to 10 years post PhD)

Make sure you start planning your submissions now! Supervisors, please encourage your team to apply. To find out more about our awards and sponsors and to apply please visit the SRB website at: <https://www.srb.org.au/travel-grants-and-awards>

Good luck!

Fiona Brownfoot



Dr Kelsey Pool from the University of Western Australia is SRB's newly appointed Exotic Species Liaison. Dr Pool is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Western Australia, who completed her PhD in 2020 with the Animal Reproduction Group, The University of Sydney. Her research lies at a nexus between science and Australia's agricultural industries. Kelsey aims to contribute to a better mechanistic understanding of reproductive biology whilst providing tangible outcomes to animal production industries. Kelsey's PhD research focused primarily on ovine reproductive seasonality; in particular, the neurohormone melatonin and how this could be manipulated to increase male reproductive efficiency and fertility outcomes. Her research has demonstrated the ability of melatonin to alter reproductive endocrinology and gamete production in the ram, resulting in the registration of a commercial Australian product to improve ovine reproductive efficiency. Dr Pool was recently appointed onto SRB council where she will build an exotic species portfolio. We recently interviewed Dr Pool about this exciting new role.

“Would you question the validity of good quality science if it was performed in a species other than mice or humans?”

Dr Kelsey Pool: Would you question the validity of good quality science if it was performed in a species other than mice or humans? Surely, good science is good science, and contributes new knowledge, irrespective of whether the study uses rodents, cattle, molluscs or insects.

Yet, during my PhD and now post-doc in reproductive biology, I became aware of a very real divide between research in human and animal reproduction. Despite novel methodologies and biological mechanisms emerging from veterinary, agricultural, invertebrate and conservation research, these fields often seem to be under-represented and very differently perceived within the broader field of reproductive biology.



In the last few months alone, we've seen research demonstrating the success of reproductive technologies in endangered amphibians, and the first comprehensive report of the male crocodilian reproductive tract. We have also seen implementation of reproductive strategies to combat environmental impacts on livestock production. There have been applications of germ cell transplantation in fish as a conservation tool, and research into how seminal fluid composition in crickets can strategically modify subsequent female re-mating behaviour. At the core of these studies is reproductive biology, and I believe these fields have a place alongside our annual showcase of equally brilliant research in basic and human reproduction.

Enter the new exotic species portfolio of SRB, which will focus on promoting a greater inclusion of our fellow reproductive biologists in ecology, veterinary medicine, evolutionary biology, agriculture and zoology, as well as those working on reproductive research in humans using non-rodent animal models. I look forward to the increasing diversity of research represented at our future events, and extend a warm welcome to colleagues from these fields considering submitting abstracts to the conference later this year.



Dr. Kelsey Pool
Exotic Species Liaison



Hi SRB Students,

Exciting news! This year's meeting will be a hybrid meeting held in Melbourne November 21-24th!

What you need to know:

- The SRB Student meeting will be held in person this year!
- Save the date: Tuesday November 23rd in the lunch break, we can't wait to see you all there!
- The Student Representative election will be held online again with the newly elected rep announced at the student meeting.
- The Meeting of the Minds is going ahead in Melbourne in a slightly different format this year, so stay tuned for further details in the coming months!

We can't wait to see you all face-to-face in Melbourne.

If you have any suggestions for the student meeting or extra social events to be held in Melbourne, please feel free to contact us!

**Your SRB student reps,
Meaghan and Shenae**



Meaghan Griffiths
Student Rep



Shenae Cafe
Student Rep



Applications are now being called for election to the status of 'Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology', 2021.

This is a prestigious award that enhances the standing of both recipient and the Society. The award was created to recognise the high standing of certain SRB members in the reproductive biology community.

Applicants should demonstrate their high standing in the reproductive biology community by responding to the following criteria:

1. Internationally recognized leader in one or more dimensions of reproductive biology
2. A minimum of 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals in the broad field of reproductive biology (or fewer, high profile and high impact publications, or strong commercial research-based application of reproductive biology)
3. Significant success in gaining competitive funds to support research
4. Financial membership of the Society for Reproductive Biology for at least the last five years
5. Substantial leadership in the broad field of reproductive biology in Australia/New Zealand
6. PhD or equivalent degree obtained at least 16 years ago (unless outstanding exceptions can be demonstrated)

Nominations close Friday 30th July 2021



Nominations are now being accepted for Life Membership to the Society for Reproductive Biology, 2021.

The Society for Reproductive Biology acknowledges the enormous contribution that individuals have made to the field of reproductive biology throughout their distinguished careers. As such these members are recognized with an award of Life Membership to the Society. This category of membership is for those members who are retired or about to retire.

The SRB Council is requesting members to nominate senior members for consideration of Life Membership. Nominees must demonstrate that they have made:

1. Significant contributions to the Society over a substantial period of time
2. Major contributions to the Science of our Discipline
3. Major contributions to our Discipline in other ways.

Nomination may be made by any current member of SRB, to be seconded by another current SRB member, and accepted by the nominee.

Nominations close Friday 24th September 2021

(Note one nomination received in 2020 has been held over and will be evaluated alongside any further nominations received)

Further details provided on our website:

<https://www.srb.org.au/nominations-for-life-membership-and-fellowship>

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2020 SRB FELLOWS!



Society for
**Reproductive
Biology**

Associate Professor Mark Green

Mark Green is an international leader in the field of Reproductive Biology, with recognised expertise in identifying how environmental factors, such as endocrine disrupting chemicals, parental diet and pollution impact gametes, early embryo development, and offspring health. Mark continuously promotes reproduction through media, industry and government engagement. Mark has provided many years of service to the reproductive biology community in general and our society in particular.



Associate Professor Simon de Graaf

Simon de Graaf is an outstanding academic who has managed to excel in research, education, and high level administration. Simon is regarded as an international leader in the field of sheep reproduction with an outstanding track record. He is an excellent mentor. Simon has worked tirelessly to build connections with industry. He has provided many years of global service to the reproductive biology community.



We are really looking forward to seeing fellow ECRs in Melbourne at the conference in November (and virtually for those who can't travel). This year, as we are joining forces with ESA and ANZBMS, and the Meeting of the Minds social event is being rebranded to 'Sex, Bones and Hormones - Let's Get Social'. Stay tuned for more details on that. In addition, we will have the ECR workshop 'Building collaborations and networking - the keys to a successful career' together with the annual ECR-led RFD review of the conference. Get to know the emerging stars of Reproduction with 'Interview with an ECR'.

[Meet Dr Brendan Houston from The University of Melbourne.](#)

What has been your most exciting discovery in the lab?

There have been a lot of exciting moments, but I'd have to say generally when a new knockout mouse model is ready to assess and I find out the males have no sperm or the sperm are immotile. I also started working with flies for fertility screens during my postdoc, which is quite fun. They have super long sperm, up to ~6 cm!

Why did you choose a career in research?

Well, I undertook a research project in L/Prof John Aitken's lab and realised how cool sperm are, then just kept at it. I did honours and my PhD at The University of Newcastle with John, Prof Brett Nixon and Dr Geoff De Luliis and then moved to Monash University for my postdoc with Prof Moira O'Bryan. Moira's lab recently moved to The University of Melbourne and we are now situated in the Bio21 institute. Funnily, I had moments during my studies where I didn't think I'd do a PhD or postdoc but then I realised it was actually what I wanted to do. I do enjoy being able to work with so many different people around the world and tapping into their individual expertise for different research projects.

Did you know flies have super long sperm - up to 6 cm in length?





Why do you think reproductive science is important?

My answer largely echoes the leaders in our field: male fertility is a marker of overall health and the collective reproductive processes have impacts on lifelong health. Plus, the efforts that go into making gametes as well as their interactions are quite impressive, so there's a lot to be learnt from studying reproductive biology.

What would you tell budding researchers about a career in science?

A career in science research is fun but needy, so make sure you take some steps to balance work and life. There is a lot to know but you don't have to know absolutely everything.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Super speed or telekinesis - it's a hard choice but either would be quite fun!



Dr Brendan Houston



SRB Twitter and Facebook are continuing to thrive, with currently 2900 and 1817 followers respectively. We have been continuing to showcase SRB member publications, grant successes and job/PhD opportunities.

Watch this space....

At this years 2021 meeting we will be holding a forum on the Sunday on the theme of “**Bridging the gaps from discovery to impact in reproduction**”. This lecture will comprise a series of talks that are geared at helping to advance research into the clinic, industry and policy. This exciting event will run on Sunday 21st November at the ESA-SRB-ANZBMS meeting.

SRB Website

We are always looking for new reproduction-themed, scientific images to feature in the rotating banner images on the website - please send through your high-resolution images for consideration. Feedback on the functionality of the webpage is also welcome. You will find the webpage here: <https://www.srb.org.au/>

Please continue to use @ReproductionSRB when you tweet your papers or events, or forward to Lisa (l.akison@uq.edu.au) or Kelly (kelly.walton@monash.edu.au).





Through our membership with Science and Technology Australia, council members Kelly Walton and Kylie Dunning recently represented SRB at Science meets Parliament (SmP). This year was the 21st year of SmP, an event designed to connect STEM professionals with parliamentarians to promote the importance of science.

Due to COVID restrictions, much of the 2021 meeting was virtual with events staggered across March 2nd - 30th. Our representatives attended sessions on how to develop a STEM pitch with impact, “How to Marie Kondo your Writing”, commercialisation and impact from publicly funded research, and science as essential expertise in uncertain times.

Our representatives also met with matched MPs to promote awareness into the importance of investment into reproductive biology research:

**Kelly Walton met with MP Gladys Lui, Member for Chisholm
Kylie Dunning met with MP Julian Hill, Member for Bruce**

Dr Kelly Walton reported that the central theme of this meeting was that research discoveries need efforts to move toward impact. A prominent event of the meeting was Dr Cathy Foley’s address to the National Press Club, her first major presentation in her role as Chief Scientist of Australia. Here, she pointed out that we tended to finish up our studies and “stand at the pier and wave them goodbye, before moving onto the next discovery”. The focus is very much on following through to ensure these vital discoveries are pursued through to the clinic and industry where they can have impact.





Kelly also said that the advice on how to distil your research pitch for policy makers was invaluable. She said that every message needed to be pitched in a way that was specifically relatable to the targeted politician. The best advice she received was to read the MP's maiden speech to familiarise yourself with their portfolio, and find a common connection that would enable you to build links and excite their interest in an area of reproductive biology.

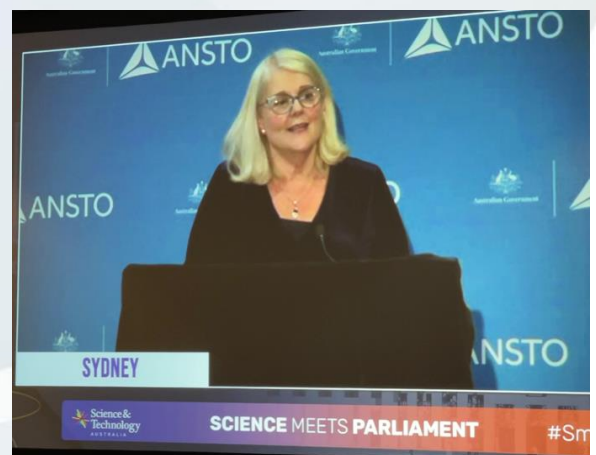
Kelly commented that the session on “How to Marie Kondo your Writing” was outstanding, and that it has already changed the way she edits her own written work. **Kylie** agreed that this session was particularly useful, transferring this knowledge to her team in regular writing workshops. Check out the STA website for further details on this writing workshop:

<https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/event/how-to-marie-kondo-your-writing-webinar/>

Kelly remarked on the importance of not underestimating the role of the advisors in relaying your messages to the MPs. These people work tirelessly and report directly to policy makers and have important influences on the traction of your pitches.

Dr Kylie Dunning reported on the interactive and informative meeting she had with Julian Hill MP. Julian, a Science and Law graduate from Monash University, was most interested in hearing about SRB and the outstanding research conducted by our members. Kylie's feedback to anyone who has an audience with a member of parliament or their advisor, “*Be prepared and clearly articulate your ‘ask’..*”.

(cont'd next page)



Karen Andrews, outgoing Industry, Science and Technology Minister speaking at the SmP dinner in Sydney



During the meeting Julian commented that most people meet with him with a specific 'ask', e.g. assistance with gaining a visa for an overseas relative. He encouraged us as scientists to do more than inform MPs of the importance of their research - **seek out your local MP or an MP who is chairing an appropriate committee and ask for something!** Kylie took this opportunity to inform Julian that despite extensive postgraduate training and outstanding research careers that many researchers face ongoing job insecurity. She communicated her desire to see this change through avenues such as increased funding.



SRB members Kylie Dunning, Megan Lim and Darren Chow at the #SmP2021 Gala Dinner in Adelaide

Kylie reported that the SmP event concluded with gala dinners that were held concurrently in 4 different cities - an impressive feat! It was unfortunate that the Brisbane dinner was cancelled on the day due to COVID restrictions. Consequently, the President of STA delivered his speech from home - these are fast changing times. The dinner included talks from Minister Karen Andrews, Shadow Minister Richard Marles and Pamela Naidoo-Ameglio (Head of ANSTO Nuclear Operations). Pamela delivered an inspiring talk where she described the unexpected directions her STEM career had taken her and encouraged us to “**embrace the pivot!**”

SRB COUNCIL



Society for
**Reproductive
Biology**



Prof Moira O'Bryan
President



Prof Brett Nixon
President-Elect



**Dr David
Sharkey**



Dr Jane Girling
Treasurer



Prof Andrew Pask
POC Co-Chair



**A/Prof Tu'uhevaha
Kaitu'u-Lino**
POC Co-Chair



Dr John Schjenken
POC Co-Chair



Dr Shaun Roman
Fellows/Life Member/
Plenary Lecturer



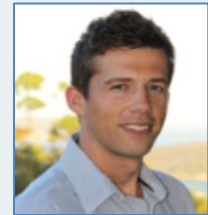
Dr Kelly Walton
Public Relations/Website



A/Prof Mark Baker
Newsletter



Dr Fiona Brownfoot
Awards/Sponsorship



A/Prof Simon de Graaf
Livestock Sector Liaison



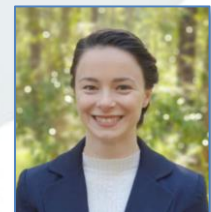
Dr Lisa Akison
Communications Secretary



Dr Jessica Dunleavy
ECR Rep



Meaghan Griffiths
Student Rep



Shenae Cafe
Student Rep



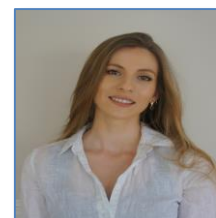
Dr Geoff De Iuliis
Conference Secretary/
RFD Liaison



Dr Dulama Richani
ECR Rep



Prof Jeremy Thompson
Co-Opted Member/
Public Officer



Dr Kelsey Pool
Exotic Species Liaison



A/Prof Kylie Dunning
Membership Secretary