



update
DECEMBER 2014 NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE

Dear National Committee member,

We are pleased today to launch our new email newsletter, created especially to keep members of the National Committees for Science up to date with relevant news, opportunities and events. We hope you find it useful. We look forward to working with you in 2015.

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday,
The Academy team

Meetings of National Committees

Recent meetings

Minutes for committee members may be found at the link where available (you will need to be logged in to view minutes, please contact the NC office for instructions on how to create a log-in). If you are interested in receiving the minutes from a meeting of a committee other than your own please contact your committee officer.

Chemistry, teleconference, 11 September 2014 ([minutes](#))

Inner: 1680 x 925
Outer: 1680 x 1010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Canberra, 30 September 2014 ([minutes](#))

Mathematical Sciences, teleconference, 7 October 2014

Geographical Sciences, Canberra, 13 October 2014 ([minutes](#))

Brain and Mind, teleconference, 22 October 2014

Mechanical Sciences, Melbourne, 28 October 2014

Earth System Science, teleconference, 3 November 2014

Earth Sciences, Canberra, 7 November 2014

Brain and Mind (with ARC), Canberra, 12 November 2014

Information and Communication Sciences, Brisbane/teleconference, 24 November 2014

Astronomy, Canberra, 2 December 2014

History and Philosophy of Science, Canberra, 5 December 2014

Physics, Canberra, 7 December 2014

Chemistry, Adelaide, 10 December 2014

Upcoming meetings

Please contact your committee officer if you are interested in attending a meeting of another committee.

Earth Sciences Decadal Plan meeting, Canberra, 9 January 2015

Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Canberra, 20 February 2015

Astronomy, Teleconference, February 2015 (TBC)

Updates on ICSU unions

ICSU General Assembly

The 31st General Assembly of ICSU took place in Auckland on 31 August – 3 September 2014. The voting delegate was Professor Cheryl Praeger FAA. Australia was well represented at the meeting with at least 12 Australians attending in various

capacities. [More information.](#)

A Science Advice for Governments meeting was held prior to the General Assembly on 28-29 August. The meeting involved senior scientists, officials, science advisors, experts and scholars and focused on opportunities, challenges and best practice in national science policy processes. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants from over 40 countries. Australia's Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb attended on behalf of Australia and Professor Michael Barber FAA represented the Academy. [More information.](#)

Australian elections to union bodies

ICSU Secretary General 2014-2017, Professor David Black FAA

ICSU Ordinary Member 2014-2017, Professor John Buckeridge

International Geographical Union, Vice President 2014-2017, Professor Iain Hay

World Climate Research Program, Member of the Joint Scientific Committee 2015-18, Dr Helen Cleugh

Input into science policy

2017 Centres of Excellence consultation

The NCs for Physics and Mathematical Sciences prepared submissions for the ARC Centres of Excellence 2017 Consultation (read the submissions: [NCP](#) and [NCMS](#)).

Bureau of Meteorology's Space Weather Services review

National Committees for Space Science, Antarctic Research and Earth Systems Science produced the Academy's submission to the review of the Bureau of Meteorology's Space Weather Services. Download the submission [here](#).

Ecosystem Science Long Term Plan

The Ecosystem Science Long Term Plan steering committee is calling for members for a special reference group to establish the Ecosystem Science Council.

Nominations for Council members are now open and are expected to close on 31 January 2015. More information [here](#).

NCRIS input

Twelve committees provided valuable input on the future of research infrastructure funding and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the replacement of the NCRIS program. The Academy's Secretary for Science Policy Professor Les Field met with senior officials from the Department of Education on Tuesday 19 August to discuss the matter. He drew heavily on input provided by committees. Updates will be given when further progress is made.

The NC for Data in Science made a submission to Academy's contribution to Department of Education report on the status of NCRIS eResearch infrastructure.

Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters Senate inquiry

Professor Kurt Lambeck FAA joined NC for Antarctic Research member Professor Steven Chown and Professor Tony Worby, CEO of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, to represent the Academy at the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry into Australia's future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic Waters on 26 September 2014. The Academy's submission to the 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan is available [here](#).

Watching briefs

The Academy has created a position statement calling for a responsible translation of Stem Cell Research, to be released early next year. The NC for Cell and

Developmental Biology and Stem Cells Australia have been instrumental in developing this position statement. The major policy outcome being sought is tightening of the regulatory loophole around the use of autologous stem cell therapy to ensure that all new stem cell-based therapies are properly evaluated.

Decadal plan updates

Plans in progress

Please click on the links below for information on upcoming events and consultations for decadal plans currently underway.

[Australian Astronomy Decadal Plan 2016-2025](#)

- Release exposure draft to the Australian community: January 2015
- Town Hall meetings to discuss draft plan: Sydney, Canberra, Perth, Melbourne, February 2015
- Town Hall meetings via videoconference: Brisbane, Tasmania and Adelaide, early 2015

[Decadal Plan for Chemistry](#)

[Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences](#)

Upcoming plans

These plans have been approved and will begin the consultation phase in 2015:

The Geographical Sciences: Strategic Direction

Decadal Plan in Agricultural Sciences

Decadal Plan in Earth Sciences

Current plans

Decadal plan still current and under implementation may be found at the links below:

[New Horizons: A decadal plan for Australian astronomy \(2006-2015\)](#)

[2010-2019 Decadal plan for Australian space science](#)

[Physics decadal plan 2012–2021: building on excellence in physics](#)

[To live within Earth's limits: An Australian plan to develop a science of the whole Earth system](#)

[Foundations for the Future: A long-term plan for Australian ecosystem science](#)

Committee projects and events

Recent events

[Theory meets practice: Master Class in science engagement and policy making](#)

5 December 2014, Canberra, convened by the NC History and Philosophy of Science.

This one-day master class with leaders in the field aimed to help underpin work with evidence, apply best practice and bridge the gap between the theory and practice of science communication and policy-making. In each session, a leading scholar was paired with a successful practitioner working at the front line of science engagement to discuss practical approaches, research and future directions. The program and video of the conference can be found at the link above.

[Third Australian Earth System Outlook Conference](#)

8-9 December 2014, Canberra, convened by the NC Earth System Sciences.

The Australian Outlook Conferences are part of the Australian strategic plan for Earth System Science: [To Live Within Earth's Limits: An Australian plan to develop a science of the whole Earth system](#)'. On 8 and 9 December, researchers, scientists, policy makers and the interested public joined leading academics from a wide range of disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, and explored how

urbanisation has changed the Earth and how we can shape our cities for the best possible future – for people and the planet. Watch videos from the conference on the Academy's [YouTube channel](#).

The NC for Nutrition sponsored a joint workshop with the Nutrition Society of Australia (NSA) and the Australian Nutrition Trust Fund at the NSA conference in Hobart on 25 November 2014. The topic was the science content of nutrition training courses.

Early-Mid Career Researcher (EMCR) awards

The Academy appreciates the continued support from the committees in assessing applications from EMCRs to attend high-profile international meetings.

[2015 HOPE Meeting in Tokyo](#). Applications were assessed by the NCs for Physics, Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences and six nominations were made to attend the meeting in Tokyo in May.

[65th Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, 2015](#): 52 applications were assessed by the NCs for Physics, Chemistry, Biomedical Sciences and Cellular and Developmental Biology. The Academy nominated 15 ECRs to attend the meeting in June/July 2015, which will be dedicated physics, chemistry and medicine or physiology. Results will be known in late February.

Heidelberg Laureate Forum

Applications are now open for the 3rd Heidelberg Laureate Forum. Young computer scientists and mathematicians from all over the world can apply for one of the 200 coveted spots to participate in Heidelberg Laureate Forum, an annual networking event. The Forum offers a great opportunity to personally meet the winners of the

most prestigious prizes in their fields. More information on how to apply [here](#). Applications close on 28 February 2015.

International Year of Crystallography 2014

The International Year of Crystallography is drawing to a close and there were many activities to raise the awareness of Crystallography in this year. The NC Crystallography, along with Professor Jenny Martin, co-ordinated a travelling exhibition titled '[Crystallography in everyday life](#)', presently exhibited in Questacon, Canberra. Pictures exhibited captured the spirit of Crystallography in everyday objects and experiences. The Royal Australian Mint has issued a commemorative coin to highlight great minds that have contributed to medical inventions, specifically mentioning the Nobel prize-winning crystallographer Lawrence Bragg. The Academy's 2015 annual science symposium, '[From Minerals to Medicine: 100 years of X-ray crystallography](#)' *will be held* on 28 May 2015 – the final event in these celebrations. Registrations for this event open shortly. Please click [here](#) for sponsorship opportunities for this event.