

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

DECEMBER 2025



OUR THANKS TO YOU

As the year draws to a close, we want to acknowledge the impact your support has made across the Academy.

Your support is the golden thread that strengthens evidence-informed decision-making, empowers early- and mid-career researchers, and preserves Australia's scientific legacy. In this edition, we highlight recent gifts that are shaping new programs, creating opportunities for EMCRs, and ensuring the stories of Australian science endure.

On behalf of our Council, we thank you for your commitment to Australian science and for the many ways you give. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the initiatives your support makes possible.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

2025 AT A GLANCE

Your support powers the Academy's work.

Thank you for giving so generously, whether that was your time, expertise or financial support. Your contribution ensures our work has a real-world impact as we shape a future for Australia with science at its heart.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE

8,054 HOURS | 181 VOLUNTEERS

Drawing on expertise from across the science sector, the Committees play a vital role in shaping Australia's scientific priorities and representing Australia's interests on the national and global stage.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE, AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE: SCIENCE 2035

409 HOURS | 108 VOLUNTEERS

A landmark report and first-of-its-kind analysis, shaped by diverse expertise and independent insights that will guide the nation's long-term scientific capability and direction.

PRESERVING HISTORY

Volunteers photographed and catalogued the 1980s renovation plans of Ian Potter House through the Basser Library and Fenner Archives, preserving an important part of the Academy's institutional history.

AWARDS AND GRANTS SELECTION COMMITTEES

32,746 HOURS | 236 VOLUNTEERS

Top scientists rigorously reviewed nominations for the Academy's awards, research funding, and mobility grants. Their work ensures that the program maintains its excellence and credibility, and continues to support and celebrate the very best in Australian science.



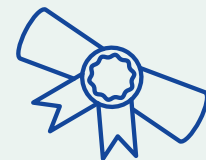
107

DONORS



26

DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN
CONSECUTIVELY FOR THE
PAST 3 YEARS OR MORE



64

FELLOW DONORS

\$181,504

FUNDS RAISED FOR EMCRs

Your support has had a direct impact on early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs).

These funds provided opportunities for 15 talented EMCRs, helping them access resources, build networks, and advance their scientific careers.



11

EMCRs RECOGNISED
AND SUPPORTED



4

EMCR RESEARCH
PROJECTS SUPPORTED

PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S SCIENTIFIC LEGACY

THE BASSER LIBRARY AND FENNER ARCHIVES FUND

For more than 60 years, this remarkable collection of papers, photographs, publications and oral histories has illuminated the story of Australian discovery and innovation, providing insights into the people and ideas that have shaped our nation's scientific progress.

Guided by the Library and Archives Committee – bringing together Fellows and archival experts – the Academy is focused on strengthening and expanding the collection through:

- **digitisation of the collection**, making records accessible to researchers, teachers, students, and the public – regardless of location
- **Conversations with Australian Scientists**, an ongoing program capturing the voices, experiences and reflections of leading Australian scientists for future generations
- **enhancing collection discoverability and access**, by creating preservation copies of archives and storing files on a purpose-built archival platform, as well as promoting new available material through exhibitions, the Academy catalogue, web stories, social media, and TROVE.

Together, these initiatives ensure that Australia's scientific legacy is safeguarded into the future.

To secure this vision, the Academy has established the Basser Library and Fenner Archives Fund. The endowed Fund will provide enduring and sustainable support for the longevity of the collection.

David Anstice AO has generously made the first commitment to this new Fund, helping lay the foundations for its success. We thank David for his ongoing support.

His contribution signals the beginning of what we hope will become a growing community of supporters committed to preserving the voices, records, and stories that are central to Australia's scientific identity.

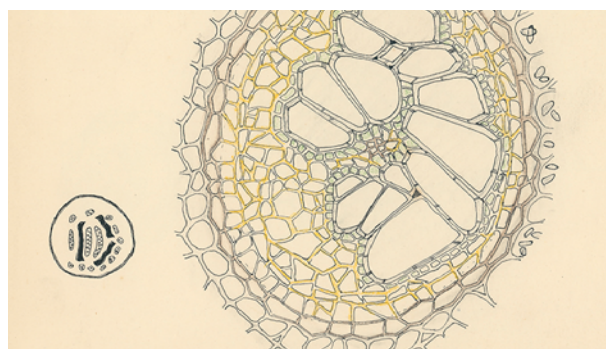
"When multi-study public health scientific learnings can be asterisked by government fiat, and public archive access diminished by new State Library initiatives, it seems more important than ever to preserve and use the written, photographic and oral history of Australia's scientific achievements. Preserving Australia's scientific contributions is essential – as a building base for new discoveries, a way to measure our past scientific achievements and advances to aid the next generation of researchers, and for providing cogent, relevant and unbiased data to inform media, politicians and policymakers on the science issues of the day. Those who use the Academy's archives, in all its forms, can materially aid the diffusion of scientific knowledge and its potential to nourish and aid all Australians. I am delighted to support the Basser Fund and Fenner Archives at the Academy and encourage others to offer their support also." – David Anstice AO

We invite you to support the Basser Library and Fenner Archives Fund. Together, we can ensure this extraordinary national resource continues to grow, inspire, and inform.

The Library's strategic direction is guided by Fellows and archival experts, led by Emeritus Professor Hans Bachor AM FAA (Chair). We thank the Committee for their guidance and expertise.



Kate Groves, David Anstice AO and Anna-Maria Arabia OAM at the UN General Assembly in September 2025 for 'Healthy Indoor Air: A global call to action', co-led by the Australian Academy of Science.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAMS

NEW PROGRAM SET TO HELP RISING SCIENCE STARS THRIVE

A new Academy initiative will help emerging scientists access game-changing opportunities, thanks to a generous gift from Jaishree Srinivasan and Emeritus Professor Srin Srinivasan AM FAA FRS.

The New Futures Mobility Program will support early-career and refugee scientists to participate in national and international conferences – platforms that can open doors, nurture leadership, and foster transformative connections.

Srini, an Academy Fellow whose groundbreaking investigations into insect vision have led to robotic innovations, says the goal is to kickstart scientific careers.

Conferences are a career stepping stone, and a chance to “establish contacts and networks, facilitate collaboration, and learn about employment opportunities, which is very important,” says Srini.

The initiative was inspired in part by Srini’s own experiences as a young scientist navigating academia, with positions being rare and often brief.

“This whole journey started from us wanting to do something for people who are just starting a career in science,” says Jaishree, an accomplished ceramic artist.

“Srini has had some really significant mentors that helped him along his path, and we thought we’d like to give back.”

Srini and Jaishree are particularly keen for the program to support refugee scientists.

“Any community thrives when everybody has an opportunity to participate, and the scientific community is no different. There’s so much untapped talent,” says Jaishree.

“We want to make it easier for people to stay in academia, especially the really talented ones,” says Srini. “We want to make sure they don’t give up.”

The New Futures Mobility Program contributes to the Academy’s mission to grow Australia’s next generation of brilliant and diverse scientific leaders. The call for applications will open in 2026.

The Academy thanks Srini and Jaishree for their generosity, inspiring vision and dedication to supporting Australian science.

BRIDGING CONTINENTS – THE AUSTRALIA–SCOTLAND FUND

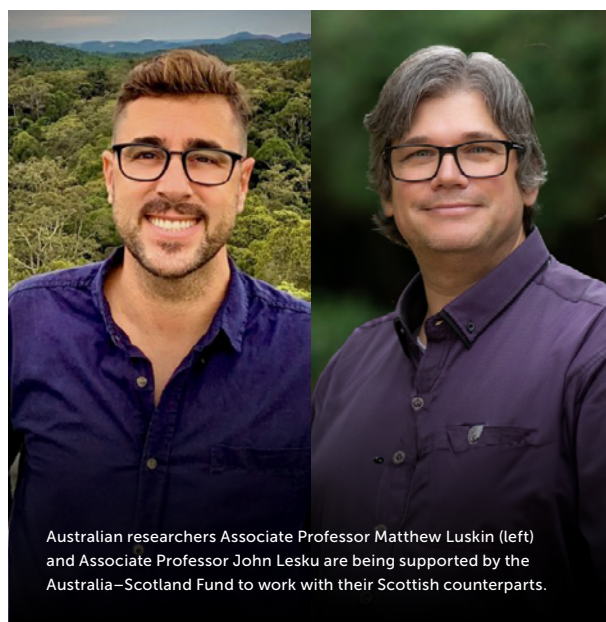
The inaugural year and launch of the Australia–Scotland Fund has opened a new chapter for early- and mid-career researchers by supporting bilateral visits between Australia and Scotland. The Fund is a joint initiative of the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The inaugural grant recipients, Associate Professor John Lesku and Associate Professor Matthew Luskin, received funding to pursue groundbreaking research collaborations overseas.

Associate Professor Lesku will collaborate with Scottish colleagues to study the effects of artificial night-time light on sleep patterns in wild birds, a project that brings together conservation biology and sleep physiology for the first time in the wild.

Associate Professor Luskin’s project will harness advanced environmental sensor technology and ecological AI exploring autonomous biodiversity monitoring systems, and build a pipeline from field sampling through data analytics to decision-making.

The Australia–Scotland Fund builds long term bilateral connections, enabling researchers from both countries to access unique expertise, infrastructure, and shared vision. The Fund is philanthropically supported by an anonymous donor, and strengthens global networks, fosters innovation, and deepens international collaboration in science.



Australian researchers Associate Professor Matthew Luskin (left) and Associate Professor John Lesku are being supported by the Australia–Scotland Fund to work with their Scottish counterparts.

THE EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS INTERNATIONAL FUND

The Early Career Scientists International Fund creates learning opportunities for graduate students and early-career researchers from the Asia-Pacific to travel to Australia, helping to elevate the voices and profiles of emerging scientists in the region. Through these engagements, participants enhance their research capabilities and build international collaborative links. The 2025 recipients attended Science at the Shine Dome, where they participated in early-career-focused events, engaged with Academy Fellows, and connected with Australian sector professionals to grow their networks. We are grateful to Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger AC FAA, Dr John Henstridge, Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC PresAA FRS FREng FTSE and Dr Vidya Jagadish for their incredible support of the Fund, which made these opportunities possible.

[Read more about the Early Career Scientists International Fund](#)

SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS: THE SELBY FELLOWSHIPS

Leading cardiovascular scientist Professor Doctor Judith Sluimer will join a long line of bright minds visiting Australia under the auspices of a Selby Fellowship.

Designed to promote the international exchange of scientific ideas, the Selby Fellowship is financed through the generosity of the trustees of the Selby Scientific Foundation.

Professor Sluimer, based at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, studies what leads to heart disease, focusing on why arteries become blocked and how ageing changes our blood vessels.

“Death and illness caused by cardiovascular disease is a global problem with insufficient solutions, requiring scientists across the globe to work together to address this challenge,” Professor Sluimer said.

“The Selby Fellowship will allow me to physically cross these borders. I’m really looking forward to discussing science with Australia’s excellent cardiovascular community to foster new partnerships during the lecture tour,” she said.

The Selby Fellowships were established in 1959 by H B Selby Australia Ltd, a leading supplier of scientific instruments, laboratory apparatus and chemicals.

From 1961 to 1975, fellowships were awarded to overseas graduates of high promise and proven capacity for research, who travelled to Australia to undertake research in a laboratory.

Since 1977, fellowships have been awarded to distinguished overseas senior scientists to conduct lecture tours and visit scientific centres in Australia.

We thank Graeme Selby and the Selby Scientific Foundation for their lifetime of support.



Professor Judith Sluimer. Image credit: Joey Roberts.

2025 AWARDS SNAPSHOT

53 PEOPLE SUPPORTED THROUGH THE AWARDS PROGRAM IN 2025

A NEW MEDAL FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS IN ICT

In November, Professor Brian Anderson AC FAA FTSE FRS and Mrs Dianne Anderson AM received a copy of the newly minted Brian Anderson Medal for ICT, a new honorific award recognising outstanding achievements by early-career researchers in information and communications technology (ICT). Established thanks to a generous donation from Brian and Dianne Anderson, the inaugural recipient will be announced in March 2026.

[Learn more about their donation](#)



Left to right: Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC PresAA, Professor Brian Anderson AC FAA FTSE FRS, Dianne Anderson AM, and Anna-Maria Arabia OAM.

CARING FOR COUNTRY USING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGES

THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SCIENTIST AWARD

The Australian Academy of Science awarded the 2025 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Award to Dr Mitchell Gibbs (University of Sydney) and Associate Professor Shannon Kilmartin-Lynch (Monash University).

The award recognises outstanding research by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early- and mid-career scientists in the physical and biological sciences, and supports interdisciplinary and sociocultural research.

Dr Gibbs, a Dunghutti geoscientist, draws on Traditional knowledge to restore marine ecosystems in collaboration with First Nations communities.

His work with the Gamay Rangers and the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council in Sydney's Botany Bay combines scientific research with Indigenous stewardship to rehabilitate oyster reefs and other key habitats.

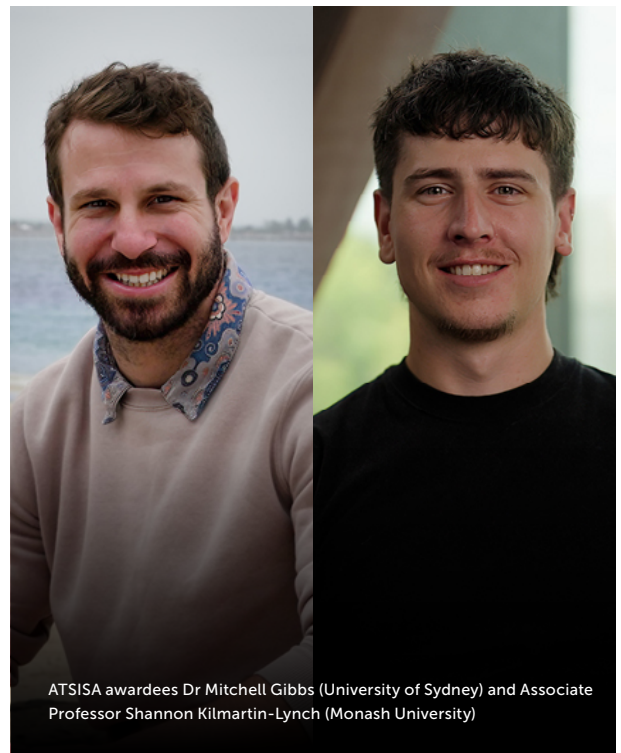
Dr Gibbs is also developing international collaborations to share Indigenous restoration practices across the globe, fostering cross-continental expertise and partnerships.

Associate Professor Kilmartin-Lynch, a Yowong-Illam-Balluk and Natturak Balluk man of Victoria's North-East Kulin Nations, applies Traditional knowledge to sustainable civil engineering.

His team has developed a stronger, more sustainable concrete using biochar from coffee grounds, reducing reliance on cement and sand.

His next project will explore incorporating native plant resins – traditionally used in toolmaking – into concrete production, showcasing Indigenous ingenuity while advancing environmentally responsible engineering.

We warmly thank the generous donors who make this award possible.



ATSISA awardees Dr Mitchell Gibbs (University of Sydney) and Associate Professor Shannon Kilmartin-Lynch (Monash University)



Denise Hales with Associate Professor Stijn Glorie, the 2025 recipient of the Anton Hales Medal.

FAMILY LEGACIES

THE ANTON HALES MEDAL

Associate Professor Stijn Glorie, of the University of Adelaide, received the 2025 Anton Hales Medal. The award was established by Denise Hales in memory of her late husband Professor Anton Hales FAA who was an internationally renowned geophysicist. Professor Hales built world-leading research institutions across three continents (South Africa, the US, and Australia), including as the founding director of the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences, helping shape the modern, dynamic era of Earth science.

We thank Denise for her longstanding commitment to the Hales medallists and the work they advance.

MAX DAY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The 2025 Max Day Environmental Science Fellowship Award has been granted to Rebecca Greening and Dr Nina Wootton, both from the University of Adelaide. Ms Greening's project will examine soil function and ecosystem productivity in arid South Australia, comparing century-old livestock-excluded reserves with grazing lands to better understand the impact of livestock on soil health and ecosystem resilience. Dr Wootton's research, 'Plastic to Plate?', will investigate microplastic pollution in traditional food sources and ecosystems in north-east Arnhem Land, working in collaboration with Yolngu Traditional Owners to inform conservation efforts and safeguard Indigenous food sources and ecosystems.

We extend our deep gratitude to Dr Jon Day PSM and the Day family for their extraordinary commitment to funding the Max Day Fellowship for a further 10 years. Their generosity ensures that early-career environmental researchers will continue to receive vital support, helping to advance Australia's environmental science and deepen our understanding of the ecosystems we all rely on.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the Academy to honour Max's legacy, but more importantly to provide opportunities to assist a diverse range of EMCRs to expand their research horizons." – Dr Jon Day PSM



Rebecca Greening (left) and Dr Nina Wootton from the University of Adelaide are the recipients of the 2025 Max Day Environmental Science Fellowship Award.



2025 ANNUAL GIVING FUND: DELIVERING INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVICE

Thanks to the commitment of supporters, the Academy's annual giving appeal raised more than \$25,000 towards strengthening our policy capability.

WHY INDEPENDENT ADVICE MATTERS

Recent global developments serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of strong, evidence-based institutions. From climate resilience and immunisation to technology development and national security, Australia needs trusted scientific advice to inform policy that safeguards both present and future generations.

"The Academy's Fellows – alongside science policy staff – provide expertise that is central to ensuring advice is impartial, accessible and actionable by decision-makers." – Anna-Maria Arabia OAM



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

- Convening expert panels of Fellows, National Committee members, and leading scientists for targeted policy deliberations.
- Strengthening internal policy expertise to deliver impactful national science advice.
- Developing long-term strategies that place science at the centre of Australia's decision-making and national narrative.

This support comes at a critical time to ensure the Academy can continue playing its essential role: bringing scientific evidence to decision-making to shape a future that is informed and that benefits all.



BEQUESTS: A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE

We celebrate the incredible legacies of those who have chosen to support the Australian Academy of Science through gifts in their Will.

In the Academy's bequest brochure, you will find the stories of individuals whose foresight is making a difference.

We hope you will be inspired by the extraordinary acts of generosity and the impact it has had and consider how a gift in your Will can leave a lasting mark on Australian science.

Every contribution makes a difference.

[Read the Academy's bequest brochure](#)

LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE





Dr Jim Peacock AC FAA FTSE FRS

IN MEMORIAM

VALE DR JIM PEACOCK AC

This year we marked with great sadness the passing of Dr Jim Peacock AC FAA FTSE FRS, former President of the Australian Academy of Science and a towering figure in Australian science.

Dr Peacock died on 21 October 2025 at the age of 87.

His extraordinary career, spanning molecular plant biology, science policy, education and public engagement helped shape Australia's scientific landscape.

As President of the Academy from 2002 to 2006, and as Australia's Chief Scientist from 2006 to 2008, Dr Peacock championed science education, helped bring foundational research to real-world impact, and oversaw the development of insect-resistant cotton and healthier high-fibre barley varieties.

Under his leadership, the Academy expanded its influence in science policy and outreach. He played a critical role in establishing programs that continue to benefit generations of students.

The Academy offers its deepest condolences to Dr Peacock's family, friends, and colleagues.

While we mourn the loss of a visionary leader and scientist, we also celebrate his enduring legacy: a stronger, more vibrant scientific community and a deeper commitment across Australia to excellence in research and education.

PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR



Dr Marlene Kanga AO FAA FTSE signing the Charter Book at Science at the Shine Dome 2025 as a newly elected Fellow. Dr Kanga is listed among Australia's top 10 women engineers and was elected for her contributions as a global leader in engineering and role model to women.



The 2025 recipient of the Gottschalk Medal, Associate Professor Shom Goel from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. His laboratory research has sought to identify and understand treatments that block cancer cell division, with a focus on breast cancer.



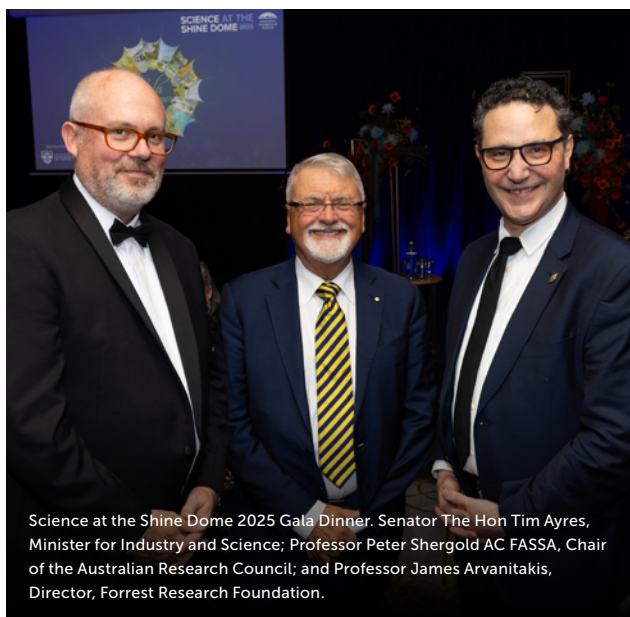
Professor James Hudson from QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute is a rising star of Australian health and medical science who has already made a significant impact in translational medical science. He received the 2025 Jacques Miller Medal.



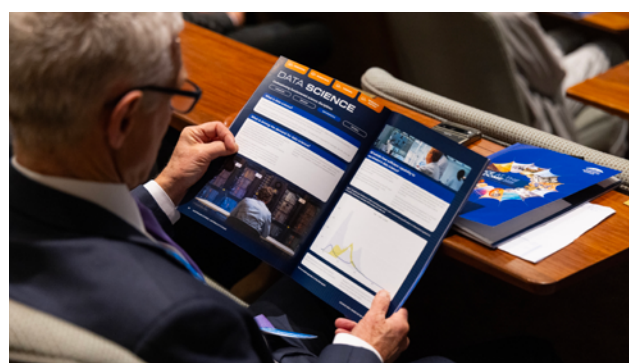
Professor Helen Christensen AO FAA FAHMS FASSA from UNSW Sydney was elected to the Academy in 2025. Widely regarded as a world leader in the field of digital mental health interventions, she pioneered many of the processes and strategies that are used internationally today.



PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR



Science at the Shine Dome 2025 Gala Dinner. Senator The Hon Tim Ayres, Minister for Industry and Science; Professor Peter Shergold AC FASSA, Chair of the Australian Research Council; and Professor James Arvanitakis, Director, Forrest Research Foundation.



Charles Kiefel AM and Anna-Maria Arabia OAM at the Science at the 2025 Shine Dome Gala Dinner.



EMCR participants at Science at the Shine Dome 2025.

PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR



Professor Julie Cairney, The University of Sydney, addresses guests at the Science at the Shine Dome Gala Dinner 2025.



Professor Jane Visvader FAA FRS FAHMS, the recipient of the 2025 Ruby Payne-Scott Medal.



Senator the Hon Tim Ayres addressing guests at the Science at the Shine Dome Gala Dinner 2025.



Professor Clare Scott AM FAA FAHMS signing the Charter Book at Science at the Shine Dome 2025. Professor Scott is an internationally recognised expert in gynaecological cancer research.



JOIN US IN 2026 TO CELEBRATE SCIENCE – UPCOMING EVENTS



LAUNCHING EARLY 2026

BRIGHT MINDS, BOLD VOICES THE PUBLIC SPEAKER SERIES

What happens when an influential Australian changemaker meets a trailblazing scientist?

Join us in 2026 for your front row seat to electric conversations with leading thinkers.

Each event pairs a notable public figure with a top scientist, researcher or innovator. Together, they'll explore the big issues shaping our future.

Expect boundary-pushing ideas, sharp insights into challenges, and fresh perspectives on what matters.

Registrations opening soon



TUES 15 – THURS 17 SEPT 2026

SCIENCE AT THE SHINE DOME 2026

The Australian science community will gather at the Shine Dome to celebrate science and recognise outstanding achievements.

Newly elected Fellows will sign the historic Charter Book, and delegates will hear firsthand from some of Australia's leading researchers. We will also celebrate the Academy's award recipients, with early- and mid-career researchers gaining valuable opportunities to network and build new collaborations.

Registrations open in June 2026.

[Find out more about Science at the Shine Dome 2026](#)

**BRIGHT
MINDS**

**BOLD
VOICES**

THANK YOU

Each year, we proudly acknowledge the contributions of our donors through our donor recognition program.

Honouring the ongoing support of our donors is incredibly important to us. It is one of the ways in which we can show our appreciation, celebrate your contribution, and thank you.

[Visit the donor honour roll on our website](#)

Donations are recognised over a cumulative period. Donation amounts are not listed. If you prefer to remain anonymous, or update your recognition details, please let us know.

HOW TO DONATE

Thank you for considering a gift to the Australian Academy of Science. Your generous support makes a lasting positive impact on the future of Australian science for the benefit of all.

Visit science.org.au/donate to make your donation or online, or to receive more information about leaving a bequest, contact the Academy on:

T + 61 2 6201 9400

E philanthropy@science.org.au

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OUR TEAM



KATE GROVES
HEAD OF PHILANTHROPY AND OUTREACH



KATE MUIR
PHILANTHROPY MANAGER



LISA CROCKER
PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER



JAMIE EVANS
EVENTS MANAGER



Cover image:

(Back left to right): Emeritus Professor Barbara Nowak FAA, Professor Ivan Marusic FAA FTSE FRS, Professor Lyn Beazley AO FAA FTSE, Professor Bob Graham AO FAA FAHMS, Emeritus Professor Jim Williams AO FAA FTSE.

(Front left to right): Professor Steve Simpson AC FAA FRS, Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC PresAA FRS FREng FTSE, Professor Margaret Sheil AO FAA FTSE.

Absent from the photo: Emeritus Professor Frances Separovic AO FAA.

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