



Australasian Society for Phycology and Aquatic Botany

Volume 31: Issue.1

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

by Judy Sutherland

Hi everyone,

Here it is at last, an ASPAB newsletter. This year we are aiming to bring out more regular newsletters as a way of staying in touch with members and what is happening in our region. Thank you to our new newsletter editor Kirralee Baker for putting it together, and thanks to everyone who has contributed.

It was great to see so many members attending our Annual Conference in Sydney last November (was it really that long ago?). SIMS at Chowder Bay was a beautiful venue, and the inaugural ASPAB Auction was a roaring success. Alan Millar showed talent and verve as the auctioneer, and many of us went home with unique treasures of all kinds, some of us wondering just how we ended up with them. Many thanks to Alan for providing such an entertaining way to part with cash, and to Martina Doblin and her team for organising the meeting and the auction.

Congratulations to our student prize winners, Ms Rebecca Neuman, Ms Phoebe Armitage and Mr Daniel Wangerpraseurt, It is inspiring to see such creative work so well presented.

In 2014 our conference will be held in Wellington, in conjunction with the 16th International Conference on Harmful Algae. More details will be available on our website soon, but for now mark in your diaries the 20th-28th October to join with ASPAB colleagues in New Zealand's Art and Café capital. (The Wellington webpage calls it New Zealand's Capital of Cool – I'm sure an incursion of ASPABers will only add to the coolness.)

Martino Malerba has now taken over management of the ASPAB website, <http://www.aspab.org> from Erasmo Macaya Horta. We greatly appreciate Erasmo's generous work for the Society in managing the site, long after he returned to Chile. We hope you can make it back for an ASPAB meeting soon Erasmo.

Lastly don't forget the great algal meetings coming up this year – the ISAP meeting in Sydney in June, the APPF in Wuhan in September and ICHA with our own meeting in Wellington in October. Students can apply to ASPAB for travel funding for these or any other meetings, criteria and forms are available on the ASPAB website.

May 2014 be a successful and fruitful year for all of you.



ASPAB 2013 Annual Conference

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) hosted a wonderful Annual Conference in the picturesque Chowder Bay, Sydney Australia. Conference convener Martina Doblin gives her wrap up on the behalf of the organizing committee.

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Field Report: In search of an elusive alga

Joe Zuccarello gives an account of his recent visit to Papua New



Guinea, a region which is known for its extraordinary diversity but is scarcely sampled when it comes to seaweeds. The field trip endeavored to increase "our understanding of the taxonomy and diversity of mangrove algae". Pictured above is *Bostrychia tenella*, one of sought after alga species.

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Editorial

by Kirralee Baker



Firstly I'd like to thank my predecessors, Kyatt & Rainbo Dixon for their extraordinary work over the past years as newsletter editors- I most definitely appreciate the advice I have received since I have taken over the role.

Perhaps the best way to start would be to introduce myself. I am a PhD candidate at the University of Technology, Sydney where I have just entered into my second year. In my research, I endeavor to provide a link between biogeochemical fluxes and phytoplankton taxa and functional types in order to improve biogeochemical models.

In this issue, you will find a wrap up from the conference convener of ASPAB 2013 (this page) and a student summary of a recent Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop held at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (page 5). Joe Zucarello provides a book review of Wendy Nelson's Illustrative guide to New Zealand Seaweeds, as well as an account of his recent visit to Papua New Guinea.

I caught up with Lisa Roberts to find out more about the story behind the artworks she donated to the ASPAB 2013 Auction. We also have some new general member profiles along with a special feature on Ms Rebecca Neuman, last year's best student presentation award winner at ASPAB 2013.

Thank you to all of the members who have dedicated their time in assisting in the production of the year's first newsletter. Your contributions are graciously appreciated.

Whilst the current newsletter is still hot off the press, I am already looking forward to putting together the next issue. I welcome updates and feedback from ASPAB members as your contributions and support would be warmly received. Dependent upon the volume of contributions I may find that this warrants more frequent issues, which I am sure you would be beneficial to all.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE?

Do you have any photos of some pretty seagrasses or algae? Been on any awesome field trips or conferences? Is there something that you think we should know about? If you would like to contribute to future issues of the ASPAB newsletter, please feel welcome to get in contact with me.

KIRRALEE G. BAKER
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ASPAB Annual Conference 2013

by Martina Doblin

The 27th annual ASPAB conference was held at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science from 27 to 29 November 2013. The local organising committee would like to acknowledge our sponsors: Walz Australia, Wetlands Creations, the Evolution and Ecology Research Centre UNSW, and APPothecary for their support of the event.

Set amongst the coastal Sydney bushland, the conference had a few new themes, including webinars and live streaming of talks, an algal art exhibit and auction which raised ~\$1700 for the society, and specially printed ASPAB mugs. Thank you to everyone who contributed technical know-how, time and creativity to make ASPAB2013 such a great success, and particularly to those members and friends who donated art works for such a good cause! We certainly

hope the scientific and social program allowed attendees to make contacts and discuss ideas with others who have a common interest in algae and aquatic plants.

Our plenary speakers, Prof Rocky de Nys, Prof Ian Paulsen and Assoc Prof Shauna Murray made excellent contributions to their sessions and the generally high quality of presentations made judging student presentations challenging (thank you judges!). We would like to congratulate Ms Rebecca Neuman (winner) and Ms Phoebe Armitage and Mr Daniel Wangerpraseurt (honourable mentions) for their talks. Rebecca Neuman received the book "Ecology of Australian temperate reefs" donated by CSIRO Publishing and the



Above. The inaugural ASPAB auction held at last year's annual meeting at SIMS, featuring the new found talent of auctioneer Alan Millar.

two other winners received a book on New Zealand seaweeds authored by Wendy Nelson and donated by Te Papa (Wellington, NZ). These books are on sale now at their respective publishers.

Living Data: Reconnecting Science with the Arts

by Kirralee Baker

You may recognize the artwork pictured right from last year's annual ASPAB conference held in Sydney, Australia, where two of these paintings were kindly donated to the auction. These artworks were the most sought after items of the evening, with impressive bidding from multiple parties. Hazel and Kirsten were lucky enough to outcompete the other biddings and secure their hands on a copy each. This was only after a tug-of-war with PhD candidate Charlotte Robinson who was happy to eat 2-minute noodles for a month in order to be able to afford one of the paintings.

So, how did a Phycological society end up with artworks painted especially for the auction?

Dr Lisa Roberts who is a Creative Fellow at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), contributed the paintings as part of an ongoing partnership between herself and Assoc. Prof. Martina Doblin at UTS. The pair formed their relationship after they realized the mutual benefits in the interactions between artists and scientists.

Engaging the senses, true to science, clear in language, surprising!

Lisa is the leader of *Living Data*, which she describes as "Engaging to the senses, true to science, clear in language" and "surprising!" The program was conceived by Lisa and Martina to promote interaction between scientists and artists, with one main goal; a sustainable future. The program is attracting more funding interest due to the ever-increasing invitations to collaborate, exhibit, present and publish.

I caught up with Lisa Roberts to understand more about her art practice that led to her collaboration with phycologists such as us, and with scientists in general. She welcomed the opportunity "to explain the symbiotic nature of *Living Data*"

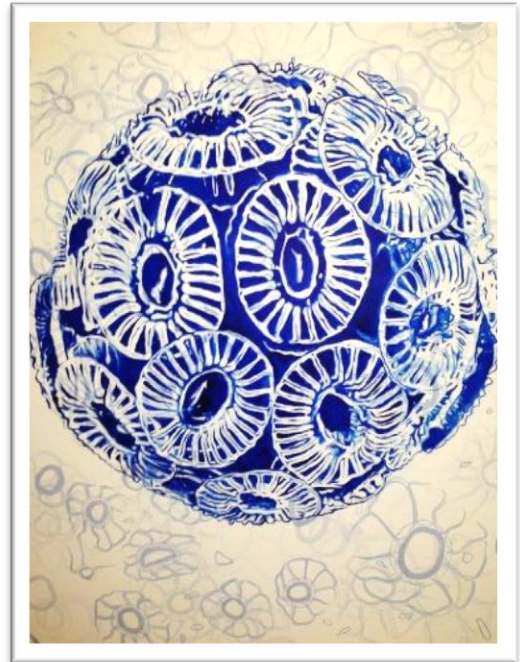
Lisa graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts at Melbourne University, Australia, where she trained in "visual arts, dance, animation and interactive authoring". After the completion of her studies, she was encouraged to seek paid work in any field. It was this advice that eventually led Lisa to working along scientists within the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) in Kingston, Tasmania where she was an Antarctic Arts Fellow. She used conversations with these scientists as inspiration for her works, to "express shared knowledge of our relationship to the natural world".

Lisa sees many parallels between Science and the Arts; in both fields "aesthetic senses drive the creative process in both practices", both "seek meaning in their own and other peoples' observations" but acknowledges they do so in different ways.

Lisa met her partner on a scientific voyage and moved from Tasmania to Sydney where he lived. She began tutoring in Faculty of Design at UTS and shortly afterwards met Martina. Together the duo founded the program, *Living Data* "to promote interactions between artists and scientists, through exhibitions, conferences, and online presentations and conversations". Lisa's work with scientists and artists has revealed a common misconception, "creativity exists only in the arts".

Lisa hopes to dissolve this misconception through a new initiative in 2014, UTS Creatives: Conversations for the record (working title). She hopes the project will allow scientists and artists alike to "share how they reach new understandings"

After working with Lisa over the last couple of years, I've begun to realize the creative process that is science. We as scientists are creative in the process of experimental design and sampling. We find patterns when observing our data and depending on their nature, determine how to best represent them; as a graph, a conceptual diagram or perhaps as an illustrative guide on seaweeds. This is an understanding that only emerged after ongoing conversations with Lisa and other artists. A collaboration, which I agree, is mutualism rather than commensalism.



*Coccolithophore Emiliana huxleyi 01, 2012. Acrylic and oil on cotton duck, 1200mmx840mm
Photo: Lisa Roberts*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.LisaRoberts.com.au

www.AntarcticAnimation.com

www.LivingData.net.au

Would you like to contribute? Invitations will be issued to interested and unsuspecting scientists and artists. Contact us if you would like an invitation or to suggest an unsuspecting candidate.

CONTACTS

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UTS Associate Professor Martina Doblin
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Book Review

New Zealand Seaweeds: An Illustrated Guide

by Joe Zuccarello

There is a strong predilection for people to absorb and appreciate visual information. This is part of our evolutionary heritage, you just have to look up all the olfactory pseudogenes in the human genome to see we do not rely on smell much, and also how we think we see souls in eyes! As biologists, and taxonomist, we are still very attached to how things look, and of course assume that this is important to an organisms evolution. I think most morphology of algae is just random walks in morphospace, but others may disagree.

Since much of taxonomy starts with morphology, and has a long history that is morphologically based, we identify organisms based on morphology. Also it is nice to walk along the shore and identify seaweeds visually, until we have portable "tricorders" (a Star Trek® term).

Which brings me to the present book by Wendy Nelson. The history of seaweed identification and documentation in books with photographs of algae *in situ* has a great tradition in the southern hemisphere. I think one of the first may have been the book "Seaweeds of Australia" with involved the insights of Margaret Clayton et al. (1981). I was fascinated by it when I first encountered it far from the southern hemisphere; there were things in it that looked so foreign (I guess they were). Probably one of the most beautiful ones, with some consistently stunning underwater photographs is John Huisman's "Marine Plants of Australia" (2000), it has a bit of a coffee table book feel, but you obviously marvel at the photographs he was able to capture.

Well finally we kiwis are entering the competition. Wendy has produced a book with some really amazing photographs of some of the common or otherwise

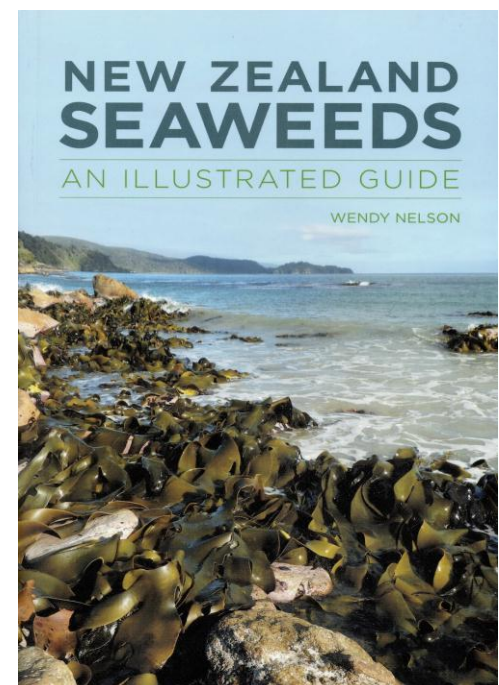
interesting seaweeds of New Zealand, and it seems to work for me. The photographs look like things I see, and I feel it would help both amateurs and amateur taxonomists (i.e. ecologists, molecular biologists) at least make a good stab at identification.

We really did not have its equivalent here. We have relied on a book produced by the late Nancy Adams "Seaweeds of New Zealand" which is out of print and difficult to get. The Adams' book is probably more comprehensive than Wendy's, and certainly has more detail (vouchers examined, detailed morphological descriptions which are all very useful), but unfortunately it does not have photographs but watercolour paintings. It is quite amazing, and I'm sure the originals are works of art, but it never worked for me (for historical reference Wendy has kept some of Nancy Adams painting in this volume). I could never go from these painting of pressed specimens to the thing I was holding in my hand (maybe I was the only one!), and it was certainly not portable, quite a tome actually. The Adams book was starting to show its age taxonomically also. So many names had been changed in the intervening years that mine was full of annotations.

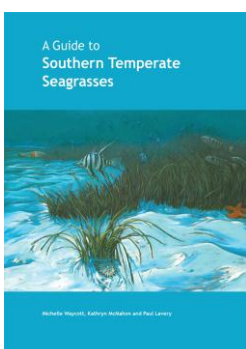
The present book has the most up-to-date taxonomy (no more *Porphyra*!), newest higher level taxonomy, new genera named, but mainly most of the photographs are of very high quality (some are a bit small), and they really make it so that I can feel confident (unfortunately not always a good feeling for a scientist) that I know what I have in hand. There are good insights into the distribution and morphological characters of the species displayed. There are also keys for the genera with multiple species. Wendy is the only person in New Zealand that could have pulled off such an

informative book. She has the knowledge of the seaweeds, the collaborators- some of the photos are donated by colleagues- and the will to do it. ASPAB can be proud that they supported, monetarily, the completion of this book. That was money well spent to highlight algae and our commitment to algal research.

It is a great book for anyone with an inclination to discover the diversity of New Zealand seaweeds (hopefully one day it can be expanded to include the other 'few hundred' seaweeds missing in this edition!), some are also distributed in Australia (some may just appear to be! so Aussie may be informed also). Happy reading.



New Zealand seaweeds: an illustrated guide.
Wendy A. Nelson. 2013. 328 pp. Te Papa Press, Wellington, New Zealand. [paperback: ISBN: 978-0-9876688-1-3]



WANTED: BOOK REVIEWS

Just last month, CSIRO publishing recently released a new book entitled, **A Guide to Southern Temperate Seagrasses**. The small (112 pages) paperback describes the diversity of seagrasses in the southern hemisphere and provides a visualization key to allow species identification. The books production was a joint project between Michelle Waycott from the State Herbarium of South Australia and, Kathryn McMahon and Paul Lavery from Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. Last year, CSIRO publishing also released **Ecology of Australian Temperate Reefs: The Unique South** (ISBN 9781486300099). The book starts by introducing the background and biogeography of southern Australia. Later chapters go on to present the ecology of temperate species in our backyard along with line drawing illustrations and colour plates to support the species discussed.

The publishers have approached ASPAB to publish a review of these books to appear in an upcoming issue of our society's newsletter. If you are interested in preparing a review of either of these titles in return for a gratis copy, please contact the newsletter editor.

2013 Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop

by Arjun Verma

The Phytoplankton Taxonomy workshop was held at the Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences from 25-27 November 2013 in order to establish a founding understanding of the phytoplankton diversity in Australian waters and to improve the skills and techniques used in identifying and differentiating the diverse cryptic species. The course was divided into several sessions focussing on various phytoplankton taxons such as dinoflagellates headed by Dr. Chris Bolch (University of Tasmania) or diatoms presented with some extremely descriptive photographs by Prof. Gustaaf Hallegraeff (University of Tasmania). Various techniques used in microscopy and isolation were described by the collaborative explanations of Prof. Lesley Rhodes (Cawthron Institute, New Zealand), Steve Brett (Microalgal Services) and Dr. Penny Ajani (Blooming Algae and Macquarie University) who all helped in building a solid understanding of the principal fundamentals of phytoplankton identification. A/Prof. Martina Doblin and Dr. Hazel Farrel highlighted the importance of sample collection and cell counting and provided some entertaining examples from their own experiences. The workshop also covered the present and future trends in the field of phytoplankton biology with an

elaborate presentation given by A/Prof. Shauna Murray focussing on the molecular approaches being increasingly used in more labs around the globe.

The presentations and the workshop provided an excellent platform for beginners to obtain a basic understanding of various techniques and principals involved in furthering their knowledge about the phytoplankton universe. The experience was a hands-on learning process which also provided a great opportunity to meet more students and other professionals in this niche field. The highlight of the workshop was certainly the presentations, which not only touched on the history of how this field has evolved but also focused on its future. The pictures presented by Prof. Gustaaf Hallegraeff were very descriptive and useful in understanding the various sub-groups.

Overall, the workshop provides a good opportunity for beginners to understand the fundamentals of phytoplankton taxonomy and gives them a great chance to meet more people interested in similar subjects, which is obviously important for such niche but growing science.



Above. Participants from the 2013 Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop held in November at the Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences, Chowder Bay, NSW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, including the details of the next scheduled Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop please contact Penelope Ajani, the 2013 convener.

Penelope.Ajani@mq.edu.au

CONNECT WITH ASPAB

Annual conferences are few and far between, so what better way to keep in touch through the year than by using social media. ASPAB joined Facebook in 2012 and it needs your help to keep it up to date!

- ➔ Add friends you've met at conferences
- ➔ Post field and lab photos
- ➔ Unknown aquatic plant? Tag an expert, could be the quickest identification you've ever made!
- ➔ Post upcoming conferences and funding opportunities to the homepage.

It's quick and easy to start up an account if you don't already have one. These resources are only what you make it, so get liking!



New ASPAB website currently under construction

Whilst the new ASPAB website is under construction and covered in a shroud of secrecy, the Webmaster is calling for your contributions!

If you have any photos that you think the website would benefit from, whether they are macroscopic or microscopic, from the field or in the lab, please send them through to the webmaster. For all committee members who haven't already updated their profile please get in contact with our new webmaster, Martino Malerba.



SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND PROFILES TO
MARTINO'S DROPBOX
martino.malerba@gmail.com

In search of the elusive mangrove alga: a field trip to New Ireland, Papua New Guinea

by Joe Zuccarello

June last year was a time for us (John West, Mitsunobu Kamiya and myself) to continue our understanding of the taxonomy and diversity of mangrove algae. We decided to continue our sampling of the Indo-Pacific by going to New Ireland, one of the major islands north east of the major island of Papua New Guinea. The algae, and marine organisms, diversity in this region of the world is exceptional, plus it has been poorly sampled for seaweeds. It makes up part of the 'Coral Triangle' a region that is known for its high diversity. Just like tropical rainforests, this area (roughly between Malaysia-Northern Australia-The Philippines) has higher levels of endemism plus species diversity than is found out of the area. In fact, with many marine organisms (coral, fish) the species richness reduces as you move away from this area (not sure if it is true for mangrove algae but that would involve more than my anecdotal thoughts). The Coral Triangle has either been considered an area of species production (large populations that can be semi-isolated and respond to selective pressures) or alternately an area of species retention (a stable environment in which species produced elsewhere, survive extinction for longer). To address these questions, plus have a good time, we planned a trip to New Ireland.

The island had a nice fringe reef in most areas; people seemed to have subsistence farming, collected wood from the hills for houses (beautiful straight planks cut from a tree with a chain saw!) and of course fishing. We drove on the east coast (stopping in several locations) to the other 'major' town Namatanai, where we spent the night (has electricity a few hours a day). South of there the road becomes unpaved. We also saw the future of much of the tropics, logging of some really big trees and oil palm plantation.

This island was once under German sovereignty, until a little thing called WWI came along, but the Germans left a legacy. One legacy is a paved road running about 2/3 of the island on its northeast side, this is good for intertidal collectors! The other was coconut (copra) plantations. There is also

access to the west coast on unpaved roads, plus the ability to go to neighbouring island by boat. New Ireland has a long coastline being about 350km long and in places only a few km wide. We flew to the capital of the province Kavieng from Port Moresby. We were lucky to be on the plane with the governor-general of Papua, his first visit to New Ireland we were told, and we occasionally crossed his convoy in our travels. So there was a very spectacular reception on exiting the plane, costumes, singing and welcoming dances...for a second we thought it was for the arrival of famous phycologist, but we were mistaken! Our base was at the Kavieng hotel, one of the few hotels on the island. It was good, clean, friendly but a bit pricey. Kavieng is practically the only town on the island with constant electricity services. We rented a 4-wheel drive and immediately started our collections. Whenever we stopped we attracted attention. An Aussie, a bald kiwi and a Japanese gentleman could attract attention anywhere. The people were friendly, inquisitive (they must have thought we were nuts) and helpful, they pointed out the mangrove tree used as a loo (very helpful, as I said!). Sometimes it seemed the whole village came out, but mostly it was the youngsters, generally curious. Occasionally, seldom, we felt that a gratuity was required for any information. Fair enough! Just about everyone spoke English and all the schools seem to teach in English (on a small island with several language groups and a country with several hundred, I guess it makes sense). All the schools seemed to be run by Christian denominations, mostly of the American evangelical variety, remember this is the area that had cargo cults, so they will believe almost anything it seems.



Above. GoGo Cola and John and I eating in Kavieng.



Above. Some locals, curious about the habits of phycologists.

Actually in a few places on the island, we also noticed some fairly disused cocoa plantations, apparently a government incentive that lost momentum.

We collected for the next few days, on the west coast also. Then one day we took a boat to Djaul Island, a small island in the north west of New Ireland. The boat captain was very friendly and we had a home cooked meal in his village. Very nice, some of the other food was less than impressive. We found two morphotypes of an alga called, at the moment, *Bostrychia tenella* growing side by side. Our molecular results already indicated that this species is made up of several molecular species (genetically quite distinct), and the morphology is quite variable. We could never stick a morphological character to a molecular species, the variation could be due to environmental plasticity and it was all a bit hard to untangle! At least in New Ireland these morphotypes, that are in different molecular lineages and co-existing could show us what characters may be useful for morphological designation, we will see. Dr Kamiya collected the genus *Caloglossa* and found lots of species diversity, he was quite excited. Overall it was a productive trip. It was a part of the world we did not know well and certainly could use some more exploration.

Below. *Bostrychia tenella*, one of sought after alga species.



GENERAL MEMBER PROFILES

The last annual meeting brought some new faces to the committee, including a new webmaster and student representative. Here I'd like to introduce a new section where we bring you some short profiles of our new members.

Kirsten Heimann: General Member

Kirsten is an Associate Professor at the School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook University. Kirsten is also the director of the North Queensland Algal Identification/Culturing Facility (NQAIF), the world's first tropical microalgal research facility. Her current and previous research focuses on ecophysiology and cell biology of marine microalgae.

Jennifer Clark: Student Representative



Jennifer is a PhD candidate at the University of Technology, Sydney where her research aims to investigate the adaptive potential of the intertidal macroalga, *Hormosira banksii*, to determine the effects of climate change on marginal populations or individuals growing at their physiological limit.

Jennifer was nominated for student representative at last year's annual meeting and welcomes the role. "Thank you for the nomination. I am very honored to be nominated as the student representative for ASPAB 2014. I hope 2014 turns out to be a very productive year!"

Our newly elected student representative would like to remind student members that

our society provides travel funding to attend ASPAB conferences. You can find more information on the ASPAB website, including eligibility and application guidelines. Please check out www.aspab.org/funding.htm for more details.

Martino Malerba: Webmaster



At the age of 18, Martino left Italy to study in Townsville, Queensland at the James Cook University, where he undertook studies in Marine Biology. He started his Ph.D. in 2012 after completing his Bachelor of Science (Honours).

Martino's research deals with phytoplankton ecology, where he combines theoretical contributions from process-based models with empirical observations from laboratory settings. "What I am interested in are species interactions and especially the mechanisms promoting species coexistence in natural ecosystems. Phytoplankton species are extraordinary organisms that can be studied to address these types of ecological questions, as they are extremely diverse and all characterized by fast growth rate, high density, and short generation time"

When Martino first heard about our society he was told that it was a very friendly environment, where research is mostly driven by passion. At ASPAB2013, he decided to lift his hand to replace Erasmo Macaya Horta, our previous webmaster and become involved in our society, "mostly to get to know better its people and follow their example".

NZ POST: SEAWEED COLLECTION



Picture Credit stamps.nzpost.co.nz

Each year, New Zealand Post releases various stamp collections over the year in a variety of formats. As a follow up to last year's native fern collection, NZ Post approached our very own Wendy Nelson to see if she would be interested in assisting on a seaweed collection.

Wendy met with Stephen and Di Fuller (NZ post artist and designer teams) to talk about seaweeds, she took them to the beach and showed them many photographs. "They selected five species they thought would reflect New Zealand's native biodiversity and would be suitable for stamp images". A likely extraordinary task it was to select a lucky five from the nearly 900 species that call New Zealand home. In the end, the lucky finalists for the New Zealand Native Seaweeds Set of Stamps were *Hormosira banksii*, *Landsburgia quercifolia*, *Caulerpa brownie*, *Marginariella boryana* and *Pterocladia lucida*.

Wendy's expertise was able to give the background information required for the presentation pack and provide some photographic images from colleagues such as Kate Neill at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA).

Wendy has also written an article to go in the 2014 *New Zealand Collection* which is a hard cover book produced annually that showcases all of the stamps issued during the year.

There are various types of products available ranging from miniature sheets and first day covers, to presentations. They are all available for purchase from the NZ Post website.



Picture Credit stamps.nzpost.co.nz

Above. New Zealand Post Native Seaweed Presentation Pack available from the NZ Post website from NZ\$29.90.

Congratulations to Rebecca Neumann: Best Student Presentation at ASPAB2013

Rebecca Neumann was awarded the best student oral presentation at last year's 27th Annual ASPAB conference held in Sydney, Australia. Rebecca was both humbled and surprised in receiving the award as it was her first attendance at an ASPAB conference. For her efforts, Rebecca received *Ecology of Australian Temperate Reefs* donated by CSIRO publishing which she has already found incredibly useful as it covers studies of temperate rocky reefs that she is also researching.

The title of Rebecca's presentation was *Evidence of antimicrobial chemical defenses in habitat-forming kelp Ecklonia radiata*. Rebecca uses this local kelp to understand how environmental changes influence disease and what the potential consequences are to coastal marine communities. She says that "understanding the mechanisms of diseases on key habitat-formers and its consequences are crucial to manage and conserve our natural systems".

Rebecca has just recently from Perth, Western Australia where she attended the 10th International Temperate Reefs Symposium (ITRS), hosted by the University of Western Australia. She was one of over 190 delegates from 24 countries, all to discuss this year's theme *Ecological Transitions*.



At this meeting Rebecca was awarded her second 'best student oral presentation' in the last 6 months, for her talk *The role of chemical defenses of kelp in fighting disease*. Rebecca says "to receive this kind of recognition at an international conference was a great achievement for me" and "confirms the importance of the kind of research our group is doing".

The next ITRS will be hosted by Lisandro Benedetti-Cecchi in Pisa, Italy and is provisionally scheduled for June 2016.

Right. Kelp Canopy in Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia.

Photo credit: Rebecca Neumann



Above left..Rebecca checking the health of her habitat-forming kelp in Sydney Harbour, Australia. Above right. Stingray passes by over macroalga bed.

Photo credit: Rebecca Neumann



HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Phoebe Armitage: Runner-up and Travel Fund Awardee

Congratulations to Phoebe Armitage from the University of Auckland, who was awarded travel funds to attend the 27th Annual ASPAB Conference held in Sydney, Australia. She captured the audience and was presented a runner up prize for best student oral presentation.

Daniel Wangpraseurt: Runner- up

At first the audience was wondering why we were listening to a guy talk about corals, but it soon became very clear why his research is so relevant to Phycologists. Daniel Wangpraseurt (PhD candidate) from the University of Technology, Sydney uses microsensor and imaging techniques to investigate optical, thermal and chemical microclimates in scleractinian corals. Techniques he explains could easily extend into the world of macroalgae.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



ISAP 2014: 5th Congress of the International Society for Applied Phycology

The 5th Congress for the International Society for Applied Phycology is to be held on Sunday 22nd until Friday 27th June at the Australian Technology Park, Sydney. The 2014 Congress theme is Strengthening algal industries for the future: Key knowledge and skills gaps. Early bird registrations close on the 31st March (\$770 and \$440 for ISAP delegate and student members, respectively). Abstracts can be submitted online via the Presenters' Portal on the ISAP website. Please visit the website for more information

www.isap2014.com



APPF 2014: 7th Asian Pacific Phycological Forum

The 7th Asian Pacific Phycological Forum is to be held September 20-24, 2014 hosted by the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences held in Wuhan, China. The theme of this year's forum will be *Algae, A world solution* focused on algal biomass energy, algal taxonomy and evolution and applied algal biology. Wuhan is situated in central China, with the world's third longest river, the Yangtze River passing through the city. The city is 3500 years old and is one of the most ancient and civilized metropolitan cities.

Registration has not yet been opened, so keep an eye on their website www.appf2014.org



ICHA 2014: 16th International Conference on Harmful Algae

The 16th International Conference on Harmful Algae is to take place 27-31st October 2014 in Wellington, New Zealand, the world's southernmost capital city.

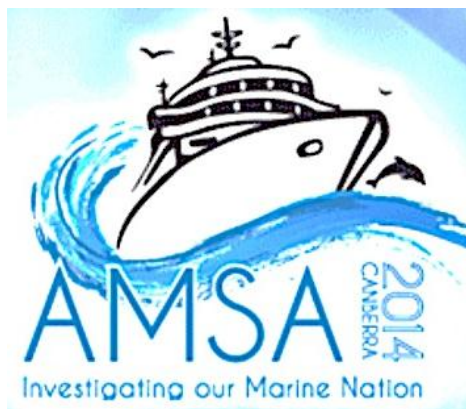
The theme of the conference is *Advancement through Shared Science* in recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of the field. The call for abstracts was made 10th January 2014, with registration opening at the end of March 2014. If you are interested in submitting an abstract (poster or oral) then please do so before 15th May 2014. For more information including the provisional programme, please visit the website

www.icha2014nz.com or email

icha2014@confer.co.nz

ASPAB 2014: Wellington, New Zealand

The 28th Annual Australasian Society of Phycology and Aquatic Botany will be held in Wellington, New Zealand from Tuesday 28th to Thursday 30th of October, 2014. This meeting is scheduled to coincide with the ICHA conference. More information will be available shortly, but for now, mark these dates in your calendar.



AMSA 2014: 51st annual conference of the Australian Marine Sciences Association

The 51st annual conference of the Australian Marine Sciences Association is to be held in Canberra, Australia from 6-10 July, 2014. This year's theme is *Investigating our Marine Nation* to showcase the latest findings from Australia's marine research, management and policy. Registrations are now open, for more information including fees and abstract submissions, please visit the conference website for more information www.amsaconference.com.au

Australasian Society of Phycology and Aquatic Botany

