

# Preface and Acknowledgements



**Sarah Rood** is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and Monash University. A professional historian experienced in all areas of public history, she specialises in commissioned histories, exhibitions and heritage work. Sarah is the author of a number of histories including *From Ferranti to Faculty: information technology at Monash University, 1960 to 1990*, *Nationality Stateless, Destination Australia: JDC and the Australian survivor community* and *Olims Hotel Canberra: through the ages*. Sarah is President of the Professional Historians Association (Vic) and a member of the Public Records Advisory Council and the Monash University Institute for Public History Advisory Board.

**Katherine Sheedy** is a professional historian and a graduate of the Master of Public History at Monash University. Her work incorporates commissioned histories, oral history projects and contributions to *The Encyclopedia of Melbourne*. Katherine's publications include *Home Away From Home: celebrating 125 years of the Victoria Hotel, Evolution through Innovation: a history of marketing education at Monash* and *A Passion for the Gut: the evolution of gastroenterology in Australia*. Katherine is Vice President of the Professional Historians Association (Vic), an executive member of the History Council of Victoria and on the editorial board of *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*.

Together Sarah and Katherine established Way Back When – Consulting Historians in 2003. Way Back When works with businesses, community groups and individuals to record and document their stories, aiming to produce interesting and engaging histories by communicating the past in an absorbing way. Way Back When has a passion for making history accessible to a general audience, and brings stories to life by presenting history in a lively and accessible style.



The history of the ASM is rich and dynamic. It is the story of an active organisation that has adapted to suit the changing needs of its members while continuing to provide a voice for the discipline of microbiology in Australia. Far from an administrative body weighed down by bureaucracy or formality, our research revealed a history of camaraderie, support, activities and events that reflect a healthy and strong organisation supported by a robust membership. In telling the story of the first 50 years of the Society, our hope is to reflect all of these elements as well as the breadth, dynamism, strength, reputation and continuing relevance of the ASM.

There are many people who have helped bring this story to life. Thank you to the ASM National Council for commissioning this history and to successive Presidents Keryn Christiansen and Hatch Stokes for the support they have given to the project.

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Exploring and recording the history of the Australian Society for Microbiology has been a satisfying and rewarding journey. We hope that these pages bring the same enjoyment to readers of this history.

*Sarah Rood and Katherine Sheedy*  
*Way Back When – Consulting Historians*