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Vertical Transmission



Hatch Stokes

President ASM

Science Meets Parliament was held as usual in early March and ASM again sponsored two of our members to attend. This year it was Glen Ulett, The Queensland Branch Chair and Gabrielle Belz from Victoria. They will report in the next issue of *Microbiology Australia* on why they found the experience to be useful and positive.

Things are slowing returning to normal in the National Office after damage from the severe weather in Melbourne in early March. I would like to thank all the National Office staff for their endeavours and hard work in keeping the office functioning through a very difficult time. Although the water damage was relatively extensive, the Society suffered no financial loss as we were fully insured.

After many years of service, Ruth Foxwell is stepping down as the Chair of the National Qualifications Committee. This is an important position in the ASM which also involves serving on the ASM Council. Her loss from the Council and the committee will be a great one as she has always been a valuable contributor to debate and has acted at all times to serve the interests of members. Hopefully we will have her back in some role in the near future. She will, however, continue to act as the nominate Public Officer for the ASM.

The Sydney meeting is fast approaching. I know the Local Organising Committee has been working very hard to produce what I do not doubt will be a fantastic meeting and I hope to see and catch up with as many members as possible in July.

From the Editor

Articles appearing in *Microbiology Australia* are written by experts in their field and are peer-reviewed. Most articles are brief overviews that are tailored to meet the diverse interests of Australia's microbiologists and those further afield. Suggestions for future issues are welcomed by the Editorial Board.

ASM readers are invited to submit suggestions for a new "Guess the microbe" quiz section.

This will run in the style of David Ellis's Mycology Quiz. For an example go to

<http://www.mycology.adelaide.edu.au/virtual/>