

Young Scientists of Australia
Melbourne Inc.

Annual Report

2017

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1 Overview of the Year

This term has been very busy for the committee, and for YSA Melbourne. We've seen the adoption of a new constitution, the running of a new summer camp, the promise of a new TCSE, preparations for Youth ANZAAS, to run later this year, as well as many behind the scenes changes.

This January saw the first Summer Science program, a 5 day camp, run in collaboration with the Science Schools Foundation, designed to train members in our outreach activities, and also get the chance to actually do some of the activities we are usually helping out with! On a personal note, I would like to thank Jacqui for making this program possible. Another highlight this term was Melbourne TCSE. It was great to see so many members come out and volunteer, with the highest number in years.

Socials have been a solid improver over the term, with renewed and expanded interest, new ideas, and a genuine sense of community developing amongst repeat attendees - my thanks to Garth for facilitating this sense of community.

In terms of behind the scenes changes, we have adopted a new online system - TidyHQ - to handle finance, membership events and meetings - this promises to be a big step forward, as it will allow future committees to spend more time working on projects and plans, and less time doing administration work.

Our new constitution, adopted in January, focused on restructuring the committee to ensure that we can continue to put in our best work. This has created new positions, with new responsibilities, and will also provide more opportunities for those people who join the committee to have meaningful work. Other changes include keeping pace with change by including technology, a fairer voting, and the wording and structure of the document to ensure we meet the legal standards we are obliged to.

The term has been difficult at times, but thanks to the efforts of this committee, I believe that the 20% increase in membership numbers is just one sign that the work we have put in is starting to show results. Looking to the future, YSA Melbourne is in a good position to capitalise on a lot of the ground work we have been busy doing, despite the inevitable challenges along this road.

On a final note, I would like to extend my thanks to the 2016-2017 Committee. They have risen to every challenge the year has thrown at us, and are the reason we have had so much success. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to Tim, Maxy, and Melina, without whom I, and YSA, would have been lost.

James Salamy
President

2 2016-2017 Committee

President	James Salamy
Vice-President	Timothy Newport
Secretary	Melina Jablonka
Treasurer (-Jan)	Helen Zhou
Treasurer (Jan-)	James Salamy
Communications Officer	Maxine Lotherington
Science Engagements	Jessica Woolley
Socials Coordinator	Garth Bradbeer
Immediate Past President	Ricardo Cannizzaro
Webmaster (Jan-)	Lauren Robertson
MWOP (General)	Ciara O'Sullivan
MWOP (General)	Michael Beards
MWOP (Social)	William Orrell
MWOP (Science)	Pravind Easwaran
MWOP (Comms) (Jan-)	Vanessa Bradbury

3 Secretary's Report

Since the last annual general meeting, we've had some really cool initiatives happen in my portfolio. The first of these is TidyHQ, the new platform we're using to manage memberships and to allow members to manage their own.

TidyHQ also allows another awesome idea to be put in place, and that's automatic renewal reminders. This means you'll be reminded when your membership needs to be renewed. We are also looking at automatic renewals, where you can opt in to have your membership automatically renewed after one year, so you'll never get a pesky reminder to renew, your membership will never expire, and you'll never lose the benefits that come with YSA membership.

In the 9 months since the last AGM, we have increased our membership base by 23% on the previous financial year. We have also increased our retention rate to 60%. This represents the combined efforts of the committee and our community, and suggests that YSA is in a healthy position. Further statistics are included over the page.

Membership Statistics

Current financial members	69
Honorary life members	7
New members	35 (51%)
Renewals	34 (49%)
Under 18 members	28 (41%)
Over 18 members	41 (59%)
Female members	42 (62%)
Male members	26 (37%)

4 Financial Report

This term's financial report is broken into two segments, as our financial year still concludes on June 30, while our committee year finishes in Q1. Each annual report will therefore cover the previously completed financial year, along with a summary of the current financial year.

4.1 Financial Year 2016-2017 to Date

The 2016-2017 financial year has proceeded smoothly thus far. Our income and expenses are up on the same time last year, while our future outlook is relatively stable. We have further transitioned towards online payments, and have digitised our financial records, making tracking YSA's position, credits and liabilities significantly more straightforward.

We have been able to generate sufficient profit to cover the cost of insurance, however, we are currently running at a loss due to the unexpected \$1000 payment required to facilitate the Summer Science program. In future years, this payment would need to be offset by an increase in participant costs, or sponsorship from industry or institutions.

A further large change has been a revaluation of our assets, primarily, our merchandise. The mistake in our accounting, where assets were listed at their sale price, rather than their purchase price, has now been corrected, and is responsible for a large proportion of the drop in asset value compared to the start of the committee year. We have also sold \$476 of merchandise, without ordering replacement stock, which represents another significant part of this.

FY16 financial statistics to date

Income	\$7134.49
Expenditure	\$7105.88
Cash held	\$8833.88
Assets	\$4619.31
Outstanding credits	\$851.00
Outstanding liabilities	\$1424.00
Position less liabilities with credits	\$8217.38
Original position (30/06/2016)	\$8960.77
Profit to date	-\$684.61

4.2 Financial Year 2015-2016

Thanks to the stellar work of last year's executive committee YSA started off the committee term in a secure financial position. Both income and expenditure were down this committee term, a pattern that can be attributed to YSA not running a major event, similar to the YSA Ball last year.

Just because expenditure was down though, does not mean YSA did not grow and improve in several ways. The 2015-2016 committee term saw the acquisition of Public Liability and Association Officers insurance policies to offer greater protection to our volunteer committee members, as well as the acquisition of over \$2000 worth of merchandise. Accounting for all liabilities and outstanding credits, YSA's position at the end of the financial year stands at \$9109.92. The outlook for the near future is stable.

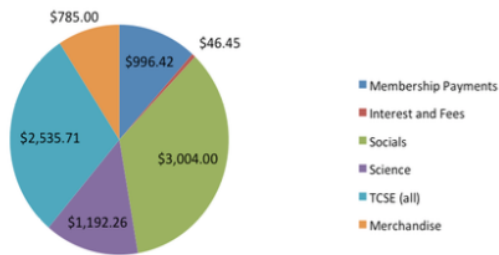
FY15 financial statistics

Annual income	\$7690.62
Annual expenditure	\$8609.21
Cash held (bank, Paypal & float)	\$9238.37
Assets	\$6711.86
Outstanding credits	\$220.00
Outstanding liabilities	\$348.45
Position less liabilities with credits	\$9109.92
Original position (30/06/2015)	\$9638.30
Profit	-\$528.38

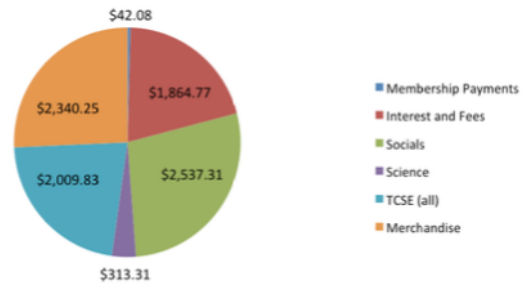
Insurance

YSA purchased two insurance policies in this financial year. The first was Public Liability Cover which covers the organisation in case something goes wrong during an event. This policy would take care of costs like repair to damaged equipment or medical bills in incidents where YSA is deemed responsible for those costs being incurred in the first place. The second was Association Officer Cover which covers the members of the Executive

YSA Income July 2015 - June 2016



YSA Expenditure July 2015 - June 2016



Committee specifically. While this will be an added yearly cost of approximately \$1500, it is a very necessary part of any organisation and YSA will be stronger for it.

Merchandise

YSA t-shirt orders happen on average once every two years, and hoodie orders even less frequently than that. Both orders were placed within this financial year. The total cost of the merchandise order this year was \$2340.25. While this number might seem scary, it should be noted that YSA make this money back as people order merchandise. Unlike socials where money is collected on the day, merchandise takes time to pay itself back. Ultimately though, it is a win for our members, as everyone now has sick red hoodies to rock at socials.

5 Marketing and Communications

We've been focusing this last term on improving our communications with members. Primarily this has been through Facebook and Mailchimp emails – trying to ensure that everything is across both channels at similar times, so that members can get information in the way that suits them best.

We've also completely redesigned the website to better suit our members and position as a youth science organisation. Social events, programs, and other initiatives have been shared there alongside our social media and email channels.

Facebook likes currently sit at 935 – a 9% increase since the last AGM. Our Mailchimp subscriber base has increased to 600 – a 29% increase.

Our Tumblr blog, Membrane, took a hiatus for the majority of the term due to an inability to commit from the committee. It currently sits at 105 total followers – a 7% increase.

Within the committee, we've made a lot of changes this term to ensure better communication.

Slack has been implemented to allow better transparency and discussions, as it's difficult for the entire committee to meet up face to face. Members of temporary sub-committees, such as the Summer Science leadership team, were also given access when needed so that they could be involved. We've also moved circular resolutions to a Slack poll integration.

We've also implemented TidyHQ, a new CRM specifically designed for clubs and committees. Within the committee, we organise tasks and assignments, organise meetings, record minutes, and keep a hold of membership contacts. We recently announced it to our members, allowing them to make accounts and RSVP to the first event using the platform.

6 Activities

6.1 Monthly Socials

Socials are a key part of YSA, especially for those who are often unable to participate in outreach activities, and provide an opportunity to meet new faces who are interested in YSA and science. Our monthly socials facilitate this, as well as helping to create a greater bond in the YSA community.

This year, we have continued and expanded social price discounts for members. This is done by increasing the price of socials to non-members, while charging members the cost price. This helps us to meet the increasing 'behind the scenes' costs we face in delivering socials, and increases the value of YSA memberships, rewarding you for your contributions to us.

Our socials change with time, from traditional old favourites to sparkling new ideas. Over the last year, we have had a range of different events from ice-skating to picnic and game days. We aim to provide something which appeals to everyone, along with the regular time frame, to ensure everyone can get involved, if not at every social.

We have worked to establish a database of past events and options, to give future committees a greater picture of our past and future in socials, helping to make planning easier and to mix up what happens where and when. This will help us alternate both events and days, so a Saturday job shift won't ruin your socials for the whole year.

With either a small increase or steady attendance, and an influx of new members, especially due to the Summer Science program, YSA socials have had a positive year. Reviewing of Socials has lead to improvements and

changes. We have continued to work on this, especially with the implementation of new technologies such as PayPal and web based ticketing.

Always adapting, socials are at the heart of YSA and have been beating strongly. The new committee structure coming into effect at this AGM will allow a larger number of people to work on delivering socials, which should help in increasing the notice of socials, and increasing the new content and experiences available to our members. With these changes, socials are in a position to continue this rhythm over the next year and into infinity.

6.2 Summer Science

This year, YSA embarked on a new initiative, combining the fun members have had being a participant of an outreach program with the training they get as staffie into a single camp.

Summer Science was run over 5 days, at the 1st Mount Waverley Scout Hall, starting with the two-day training staffies would normally receive as part of the Science Experience. We then spent two days at Swinburne University's Wantirna Campus, at their KIOSC facility, participating in the activities KIOSC runs for secondary students. Importantly, we also discussed how KIOSC delivers these activities, and spoke about the pedagogy behind them. This was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Science Schools Foundation.

On the final day of camp, we did some DIY science experiments, and then finished with a science show competition, where teams had to design, perform and explain home-made experiments.

Summer Science was well received by everyone involved, and KIOSC expressed interest in running a similar program in the future. Our thanks to the leadership team: Maxine Lotherington, Timothy Newport, Dan Keirnan, Chris Orrell and James Salamy.

6.3 National Science Week

National Science Week (NSWk) is the nation's biggest celebration of Australian Scientists and their contributions to society. This year, we continued our long tradition of assisting with many of the events run by Inspiring Australia, including Market of the Minds, and Living Science at the Markets.

YSA Melbourne was there to help run stalls at science festivals, and provided staff to engage Melbourne's inhabitants in some real life science. This year we were generously awarded an honorarium payment for our services during NSWk by the event organisers. This was used to subsidise tickets to our joint social with ANZAAS for our members.

6.4 ANZAAS Science Soirée

Our annual evening science talk in partnership with ANZAAS, organised by Ricardo was well attended, and once again a great success. Held this year at the Royal Society of Victoria, the keynote address was given by the inspiring and engaging Professor Sarah Maddison on the subject of exploring the nature of planets and the physics of the universe. It was a truly engaging experience for everyone involved, highlighting the value of partnerships within the organisation.

6.5 Nebula Science Newsletter

The past term has seen a continuation of the Nebula Newsletter. Originally started by the last Science MWOP, Jess Woolley, Pravind Easwaran has worked to keep the newsletter as close as possible to its original goal, to provide information and details about various science activities happening throughout the year.

It was originally written for science teachers, in the hope that it would be passed on to students. Unfortunately, last year has seen several difficulties with this model. Levels of engagement with the newsletter, both through mailchimp stats and actual subscriber numbers, have dropped significantly since last year. There is also a distinct lack of feedback with this current model as we have no idea whether or the email is passed to students.

The intention is to reboot Nebula in the next committee cycle. Such an option would see Nebular become more student focused, especially considering there is a niche now for this kind of content with CSIRO's own science email (Science and Math by email) reducing itself content wise over the last year and a half.

7 The ConocoPhillips Science Experience

7.1 Swinburne University of Technology

At Swinburne University, YSA provided a team of volunteers to provide support to Swinburne's own volunteers, acting as group leaders. We supervised the 48 participants as they undertook a range of scientific activities, including programming their own robots at Swinburne's KIOSC facility in Wantirna. YSA's assistance was greatly appreciated, and YSA volunteers enjoyed the chance to tour Swinburne's campuses.

7.2 University of Melbourne (Dookie)

Four YSA volunteers travelled to the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus near Shepparton for the 3 day residential program, to support the University's volunteers. This program was very successful, with the 42 student attendees enjoying themselves greatly across the days.

7.3 University of Melbourne (Parkville)

At University of Melbourne, YSA was again asked to run several activities in conjunction with the University's own program: Egg Drop, Relay Quiz, and a meet-and-greet after the closing ceremony. This program was considerably larger than in previous years, with 103 participants. This was also a highpoint for volunteer numbers, with over 15 volunteers assisting the program across the 3 days.

7.4 Federation University Gippsland

Last year, we once again sent a coordinator to the residential program at Federation University Gippsland. This has been an ongoing commitment for many years, and always a wonderful experience for the person or small team that we send.

8 Partnerships

8.1 ANZAAS

This year, YSA has continued its long and successful history of collaborations with the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS). This included our Science Soirée, and preparations for Youth ANZAAS.

Youth ANZAAS is the annual flagship residential science outreach program run by ANZAAS. The program rotates yearly through Australian and New Zealand capital cities, and it will be running in Melbourne later this year. We are looking forward to this program, and are currently working with ANZAAS to support this program.

8.2 Science Schools Foundation

YSA Melbourne's partnership with the Science Schools Foundation continued strongly again this year, including our new initiative Summer Science. With the SSF's assistance, we were able to secure two days of activities at Swinburne University's KIOSC facility. The SSF has continued their financial support of YSA's involvement with TCSE programs. Timothy Newport has served as YSA's representative on their Federal Coordinating Committee.

8.3 Royal Society of Victoria

This term, we have pursued an expanded relationship with the Royal Society of Victoria (RSV). Beyond the room access previously negotiated for meetings and special events, YSA members now have access to discount tickets for certain RSV events, such as the Eucalyptus identification day trip in March, or the upcoming Melbourne Museum 'backstage' tour in May. We are also working with the RSV to deliver an industry night event, sometime in the second half of 2017.

A formal memorandum of understanding has been drawn up, covering YSA's obligations and access to the RSV's facilities, this will hopefully be finalised and signed off by us and the RSV's board in the coming months.

8.4 SEAMS (University of Melbourne)

We have once again been involved with the Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science program at Melbourne University. YSA provides group leaders for ice-breaker sessions as part of a larger program, focussed on encouraging students from under-represented backgrounds to consider STEM fields.

This program has been a rewarding one for our volunteers over the last several years, and we look forward to continuing working with the SEAMS team into the future.

8.5 In2Science

In2Science is a science outreach initiative that puts university STEM students in classrooms, to provide a direct source of science mentoring for students at low socio-economic schools across Victoria.

This year, YSA Melbourne were invited to contribute our science outreach experience and expertise to the training sessions for the new In2Science mentors, who are based at several Victorian universities including Swinburne, Melbourne, RMIT and La Trobe. In July, YSA provided volunteer staff for a series of sessions with the mentors of these programs.

8.6 Sister Chapters

YSA Melbourne enjoyed yet another year of successful collaboration with its sister chapters around Australia, in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide. At this year's National Convention in Adelaide we agreed to focus the TCSE Exchange program. These exchange programs give Melbourne members the opportunity to staff a Science Experience program in another state, allowing them to extend their contacts, improve their staffing ability and to experience a different YSA culture and community.

This year, we offered subsidies to help members with air travel costs to attend interstate events. Two YSA Melbourne members travelled as a result of this program, one to Adelaide for the Flinders TCSE, the other to Sydney for their presentation and science show training program.

In October, the YSA chapters gathered for our national convention in Adelaide! Each YSA chapter has its own special abilities, but together are truly a force to be reckoned with. With our sister chapters we discussed the future direction of our national collaborations (such as the YSA National Camp, and TCSE exchange), and shared helpful hints and tips to run our organisations more effectively and more innovatively. After a weekend of meetings, each chapter's representative left for home with a renewed enthusiasm for national collaborations.

Since the convention, we have been working with our contacts to share as many opportunities and programs as possible. YSA Melbourne looks forward to ongoing and further collaborations with our sister chapters.