AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Australian Academy of Science

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Australian Academy of Science acknowledges and pays respects to the Traditional Owners of all the lands on which the Academy operates, and where its Fellows and employees live and work. The Academy recognises Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first innovators and scientists of this land and honours their enduring connection to Country, from which we are committed to learn. We pay our respects to, and recognise the cultural authority of, their Elders past and present.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

Cover artwork: Designed by Leah Albert for the Australian Academy of Science • **Australia's first scientists.** *'Mirning Country'.* CREDIT: Presten Warren • **'Federation' wheat 1901**–William Farrer. *1920s Map of Australian sheep and wheat growing areas.* SOURCE: NLA • **Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–14**–Frank Stillwell. *Camp at Madigan Nun[atak] – Stillwell, Laseron, Close.* SOURCE: Fenner Archives • **Penicillin 1939–41**–Sir Howard Florey. *1944 WWII Vintage Schenley Lab Ad, and penicillin produced during WWII* • **The Sea Cliff Interferometer 1946**–Ruby Payne-Scott, Joe Pawsey and Lindsay McCready. *Antenna at Dover Heights.* SOURCE: CSIRO • **The Shine Dome opening 1959**–Sir Mark Oliphant. SOURCE: Fenner Archives • **Smallpox vaccine program**–Frank Fenner. *Micrograph of cell containing smallpox viruses* • **Murriyang/Parkes radio telescope 1961**–CSIRO. *'The Dish'.* SOURCE: CSIRO • **Apollo 11 ground tracking and broadcasting support 1969.** *Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the moon.* SOURCE: NASA • **First female president of the Australian Academy of Science 1970**–Dorothy Hill. *Fossil coral mapping. The Great Barrier Reef, QLD* • **Cochlear ear implant 1978**–Graeme Clark. *Cochlear implant showing components* • **PERC solar cell 1983**–Martin Green. *Solar panels* • **Polymer banknote 1988**–David Solomon. *Commemorative $10 banknote* • **Wireless local area network (WLAN) 1990**–CSIRO. *WiFi icons* • **Future of science.** *Australian Academy of Science Public Speaker Series 2025.*

The 'Wheel of time' artwork, created for Science at the Shine Dome 2025, pays homage to Australian scientific milestones.

It recognises the contributions of many Academy Fellows and other leading scientists – with all images brought together to resemble the shape of the iconic Shine Dome building as seen from above.

The concept, design and animation were created by graphic designer Leah Albert for the Australian Academy of Science.

Reconciliation Action Plan artwork elements: Richard Allan, Director, Traditional Core.

Find out more about the images

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This report is available at science.org.au/annual-and-financial-reports

2025 AT A GLANCE

Our community

- **625** Fellows
- **26** New Fellows elected
- **23** Honorific awardees
- **40**K+ Volunteer hours contributed

Policy and advice

- **23** Government submissions
- **18** National Committees for Science
- **108** Volunteers for *Australian science, Australia's future*

Reach and engagement

- **2.3**M Social media followers
- **900**K+ Website visitors
- **1M**+ Education resource views
- $**443**K EMCR funding awarded

Landmark initiative of the year

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE, AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE: SCIENCE 2035

A first-of-its-kind national assessment answering a question Australia had never asked: does our science capability match what the nation will actually need? Mapping eight critical capability gaps and charting the path to sovereign science strength. Launched September 2025.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Established in 1954, the Australian Academy of Science is a non-profit organisation of more than 600 of the nation's leading scientists. For more than 70 years, the Academy has been an authoritative and independent voice, transforming knowledge into expert advice for decision-makers to shape national priorities and tackle Australian and global challenges.

Headquartered at Canberra's iconic Shine Dome, we invest in the future of science: empowering science and mathematics teachers through world-class education programs, funding and supporting early- and mid-career researchers through fellowships, grants and career development opportunities, and recognising excellence through awards programs that nurture the knowledge-makers of tomorrow.

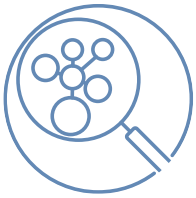
Our mission

"To advance Australia as a nation that embraces scientific knowledge and whose people enjoy the benefits of science."

What we do

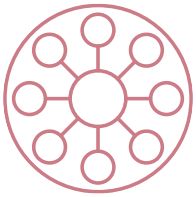
ASSURED INDEPENDENCE

We are a trusted, independent source of scientific advice. Our work is guided by evidence and integrity, free from political, commercial or other vested interests.



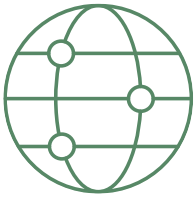
CONVENING POWER

We convene the people and the proof. Through our network of leading experts in Australia and internationally, we draw together rigorous research and diverse perspectives to support clear, practical decisions.



CENTRAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

We bring disciplines together. The Academy's Fellowship spans the full breadth of science, creating a single place where expertise is shared, tested and translated into public value.



SHAPING THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE SYSTEM

We help build the conditions for Australian science to succeed – strengthening the settings that support research and researchers and connect Australia to global science.

Behind every discovery, innovation and invention, there is a community of people who believe in the power of science to change the world. When we work together, we amplify impact and accelerate change. The Academy's Fellows, partners and supporters are shaping a future for Australia that's brighter, stronger and safer – powered by science.

THE WORLD WE WORK IN

The world in which Australian science operates is changing rapidly, and the stakes have never been higher. Understanding these pressures is essential to appreciating why the Academy's role matters, and why 2025 was such a consequential year.

ERODING SCIENCE CAPABILITY

Australia's science capability – its workforce, infrastructure and knowledge base – is under sustained pressure. Decades of declining R&D investment, falling STEM enrolments and ageing infrastructure have left critical gaps in exactly the fields the nation will need most. Without action, Australia risks losing the sovereign capacity to innovate, respond to crises and shape its own future.

GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITY

Science has always thrived on international collaboration, but a more fragmented world is testing those connections. Protecting Australia's research partnerships, maintaining access to global talent and positioning science as a tool of diplomacy are urgent national priorities.

MISINFORMATION AND MISTRUST

A rising tide of misinformation – accelerated by social media and AI-generated content – is eroding public trust in science and evidence. Independent, authoritative voices are more critical than ever to help communities, governments and institutions navigate complex choices.

TECHNOLOGICAL DISRUPTION

Artificial intelligence is reshaping scientific discovery – and who benefits from it – with the next wave of quantum computing and other frontier technologies fast approaching. Australia must be a participant and leader in these shifts, not a bystander. Choices made now will shape decades of economic and social outcomes.

THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE

These challenges shape the Academy's priorities. In 2025, we responded with landmark policy work, stronger international partnerships, new programs to attract global talent to Australia, and a sustained commitment to education and the next generation of scientists. The pages that follow tell that story.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In an era of geopolitical uncertainty, declining research investment and escalating misinformation, independent advice based on robust evidence has never mattered more. Australia owes it to future generations to keep its research, development and innovation capabilities strong – and the Academy's role is to make sure that happens. In 2025, we met the moment.

Our landmark achievement was the launch of *Australian science, Australia's future: Science 2035.* This is the first systematic national assessment of Australia's science capability versus future needs. It asks a deceptively simple question: does the science we have now match the science we will need 10 years from now? The answer is that critical gaps exist in precisely the fields that will be most in demand by 2035 – areas such as AI, biotechnology and geoscience. As Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE, Chair of the advisory panel, said at launch: "For the first time, we have a map of what needs to be done, backed by evidence, and no excuse to do nothing because now we know." Building that sovereign capability – through investment, workforce, infrastructure and the right policy settings – is now the defining national challenge we must address together.

Beyond *Australian science, Australia's future*, we: strengthened international partnerships and deepened Australia's place in the global science community; welcomed 26 extraordinary new Fellows; backed early-career researchers and empowered teachers; and championed science education for the next generation. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our Fellows, the guidance of our Council and committees, the commitment of our supporters and donors, and the dedication of our staff.

The findings of *Australian science, Australia's future* also fed directly into the Australian Government's Strategic Examination of Research and Development – the most comprehensive review of our national R&D system in a generation. The Academy engaged with this unique opportunity substantively – evidence into policy: that is what we are for.

It has been a deep privilege to serve as President since 2022. In May 2026 I will pass the torch to Laureate Professor Samuel Berkovic AC FAA FAHMS FRS – an outstanding scientist who will lead the Academy with great distinction. I leave confident that the Academy is ready to listen, to partner and to lead with evidence.

> *"Let us continue to choose science – boldly, inclusively and in the service of the public good."*

Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC PresAA FRS FREng FTSE
President

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

OUR FELLOWSHIP

The Academy's Fellows are Australia's most distinguished scientists, elected by their peers for their exceptional research, discoveries and innovations. They represent the full breadth of the country's scientific talent and form a powerful, independent voice putting science to work for the benefit of Australia and the world.

Fellows contribute their expertise voluntarily, playing an active role advising decision-makers, engaging the public and ensuring science is at the heart of how the nation tackles its greatest challenges.

> *"Each Fellow has made remarkable contributions in their field, demonstrating the vital role that science plays in addressing our most pressing challenges and expanding human knowledge."*
>
> – Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC PresAA FRS FREng FTSE

625
Fellows
as of Dec 2025

26
New Fellows
elected in 2025

39
Corresponding
Members

2
New Corresponding
Members elected
in 2025

FELLOWS ELECTED IN 2025

- **Professor David Adams** FAA FAHMS, University of Wollongong
- **Professor Gabrielle Belz** FAA FAHMS, The University of Queensland
- **Dr Josep Canadell** FAA FTSE, CSIRO
- **Professor Deli Chen** AO FAA, The University of Melbourne
- **Professor Helen Christensen** AO FAA FAHMS FASSA, University of New South Wales
- **Professor Tamara Davis** AM FAA, The University of Queensland
- **Professor Jeffery Errington** FAA FRS, University of Sydney
- **Professor Jürgen Götz** FAA FAHMS, The University of Queensland
- **Professor Xiaojing Hao** FAA FTSE, University of New South Wales
- **Emeritus Professor Mark Howden** AC FAA FTSE, Australian National University
- **Professor David Huang** FAA FAHMS, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
- **Professor Trevor Ireland** FAA FTSE, The University of Queensland
- **Dr Marlene Kanga** AO FAA FTSE, Rux Energy Pty Ltd
- **Professor Derek Leinweber** FAA, Adelaide University
- **Professor Robert Mahony** FAA FTSE, Australian National University
- **Emeritus Professor Richard Middleton** FAA, University of Newcastle
- **Professor Christina Mitchell** AO FAA FAHMS, Monash University
- **Associate Professor Andrew Nash** FAA FTSE, CSL Limited
- **Professor Jessica Purcell** FAA, Monash University
- **Professor Clare Scott** AM FAA FAHMS, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
- **Professor Aidan Sims** FAA, University of Wollongong
- **Professor Michael Stumpf** FAA, The University of Melbourne
- **Professor Rajeev Varshney** FAA FRS, Murdoch University
- **Distinguished Professor Guoxiu Wang** FAA FTSE, University of Technology Sydney
- **Professor Nicole Webster** FAA, University of Tasmania
- **Professor Anthony Weiss** AM FAA FTSE FAHMS, University of Sydney

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ELECTED IN 2025

- **Professor Donna Strickland** FAA FRS Nobel Laureate, University of Waterloo, Canada
- **Professor Hiroaki Suga** FAA, University of Tokyo, Japan

Discover the stories behind our new Fellows

AWARDS AND PROGRAMS: RECOGNISING AUSTRALIAN EXCELLENCE

The Academy's honorific awards celebrate outstanding achievement across Australian science – from researchers beginning their scientific journey to those whose lifelong dedication has reshaped our understanding of the world. Almost all awards are made possible by the generosity of our donors.

33 Award schemes and funding programs

236 Volunteers

32,746 Hours contributed

23 Honorific awardees

26 Research awardees

43 Travelling fellowships funded

11 Participation support awardees

2 Conferences funded

Professor Jane Visvader FAA FAHMS FRS, 2025 winner of the Ruby Payne-Scott Medal, with Minister for Science Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Academy President Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC, and Academy Chief Executive Anna-Maria Arabia OAM.

PREMIER HONORIFIC AWARDS

Matthew Flinders Medal and Lecture
Distinguished Professor Yuri Kivshar FAA, Australian National University

> *"When I came to Australia more than 30 years ago, I didn't expect I would achieve something like this."*
>
> **Distinguished Professor Yuri Kivshar FAA, Matthew Flinders Medal**

Ruby Payne-Scott Medal and Lecture
Professor Jane Visvader FAA FAHMS FRS, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

CAREER HONORIFIC AWARDS

David Craig Medal and Lecture
Professor Alison Rodger FAA, Australian National University

Hannan Medal
Professor Noel Cressie FAA, University of Wollongong

Jaeger Medal
Professor Hugh O'Neill FAA FRS, Monash University

Suzanne Cory Medal
Professor Steven Chown FAA, Monash University

Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal
Professor George Willis FAA, University of Newcastle

MID-CAREER HONORIFIC AWARDS

Jacques Miller Medal
Professor James Hudson, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Nancy Millis Medal
Associate Professor Natasha Hurley-Walker, Curtin University

EARLY-CAREER HONORIFIC AWARDS

Anton Hales Medal
Associate Professor Stijn Glorie, Adelaide University

Christopher Heyde Medal
Associate Professor Anita Liebenau, University of New South Wales

Dorothy Hill Medal
Dr Linda Armbrecht, University of Tasmania

Fenner Medal
Associate Professor Katherine Moseby, University New South Wales and Associate Professor Daniel Noble, Australian National University

Gottschalk Medal
Associate Professor Amy Cain, Macquarie University and Associate Professor Shom Goel, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

> *"My dad was always a huge supporter of my career ... A story he told about how he was one of the first civilians to receive antibiotics in the 40s, and how penicillin saved him from life-threatening pneumonia as an infant, was always a motivator for me to pursue the development of antibiotics."*
>
> **Associate Professor Amy Cain, Gottschalk Medal**

John Booker Medal
Associate Professor Qianbing Zhang, Monash University

Le Fèvre Medal
Dr Fengwang Li, University of Sydney

Moran Medal
Professor Margarita Moreno-Betancur, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and The University of Melbourne

Pawsey Medal
Associate Professor Claudia Lagos, The University of Western Australia and Dr Daria Smirnova, Australian National University

Ruth Stephens Gani Medal
Dr Ira Deveson, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Explore the research of the 2025 Honorific Awardees

POLICY INFLUENCE AND EXPERT ADVICE

The Academy brings together leading experts to ensure that scientific evidence informs decisions at every level. With the rise of misinformation and growing geopolitical instability, trusted and independent advice has never been more critical.

Our Fellows, together with the National Committees for Science and our team of science policy experts, translate evidence into clear, actionable advice. We also advocate for policies that strengthen Australia's science system – because a thriving research sector powers Australia's productivity and prosperity.

18 National Committees for Science

181 Volunteers

8,054 Hours contributed

23 Submissions to government

Submissions to government spanned topics from food security to algal blooms, alongside eight additional publications and research outputs.

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

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE, AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE: SCIENCE 2035

Australian science, Australia's future: Science 2035 is the most ambitious policy undertaking in the Academy's history and the first time Australia has systematically mapped its science capability against future needs. Using a novel methodology combining expert workshops, foresight techniques and data forecasting, it assessed the nation's scientific capacity to meet three defining challenges: technological transformation, demographic change, and climate change and decarbonisation.

The report identified projected capability gaps across eight fields most in-demand by 2035: agricultural science, AI, biotechnology, climate science, data science, epidemiology, geoscience and materials science. The gaps span workforce, infrastructure and coordination. "Simply put, our sovereign capacity to innovate and respond to emerging challenges … is undermined," said Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE, Chair of the advisory panel. The report now provides decision-makers with an evidence-based blueprint to act – and is already changing how Australia approaches science education, workforce planning and policy.

STRATEGIC EXAMINATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Australian Government's Strategic Examination of Research and Development – the most comprehensive review of the national R&D system in a generation – presented a unique opportunity to reshape the policies and investment settings that underpin Australia's science capability. The Academy engaged substantively and urgently, making clear that restoring Australia's sovereign science capability requires more than goodwill. We called for a 10-year investment plan to return R&D spending to at least the OECD average, with targeted support for the eight capability areas identified in *Australian science, Australia's future*. We proposed an R&D levy that is budget-positive, incentivises industry investment, and creates a dedicated revenue stream for the fundamental research that underpins future discovery. As the examination progressed, we were also explicit about overlooked risks: "Fundamental research is the wellspring of innovation. There is no 'D' without 'R'."

MORE EXPERT ADVICE AND ADVOCACY IN 2025

ASTRONOMY DECADAL PLAN 2026–2035

The next 10 years of Australian astronomy were charted in a plan led by the Academy's National Committee for Astronomy, outlining the big questions astronomers are seeking to answer – from the mystery of dark matter to whether we're alone in the universe – and what the sector needs to explore these frontiers.

BRINGING AUSTRALIA'S SUPERCOMPUTERS UP TO SPEED

The Academy called for strategic planning and targeted investment in next-generation high-performance computing and data (HPCD) infrastructure, including exascale computing – an essential capability of all modern economies.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A series of eight discussion papers explored the preparedness of the Australian science sector for AI advances.

ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Australia's scientific leadership in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean has never been more critical than in this era of climate change and increased geopolitical tension. The Academy called for a strategic research agenda for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and an uplift in scientific investment.

THE CASE FOR CLEAN INDOOR AIR

Everyone is affected by poor indoor air quality – from pollutants to pathogens. Alongside Burnet Institute and international partners, the Academy co-led global efforts at the United Nations to declare healthy indoor air a human right, while an Academy report set out evidence-based policy pathways to improve air quality in Australian public buildings.

A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Professor Michael Dopita AM FAA (1946–2018) was a world-leading astronomer whose vision for a stronger, science-driven Australia endures through a generous bequest. His gift supported the production of two future-focused policy initiatives: the *Astronomy decadal plan 2026–2035* and *Australian science, Australia's future: Science 2035*.

COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Academy plays a unique role connecting science with diverse audiences. We champion Australian science on the world stage, enable strategic international partnerships and elevate the country's expertise into global networks. We are also a trusted, independent source of verified science that informs, engages and inspires.

> **2.3**M Social media followers • **3**M+ Social media impressions • **4,500** Media mentions • **900**K Website visitors • **84** Web stories produced • **48** Videos produced • **33**K Newsletter subscribers • **15** Events (in-person and online)

GLOBAL TALENT ATTRACTION PROGRAM

In 2025, the Academy launched the Global Talent Attraction Program – a national, coordinated initiative designed to attract leading scientists and technologists relocating from the United States to Australia. Operating across institutions, disciplines and state governments, the program has sought to strengthen Australia's research system by enabling world-class expertise to contribute to national capability and excellence.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Academy continued to position science as both a global public good and a tool of diplomacy in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment. In 2025, we deepened ties across Europe, the Pacific and the wider Asia–Pacific region.

HORIZON EUROPE

Efforts to deepen Australia's research collaborations with Europe progressed significantly, with a forum at the Shine Dome in July exploring the strategic benefits of association with the world's biggest research and innovation funding program. The Academy welcomed the start of exploratory talks between Australia and the European Commission on a possible connection.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC)

An Academy delegation attended the ISC General Assembly and Global Knowledge Dialogue in Muscat, Oman, where Academy representatives convened a panel discussion on the changing context for science diplomacy in a fractured geopolitical world.

PACIFIC ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Pacific Academy of Sciences celebrated its one-year anniversary with the election of 13 eminent scholars as Fellows. The Pacific Academy of Sciences was established with support from the Australian Academy of Science and the ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific, giving Pacific science a collective voice for the first time.

SCIENCE20 (S20)

The Academy coordinated Australia's participation in the S20 Meetings in South Africa on 'Climate change and wellbeing', with Australian experts contributing to the resulting science-driven action statement.

ISC REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific (ISC RFP-AP), hosted by the Australian Academy of Science, is the region's hub for scientific collaboration, capacity-building and policy engagement. In 2025, workshops engaged more than 1,000 participants on topics from sustainable plastics to women's leadership in science, generating policy recommendations, toolkits and new networks.

The Asia Science Mission for Sustainability began piloting a grassroots, community-led approach to science through demonstration sites in the Philippines and West Bengal. The Asia–Pacific Academic Mentoring Program expanded to new countries and launched in Australia at Science at the Shine Dome with 20 mentees from across the region. Funding supported projects through the Seeds of Science, Asia program and Tupu Pacific Research Grants.

Dr Surinder Singh FAA FTSE at the Science20 meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, in February 2025.

PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S SCIENTIFIC LEGACY

The Basser Library and Fenner Archives, housed at the Shine Dome, provide a rare and irreplaceable window into the history of Australian science. Guided by Fellows and archival experts, the Academy is focused on digitisation, Conversations with Australian Scientists, and enhancing discoverability and access. The Academy has established the Basser Library and Fenner Archives Fund to secure this vision for the long term. David Anstice AO has generously made the first commitment to this new Fund.

In 2025, 19 at-risk magnetic tape pieces – including rare 1968 film footage from astrophysicist Professor Ronald Giovanelli FAA – were digitised with support from a Heritage Community Grant from the National Library of Australia. Three additional tapes recording famed neurophysiologist and Nobel Laureate Sir John Eccles AC FAA FRS were preserved thanks to a generous private donation. Volunteers contributed 64 hours to photograph and catalogue historic building plans, preserving an important chapter of the Academy's institutional history.

SCIENCE AT THE SHINE DOME 2025

Over three days in September 2025, Australia's scientific community gathered at the iconic Shine Dome in Canberra to honour new Fellows and recognise outstanding honorific awardees.

> **570** Delegates

> **11** Countries represented

We thank our Platinum Partners – the Department of Defence and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources – alongside the University of Sydney (Gala Dinner Partner) and the University of Queensland (Diversity and Inclusion Partner) for their generous support.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

At the 2025 National Symposium, held alongside Science at the Shine Dome, the Academy launched *Australian science, Australia's future: Science 2035*. The event brought together scientists, policymakers and research leaders to confront its findings and debate the path forward. Drawing 251 in-person delegates and 849 online viewers – with more than 1,400 additional event recording views – the symposium marked a turning point in the national conversation about Australia's science future. Thank you to Digital Science, our Event Partner.

SPEAKER SERIES: AI IN SCIENCE

The *AI in Science: the promise, perils and path forward* speaker series explored how AI is driving breakthroughs in health, climate research, agriculture, space exploration and beyond, attracting more than 555 in-person attendees, 1,700 online viewers and 3,600 event recording views. We thank Series Supporters Digital Science and Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre.

Dr Hayley Teasdale, Head of Science Policy and Advice, with Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE at the National Symposium.

BACKING OUR NEXT GENERATION

To face the challenges spanning climate, health and technology, Australia needs future scientists who are talented, confident, creative and diverse. The Academy invests in this pipeline through world-class education and direct support for emerging researchers.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS EMPOWER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The Academy supports Foundation to Year 10 teachers to develop their science and mathematics practice. In 2025, we released new *Science Connections* and *reSolve* resources for secondary science and maths teachers, bringing the work and data of Academy Fellows and other Australian researchers directly into the classroom.

1M+ Resource views

180K Website visitors

SUPPORTING EARLY- AND MID-CAREER RESEARCHERS (EMCRS)

The Academy offers a range of opportunities for EMCRs to access resources, build networks and advance their scientific careers.

$**261**K Theo Murphy Initiative funding (20 projects)

$**182**K Other EMCR fellowships (15 EMCRs)

EMCR FORUM

The Academy's EMCR Forum strengthened engagement with young academies in the Asia–Pacific, expanding opportunities for Australian EMCR representation in global science discussions. The Forum contributed submissions to government on research funding and the Strategic Examination of Research and Development.

FALLING WALLS LAB

The 10th Falling Walls Lab Australia, held at the Shine Dome in partnership with the Embassy of Germany, Merck and EURAXESS, saw 11 finalists pitch to an esteemed jury chaired by Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Tony Haymet FTSE. Three finalists represented Australia at the global finals in Berlin.

LINDAU NOBEL LAUREATE MEETING

The Academy sent a delegation of 10 early-career scientists to the 74th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany, dedicated to chemistry. The delegation was led by the Academy's Foreign Secretary and supported by funding from the Science and Industry Endowment Fund.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN PROGRESSES

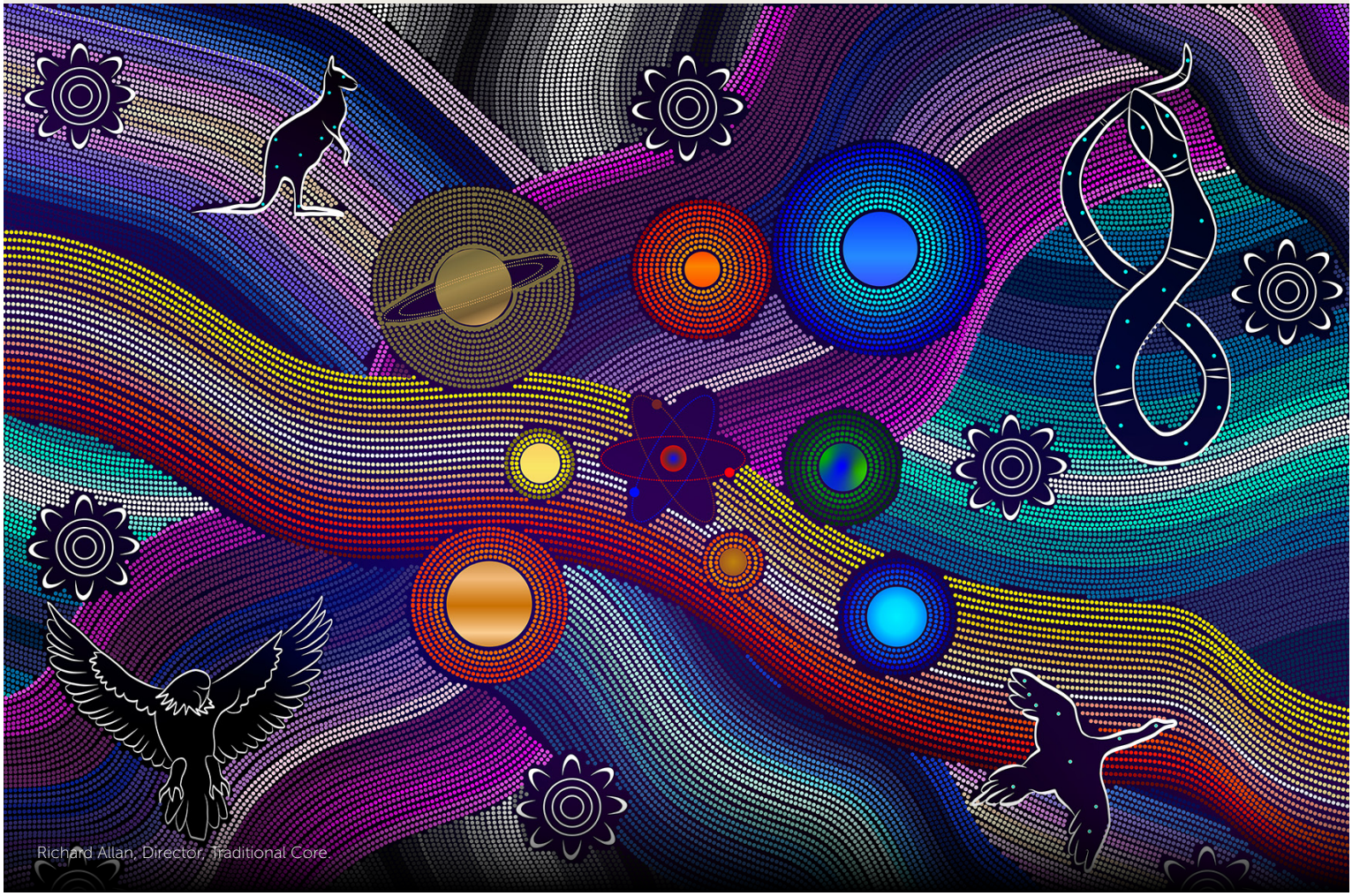
In 2025, the Academy progressed several key commitments under its *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan*. Academy Fellows engaged with Indigenous scientists through a series of yarns held across Australia to inform *Australian science, Australia's future: Science 2035*. This work included case studies on Indigenous data sovereignty, Traditional Knowledges in agricultural science, and epidemiology and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As part of National Reconciliation Week 2025, the Academy hosted *Science, Country and Community: Indigenous Knowledges Challenging the System*. Speakers – including 2025 Young Australian of the Year Dr Katrina Wruck – highlighted the importance of embedding Indigenous perspectives in research, policy and practice.

STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT ACROSS BORDERS

In November, the Academy led a delegation to Aotearoa New Zealand for Taikura, the second summit of the Tri-Academy Partnership on Indigenous Engagement, focused on advancing Indigenous-led international research agendas and transforming academia for Indigenous knowledge holders.

> *"... in the spirit of our Tri-Academy Partnership, we will continue to prioritise building meaningful relationships with Indigenous scholars and knowledge-holders that are grounded in understanding, respect, and reciprocity."*
>
> **— Joint Statement of the Tri-Academy Partnership Presidents**



Richard Allan, Director, Traditional Core.

A TRADITION OF GIVING

THE ENDOWMENT: A LASTING LEGACY

The Endowment was established through the foresight and generosity of donors and Fellows who recognised the need for a stable, long-term funding source to support the Academy's mission and secure its independence. Over the years, gifts from individuals, bequests and strategic investments have helped grow the Endowment, underpinning everything we do.

We are committed to ensuring its longevity and integrity, so the Academy can continue to bring science to the service of the nation for decades to come.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

107 Donors in 2025

26 Consecutive donors (3+ years)

64 Fellow donors

We are deeply grateful to all of our donors for their extraordinary generosity. Thank you for becoming part of the Academy's story, and Australia's future.

Read more about the impact of your giving

VISIONARY CIRCLE

- Sir Jack Ellerton Becker FAA
- Professor GW Kenneth Cavil Bequest
- Estate of the late
- Mr Thomas Lew Davies
- Professor Michael Dopita AM FAA
- Breakthrough Prize Foundation
- The Estate of the late
- Dr Margaret Middleton
- Estate of the late
- Ian Gordon Ross AO FAA
- Estate of the late
- Elizabeth Jane Gray Russell
- Professor John Shine AC FAA FRS

ACADEMY CIRCLE

- Minderoo Foundation
- Professor Brian Anderson AC FAA FTSE FRS and Dianne Anderson
- David Anstice AO
- Professor Michael Barber AO FAA FTSE
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Professor Suzanne Cory AC FAA FAHMS FRS and Professor Jerry Adams FAA
- Dr Jon Day PSM
- Estate of the late
- Lola Rachel Maude Douglas
- Frank J Fenner AC CMG MBE FAA and Mrs Bobbie Fenner
- The Finkel Foundation
- Dr Beth Heyde
- Mr Doug Hooley PSM
- The late Professor John Jaeger FAA FRS
- Distinguished Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC FAA FRS FREng FTSE and Dr Vidya Jagadish
- Estate of the late
- Pauline Marie Johnson
- The late Professor
- Raymond Le Fèvre FAA FRS
- The late Professor Ian McDougall FAA
- Professor John Newton FAA
- Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger AC FAA and Dr John Henstridge
- Rod Rickards Family
- Professor Brian Schmidt AC FAA FRS Nobel Laureate and Dr Jenny Gordon
- Professor Terence Speed FAA FRS
- The late Sir Frederick White KBE FAA FRS
- Jim Williams AO FAA and Family

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A GIFT FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

The Academy's work is made possible by the generosity of our community. We invite you to explore how your support can leave a lasting legacy and contribute to our mission of advancing science for the benefit of all Australians.

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OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Organisational renewal remains central to our ongoing effectiveness and impact. In alignment with the Academy's *Strategic plan 2023–2028*, we have continued a comprehensive renewal of our governance framework, including a full revision of our constitutional documents and a restructure of our governing body to ensure it supports transparent and accountable decision-making.

In 2024 and throughout 2025, we undertook a significant realignment of our workforce and resources – now well advanced – to better deliver on our strategic objectives and enhance cross-functional collaboration for greater impact. This work is expected to be completed during 2026.

ACADEMY COUNCIL

AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

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COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The Academy's work is guided and supported by Committees of Council, whose Chairs and members contribute their expertise across governance, awards, policy, education and international engagement. These committees ensure the Academy delivers on its mission – bringing together the knowledge and judgement of Fellows and external experts to inform decisions, oversee programs and maintain the standards of excellence the Academy is known for. The Academy is deeply grateful to every Chair and committee member for their time, commitment and leadership. Find full details of Committee membership.

OUR PEOPLE

The Academy's impact is ultimately a reflection of its people – both the Fellows who contribute their expertise so generously, and the dedicated staff who turn that expertise into action. Behind every submission to government, every award presented, every early-career researcher supported, and every classroom resource delivered, there is a team whose professionalism, creativity and commitment to the Academy's mission make it all possible. In 2025 – a year of landmark achievements and significant organisational change – that team demonstrated exactly the culture the Academy's work demands: rigorous, collaborative, and deeply invested in the idea that science matters. Together, they are what makes the Academy's mission real.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Anna-Maria Arabia OAM	Chief Executive
Melissa Abberton	Chief Operating Officer
Rochelle Burdge	Head of People and Culture
Kate Groves	Head of Philanthropy and Outreach
Andrew Hood	Head of ICT
Allison Hornery	Head of Programs
Ronit Prawer	Director ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific
Nancy Pritchard	Head of International Affairs
Chris Reid	Head of Governance
Michael Smith	Head of Finance and Administration
Dr Hayley Teasdale	Head of Science Policy and Advice
Dan Wheelahan	Head of Media and Communications

FINANCIAL REPORT

Read the Academy's full *Financial report 2024–25*

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