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Board Communique 86 — August 2022

Dear <<First Name>>,

The Board met in Canberra during **National Science Week** last week, and took the opportunity to welcome 70 or so leaders from across the STEM sector – including ACT Fellows – to our office for breakfast and networking. In the middle of a week of meetings with Ministers, round-tables, public events, and big conversations, it was a welcome opportunity to pause and chat with some of the people who make our sector work, and to get together in person as a Board.

The Board is pleased to advise the Fellowship that following the recent election, in which she was resoundingly endorsed, Dr Katherine Woodthorpe is now the President-Elect of ATSE. As per the **By Laws**, the Board was pleased to invite her to its meeting last week to confirm her as President-Elect and appoint her as a Director. The Board expresses its sincere thanks to the Nominations Committee, chaired by Paul Wood, and all Fellows who voted in the recent election. Katherine's appointment will be announced publicly in mid-September, and she – along with the rest of the Board – will be at the **ACTIVATE** event in October in Sydney. We hope to see you there to welcome new Fellows, celebrate awardees, and take part in what promises to be a stimulating symposium.

The Board also confirmed a number of new committee members. We are grateful to all Fellows who are stepping down, as well as those who are stepping in: they have volunteered their time and expertise to work across Forums, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Audit and Risk Committee. They are:

- Audit and Risk Committee member Andrew Parfitt
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee members Jason Sharples, Janis Cocking and Huanting Wang
- Forum Chairs Shaun Coffey (Agriculture and Food); Sarah Ryan (Energy); Dimity Dornan (Industry and Innovation); David Cook (Infrastructure); Stuart Khan (Water).

The Board is grateful to the Infrastructure Forum for its work on a new position statement on planning for resilience: it's a timely piece of work as extreme weather continues to put our infrastructure to the test. This position statement was formally adopted at the meeting and will be disseminated via the website and newsletter shortly.

Our Fellowship engagement is very high: as the Board considered the end of 2021-22 operational results, we were pleased to note nearly 70% of Fellows have been involved in events, nominations, committees, policy work, programs, and penning articles for our various communications. We are grateful to each of you for the time and thought you put into these endeavours, which ensure our Academy remains vibrant, relevant and impactful.

Nominators and selection committees have done an outstanding job with our awards and a very broad and strong field of new Fellows for 2022: the Board was very pleased at our meeting last week to endorse both awardees and new Fellows (the latter of which will go to Fellowship election shortly). We were particularly delighted to note that we've achieved parity with an equal number of women and men elected for the first time.

On that note, a great number of Fellows will already be aware that a working group led by Janis Cocking and Vice President Membership, Doreen Thomas, has been consulting with a view to shaping our Fellowship to ensure our Academy is reflective of modern Australian STEM. Following extensive consultations with Fellows, Divisions and Forums, and with the guidance of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the working group has brought to the Board a set of short-term recommended changes to our Fellowship selection process, designed to redress historical deficits and support the growth of a diverse Fellowship.

The Board commends to the Fellowship a number of changes, outlined below. The Board is keen to consult with Fellowship, with a final consultation at October Assembly before formally considering these changes at its

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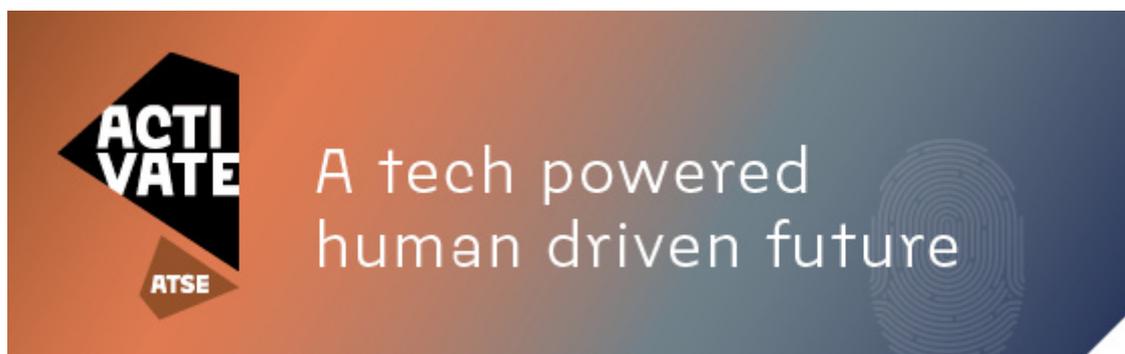
1. From 2023 the Academy's target for new Fellows be adjusted, such that 50% of new Fellows elected through the usual process are women.
2. From 2023, for five years, the Academy direct the membership committee to annually identify up to five women or non-binary people to join the Fellowship, in addition to the usual intake of 25 new Fellows. These additional Fellows must meet all merit-based criteria.
3. From 2023, the Academy should elect as new Fellows up to five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in addition to the usual intake of 25 new Fellows. These additional Fellows must meet all merit-based criteria. This practice should continue until the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Academy's Fellowship achieves parity with representation in the Australian population.

As a separate item, the Board is keen to acknowledge the deep and long-term service to applied science, technology and engineering of many of our Fellows. The Board therefore proposes to establish a Life Fellow category of Fellowship. This honour would be offered to Fellows aged 80 and above. Life Fellows would not be asked to pay membership fees, and would continue to receive all benefits of Fellowship, being released from the expectation of formal service to the Academy. Should Life Fellows wish to stand for office or participate in elections, they will be welcome to continue paying membership fees.

The Vice President, Membership, Vice President, Diversity and CEO intend to meet and discuss these proposed changes with as many Fellows as possible, including Divisions, Forums, Assembly, and of course any other group of Fellows who is interested to discuss them. Details of the consultation will be communicated to Fellows shortly: we encourage you to participate in this consultation, and hope you can attend Assembly in Sydney on October 25 to join the discussion; a Fellows' networking event will be held that evening, at which we'll meet our new Fellows.

Yours sincerely,

President Hugh Bradlow FTSE
on behalf of the Directors of the Board
23 August 2022



[Register Here](#)

ACTIVATE 2022 — A tech powered, human driven future

We are delighted to invite you to the ATSE **ACTIVATE** STEM symposium at the Sydney Masonic Centre from 25-27 October.

The event will be the first opportunity for all Fellows to connect in-person in quite some time. ACTIVATE

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We are pleased to offer a discounted rate for all of our Fellows and we can't wait for the opportunity to meet, network and see everyone face-to-face for this special occasion.

Below you can select ticket options and functions to join us in Sydney for ACTIVATE 2022.

ATSE Symposium Daily or 2-Day Pass - Register Here

Tuesday October 25

ATSE Assembly

— 10.00am-4:30pm AEST

The **ATSE Assembly** will take place on October 25 and is open to Assembly members and those who wish to observe proceedings.

— 6:30pm-8:30pm AEST

After a long time between ATSE functions, please join us for this **free catered cocktail reception** open to all ATSE Fellows. Create new connections, reconnect with colleagues, and meet the 2022 new Fellows.

Wednesday October 26

ACTIVATE Day 1

— 9.00am-5.00pm AEST

ACTIVATE Day 1 will induct ATSE's 2022 new Fellows and feature a variety of panel discussions where they discuss their work to address the climate crisis, the STEM skills crisis and commercialise research.

Thursday October 27

ACTIVATE Day 2

— 9.00am-5.00pm AEST

Features **high profile international and local keynote speakers**, and six concurrent sessions featuring over 40 panellists on how to shape a tech powered, human driven future in Australia.

Annual ATSE Awards Gala Dinner - Register Here

Wednesday October 26

— 6:30pm-10:00pm AEST

The ATSE Awards will celebrate the outstanding achievement of Australians across five prestigious award categories, working in applied science, technology and engineering at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf. Join us for a night of awarding outstanding innovators, live entertainment, dinner and excellent company.

ATSE President's Breakfast - Register Here

Wednesday October 26

— 7:15am-8:45am AEST

Hosted by **ATSE President Hugh Bradlow**, join an exclusive breakfast event as ATSE launches our *Skills for a Technology Powered, Human Driven Future* report.

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If you prefer not to, or are unable to join us in-person at ACTIVATE, you can still be actively engaged through our livestream pass.

ACTIVATE is proudly supported by our Platinum Sponsors



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Spread the word

Are you able to help spread the word about the ATSE ACTIVATE Symposium and ATSE Awards via your own social networks? We have created a social media kit where you can download ready made visual assets, copy and hashtags ready to share.

>> [Share ACTIVATE via social media](#)

>> [Read the latest ACTIVATE media release here](#)

ACTIVATE 2022 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We're looking for sponsors interested in supporting ACTIVATE 2022. Partnership packages are available at the Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels. Individuals and organisations can directly support attendance through scholarships, or support a specific element of ACTIVATE such as the Annual ATSE Awards Gala Dinner.

For further information please contact our Partnerships Director, [Gita Karwal](#)

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The Academy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet and work.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.