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ANNUAL REPORT 2026



**REPORTING PERIOD:
FEB 2025 - FEB 2026**

**SOUTHERN
eDNA SOCIETY**



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SeDNAs Members and Colleagues,

This year has felt like a turning point for SeDNAs. We are no longer just building a network – we are actively shaping infrastructure, partnerships, and conversations that will influence how eDNA is practiced and applied across our region.

We've launched a revamped website and begun building the SeDNAs Knowledge Hub as a living platform for resources, opportunities, and shared expertise. Our First Nations working group is now meeting regularly, moving from intention to action in embedding respectful and meaningful collaboration into our activities.

We've strengthened partnerships nationally and internationally, signed new MOUs, supported FAIR, CARE and FAIRe data practices, relaunched our webinar series, and continued to connect researchers, practitioners, and policy voices across Australasia and beyond.

What stands out most is the momentum. SeDNAs is increasingly recognised as a regional anchor in a rapidly evolving global eDNA landscape. The energy, ideas, and leadership coming from our members – especially our early career researchers – are driving that growth.

The year ahead is about building on this foundation: expanding the Knowledge Hub, deepening engagement, and preparing for the next conference in 2027. Thank you for being part of this community and for continuing to shape what SeDNAs becomes.

Anastasija Zaiko





SeDNAs Board members (left-to right): Cecilia Villacorta Rath, Jo-Ann Stanton, Helen Barclay, Clare Adams, Maarten De Brauwer, Dianne Gleeson, Oliver Berry, Anastasija Zaiko

STATUS AND GOVERNANCE

SeDNAs continues to operate as an incorporated society and registered charity, meeting all governance and reporting obligations. During the year, the Board focused on strengthening internal structures, clarifying portfolios, and improving operational maturity.

The AGM remains a key mechanism for member input and strategic alignment.

The Board is responsible for ensuring the organisation works towards its Mission and has strong governance in serving its growing membership base (currently ~80 members).

Pending approval by members at the 18th Feb Annual General Meeting, four existing Board members will extend their term and four Board members will stand down – opening up four Board roles for nomination.



Membership across Australasia and internationally remains active and engaged. The past year marked our first full operational cycle with paid memberships, establishing a stable foundation for Society activities and enabling more structured planning.

Our focus has been on building a more participatory community by creating opportunities for members to contribute beyond conferences and events. This includes engagement in working groups aligned with our purpose goals, particularly First Nations collaboration and development of the Knowledge Hub.

Member feedback continues to emphasize the importance of shaping the future of the field, building professional networks, and increasing visibility of opportunities – priorities that are guiding how we structure Society activities moving forward.

We are deliberately moving toward a model that supports year-round involvement. Through task forces, digital resource development, webinars, and collaborative projects, we aim to foster shared ownership and sustained engagement across the community.

SeDNAs AGM meeting, February 2025, Wellington, New Zealand



MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Balance Sheet (as at 30 June 2025)

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Bank		
ANZ Transaction Account	29,903.05	23,798.08
Stripe AUD	98.00	643.98
Total Bank	30,001.05	24,442.06
Total Assets	30,001.05	24,442.06
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable 2	4,125.00	6,592.50
1 Membership Prepayments 2024/2025	-	10,630.00
Membership Prepayments 2025/2026	3,440.00	-
Total Current Liabilities	7,565.00	17,222.50
Total Liabilities	7,565.00	17,222.50
Net Assets	22,436.05	7,219.56 3
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	15,216.49	7,219.56
Retained Earnings	7,219.56	-
Total Equity	4 22,436.05	7,219.56

Profit and Loss (as at 30 June 2025)

	2025	2024
Trading Income		
Interest Income	1.16	0.21
Membership Income	5 20,280.00	-
PD Event Income	-	24,335.00 6
Total Trading Income	20,281.16	24,335.21
Gross Profit	20,281.16	24,335.21
Operating Expenses		
Accounting & Audit	2,475.00	3,300.00
Bank & Merchant Fees	325.63	516.73
ICT - Accounting Software	343.62	240.00
Legal	-	3,554.00
Office Expenses	1,920.42	1,237.50
PD Event Expenses	-	8,267.42
Total Operating Expenses	7 5,064.67	17,115.65
Net Profit	8 15,216.49	7,219.56

- 1- Memberships are a Liability until the subscription period has ended.
- 2- Invoices paid in the 2024/2025 financial year.
- 3- Funds remaining from the 2023/2024 financial year. Become an asset in the 24/25 financial report.
- 4- SeDNAs available funds as of 30 June 2025.
- 5- Income earned from the Founding Membership scheme
- 6- Income earned from the Air eDNA workshop
- 7- Total operating costs for the 2024/2025 year. This gives a baseline cost for running the Society.
- 8- Income and expenses generated from the 2025 conference will be counted in the 2025/2026 report.



2nd Australian & New Zealand Environmental DNA Conference, February 2025, Wellington, New Zealand

2025 CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE


**SOUTHERN
eDNA SOCIETY**

**2nd Australian & New Zealand
ENVIRONMENTAL DNA
CONFERENCE**

eDNA Synergy -
Innovate, Collaborate, Implement

18-21 February 2025
Shed 6, Wellington, New Zealand

316

TOTAL
DELEGATES

254

IN-PERSON
DELEGATES

62

ONLINE
DELEGATES

178

PRESENTATIONS

24

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A major achievement this year was the revamp of the SeDNAs website, providing improved usability and a modernised digital presence. This includes integration of the Knowledge Hub infrastructure, designed to support eDNA literacy, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. While the technical framework is in place, content development is ongoing.

The First Nations working group was launched and now meets regularly. Led by Co-Vice President Clare I. M. Adams, this group is focused on co-developing a respectful, long-term strategy for engagement embedded across SeDNAs activities. All members are welcome to contribute, particularly those identifying as First Nations or Indigenous to Oceania and Australasia.

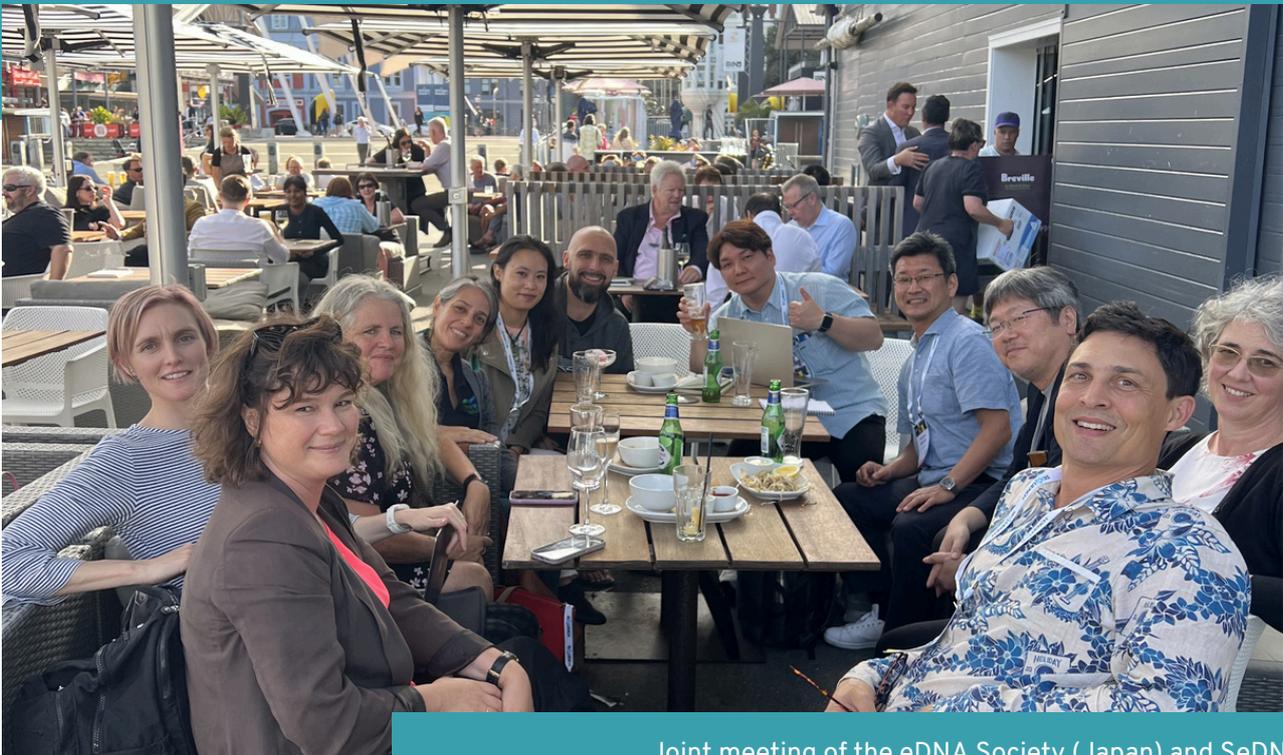
We have also re-launched the SeDNAs webinar series. These sessions provide a platform for researchers, practitioners, and partners to share work across the region, and recordings are openly available via our established YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@SeDNASociety>), extending access beyond live attendance.

The Society continues to actively support FAIR, CARE, and FAIRe data practices, including co-support of data workshops and guidance on best practice for publication and data reuse.

The launch of the SeDNAs Publishing Hub in partnership with **PeerJ** provided a dedicated publishing home for our community and already hosts 28 eDNA articles, increasing visibility of research from our region. We also maintain partnerships with two leading journals in the field, **Environmental DNA** and **Metabarcoding and Metagenomics (MBMG)**, supporting accessible dissemination pathways and tangible publishing benefits for SeDNAs members.

eDNA sample collection. Photo credit: CSIRO, Australia





Joint meeting of the eDNA Society (Japan) and SeDNAs boards

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

SeDNAs continues to strengthen its international profile through a combination of formal partnerships and active dialogue with aligned organisations globally.

During the reporting period, we progressed formal collaborations with **Australian BioCommons**, focused on advancing accessible and reproducible analytical tools and digital infrastructure for the eDNA community, and with the **eDNA Society (Japan)**, supporting cross-regional knowledge exchange and coordinated community development.

We remain closely engaged with colleagues involved in establishing a **European eDNA/omics Society**, sharing experience and contributing perspective as that initiative takes shape. SeDNAs also maintains ongoing dialogue with other initiative groups in this space, including the North American eDNA community steered by the **eDNA Collaborative**. Through participation in discussions on standardisation, validation frameworks, and data interoperability, SeDNAs ensures that southern hemisphere perspectives and practical implementation experience are represented in global eDNA conversations.



SeDNAs ECRs and Board members Clare Adams and Maarten De Brauwer

PRIORITIES FOR 2026-2027

Key priorities for the coming year centre on consolidating and expanding our core strategic initiatives. This includes further development of the Knowledge Hub, both in terms of content and technical functionality, and continued progress of the First Nations engagement framework through structured, long-term collaboration. We will strengthen support for member-led working groups and activities, increase interim events and community engagement between conferences, and advance preparations for the 3rd SeDNAs Conference in Canberra.

We will also explore new partnership and funding opportunities to support Society goals and provide stronger support for Early Career Researchers working in the eDNA field.

These priorities will be further refined and formally confirmed by the incoming Board to ensure alignment with member input and the Society's evolving direction. Across all activities, we remain committed to inclusivity, transparency, financial sustainability, and delivering clear value to our members.



The Board thanks working group leads, committee members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and all SeDNAs members for their continued support.

SeDNAs remains a community-driven society, and its progress reflects the collective effort of its members

