

Mr Toss Gascoigne

Curriculum vitae

Skills overview

Toss Gascoigne is a science communication specialist. His skills are based on his experience in:

- Leading teams to manage complicated events
- Designing websites and writing content for 3 national organisations
- Writing reports, correspondence, media releases
- Managing an office and staff, documenting processes
- Designing and running training workshops in communication: writing, speaking, media,
- Giving positive feedback to workshop participants
- Developing a schedule and training modules for workshops
- Designing events to impact on public policy
- Working with sponsors to provide value and satisfaction
- Acting as media spokesperson for national organisations
- Chairing meetings to achieve consensus decision-making

Employment history

2011 – current	Consultant, Toss Gascoigne and Associates
2009-2011	Executive Director, Australian Science Innovations
2008-2009	Advisor to Vice-Chancellor, The University of Canberra
2003-2008	Founding Executive Director, Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
1995-2003	Executive Director, the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS). Now re-named Science and Technology Australia.
1990-1995	Communication Manager, Centre for Environmental Mechanics, CSIRO Canberra
1970-1990	Teaching in United Kingdom and Tasmania

Education

1971	Teachers Certificate, University of Tasmania
1967	Bachelor of Arts (Politics, History, English), Australian National University

Experience

Toss is a consultant specialising in science communication. He has run hundreds of training workshops in Australia, the Pacific and a dozen other countries, working with Jenni Metcalfe. These workshops have focussed on science communication, how to reach different audiences and explain complex concepts. He is familiar with the Pacific, having run training workshops or consultancies in New Caledonia, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Vanuatu. In June 2019, with Econnect, he ran a week-long communication workshop in Brisbane for 19 biosecurity officers working in ten Pacific countries.

Toss organised an address to the National Press Club in Canberra in 2013, featuring SPC CEO Dr Jimmy Rodgers in an address carried live by ABC TV. The audience in the room were from Pacific High Commissions and embassies, together with representatives of donor agencies, researchers with Pacific interests and agencies of the Australian Government. The event was an opportunity to deliver a key message to Pacific interests in Australia.

Toss served as Executive Director for three national organisations for the 15 years period from 1995: the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS); the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS); and Australian Science Innovations (ASI). These positions required the management of events, drafting policy documents to influence government, working with a Board and sponsor groups, and writing and editing reports. Prior to that he worked as communication manager in CSIRO, and as a teacher in England and Tasmania.

As Executive Director he worked with politicians, bureaucrats and senior figures in the research community on a regular basis. Toss designed and organised *Science meets Parliament*, a major event in the national science calendar which brought 160 scientists to Canberra for one-on-one meetings with members of Parliament. The event began in 1999 and was so successful it has been copied by other organisations and by researcher groups across Europe. He organised 8 similar events, and they continue today.

Toss brings to consultancy work not only a good working knowledge of Pacific issues, but also international best practice in science communication.

Professional associations

Australian Science Communicators: Life Member and (former) President

The Network for the Public Communication of Science and Technology: Life Member and (former) President and Treasurer (1996-current)

Publications (selected)

Gascoigne, Toss (editor). *The emergence of modern science* ANU Press (in press)

Toss Gascoigne and Jenni Metcalfe *Training scientists to communicate in a changing world in Theory and Best Practices in Science Communication Training*, Todd P. Newman (editor), Routledge 2020

Gascoigne, T.H. *Review Small country, Big Talk* ed. Brian Trench, Padraig Murphy, Declan Fahy *Journal of Science Communication (JCom) Italy* 2018

Germana Barata, Graca Caldas and Toss Gascoigne *Brazilian science communication research: national and international contributions*. *Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências (Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences)* Brazil 2017

Gascoigne, T.H. *How much science does an ordinary citizen need to know?* *SCANZ Conference, Dunedin* 2016

Gascoigne, Toss *Issues in science communication*. Roundtable Annual Conference, Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST), Beijing 2017

Gascoigne, T.H. et al *Is science communication its own field?* *Journal of Science Communication (JCom)* 9 (3) September. Italy 2010