



**2008 Annual Report of the  
Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.**



# 2008 Annual Report of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

## Annual General Meeting of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

ABN: 32 004 748 118

to be held on Thursday 13 November 2008 at  
4.30pm

STAV House, 5 Munro Street, Coburg

## Agenda

### Attendance

### Apologies & proxy votes

#### 1. Minutes of Reconvened AGM held on 17 January 2008

*Motion 1:*

That the minutes of the reconvened AGM held on 17 January be accepted.

#### 2. Annual Report (Available on STAV website)

*Motion 2:*

That the Annual Report Year ended 30 June 2008 be accepted.

#### 3. Appointment of Auditor for 2009

*Motion 3:*

That SMS Audits Plus Pty Ltd be appointed as Auditors for 2009

### STAV Council

#### Council for 2009

Soula Bennett (President Elect), Cameron Smith, Joanna Alexander, Christopher Neilsen, Joanne Roberts, Catherine Zerbe

## President's Report 2008

STAV continues to be a professional association of Victorian science educators. Members include those teaching science in both the primary and secondary sectors and science educators and researchers in the tertiary sectors and individuals with an interest in science education.

### STAV's goals are to:

- Establish and maintain both financial and intellectual independence.
- Represent the collective voice of science educators in Victoria.
- Contribute to the policy formulation relating to Science Education.
- Support and maintain special interest groups within STAV.
- Provide a range of resources and services to support science educators.
- Provide for and encourage student participation in a range of challenging science activities.
- Promote the importance of science education to the community.
- Recognise significant contributions by STAV members to science education.

### Highlights of the 2007 - 2008 period include:

#### 1. Appointment of a new Patron:

We warmly welcome Professor Peter Rathjen as STAV's patron. Prof Rathjen has a longstanding involvement in Embryonic Stem (ES) Cell research and is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research at the University of Melbourne.

#### 2. Participation in the National Curriculum Forum:

workshops bringing together science educators from around Australia.

#### 3. Partnership with VCAA in hosting a joint National Curriculum Forum for Victorian science educators and continuing to work with VCAA on the implementation of VELS and the review of the VCE Psychology Study Design.

## Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

4. Establishment of partnerships with the following organizations:

- In2Science Peer Mentoring.
- Tall Poppy Campaign; programs where Tall Poppies engage with students in schools and during external workshops.
- Scientists in Schools; supporting the promotion of the program.

5. STAV has maintained contact with organizations involved in science education. These include:

- Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) in the implementation of the STELR initiative.
- Royal Society of Victoria in connection with a student expedition to Antarctica.
- University of Melbourne Science Faculty involving the pilot project; Science Communicators and the Herald Sun/Melbourne University Science Journalism Competition.

6. Development of an on-line survey for science educators across Victoria, for the purpose of giving feedback on the ways in which STAV can best support its members.

7. The conduct of the following conferences:

- VCE subject conferences in:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Environmental Science
  - Physics
  - Psychology
- Beginning Science Teachers
- Primary Science
- ICT and Science
- STAVCON

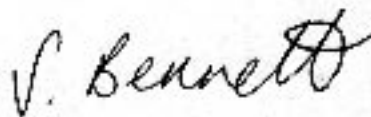
8. The production and/or distribution of materials to support science education, including:

- LabTalk
- Let's Find Out
- A full range of trial exams for all units of VCE sciences except Environmental Science.
- Handbooks for science coordinators, primary science and beginning science teachers.
- A large range of multi media science units
- Books and other support materials.

9. STAV has participated in the governance of ASTA through its representation on ASTA Council. This has occurred during teleconferences and at the annual ASTA Council Meeting preceding CONASTA during July.

10. STAV membership on the Council of Professional Teachers Associations of Victoria (CPTAV) has enabled us to pursue matters of common interest with like associations, in particular issues involving DEECD support programs, liaison with VCAA over curriculum development and implementation, and with the VIT in relation to professional learning activities and teacher registration.

11. Participant in the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Mathematics and Science, with further meetings planned for 2009.



Soula Bennett

Acting STAV President



## 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

### Appointment of Proxy Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (address)

being a member of Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

Membership Number: .....

appoint \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of proxy holder) (address of proxy holder)

Membership Number: .....

being a member of the Association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Thursday 13 November 2008.

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against\* the following resolutions:

1. That the minutes of the Reconvened AGM held on 17 January 2008 as tabled be accepted.  
*in favour/against*
2. That the Annual Report year ended 30 June 2008 be accepted.  
*in favour/against*
3. Appointment of Auditor for 2009.  
*in favour/against*

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Association member)

Dated:

\*Delete if not applicable

Fax to: 03 9386 6722

Postal address: STAV House, PO Box 109, Coburg 3058

## Science Teachers' Association of Victoria 2008 Concise Financial Report

Year ended 30 June 2008

### Councillors' Report

The councillors of the Association are pleased to present their report for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

#### Councillors

The names of the councillors in office at the date of this report are:

Cameron Smith	President
Soula Bennett	Vice President
Christopher Neilsen	
Joanne Roberts	
Joanna Alexander	
Catherine Zerbe	
Suzanne O'Shannessy	

#### Operating Results

The financial results of the Association saw the financial year close with a deficit of \$26,791 (2007 \$27,007 deficit).

#### Review of Operations

A review of the operations of the Association during the financial year and the results of those operations found that during the year, the Association continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements.

#### Significant Changes in State of Affairs

During the year there was no significant change in the nature of the Association's activities.

#### Principal Activity

The principal activity of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria is to promote the interests of science teachers and the teaching of science in the State of Victoria. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### After Balance Date Events

The Association migrated to an incorporated association moving from being a company limited by guarantee and registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission under the Corporations Act 1981 to an incorporated association with Victoria's Department of Justice under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

#### Likely Developments

Given the comments above there are no likely developments.

#### Environmental Issues

The Association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

#### Councillors Benefits

All councillors serve the Association in an honorary capacity. No councillors received or became entitled to receive during or since the end of the financial year a benefit because of a contract made by the Association or with a firm of which a councillor is a member, or an entity in which a councillor has a substantial financial interest.

#### Indemnification of Officers or Auditor

The Association paid insurance premiums for directors and officers professional indemnity. This is in terms of the Association's constitution.

#### Proceedings on Behalf of the Association

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Association or intervene in any proceedings to which the Association is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Association for all or any part of those proceedings. The Association was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Council

Cameron Smith, President

Soula Bennett, Vice President

Dated: 16th October 2008



## Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
<b>Income</b>		
Membership income	156,464	170,407
Journal advertising	16,064	16,212
Interest received	1,597	1,679
Other income - member activities	57,974	66,865
Contribution from Science Victoria	339,587	382,000
ASTA Surplus Share	1(g) 65,000	-
Grants	57,719	13,000
Sponsorship	-	2,773
	694,405	652,936
<b>Expenses</b>		
Membership subscription costs	2,268	1,862
Office expenses	50,022	52,048
Remuneration costs	353,216	367,425
IT operation expenses	6,347	6,118
Depreciation	23,097	20,524
Journals & technical	53,176	59,932
ASTA affiliation	2 55,983	72,269
CONASTA Costs	-	2,373
Telephone	11,600	11,746
Bad Debt - ASTA surplus share	1(g) 65,000	-
Grants	2,000	23,850
Learning programs	50,350	53,300
VCAA Curriculum Contract	42,238	-
Other	5,898	8,796
	721,195	679,943
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(26,791)</b>	<b>(27,007)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2008

Assets	2008	2007
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash Assets	115,238	196,725
Receivables	224,361	93,229
Prepayments	5,119	4,118
	344,718	294,072
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	3 624,003	644,534
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>968,721</b>	<b>938,606</b>

# Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

## Statement of Financial Position (continued) as at 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	114,227	43,271
Provisions <span style="float: right;">4</span>	69,985	80,256
GST payable to ATO	7,022	10,801
	191,234	134,328
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>777,487</b>	<b>804,278</b>
<b>Statement Of Changes In Equity</b>		
Accumulated funds at beginning	804,278	831,286
Surplus/(deficit) for Year	(26,791)	(27,007)
<b>Accumulated funds at end of year</b>	<b>777,487</b>	<b>804,278</b>
<b>Statement Of Cash Flows For the Year ended 30 June 2008</b>		
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from members and others	1,471,094	245,578
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,554,179)	(598,598)
Science Victoria	-	382,000
Interest received	1,597	1,679
<i>Net cash provided / (used in) operating activities</i>	(81,488)	30,659
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>	(81,488)	30,659
Cash at beginning of financial year	196,725	166,066
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>115,238</b>	<b>196,725</b>



	2008	2007
<b>Note 2: ASTA</b>		
Membership fees	6,846	27,183
Science Journals	27,252	45,086
Other	21,885	-
	<b>55,983</b>	<b>72,269</b>
<b>Note 3: Property, plant &amp; equipment</b>		
Property, plant & equipment - at cost	754,866	849,172
Property, plant & equipment - Accumulated depreciation	(130,863)	(204,638)
	<b>624,003</b>	<b>644,534</b>
<b>Comprising</b>		
<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>		
At cost	96,872	89,808
Additions	2,566	7,064
Fully depreciated assets	(96,872)	-
	2,566	96,872
Accumulated depreciation	-	(79,548)
Fully depreciated assets	-	-
	2,566	17,324
Depreciation	(855)	(7869)
	1,711	9,455
<b>Property - 5 Munro St. Coburg</b>		
Land - at cost	240,838	240,838
Building - at cost	511,462	511,462
Accumulated depreciation	(117,221)	(104,566)
	394,241	406,896
Depreccation	(12,787)	(12,655)
Property - written down value	381,454	394,241
	622,292	635,079
	<b>624,003</b>	<b>644,534</b>
<b>Note 4: Provisions</b>		
Print journals	-	14,400
Annual leave	26,086	26,928
Long service leave	37,899	32,929
Other	6,000	6,000
	<b>69,985</b>	<b>80,256</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Basis of accounting

In the councilors' opinion, the Association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports.

This is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared for the sole purpose of complying with the Associations Incorporation Act 2001 (Victoria) requirements to prepare and distribute a financial report to the members and must not be used for any other purpose. The councilors have determined that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards required by the Act.

The financial report is prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year. Comparative information is reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

#### (b) Income tax

The income tax expense or revenue for the period is the tax payable on the current period's taxable income based on the national income tax rate adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised for temporary differences at the tax rates expected to apply when the assets are recovered or liabilities are settled, based on those tax rates. The relevant tax rates are applied to the cumulative amounts of deductible and taxable temporary differences to measure the deferred tax asset or liability. An exception is made for certain temporary differences arising from the initial recognition of an asset or a liability. No deferred tax asset or liability is recognised in relation to these temporary differences if they arose in a transaction, other than a business combination, that at the time of the transaction did not affect either accounting profit or taxable profit or loss.

As a not for profit entity which adopts the 'mutuality' principle, the Association's member income (eg. subscriptions received) is not subject to income tax. A review of the financial records of the Association indicates that there is no income tax payable on non-member income.

#### (c) Revenue recognition

Revenue from member subscriptions is recognised according to the anniversary of the date the member was entitled to be entered on the Association's register of members.

#### (d) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

#### (e) Cash and cash equivalents

For cash flow statement presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

#### (f) Laboratory Technicians' Branch of STAV (LTB-STAV)

The former group of laboratory technicians that has called themselves the Laboratory Technicians' Branch of the Association, has made a number of approaches seeking funds from the Association. The approaches have been rejected. The matter was referred to the Association's legal adviser and there has been no recent correspondence from the group.

#### (g) Australian Science Teachers' Association (ASTA)

The ASTA debt to STAV had been estimated in 2007 at approximately \$65,000. An exact amount could not be determined as ASTA declined to provide the required information.

At that time the STAV 2006/2007 deficit was \$27,007. For 2007/2008 the deficit is \$24,991.

When the debt was raised with ASTA management, a letter was received by the STAV President from the ASTA President. The letter asserted that all past surpluses had been distributed to the member bodies. However, review of the ASTA audited financial statements from 1999 disclosed that of the 4 surpluses only one had involved supposed distributions to member bodies and in that one case the surplus was not distributed to STAV but offset against a STAV debt without reference to STAV Council. At the ASTA annual general meeting in July 2008 a motion was passed to repeal the ASTA Constitution clause 12g) entitling member bodies to 50% of any ASTA operating surplus. STAV's representatives (President & Vice President) voted against the motion. The change did not alter past entitlements. Council eventually decided not to issue a letter to ASTA rebutting the ASTA President's letter and has decided that it wishes to maintain good relations with ASTA and is therefore prepared to write off the \$65,000 debt.

#### ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office of the Association is:  
Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.  
5 Munro Street Coburg Victoria



## COUNCILORS' DECLARATION

The Council has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements. In the opinion of Council the financial report comprising the Report of Council; Income Statement; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows; and Notes to Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

Cameron Smith, President

Soula Bennett, Vice President

Dated: 16 October 2008 Neild Portners;

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of the  
Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

### Scope

We have audited the Special Purpose Financial Report of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. ("STAV") for the financial year ended 30 June 2008 comprising the Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to the financial statements and the Councilors' report and declaration.

STAV Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (Victoria) and are appropriate to the needs of the members.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control). An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the councilors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the councilors' financial reporting under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (Victoria). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of STAV. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members. The councillor's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting requirements under the constitution of STAV. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion. In conducting our audit, we have complied with professional independence requirements. Audit Opinion In my opinion the Special Purpose Financial Report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of STAV as at 30 June 2008 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

Neild Partners

Chartered Accountants



Stanley Neild, CA

Registered Company Auditor

16 October 2008

Surrey Hills, Victoria