



Latest events >>

For the latest events and conference information go to STAV's website:
www.stav.org.au

For information about science activities & competitions go to:
www.stav.org.au

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Conferences/Events

The STAV event calendar which includes all PD/conferences and science activities for the year is available on the STAV website: www.stav.org.au

Physics Workshops 2011

These popular small-group workshops are scheduled for October and November 2011 at STAV House. Opportunities are also available for schools, including regional areas, to conduct the workshops in-house. Refer to our website for more information <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/otherPD.html>

Science Talent Search

Judging day is on Saturday 13 August. More information on pages 4 and 5, and on the STS website www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

Energising Science and Mathematics Education in Victoria

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/mathsciencestrategy.htm>

Science Drama Awards 2011

Performance night is Friday 9 September at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College. STAV members are admitted free of charge. See page 4 for details.

VCE Conferences 2012

Call for sessions is now available.
<http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/confVCE.html>

STAV Council Elections Nomination Form

See page 10 for details.

FREE offers for readers of eContact

STAV has two free offers for readers of eContact only. If you would like a chance to win one of these, please email projects@stav.vic.edu.au with your postal address and phone number. Refer to pages 12 and 13 for more information.



STAV is on Facebook
go to www.stav.org.au



Join STAV on Twitter
www.stav.org.au



STAV Contacts

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Rod Fawns	Don Lugg
Dick Gunstone	Mark Learmonth
Jim Stevenson	

Beginning Science Teachers' Network

Peter Morgan

Psychology Sub-Committee

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Science Victoria

Science Victoria hosts professional development activities on behalf of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. (STAV)

STAV is now an Inc.

STAV has successfully migrated from a company regulated by ASIC to an incorporated association regulated by Victoria's Department of Justice. This change was approved at the 2006 AGM. The change simplifies the laws governing STAV and reduces regulatory costs. It has no other substantial impact.

The Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. (STAV) has a new ABN 59 004 145 329

Contact enquiries



For enquiries about Contact newsletter including advertising opportunities please contact the STAV Publications Officer phone: (03) 9385 3903 or email: publications@stav.vic.edu.au

Contact newsletter is also accessible in an electronic version via email as a PDF. The electronic version is available up to 1 week earlier than the distribution of the printed copies of Contact.

If you prefer to receive Contact newsletter by email rather than the printed version please email STAV: stav@stav.vic.edu.au

President's Report



Science is celebrated in all its glory during August!

We begin the celebrations with National Science Week, now in its 14th Year, commencing August 13th - 21st 2011.

Organisations and schools are hosting events and activities about science, technology and engineering around this year's theme 'React with Chemistry'.

Please visit the following sites for an overview of the events scheduled during National Science Week:

<http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/YourState/VIC/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/Pages/index.aspx>

We also have the public judging day for the Science Talent Search on Saturday 13th August. The following website has information on the venues and times for the judging.

<http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/judgingDay.html>

ACARA continues its consultation process for the Australian Curriculum Science, Senior Years with its national forum hosted in Sydney in which STAV representatives have been invited. Please refer to our website for an update on this forum.

Science Drama Awards

Finals Performance and Awards night, Friday 9th September 7.00 pm, McMillan Hall, Canterbury Girls' College

Soula Bennett

STAV President

Project Officer's Report



VCE Trial Exam orders for Units 2 & 4 are due on Friday 19th August. We accept late orders but can't guarantee that you will get all of the papers you want if stock has run out. Exams will be delivered to schools

by Monday 5th September. We also have limited stock of hardcopy past exams and past exams available on CD up to 2009. Visit the STAV Publishing website for more details <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/trialExams.html> The past exams on CD come with a licence to photocopy and post on your school intranet.

Have a look at STAV Publishing's website to view samples of the array of resources we have for sale <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/publications.html>.

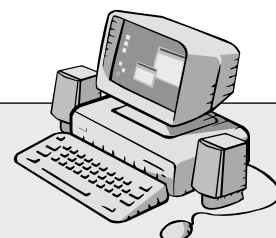
Ellen Finlay

Project Officer, STAV Publishing

Phone: 9385 3999

Fax: 9386 6722

Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au



Do you know?

You can download back issues of *Contact* from the STAV website?

For past editions, go to

<http://www.stav.org.au/html/journalsNewsletter.html>

Do you also know?

STAV has a science education links page on our website.

There are links to various sites for biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, general science, government departments, other subject associations and more... Go to <http://www.stav.org.au/html/scienceLinks.html>

Have a browse

Browse our website to see what information is available to you - you'll find information about conferences and workshops, trial exams, science education resources, membership, our journals and newsletters, Science Talent Search, science events run by other organisations, Science Drama Awards and other student activities, National Science Week, Laboratory Technicians group (LabTech) and much more. Go to <http://www.stav.org.au>

Science Talent Search Report



Creative Writing, Experimental Research and Country entries have arrived at STAV ready for Science Talent Search judging. Many other projects have been produced ready for judging on Saturday 13 August.

Confirmation of entries received is sent to School STS coordinators as part of Pack 2, due on Monday August 29. This is getting close to the end of the term so if there are any queries or changes, they will need to be followed up quickly. Results are announced as part of Schools Pack 3, due in schools on Monday October 10. Students are not notified individually by the STS committee; all communication is via the School STS coordinator.

Exhibition and Presentation Day is on Wednesday 2nd November. This is an exciting and rewarding day for prize-winning students, their teachers and parents.

Leonie Lang

STS Co-Director



Adapting to Climate Change

Activities – free on STAV's website

STAV Publishing has recently completed a suite of activities about adapting to climate change. The activities, suitable for VELS levels 5 & 6, are available online as pdf files. Yvonne Sanders, co-author of STAV Publishing's very popular *Better Links* book (now out of print), is the author. The files have live links embedded and will work well with an electronic whiteboard, or they can be printed in hardcopy and used in conjunction with the accompanying teacher notes to source the urls. The full package includes fifteen activities (seven for level 5 and eight for level 6), suggested answers, links to VELS and comprehensive teacher notes.

www.stav.org.au

Science Drama Awards Report



Great teaching has always been about performance! Imagine transforming science teaching in ways you never thought possible. Every year, groups of students come together to create a narrative through performance where they describe a concept and/or issue. Every year I watch the courage of the performers and can see the work that teachers have undertaken to help shape their understandings and beliefs about Science.

Science Drama has been around now for nineteen years. It emerged in 1993 in the theatrette at Footscray City College where six schools came together to perform in the inaugural competition. I can still recall MacRobertson Girls' High School's performance of the Love Story of Na and Cl (an interpretation of Romeo and Juliet) using great chemistry. I can also recall the work of the late Margaret Kentler and how she used words and movement to engage her primary students.

If you have never heard of the Science Drama Awards and want something to engage your students then make sure you are at the awards this year. The Australian Skeptics have again sponsored the Awards and their support is greatly appreciated. Make sure you book your tickets via STAV Office – STAV members do not pay.

Remember, staging science is easy and it provides a wonderful mechanism for young people to be engaged and enthused about Science!

Performance Night details

Date: Friday, September 9, 2011.

Venue: MacMillan Hall, Canterbury Girls' Secondary College, 16 Mangarra Rd, Canterbury 3126

Time: 7.00pm until 9.00pm

Jan Campione

Director

Science Drama Awards

Receive *Contact* as an eNewsletter

All STAV members and subscribers can choose to receive *Contact* monthly by email.

How do you arrange to get *Contact* as an eNewsletter?

Email STAV stav@stav.vic.edu.au and request that we add you to the eNewsletter distribution list. Make sure you specify the email address you wish to use. You'll automatically receive the next edition by email. You will no longer receive a hardcopy version.

Science Talent Search 2011



2011 Theme: React to Chemistry

Judging Day: Saturday 13 August.

Exhibition and Presentation Day: Wednesday 2 November 2011.

Check the Science Talent Search website for information about the competition
www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts



The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is proud to be the major sponsor for the Science Talent Search.

Science Drama Awards 2011

DVD entries due: 8 August

Preliminary judging: 14 August

Finals performance: 9 September

National Science Week 2011

Theme: React to Chemistry

Date: 13–21 August

New Members

Welcome to the following new individual members of STAV

Barrie Cook

Andrew Moffat

Diane Eastwood

Hugh Woodburn

Katrina Gouramanis

Brian Kerlin

STAV Membership 2011

STAV Individual Membership fees:

Individual Primary	\$125
Individual Secondary	\$140
Individual both Primary/Secondary	\$175
Laboratory Technicians	\$105

The subscription of a member ceases to be effective if payment is not received prior to or on the date of renewal, as a result, membership and all rights pertaining thereto will lapse. Upon payment of all arrears, membership will resume from the date of payment.

How to join STAV

Download a form from our website
www.stav.org.au/html/membership.html

You can also join online from this site.

Alternatively, contact the STAV office for more information: 03 9385 3999

Labtech list

The Labtech list has been set up by STAV as a discussion forum where Laboratory Technicians can exchange information, share ideas and seek advice.

We ask science co-ordinators to encourage their Laboratory Technicians to become a member of Labtech and participate in the discussion group.

It is free to join. Go to the Science Victoria website for more information:

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/labtech.html



Upcoming Conferences – dates & rates

For all conference/PD information including programs and online registration check the Science Victoria website approximately 6 - 8 weeks prior to each conference:
www.sciencevictoria.com.au/conferences.html

These programs can also be found on the VIT Pdi search engine – all listed programs reference the standards of professional practice for renewal of VIT registration www.vit.pdi.vic.edu.au

Physics Workshops

These workshops are intended for teachers of years 5-10 science who wish to develop their own conceptual understanding; the concepts are presented at the level of year 9 – 11 students.

Newton's Laws of Motion – 14 October 2011
Electricity – 11 November 2011

More information and registration details at www.sciencevictoria.com.au/otherPD.html

In-House Professional Learning Sessions

- ICT in Science
- Science Talent Search
- Physics (Electricity and Laws of Motion)

Contact STAV for details or visit Science Victoria's website.

STAVCON 2011 – Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 November 2011 at La Trobe University.

Theme: *Building Knowledge*

The program will be available in August

Register your session proposal online.
www.sciencevictoria.com.au/STAVCON.html

Conference rates

STAV Individual members

one day	\$210
two days	\$300

STAV school subscribers/non-members

one day	\$320
two days	\$450

STAV school subscribers (more than 3 teachers)

If you send more than 3 teachers from your school

Special rate for 4th & subsequent teachers:

one day	\$235
two days	\$335

Primary teachers (Tuesday only)

STAV Individual members	\$145
STAV school subscribers/non-members	\$185

Student / Retired teachers

one day	\$75
two days	\$150

Delegate registration available August.

VCE Conference Series 2012

Physics – Friday 17 February, 2012 at Monash University

Biology and Environmental Science – Monday 20 February, 2012 at La Trobe University

Chemistry – Friday 24 February, 2012 at La Trobe University

Call for sessions is open.

Contact the STAV business centre: Phone: 9385 3999 or email: stav@stav.vic.edu.au

National Water Week helps teach kids that healthy catchments equal healthy communities

National Water Week is an annual event hosted by the Australian Water Association that aims to raise awareness and improve knowledge of water issues.

This year's National Water Week will be held 16 – 22 October and the theme is Healthy Catchments, Healthy Communities. This year's theme will provide a platform for organisations involved in the water sector to exchange knowledge and ideas with the broader community through running events and other activities.

Mr Tom Mollenkopf, Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association said that this week is important in helping the community understand Australia's current water issues. "The theme of this year 'Healthy Catchments, Healthy Communities' has been chosen to help students and communities to look at what they can do to improve the quality of catchments in their area. Due to recent rain, some communities may be seeing water in areas

that have previously been dried up and this week can help show that communities have a role in protecting their local water ways. Everyone lives in a catchment and it is time to look at the health of these waterways to ensure a long future of healthy drinking water options and sustainable ecosystems."

As part of the Week, water professionals are volunteering their time to engage and inspire students and community groups about catchment health. Last year over 160 ambassadors visited, educated over 6,000 young people on this issue of water. Community, schools and environmental groups are invited to visit the National Water Week website to request a National Water Week Ambassador or view the great range of resources to help groups run a successful National Water Week event.

For more information on National Water Week, visit:

www.nationalwaterweek.org.au
www.facebook.com/nationalwaterweek
www.twitter.com/waterweek

Concept cartoons in science education

This is a 200 page blackline masters book consisting of science concept cartoons covering topics such as:

- ecology
- materials
- electricity and magnetism
- forces and motion
- light
- sound
- the Earth and beyond
- energy resources
- energy transfer



The cartoons can be used at primary and secondary levels. They are supported by teacher notes which include concise explanations of each concept as well as suggested strategies on how to use them effectively. The materials can be copied for educational purposes by the purchaser.

\$80 (Inc. GST) STAV Individual members
\$92 (inc GST) School subscribers/Non-members

Postage and handling \$8.00

For enquiries contact: **Ellen Finlay**
 (03) 9385 3999 or
 email projects@stav.vic.edu.au



VCE Trial exam papers

STAV Publishing produces VCE trial exams for:

Unit 2

Physics
 Chemistry
 Biology
 Psychology

Unit 4

Physics
 Chemistry
 Biology
 Psychology

Costs

Papers \$4.00; Solutions \$2.00

Past Trial Exams are also available.

How to order

Download an order form from:

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/index.html

or

Contact Ellen Finlay
 STAV Publishing
 Ph: 03 9385 3999
 Fax: 03 9386 6722
 Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au



Semester Two at Scienceworks

Exhibitions

Perception Deception

Until 12 Feb 2012. Suitable for Years 3 – 10
Explore illusions and investigate the perceptual tricks used by your brain to edit the information your brain receives, and create your reality.

Cost: One-off \$11 booking fee.

Developed by Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, Canberra.

Explore-a-saurus

Until April 2012. Suitable for Prep – Year 8
Explore how palaeontologists know what they know about dinosaurs.

Cost: \$4 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.

Ongoing exhibitions

In addition, Scienceworks continues to host our ever popular ongoing exhibitions: *Sportsworlds, Nitty Gritty Super City* and *House Secrets*. See our website for further details.

**Book 8.30am to 4.30pm
weekdays on 9392 4819**

Melbourne Planetarium

A range of planetarium shows covering all age levels and linked to the curriculum are available. These include: the relationship between the Earth, Moon and Sun; the Solar System; stars and galaxies; celestial navigation; Indigenous astronomy and the evolution of climates. Each show concludes with a look at what is in the night sky over Melbourne.

Cost: \$ 4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.

Lightning Room

A range of education shows that examine the science behind electricity. Three shows cover electrical energy in the curriculum from Year 2 to VCE. Each show culminates in a spectacular lightning demonstration using our 2 million-volt Tesla Coil and a discussion on electrical safety.

Cost: \$4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.

**2 Booker Street Spotswood
museumvictoria.com.au/education**

Experiment Zone

Measurement and Technology – Using Data Loggers

Available 29 August – 28 October
Students are introduced to graphing and measurement in this session that incorporates ICT into mathematics.

Problem Solving

Available 29 August – 28 October
Introduces maths problem solving strategies in a practical and fun way.

Robot Reboot

2 November – 22 December
Learn how the sensors of a robot are similar to those of a human and how they can be programmed to find 'diamonds'.

All sessions 50 minutes.

Maximum 30 students per session.

Cost \$4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.



SCIENCEWORKS



Attention: Victoria's Best Teachers

Keep your day job and earn extra uncapped income doing what you do best!

- ✓ Provide a one-off consulting service
- ✓ Work when it suits you - e.g. mid-year or end-of-year school holidays
- ✓ Earn significant, uncapped, ongoing income
- ✓ Maintain your current role
- ✓ Capitalise on what you already do - teach!
- ✓ Work alongside a leading team
- ✓ Be part of something BIG!!

tutorondemand online VCE tutoring and exam revision

ToD

Welcome to ToD

Tutor on Demand (ToD) provides specialised tuition services to VCE students across all disciplines and regions. July 2011 will mark the launch of ToD's innovative online tuition platform providing all students with unparalleled access to leading educators.

ToD is currently seeking Victoria's best VCE instructors to fill a limited number of consulting positions in support of the launch. Positions are available mid-year and end-of-year.

Interested! Now what?

Visit our website or email for more info:

- www.TutorOnDemand.com.au
- apply@TutorOnDemand.com.au



Term Deposits

1 Year	6.40%	p.a.
2 Years	6.50%	p.a.
3 Years	6.75%	p.a.

grow your own money tree!

A Term Deposit provides a secure solution to grow your savings. Our Term Deposits offer:

- Terms of 30 days – 5 years.
- Highly competitive interest rates.
- Minimum opening deposit \$500.^
- Security – deposits up to \$1 million are Government guaranteed.

For more information call a friendly Member Service Consultant on **1300 654 822** or visit www.victeach.com.au.



^Excludes 1 Year Regular Income Term Deposit which has a \$5,000 minimum deposit. *A Term Deposit interest rate reduction applies on early withdrawals, please refer to the Terms and Conditions for further details. Interest rate correct as at 13 July 2011. Check website for current rates. This information does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Therefore you should firstly consider the appropriateness of this information and refer to the Terms and Conditions or the relevant Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before acquiring a product. These documents are available at our branches or by calling 1300 654 822.

Professional learning and support programs

• ICT in science • Science Talent Search • Physics

Would your school benefit from flexible, in-house instruction or mentoring for ICT, Physics (laws of motion, electricity) or Science Talent Search?

STAV is offering opportunities for schools to participate in small group sessions of customised learning in one or all of these areas. You can form a small group of teachers within your own school or in partnership with a neighbouring school. You can participate in a short one or two hour session, a series of three or four sessions or have a mentor visit your classroom to assist you to apply new skills or ideas.

After expressing your interest, STAV will negotiate your requirement, try to source an appropriate educator to suit your needs and develop an appropriate professional learning program.

A small but affordable fee will apply and will be determined according to your requirement.

Our aim is to assist both metropolitan and regional schools where possible.

If you are interested in participating contact STAV to discuss your ideas:

Phone: 9385 3901

Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au





STAV Inc. Council Elections Nomination Form 2011

Note: The candidate must be a Financial Member at 31 August 2011.

Nominators must also be a Financial Member at 31 August 2011.

Honorary Life Members are eligible to nominate a candidate for STAV Council.

This nomination must be returned with a brief Curriculum Vitae and a policy statement of not more than 100 words.

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBER

I, _____ (Name in full, BLOCK letters please)

being an Individual Financial Member in good standing, of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc., accept the nomination for Councillor.

Signed _____ Membership No. _____ Date: _____

Proposer _____ (Name in full, BLOCK letters please)

Signed _____ Membership No. _____ Date: _____

Secunder _____ (Name in full, BLOCK letters please)

Signed _____ Membership No. _____ Date: _____

This position is valid until the next Annual General Meeting.

NOMINATION FORM with CURRICULUM VITAE and POLICY STATEMENT must be received by the close of business Friday 16 September to The Returning Officer, STAV, PO Box 109, COBURG VIC 3058



Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

ABN 59 004 145 329

Address: 5 Munro Street Coburg VIC 3058

Postal Address: PO Box 109 Coburg VIC 3058

Ph: (03) 9385 3999 • Fax: (03) 9386 6722

Email: stav@stav.vic.edu.au • Website: www.stav.org.au

BAD SCIENCE SHOW



"To keep over a hundred boys on the edge of their seats for an hour is an amazing achievement. We're so glad he could be a part of our Science Week program."

- Scotch College

"Bad Science was a real treat for staff and students!"

- Dela Salle College

"Bad Science uses humour and magic to demonstrate dubious scientific claims to high school students".

- The Australian



As seen on Channel 9's
Kid's WB



www.thebadscienceshow.com

0409461776

Illuminated pocket microscope

A small, portable microscope that is ideal for young children, adolescents and adults to investigate a multitude of items including clothing fibres, plants, insects or any other scientific specimen. There is no need for small extracted samples – simply remove the slide tray, walk around the room and place the viewfinder above the item you wish to view.

The microscopes are small (14cm x 4.5cm), light (80 grams) and easy to grip, maneuver and adjust. The light source is strong.

These small but powerful instruments are ideal for in the classroom, outside in the school yard, or for taking on excursions and fieldwork. They are fully portable and no bench or table is necessary for resting on.

Microscope activities

The microscopes include activity suggestions. If you have already purchased the product you can download the activities from:
www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/pocketmicro.html

Features

- Zoom switch – adjusts magnification power (60x - 80x - 100x)
- Focus wheel.
- Direct light source to specimen
- Removable slide tray

The light operates from two AA batteries (not included).

Price

\$25 (incl. GST) STAV members/institutional subscribers

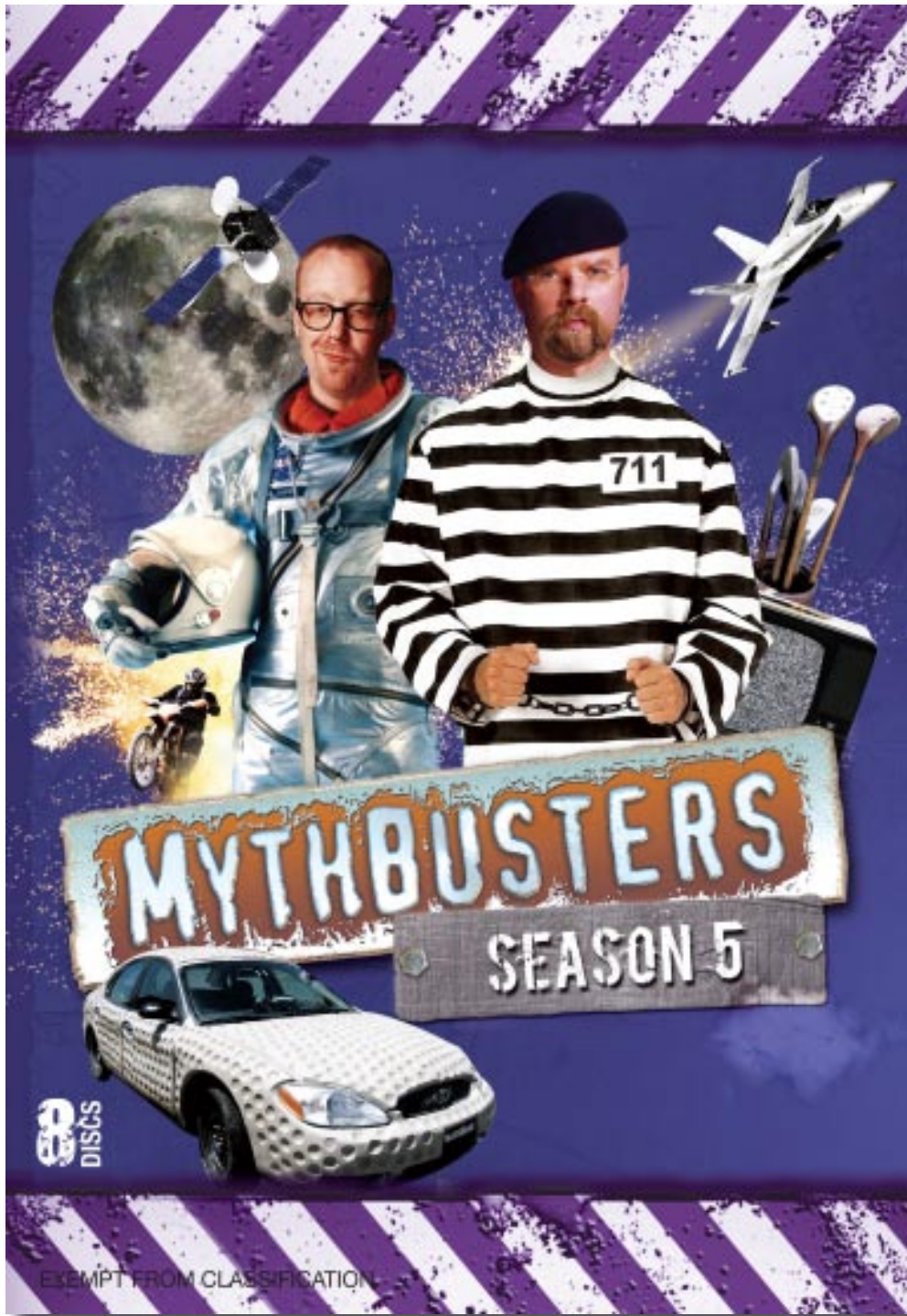
\$30 (incl. GST) Non-members
10% Discount for bulk purchases (more than 5 items).

Postage and handling: \$8 (incl. GST)

For enquiries contact:

STAV Publishing
PO Box 109 Coburg VIC 3058
Telephone (03) 9385 3999
Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au





Mythbusters Season 5 DVD

Jam packed with 31 exploding episodes, *Mythbusters* Season 5 DVD also includes a bonus limited edition myth-busting T-shirt! This season Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage are back to put what remains of their nine lives on the line to bust more myths and dispel untruths in the name of science!

DVD Specifications

8 discs

31 episodes

Approximately 1565 minutes running time

SRP: \$49.95

A month to celebrate at Scienceworks!

Scienceworks is getting ready to celebrate the science of everyday life this August through a series of exhibitions, programs and events as part of Super Science Month.

Incorporating National Science Week (13 – 21 August), Super Science Month is an initiative held over 31 consecutive days to foster an appreciation and understanding of science through a variety of fun and engaging activities, workshops, classes, live shows and exhibitions.

'As the home of hands-on science and interactive learning, it's not surprising that the team at Scienceworks are unable to contain their science excitement to a week, and have had to expand the festivities to a whole month,' said Genevieve Fahey, Manager, Scienceworks. 'That said, every month at Scienceworks is about enjoying science. However the aim of Super Science Month is to provide a variety of programs for people of all ages and to promote the importance of science in society.'

This year marks the second annual Super Science Month and will include such favourites as the science careers expo Inspiring Scientists, the family-fun Machines in Action Day, regular behind-the-scenes tours and science shows and partner events such as the BASF Kids Lab, Robocop Junior and the Aurecon Bridge Building competition.

'We'll also be bringing back the enormously popular series of evening astronomy classes Discover the Night Sky at the Melbourne Planetarium for our adult audiences,' said Fahey. 'And if that's not enough, Super Science Month will see the opening of our newest exhibition Perception Deception, an exciting interactive experience that challenges the way our mind collects and interprets data from the world around us. It's the perfect exhibition to demonstrate the amazing things that science helps us to achieve – what tool is more incredible than the human brain?'

Super Science Month events will run throughout all of August. For event details please visit www.museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks

[Source: Media release 6th July 2011]



STAV Council meeting dates

9 August 18 October
13 September 22 November

**Meetings will be held at STAV House
commencing at 5.00pm**

Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

'Advancing Science Education'

STAV Goals

- ◆ Establish and maintain both financial and intellectual independence
- ◆ Represent the collective voice of science educators in Victoria
- ◆ Influence policy formulation in matters relating to Science Education
- ◆ Support and maintain regional 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.

Contact Deadlines

September	16 August 2011
October	14 September 2011
November	14 October 2011
December	15 November 2011

Contact Newsletter

Registered by Australia Post • Print Post publication No. PP 342676/0050

Printed by: Allanby Press Printers, 1 Crescent Rd, Camberwell VIC 3124

Mailhouse: Mercury Mailing, 13 Antibes Street, Parkdale VIC 3195

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