



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

Contents

- 2 STAV contacts
- 3 President's report
- 3 Project Officer's report
- 4 STS report
- 4 Science Drama report
- 5 STS dates
- 5 New members
- 6 Conference information
- 12 STAV important dates

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

Experimental Research, Creative Writing and country entries are due at STAV by 29 July. More information on pages 4 and 5, and on the STS website www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

STAVCON Call for sessions

Register your session proposal online. Registration closes midnight 29 July.
<http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/STAVCON.html>

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.



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



Join STAV on Twitter
www.stav.org.au



STAV Contacts

STAV Council

Soula Bennett

President

Quantum Victoria

president@stav.vic.edu.au

Joanna Alexander

Vice President and Treasurer

Vermont Secondary College

alexander.joanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Joanne Hawker

Honorary Secretary

Kew East Primary School

hawker.joanne.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

Catherine Zerbe

Honorary Secretary

Alexandra Secondary College

zerbe.catherine.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Suzanne O'Shannessy

Public Officer

execdirector@stav.vic.edu.au

John McDonald

La Trobe University

j.mcdonald@latrobe.edu.au

Catriona Tweedie

Balwyn High School

catriona.tweedie@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Jodie Tilley

Mooroolbark College

tilley.jodie.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

Life Members

David Cohen

Gretta Wilkinson

Rod Fawns

Don Lugg

Dick Gunstone

Mark Learmonth

Jim Stevenson

Beginning Science Teachers' Network

Peter Morgan

Psychology Sub-Committee

Position Vacant

STS Co-Directors

Josie Crisara

Aitken College

jcrisara@ozemail.com.au

Peter Craig

Mt Waverley Secondary College

pcraig@netspace.net.au

Leonie Lang

leonielang@optusnet.com.au

Viv Eckersley

Aitken College

veckersley@aitkencollege.edu.au

Miranda McKellar

Hoppers Crossing Secondary College

mckellar.miranda.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Ellen Finlay

STS Project Officer

Science Drama Director

Jan Campione

Pascoe Vale Girls College

cam@pvgc.vic.edu.au

STAV Journal Editors

Ellen Finlay

Managing Editor

projects@stav.vic.edu.au

Barb Brook

Let's Find Out

brookbl@optusnet.com.au

STAV Business Centre

Suzanne O'Shannessy

Executive Director

Ph: 9385 3999

execdirector@stav.vic.edu.au

Anne Heard

Receptionist

Ph: 9385 3999

stav@stav.vic.edu.au

Kerry Gledhill

Accounts Officer

Ph: 9385 3908

payments@stav.vic.edu.au

Ellen Finlay

STAV Publishing

Ph: 9385 3999

projects@stav.vic.edu.au

Kellie Jackson

Desktop Publisher

Ph: 9385 3903

publications@stav.vic.edu.au

Annette McKenna

Office Assistant

Ph: 9385 3904

admin@stav.vic.edu.au

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



I was fortunate to attend a very interesting and informative conference in the United States in late June. The conference was the 'Games for Change Festival' hosted at New York University, with a stellar collection of presenters and keynote

speakers including Vice President Al Gore, Jesse Schell, the New Media Consortium (Authors of the Horizon Report), Game Designers, NGO's, Educators from all sectors (Primary, Secondary & Tertiary) and Researchers.

According to the 2011 K – 12 Horizon Report, a research effort led and published by the New Media Consortium (NMC), Game based learning hasn't yet arrived as a major force in education, in fact I was soon to discover that there is a big difference between educational games and games that educate!

The Key Trends in the 2011 report can be summarised as follows.

Time to adoption – One year or less:

- cloud computing
- mobiles

Two – three years:

- game based learning
- open content

Four – five years:

- learning analytics
- personal learning environments (PLEs)

For a more detailed account please visit the following website:

<http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2011-Horizon-Report-K12.pdf>

We were presented with case studies throughout the three days from teachers, principals and regional directors who were faced with similar issues that we face in our schools. Each gave examples where disengaged, underperforming and disadvantaged students, were now participating, even excelling at school (some for the first time) regardless of their literacy and numeracy skills, through game based learning.

The Games for Change Festival had many messages, which were relayed through the keynotes, workshops and the many micro-presentations, but the most poignant message came from Al Gore where he emphasised the urgency for us to take action against Global Warming/Climate Change. He went on to say that we can send the message through 'traditional' media but that the most powerful way to engage our students was through a medium that they were most

comfortable using, namely games. Through the use of games we could inform, educate and inspire our students to get involved in what is probably the most pressing issue of our time.

I must confess, I brought a lot of baggage and prejudices with me concerning game based learning, but left the conference inspired!

Links to some highlights from the Festival:

<http://vimeo.com/25492800>

<http://vimeo.com/25414417>

<http://vimeo.com/25373693>

<http://vimeo.com/25430065>

Soula Bennett

STAV President

Project Officer's Report



STAV Publishing Project Officer's Report

The semester 2 trial exam order form is available and you can order any time from now until Friday 19 August for unit 2 and 4 papers and solutions. I suggest

you order now before things get hectic later in the year. If you forget to order you run the risk of missing out on supply of the papers you want. You can download an order form by going to www.stav.org.au or www.sciencevictoria.com.au.

If you are looking for some extra resources have a look at STAV Publishing's Publications and Resources page <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/publications.html>. There's a range of items that have been popular amongst those who have used them.

Ellen Finlay

Project Officer, STAV Publishing

Phone: 9385 3999

Fax: 9386 6722

Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au

Science Talent Search Report



Online registration and the checking process are complete. Please ensure that you keep a close eye on your email as we will be corresponding with you by email where possible.

A reminder that the Special Judging Day is Saturday 13th August. STS Coordinators should distribute entry labels and make sure that students are aware of venues and times for the judging day. They should also ensure that Judges from their school are aware of their judging commitments. Teachers judging Experimental Research and Creative Writing will receive entries to assess close to the Judging Day date. All judges will be contacted during the next few weeks with details of their responsibilities.

The STS committee would like to thank all of our 2011 STS sponsors. The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is our major sponsor. Other major contributors are the Australian Skeptics Science and Education Foundation, The Royal Society of Victoria Inc., The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Powercor Australia and BHP Billiton. You can view a list of all major sponsors and links to their websites at www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/sponsor2.html.

Without sponsors the STS competition would cease to operate. Sponsors provide 100% of funds for cash prizes along with thousands of dollars of 'in kind' sponsorship. Many also contribute a proportion of their sponsorship money to help out with administration costs, keeping entry fees to a minimum.

Leonie Lang

STS Co-Director

Science Drama Awards Report



Science drama covers a range of experiences from the simple one-off role plays in the classroom, to a play which has been scripted, rehearsed and costumed for performance for the school community or beyond (Smith 2006). The Victorian Science Drama Awards enable students to enter a unique competition where they perform scientific concepts on stage in front of an audience. This is an experience not to be missed demonstrating learning 'by doing'.

The Science Drama Committee would like to invite Science teachers to come along to performance night and find out what this competition is all about. STAV members will be admitted free of charge by showing a valid membership card.

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



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 Talent Search 2011

2011 Theme: React to Chemistry

Creative Writing, Experimental Research and Country entries due to STAV by July 29.

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

Yuriy Verkhatsky

Nichole Fraser

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*

Call for sessions is open. Closes 29 July.

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

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

Essential science skills

A toolbox for the middle years

Essential science skills is a 126-page black line masters book for use with years 5 – 7.

Developing science skills and knowing how to apply them is an essential part of learning about science. Science skills such as communicate, investigate, use ICT, use scientific knowledge and many more are presented as student handout sheets. These are complemented with classroom strategies for use by the teacher and student skill builder worksheets – ready for photocopying and instant use. Student skill builders provide usable examples of how the classroom strategies can be implemented; they demonstrate how to explicitly teach the strategies and provide students with many opportunities to use them. A series of matrices show links with VELS and how the skills and classroom strategies are linked. This book was produced by the Maroondah/Nunawading cluster.

\$44.90 Members/subscribers

\$46.90 Non-members

Plus Postage & Handling \$8.00

For further information about this product contact:

STAV Publishing PO Box 109 Coburg VIC 3058
Telephone (03) 9385 3999 • Fax: (03) 9386 6722

Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au



Endangered, Extinct and on the Brink: Young Scientists at Work

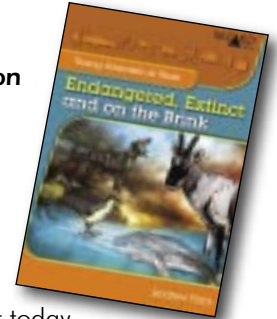
Author: Andrew Plant

Publisher: Curriculum Corporation

Description: 72 pp book

Members/subscribers \$31.95;

Non-members \$34.95



Endangered, Extinct and on the Brink introduces middle and upper primary students to the great problems facing our environment today by examining extinction events through time.

Fifteen topics are covered, and each topic includes:

- a reproducible student fact file with background information and illustrations to engage students.
- a teacher information sheet covering key concepts, cross-curricular links and a materials list plus instructions for guiding students through the activity.
- a reproducible student activity sheet with creative and fun investigations.

Students are encouraged to 'become scientists': ask questions, propose and test theories, design experiments and devise their own solutions.

Available from STAV Publishing www.stav.org.au

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



Explore @ saurus

Now showing until April 2012
Suitable for Years Prep – 8

Explore how palaeontologists find out what they know about dinosaurs.

How do we know:

- **the colour of dinosaurs?**
- **how fast they run?**
- **what they ate?**
- **how they cared for their young?**

Interactive exhibits also allow your students to become forensic palaeontologists by uncovering fossils and bones, pitting their strength against a T-Rex jaw, comparing fossil plants that dinosaurs ate with modern plants, examining fossil insects under microscopes and investigating how dinosaurs made sounds and digested their food.

Cost: \$4 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee per school. Includes general entry to Scienceworks.

Book 8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays on 9392 4819

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



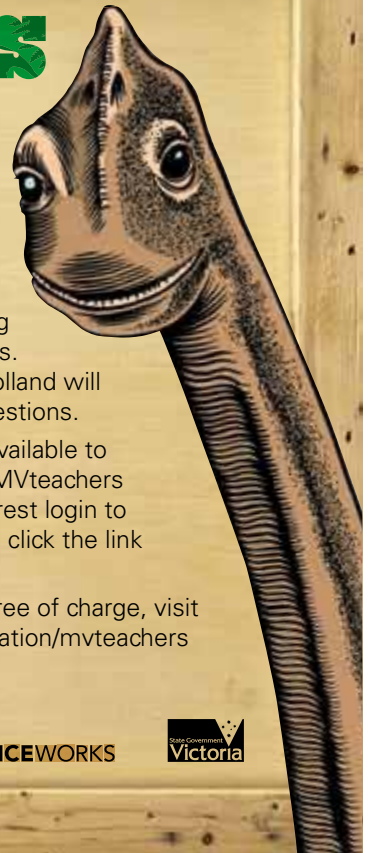
MVteacher preview

**Tuesday 26 July,
 4.30pm to 6.00pm
 Cost: free**

Discover amazing dinosaur animatronics and interactives, and find out about the learning opportunities for your students. Palaeontologist Dr Timothy Holland will be on hand to answer any questions.

This teacher preview is only available to teachers registered with the MVteachers program. To register your interest login to your MVteachers account and click the link in the right hand menu bar.

To subscribe to MVteachers free of charge, visit museumvictoria.com.au/education/mvteachers



Brain Box Electronics kit for Primary and Lower Secondary

This kit includes 188 ideas for constructing different circuits on a base board. These circuit boards can be activated by magnet, water, light, touch or sound and produce different kinds of reactions such as flashing bulbs, motorized fans, flying discs and various sound effects. Examples include a water activated doorbell, sound activated doorbell, magnetically activated motors, and electric fan.

All components have snap fasteners which make assembly very easy and quick. All components are coded so that young children (and adults!) can easily follow construction diagrams.

Members/subscribers \$38 (incl GST)

Non-members \$45 (incl GST)

Postage and handling additional.

Need spare parts?

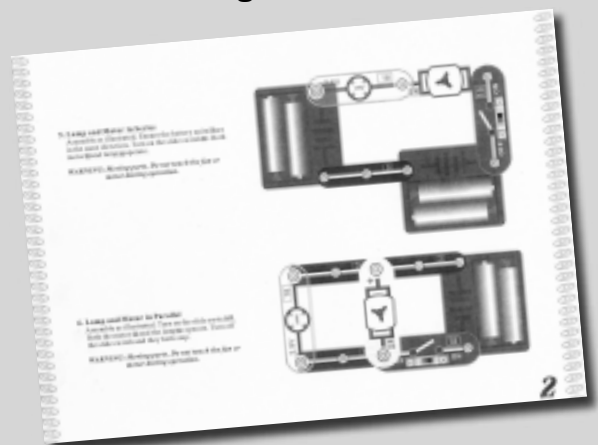
Have you lost some pieces? Would you like to extend the capability of your current set? Spare parts for all components of the Brainbox are available. For a price list contact STAV Publishing, or check the website.

Flyer and order form available from

STAV Publishing

PO Box 109, Coburg Vic 3058 • Fax: 03 9386 6722 • Ph: 03 9385 3999

Email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au • Web: www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/index.html





Money Magazine's 2011 Credit Union of the Year

Our extremely satisfied customers benefit from:

- Friendly and professional customer service.
- Fee free banking.
- Access to the largest ATM network in Australia.
- A range of highly competitive products and services.

Everyone is welcome to open an account with us and becoming a customer is easy. Open an account online by visiting www.victeach.com.au or over the phone on **1300 654 822**.



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 Statements (PDS) before acquiring a product. These documents are available at our branches or by contacting us on 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





Skype Connects Teachers and Classrooms across the Globe

School teachers and students everywhere now have an easier way to find each other for collaborative projects and shared learning through a new online platform provided by Skype. Skype in the classroom is a free global community created in response to, and in consultation with, the growing number of teachers using Skype to help their students learn. Teachers can use the tool to collaborate with other teachers, and find partner classes and guest speakers. Skype in the classroom is designed to help like-minded teachers find each other and relevant projects according to search criteria such as the age groups they teach, location and subjects of interest; and teaching resources can be easily shared and found.

In the past, many teachers have found that the biggest challenge to using Skype in their classrooms has been finding similar classes to pair with. Skype in the classroom presents a solution by bringing like-minded teachers together online and making it easy for them to share skills and ideas.

Today more and more teachers all over the world use Skype to make learning more exciting, interactive and memorable. From language studies and geography lessons to virtual field trips and expert speakers joining classes from afar, Skype video offers an immediate way to help students discover new cultures, languages and ideas, all without leaving the classroom. In addition, teachers are being encouraged to do more to share their expertise and experiences systematically in ways that go beyond the mere exchange of information. It is also reported that teachers who exchange ideas and information and co-ordinate their practices with other teachers report more positive teacher-student relations at their own schools.*

The platform, which has been in beta since the end of December, already has a community of more than 3900 teachers, across 99 countries. Kara Cornejo, who teaches a 5th grade class in Missouri, USA, and is an avid Skype user, found five schools around the world to collaborate with on an international weather project within just one day of joining. "Skype in the classroom is an amazing resource to find teachers to collaborate with and to bring people into your classroom that you would never have been able to."

The Global Learning Exchange, a program designed to create borderless classrooms and allow students to learn about other cultures seamlessly has been using Skype video for four years. Regular exchanges between Jurong West primary school children in Singapore and Bill Williams Elementary school students in California, USA "has helped all 260 students from both schools build relationships with one another and facilitated learning that is not limited by geographical borders," said co-founder Manuel Rose Delema. "Skype makes learning fun and engaging as children look forward to meeting their global friends and asking questions."

In a similar way, Skype is also used to connect 9-10 year old students at Lakanal school in Lille, France with their peers in Prince Edouard Island, Canada. "Before arranging the first video call, our students exchanged letters and emails but we decided to bring the two classes together face-to-face over Skype video to enrich their relationship," said Christophe Fetat, the teacher at Lakanal school. "The result was amazing. Students were really engaged to discuss different topics. It is really a simple and effective way to exchange ideas, learn and bring other cultures into the class."

"Skype in the classroom has been developed for a specific community of people who have a shared interest and are passionate about using technology in inventive ways in their classroom. We've received positive feedback from teachers and are keen to continue developing the site to meet their needs and help school children around the world work together in wonderful ways never thought possible." said Tony Bates, Skype Chief Executive Officer.

To join Skype in the classroom, teachers need to:

- 1) Sign up at education.skype.com using their Skype account details
- 2) Create a profile which includes their interests, location and the age groups they teach
- 3) Explore the directory to find projects, teachers and resources that match their skills, needs or interests

Skype in the classroom is a members-only community. Once teachers find someone they want to connect with they can add that person as a Skype contact or send them a message through the site.

To find projects, teachers, resources, and inspiration visit education.skype.com

[Source: Press Release March 2011]

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



Join fight against climate change

International aid and development agency Caritas Australia has called on Aussie families to support those worst affected by climate change - the world's poorest. Caritas is launching its A Just Climate campaign which empowers and encourages concerned people, families and groups to hold their own organised community events to raise support and awareness.

A Just Climate is designed to engage communities, local politicians and generate much-needed support for climate change action in hardest hit countries like Fiji, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kiribati. 'Right now, Australian households fear the rising cost of electricity bills and petrol prices, but there are thousands of families on our doorstep who have already lost their livelihoods, food and homes to climate change,' Caritas Australia CEO Jack de Groot said. 'For us it is about economics, for them it is about life. This is the time to step forward in solidarity and show our kindness to the poorest of the poor and A Just Climate is the perfect way for anyone to do it.'

To help kick start events across the country, Caritas Australia is supplying supporters with A Just Climate kits which include tips on when, where and how to run a local event as well as ideas for what kind of event to hold. It also contains a powerful short documentary called Sweet Water which looks at how climate change has impacted coastal communities in south west Bangladesh.

Caritas suggests holding screenings of Sweet Water as part of A Just Climate events, but welcomes any ideas that bring attention to the cause and a better outcome for the poorest of the poor. 'Whether you raise awareness in your community by hosting an A Just Climate Event, sign our petition, engage in conversations with your local politician or take personal action to reduce your ecological footprint, your stand will help ensure a just and sustainable future for the poorest of the poor,' Mr de Groot said.

Caritas Australia is behind frontline climate change programs across Asia and the Pacific. It educates communities on how to avoid food shortages, reduce the impact of sea level rise, protect vital crops from salinity and cyclones and relocate to safer and more secure locations before it's too late. 'Caritas believes the response to climate change must go beyond the scientific and political: a global, humanitarian approach is required to ensure that justice and human dignity prevail,' Mr de Groot said. 'We need to increase our assistance to communities living in poverty, show global leadership and cut pollution.'

A Just Climate Event Kits can be ordered at www.caritas.org.au/ajustclimate or phone: 1800 024 413.

Sweet Water along with still photos exposing the impact of global climate change are also available.

[Source: Media release, 23 June 2011]



The effects of climate change are already being felt by the worlds poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Spreading the word about geoscience

Geoscience Australia continues to offer extensive education and outreach programs to promote awareness and knowledge of the Earth sciences, and the contribution geoscience makes to the Australian economy, resource management and environmental protection.

Geoscience Australia's Education Centre is a free, school excursion destination. The Centre offers curriculum linked, hands on activities to a range of school-aged audiences. Visits to the Centre can be tailored to suit your topic and teaching needs. It highlights geoscience as an interesting and relevant part of our everyday lives.

Open Day will be held on Sunday 21 August 2011. It is an opportunity for interested members of the public to visit the agency's headquarters at Symonston, ACT, and will coincide with National Science Week celebrations. A range of displays, tours and activities will showcase how the agency's research is being applied to some of the major challenges facing Australia today.

The Geologi short film competition is in its fifth year and is hosted by Geoscience Australia and the Australian Science Teachers Association. The theme for this year's competition is 'Geology and you'. It is open for individuals, groups or classes from any Australian primary or secondary school to submit a short film that explores the effect on the individual or community of natural hazards, rocks and minerals, geological history, local geology or recent geoscience research.

The Top GeoShot photographic competition is open to members of the public. It aims to produce a collection of images that capture the essence of Earth science in Australia and amateur photographers are invited to submit their photographs. This year's winning entries will be announced during Earth Science Week (9-15 October, 2011) and will be on display in the foyer of the Geoscience Australia building.

Geoscience Australia is also updating its Education Resources Booklets. These booklets are to assist teachers in teaching Earth sciences and also include student activities. The booklets will be downloadable from the website, www.ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources.html and will be available in early July with the first one being on Tsunami.

For more information on the Education Centre, Earth Science Week, Geologi, Top Geoshot or the Education Resource Booklets email education@ga.gov.au or visit www.ga.gov.au/education/public-events



Devil's Bath volcanic crater in Wai-O-Tapu, New Zealand

Greenhouse calculator – a tool for education

Families across Australia will be able to measure the impact of simple lifestyle changes on their carbon footprint in just 15 minutes through a groundbreaking online tool. The AGC is a free and easy-to-use program to help households compare the impact of making lifestyle changes and/or investing in energy-efficient products – cutting both their greenhouse gas emissions and living costs.

Not just for households, the AGC is also an ideal tool for education, community engagement and encouraging sustainable business practice. A 'Research Centre' tab offers detailed background information on climate change, while 'Teacher Ideas' includes educational resources and student activities.

Project leader, RMIT Adjunct Professor Alan Pears, said the AGC aimed to empower households by offering accurate and relevant information to help them see how their activities contributed to their carbon footprint. 'Australian households generate at least one-fifth of Australia's greenhouse gases – over 18 tonnes per

household each year,' Adjunct Professor Pears said. 'The Australian Greenhouse Calculator shows families how they can live more sustainably and offset the increasing cost of carbon and energy, helping them make lifestyle changes that are good for both the environment and their wallets. It's about inspiring real change – and then accurately calculating its impact.'

The AGC is an Environment Protection Authority tool developed by RMIT's Centre for Design, through a project managed by Education Services Australia. It covers 11 lifestyle categories – transport, air travel, heating and cooling, hot water, clothes dryer, lighting, refrigeration, cooking, other appliances, food and shopping, waste – which can be completed in either a 'quick' or 'detailed' mode. The 'quick' mode can be completed in 15 minutes, for a general but thorough overview of greenhouse impact. The 'detailed' mode offers a full range of technical and behavioural options, for the ultimate domestic sustainability enthusiast.

View the Australian Greenhouse Calculator: www.epa.vic.gov.au/AGC/home.html





STAV Council meeting dates

26 July 18 October
9 August 22 November
13 September

**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

August	15 July 2011
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

Contact STAV

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

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

Address: PO Box 109, Coburg VIC 3058 • 5 Munro Street Coburg, VIC 3058