

## Latest events >>

For the latest events and conference information go to STAV's website:  
[www.stav.org.au](http://www.stav.org.au)

For information about science activities & competitions go to:  
[www.stav.org.au](http://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](http://www.stav.org.au)

### Science Leaders' Conference 2011

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May. More details on page 6 and on STAV's website.

### Physics Workshops 2011

These popular small-group workshops will be conducted again in 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>

### Primary and Middle Years Science Teachers Conference 2011

Tuesday 24 May 2011. More details on page 6 and on STAV's website.

### Science Talent Search

Registration closes on Friday 27 May. More information on pages 4 and 5, and on the STS website [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts)

### LabTech Conference

Friday 10 June. Visit the LabTech website for more information. [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/labtech/index.html](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/labtech/index.html)



### Adapting to Climate Change activities

Written by STAV Publishing. More information on page 4.



STAV is on Facebook  
go to [www.stav.org.au](http://www.stav.org.au)



## STAV Contacts

### STAV Council

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### Life Members

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Rod Fawns	Don Lugg
Dick Gunstone	Mark Learmonth
Jim Stevenson	

### Beginning Science Teachers' Network

**Peter Morgan**

### Psychology Sub-Committee

**Position Vacant**

### STS Co-Directors

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STS Project Officer

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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



A warm welcome to all STAV members!

Congratulations to Professor Ian Chubb, on his appointment as Australia's new Chief Scientist. Professor Chubb, a neuroscientist was Vice Chancellor of

the Australian National University (ANU) for the past ten years and has vowed to lobby hard to ensure that government policy is informed by science.

I'm pleased to announce that STAV has established a FACEBOOK page which can be accessed through our website: <http://www.stav.org.au/>

We will be promoting our events and sharing information to ensure that all are kept up to date with issues affecting science educators, including the Australian Curriculum and science policy.

### Useful Resources/Information

1. Karen Barlow, the ABC Lateline Journalist and recipient of the Australian Antarctic Division's inaugural Media Fellowship, was part of a marine science voyage to Antarctica in January and has passed on a resource that is equally valuable for both students and teachers. Based on the trip ABC News Online has produced an informative multimedia special. You can find it here <http://www.abc.net.au/news/events/antarctic-summer/> It is interactive, high quality, commercial free and G-rated.
2. I'm a Scientist, get me out of here! This novel, interactive and ready-to-use online platform connects students with real, practicing scientists and offers teachers support and resources for easy incorporation into the classroom. Bridge8 is supporting the pilot during June 14-24 and is open to students in Years 8 - 10. If you would like to participate contact Dr Kristen Alford at [Kristin@bridge8.com.au](mailto:Kristin@bridge8.com.au) by Friday 13th May 2011.
3. The newly launched website "The Conversation" (<http://theconversation.edu.au/pages/technology>) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that's working with the Australian research sector to foster and develop a more informed public debate. Experts in the field write all of the content and I recommend the site as a valuable resource for science teachers and students alike.

**Soula Bennett**

**STAV President**

## Project Officer's Report



VCE trial exams should have arrived in your school by Wednesday 4th May, if you ordered on time. If you haven't ordered, or would like some more papers, there is some remaining stock for late orders – email or phone to check on availability.

There are also past papers available and past exams on CD – you will find details of availability on the STAV Publishing website <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/trialExams.html> .

Try to find the time to visit STAV's new Facebook page [www.stav.org.au](http://www.stav.org.au) . This is an alternative way for you to access the latest updates for conferences, Science Talent Search, trial exams and other activities of the association.

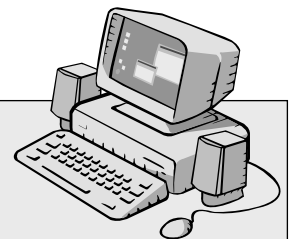
**Ellen Finlay**

**Project Officer, STAV Publishing**

**Phone: 9385 3999**

**Fax: 9386 6722**

**Email: [projects@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto: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



The online registration system for the Science Talent Search closes permanently on Friday 27 May.

You will receive confirmation of your entries along with face sheets and entry labels for judging. These need to be filled in, signed and attached to each project prior to submission. You will be invoiced on the data in the system on the final closing date May 27. You cannot withdraw entries after this date – if you choose not to submit, you still need to pay the entry fee.

The system will not reopen for corrections – you need to check your own data online. You can access summary data via the 'view entries' button and if you wish you can print the data for hardcopy checking. Any requests for changes after the system closes permanently on May 27 will incur a \$10 per student administrative fee, so please check your data carefully.

Please also check your email regularly because as much correspondence as possible is by email.

**Leonie Lang**

**STS Co-Director**

## Science Drama Awards Report



By the time you read this edition of Contact, the date for entry to the competition will have passed (April 27). If you had an inkling of an idea for the competition that did not come to fruition in time, we will accept late entries. Otherwise there is always next year. To those who have entered, you should soon receive your Entry Information Kit. I know that this is a rather lengthy document but I assure you that it is essential reading for entrants. Please make sure that you go through it very carefully, that all required sections are fully completed and that you provide the stated number of copies with your DVD entry.

### Competition dates are as follows:

April 27	Entry forms due
May 3	Entry Information Kits sent upon receipt of Entry Form
August 8	DVD entry and kit due.
August 14	Preliminary judging of DVD entries.
August 17	Finalist kits sent to entrants.
Sept 9	Performance Night: Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

Competition details and forms are available on the STAV website.

**Jan Campione**

**Director**

**Science Drama Awards**

## Adapting to Climate Change



### 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](http://www.stav.org.au)

## Science Talent Search 2011



**2011 Theme: React to Chemistry**

**Online registration is open**

**Online registration closes Friday 27 May**

**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](http://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

Entry forms due: 27 April

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**

### Grants

Grants are available from STAV for National Science Week activities. Refer to the website  
[www.sciencevictoria.com.au/NationalSciWeek.html](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/NationalSciWeek.html).  
 Grant applications close 17 June.

## New Members

Welcome to the following new individual members of STAV

Wendy Hawkins

Michael Spurr

Rob Lister

Jamie Zimmerman

Andrew Ross

Joanne Schlegel

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.vit.pdi.vic.edu.au)

## Science Leaders Conference 2011

**Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May 2011 at The Sebel Heritage, Heritage Avenue, Chirnside Park**

Theme: *Developing Leadership*

Register online at <http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/confSCO.html>

For coordinators, managers, leading teachers and science educators aspiring to leadership

### Speakers include:

**Janet Matton** Vice President, Sales Enablement & Operations, IBM, Australia / New Zealand

Title: The Evolution of a Smart Planet.

**Dr Craig Hased** Monash University

Title: Mindfulness: Science, Practice and Philosophy

**Debra Ferguson** RedDeb Consulting

Title: We've All Met One! Managing the Difficult Behaviours we Encounter

### Topics include:

- Goals and directions for your department
- Energising minds in science
- Dealing with difficult people
- Leadership styles – strengths & weaknesses
- Wikis in the science department
- Science games and challenges

## Primary and Middle Years Science Teachers Conference 2011

Tuesday 24 May 2011 at Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre

STAV individual members.....\$140

STAV school subscribers/non members .....\$170

Students ..... \$70

More information and registration details at [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/confPST.html](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/confPST.html)

## Labtech Conference 2011 - Friday 10

June at John Scott Meeting Room at La Trobe University, Bundoora.

Theme: *Vision for the Future*

Cost ..... \$65

## 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](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/otherPD.html)

## STAVCON 2011 – Monday 28 and Tuesday 29

November 2011 at La Trobe University.

Theme: *Building Knowledge*

## VCE Conference Series 2011

**Psychology** – 2011 dates and rates TBA

**Contact the STAV business centre: Phone: 9385 3999 or email: [stav@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto: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.

#### Price

**\$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](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au)



## Celebrating International Year of Chemistry Professional Development for Science Teachers

A Symposium on

*“World Leading Research that is Changing Lives”*

Friday, 13 May 2011

at La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) campus

Biology, chemistry, and general science teachers are invited to explore Victoria's IYC theme -biomedical research- with some of Australia's most eminent scientists in molecular biology. The program covers areas such as protein chemistry, molecular and cell biology, immunology and vaccine development.

The focus of this event is to provide teachers with examples of cutting edge science related to the VCE Chemistry and Biology Study Designs and will enrich their own story telling in the classroom. Sessions include: the chemistry and biology of cancer, current research in understanding brain function, malaria, biomarkers, stable isotopes and forensic science, and careers in biological chemistry.

Friday, 13 May 2011 9am – 4:00 pm

Cost: RACI members \$50,  
RACI non-members \$60,  
Students \$35

Details of program: [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/molsci/teacher\\_symposium/index.htm](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/molsci/teacher_symposium/index.htm)

Enquiries: Tel 03-94796616 or [f.calati@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:f.calati@latrobe.edu.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](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au)



## VCE Trial exam papers

STAV Publishing produces VCE trial exams for:

### Unit 1

Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Psychology

### Unit 3

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](http://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](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au)



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\*Promotional offer is valid from 20 April 2011 until 30 June 2011. Conditions apply. Bonus interest of an additional 1.30% p.a. above the standard Online Saver Account interest rate is earned when no withdrawals are made and at least \$200 is deposited in the calendar month. Victoria Teachers Credit Union reserves the right to cease offering this product at any time. The Online Saver - Bonus Rate Account will convert to the standard Online Saver Account (S99) on 31 October 2011. Existing Online Saver (S99) holders are not eligible to open the Online Saver - Bonus Rate Account (S89). Interest rate correct as at 20 April 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 before acquiring a product. These documents are available at our branches or by contacting us on 1300 654 822.

## **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)**

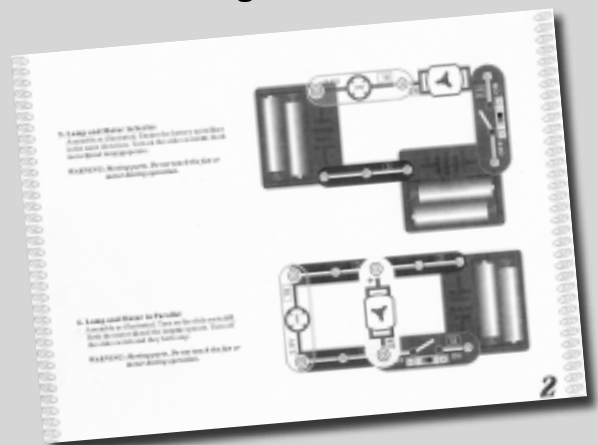
**Non-members \$45 (incl GST)**

**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](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au) • Web: [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/index.html](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/index.html)

# Semester Two at Scienceworks

## New Exhibitions

### Explore-a-saurus

1 June 2011 – April 2012. Suitable for Prep – Year 8



How do Palaeontologists know what they do about dinosaurs? Find out at the new *Explore-a-saurus* exhibition. Can you escape being eaten by a T-Rex? Pit your strength against a T-Rex jaw and find out. How do dinosaurs hide from their prey using camouflage? How does a carnivore see differently from a herbivore? Compare the fields of vision of dinosaurs with your own.

Do you have the patience to uncover dinosaur fossils and bones? Explore these and other interesting questions about dinosaurs at *Explore-a-saurus* at Scienceworks.

This exhibition includes animatronic dinosaurs and educational interactives that let your students explore the world of the dinosaurs.

6 August 2011 – 12 February 2012. Suitable for Years 3 – 10



Is your 'reality' different from that of those around you? How does your brain make sense of the world? Discover the answers in *Perception Deception*.

*Perception Deception* will challenge your ability to interpret information from your senses. Explore illusions; investigate perceptual tricks (audio-language, multisensory, visual and social) used by your brain to edit the information it receives and create your 'reality'.

Would also make an ideal excursion to prepare students for Unit 1 Psychology 2012.

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

Book 8.30am to 4.30pm  
weekdays on 9392 4819

2 Booker Street Spotswood  
[museumvictoria.com.au/education](http://museumvictoria.com.au/education)



SCIENCEWORKS



Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development

*Call for nominations*

# Victorian Science and Mathematics Education Excellence Awards 2011

The Victorian Science and Mathematics Education Excellence Awards recognise innovative partnerships between government schools and industry that support science and mathematics education.

Grants of \$10,000 will be presented to one school in each of Victoria's nine government school regions best able to demonstrate:

- A partnership with a business, industry, environmental group, community organisation, TAFE or University that enhances science and mathematics education;
- An innovative and contemporary approach to science and mathematics curriculum that leads to increased student engagement;
- Enhanced student awareness of the applications of science and/or mathematics and knowledge of career pathways.

From the nine regional winners, an additional \$10,000 will be awarded to an overall State Excellence Award Winner.

**Nominations close Friday 13 May 2011.**



For guidelines and an application form visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/vsmea](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/vsmea)  
For enquiries contact Helen Spargo at: [spargo.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:spargo.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# I'm a Scientist: Get Me Out of Here!

## What is it?

I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here! Is a science engagement activity where school students in years 8 – 9 talk to real scientists online for 2 weeks. The scientists compete to become the most successful communicator – the students vote for who they want to win. Similar to popular reality TV show X-Factor, the scientists with the least amount of votes are 'evicted' until only one in each zone remains to be crowned the winner. For more information, read about the British version here: <http://imascientist.org.uk/>

## How does it work?

Schools expressing an interest in participating register online. Once details and logistics are finalised, including matching of schools to scientists in general or themed zones, teachers are sent information packs including six lesson plans, fact sheets and debate kits. Students then register individually online in preparation for engaging with the scientists. All interactions between students and scientists occur via the I'm a Scientist website.

During the two weeks of the program, students and scientists can engage in two ways:

- Live Chats: Schools can sign up for live chats with scientists. These half-hour sessions provide the energy of the program and help students to connect science with individuals.
- ASK: Students post science questions (either themed or general) to scientists who then respond. Students vote for the scientist that they think provides the best answers to the questions. The voting determines eliminations of scientists and finally after two weeks, one scientist in each zone is crowned the winner!

## What are the benefits for schools?

### Students:

- have reasons to engage: they talk to scientists and have a decision in casting their vote
- have fun, get beyond stereotypes
- have the opportunity to see science and scientists as real

- are led through the issues by scientists and teacher support
- get practice discussing, debating and making decisions

### Teachers:

- have an opportunity to expose their students to real science with real scientists
- access to ready-to-use resources and new, supported teaching content
- opportunity to introduce student-led learning, higher thinking skills
- meet criteria outlined in National Curriculum

## I'm a Teacher, what can I do?

Bridge8 is holding the Australian pilot from 14 – 24 June 2011. The program consists of six lessons across 3 weeks and teachers may choose how to integrate or extend the program into other areas of current study.

If you would like your class to participate please email Dr Kristin Alford at [Kristin@bridge8.com.au](mailto:Kristin@bridge8.com.au) by Friday 13th May 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](http://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](http://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:

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Email: [projects@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au)



## Every day actions can, and do make a difference

It's kids inspiring kids and putting their learning into action! Green Lane Diary ([www.greenlanediary.org](http://www.greenlanediary.org)) is a free, national curriculum-linked education program for years 3-7 designed by Green Cross Australia and environmental educators, teaching the stresses our planet faces and empowering children to enact changes at home, at school and in the community. Running over Term 3, students receive a diary and keep a scrapbook of their actions and projects



that are making a difference. The next generation is leading the way using new media and imagination. Green Lane Diary showcases the activities of our heroes and helps kids inspire kids. From creating cool videos to community campaigns, it is your student's gateway to all things sustainable, civic minded and environmental. Teacher resources, school video link ups, activities, case studies and ideas are available for schools as we encourage and nurture our future green lane heroes.

**Register now for term 3, email your details to [info@greencrossaustralia.org](mailto:info@greencrossaustralia.org) or visit [www.greenlanediary.org](http://www.greenlanediary.org)**



## Monsoons spinning the Earth's plates

A new study from The Australian National University has for the first time confirmed that long-term climate change has the potential to spin the Earth's tectonic plates. Dr Giampiero Laffaldano from the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences and colleagues in France and Germany have established a link between the motion of the Indian plate over the past 10 million years and a specific climate change event over the same period: the intensification of the Indian monsoon.

Dr Laffaldano said that the monsoon, which increased rainfall in northeast India by four metres annually, sped up motion in the Indian plate by almost one centimetre per year.

"The 100km-thick outer shell of Earth, the lithosphere, is divided into pieces called tectonic plates. Plates move in different directions at speeds in the order of centimetres per year, comparable to the speed of fingernail growth in humans.

"The significance of this finding lies in recognising for the first time that long-term climate changes have the potential to act as a force and influence the motion of tectonic plates. It is known that certain geologic events caused by plate motions – for example the drift of continents, the closure of ocean basins and the building of large mountain belts – have the ability to influence climate patterns over a period of a million years.

"Now we know that the opposite holds as well: long-term climate change, or the natural changes in climate

patterns over millions of years, can modify the motion of plates in a feedback mechanism."

Dr Laffaldano added that the finding could help unlock the causes of plate-motion events like large-scale earthquakes.

"When forces moving plates along their boundaries reach certain thresholds, earthquakes occur and energy is released. This happens cyclically, typically every several hundred years in the case of large earthquakes. However it appears that the seismic potential of plate boundaries, which is an indication of how prone these are to large earthquakes, depends, among other factors, also on how strong or weak these forces have been in the past. In other words, it depends also on the history of plates over millions of years.

"In order to understand the seismic potential of plate boundaries it is important to identify all the possible factors that caused plate motion to change in the past. In that respect we have discovered that climate change could in fact be one possible candidate, something we did not consider until now.

"This new knowledge shall be used to analyse the past behaviour of plates in the Earth's crust. Ultimately we aim at understanding what caused plate motions to change and which regions are currently more prone to large earthquakes. To that end, we may also have to consider the history of climate over the past million years."

Dr Laffaldano's findings were recently published in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*.

[Source: ANU Media Release, 13 April 2011]



## STAV Council meeting dates

17 May                      18 October  
26 July                      22 November Dinner  
9 August  
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

June	16 May 2011
July	17 June 2011
August	15 July 2011
September	16 August 2011
October	14 September 2011
November	14 October 2011
December	15 November 2011

## Contact Newsletter

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