



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



Join STAV on Twitter  
[www.stav.org.au](http://www.stav.org.au)

## 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)

### 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

Exhibition day is on Wednesday 2 November. More information on pages 4 and 5, and on the STS website [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts)

### STAVCON

The program will be available soon.  
<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.

### VCE Conferences 2012

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

### FREE offer for readers of eContact

STAV has another free offer for readers of eContact only. If you would like a chance to win a double pass to Smurfs, please email [projects@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au) with your postal address and phone number. Refer to page 12 for more information.



## STAV Contacts

### STAV Council

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### 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**

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STS Project Officer

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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 the L'Oreal Australia 'For Women in Science Fellowship Awards', held in Melbourne on 23rd August, which celebrated the achievements of three remarkable young women scientists from Brisbane,

Melbourne and Townsville; Eve McDonald-Madden, Georgina Such and Tracy Ainsworth.

L'Oreal run the Fellowships globally in partnership with UNESCO and this year marks the fifth anniversary for the Awards in Australia. The Fellowships are designed to support talented women, ensuring they maintain a career in science and continue to make a positive contribution to our society. Johan Berg, Managing Director of L'Oreal Australia presented each recipient with their Award.

The three L'Oreal Fellows were chosen from 110 applicants by a panel of eminent scientists. The Fellowship funds, \$20,000 are intended to further their research and may be used for any expenses they incur, including childcare. The program is part of L'Oreal's global support for women in science. Professors' Suzanne Cory and Jenny Graves, past recipients of the L'Oreal International Fellowships were among the distinguished guests.

Each Fellow has been acknowledged for her outstanding research in maintaining biodiversity in the face of climate change and developing more efficient and effective therapies for disease:

Eve McDonald-Madden, 'Using maths to save species and dollars': University of Qld/CSIRO is using mathematics and artificial intelligence to develop systems that allow us to make tough conservation decisions with limited information.

Georgina Such, 'Building smart pills with nanotech': University of Melbourne, is inventing a smarter way to deliver drugs – a miniscule capsule designed like a set of Russian babushka dolls that sneaks through the blood stream to target cancer cells and nothing else.

Tracy Ainsworth, 'Deepening our understanding of coral reefs': James Cook University, Townsville is changing our understanding of the life of the tiny coral animals that built Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef – now threatened by a warming of the ocean and by bleaching.

Please visit the following website for more information about each of the 2011 recipients, and also some updates on previous Fellowship winners: <http://www.scienceinpublic.com/loreal/fellows/fifthyear>

**Soula Bennett**

**STAV President**

## Project Officer's Report



STAV's journals, LabTalk and Let's Find Out, and newsletters are now available to members on our website as flip-page files. You can view the electronic versions in our Members only login site. If you are

interested in having a look at this new format contact me at [projects@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au) and I will give you the password. For now the contents are still grey-scale but future editions will have full colour images throughout.

Semester 2 trial exams should have arrived in your school on Monday 5 September. There is some stock available for late orders. There are also some past papers available in hardcopy and a limited release of past papers on CD. You can access order forms from our website (<http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/stavpublishing/trialExams.html>). Many of you will have discovered already that these online forms can be filled in and saved electronically, then sent to STAV Publishing by email. Alternatively, you can fill them in electronically and print hardcopy, then fax as usual if this better suits your school's processes.

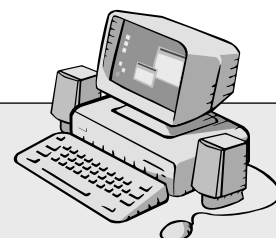
**Ellen Finlay**

**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



Congratulations to the students who participated in Science Talent Search judging day on Saturday August 13 and thank you to the many volunteer judges and STS committee members who so willingly gave their time to help with judging the projects. We were especially pleased this year to again welcome a large contingent of student teachers from Melbourne University as volunteer judges. They interacted very positively with the student entrants and we hope they are inspired to go on and encourage their own students to do an STS project next year.

All venues reported successful and rewarding days. Results are announced as part of Schools Pack 3, which is due in schools on Monday 3rd October. Students are not notified individually; 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. Details for Presentation Day also arrive in Pack 3.

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

## Science Drama Awards Report



Science Drama has been around now for nineteen years. It emerged in 1993 in the theatre at Footscray City College where six schools came together to perform for the inaugural competition.

This year schools from across Victoria will come together to create a narrative through performance where they describe a concept and/or issue relating to Science. If you have never attended the awards, I encourage you to take the time and find out. Join us on September 9. Great teaching has always been about performance!

If you are interested in a different approach to engaging 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](mailto: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](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

**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

## New Members

Welcome to the following new individual members of STAV

Vicky Ellis  
 Amarjeet Kaur  
 Sarah Rae

## 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)

## 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)

## 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 soon**

Register online.

[www.sciencevictoria.com.au/STAVCON.html](http://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

## 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](mailto:stav@stav.vic.edu.au)**

# Experiment Zone at Scienceworks

## Measurement and Technology – Using Data Loggers

29 August – 28 October

Data loggers are a great tool to introduce students to maths topics such as graphing and measurement. In this practical session led by Scienceworks staff, students will learn to use 'Spark' data loggers to investigate a series of ideas using hands-on experiments.

Your students will be able to use the data loggers confidently after a few minutes of instruction and they will be engaged by their application to practical activities. It's a great way of incorporating ICT into mathematics.

*Duration: 50 minutes*  
*Suitable for Years 5 – 8*  
*Cost \$4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.*

## Problem Solving

29 August – 28 October

In this session led by Scienceworks staff, students carry out a series of hands-on investigations into real life scenarios to introduce them to useful problem solving strategies. The session demonstrates the usefulness of maths to everyday life and introduces problem solving strategies in a practical and fun way.

*Duration: 50 minutes*  
*Suitable for Years 5 – 8*  
*Cost \$4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.*

## Robot Reboot

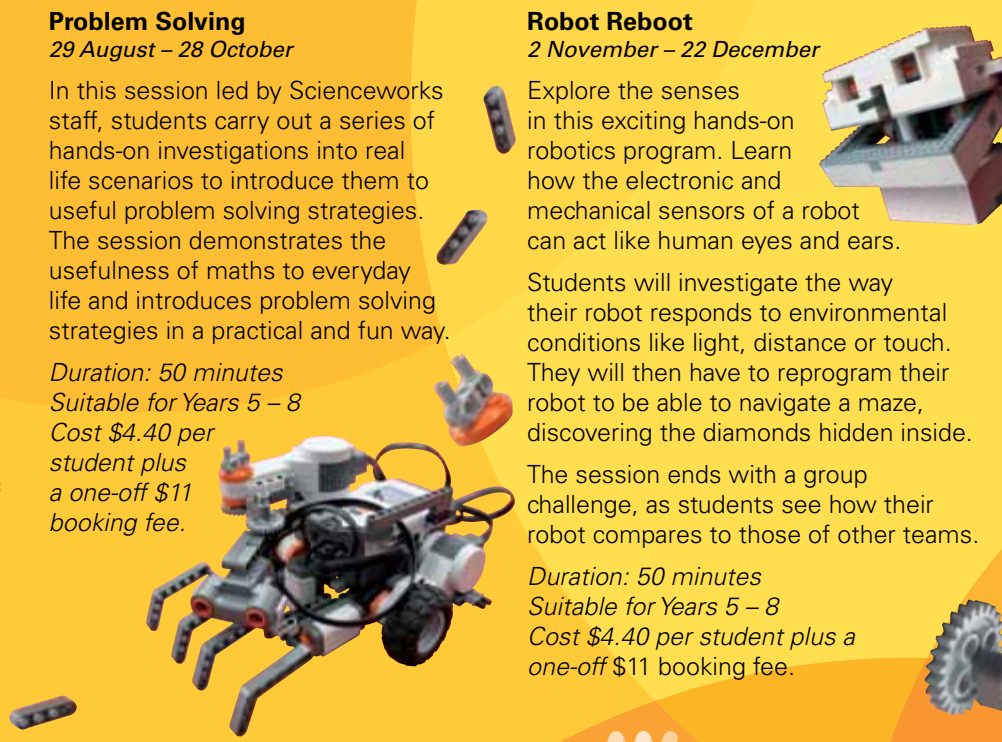
2 November – 22 December

Explore the senses in this exciting hands-on robotics program. Learn how the electronic and mechanical sensors of a robot can act like human eyes and ears.

Students will investigate the way their robot responds to environmental conditions like light, distance or touch. They will then have to reprogram their robot to be able to navigate a maze, discovering the diamonds hidden inside.

The session ends with a group challenge, as students see how their robot compares to those of other teams.

*Duration: 50 minutes*  
*Suitable for Years 5 – 8*  
*Cost \$4.40 per student plus a one-off \$11 booking fee.*



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

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



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

or

Contact Ellen Finlay

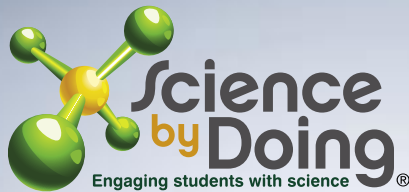
STAV Publishing

Ph: 03 9385 3999

Fax: 03 9386 6722

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

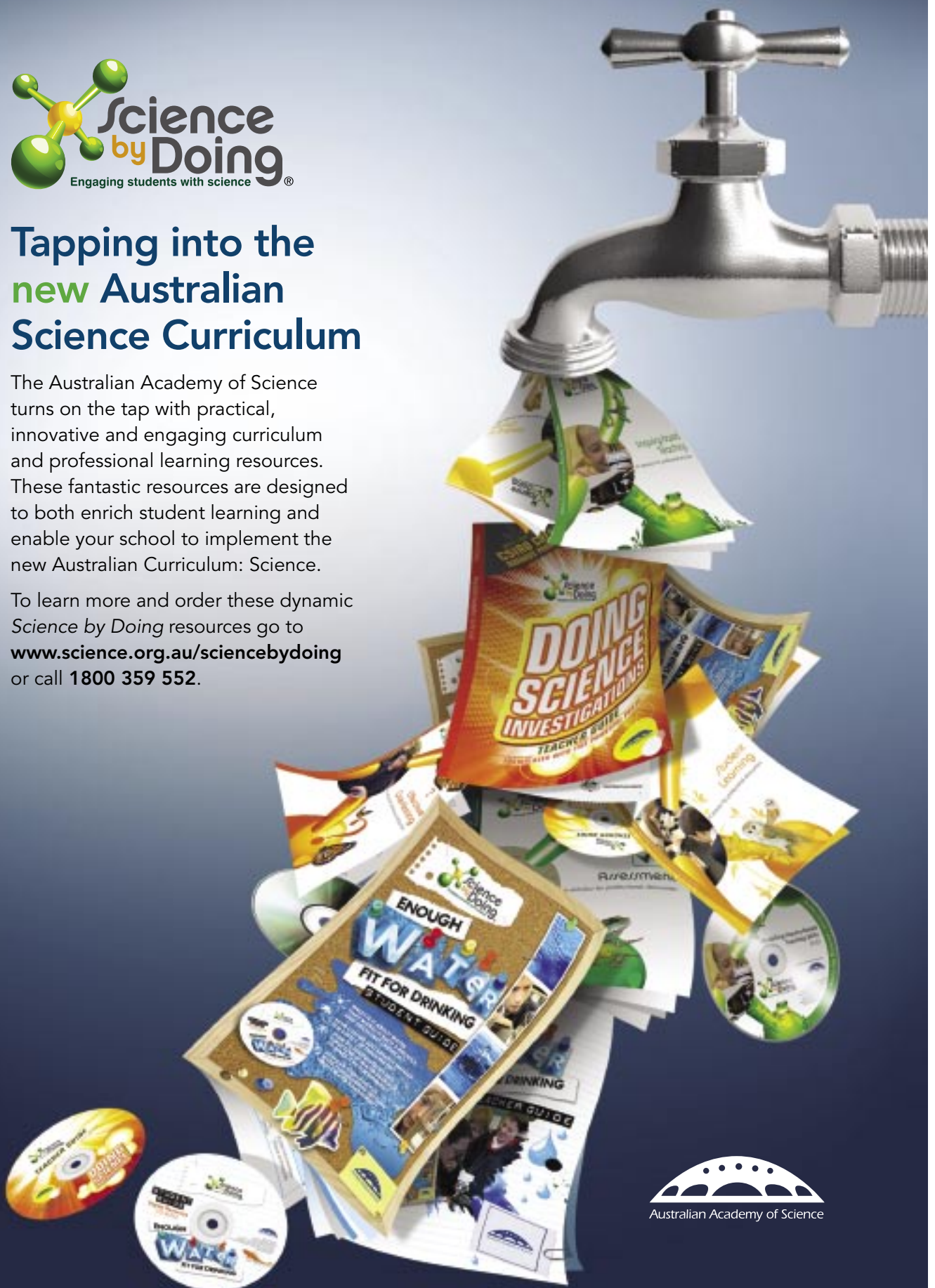




## Tapping into the new Australian Science Curriculum

The Australian Academy of Science turns on the tap with practical, innovative and engaging curriculum and professional learning resources. These fantastic resources are designed to both enrich student learning and enable your school to implement the new Australian Curriculum: Science.

To learn more and order these dynamic *Science by Doing* resources go to [www.science.org.au/sciencebydoing](http://www.science.org.au/sciencebydoing) or call 1800 359 552.





**150 day  
Term Deposit**

**6.10%<sup>o</sup>\*  
p.a.**

## right on the money

With our great rate, we'll help you achieve your investment target.

Take out a 150 Day Term Deposit between 17 August and 30 September 2011 and **earn 6.10% p.a.\***

- Minimum opening deposit of \$5,000.
- Deposits up to \$1 million Government guaranteed.

Simple, guaranteed investment earnings – now that's right on the money!

To apply call **1300 654 822** or visit [www.victeach.com.au](http://www.victeach.com.au).



\*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 17 August 2011. Check website for current rates. Victoria Teachers Credit Union reserves the right to withdraw this product at any time. This information does not consider your objectives, financial situation or needs - consider the suitability of this information and refer to Terms and Conditions or Product Disclosure Statements before acquiring a product, available at our branches or call 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](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au)



## An end of year program for the entire faculty



### “Resourcing your Science Classroom through the Specialist Science Centres’ Network”.

**Friday 2nd December, 09.15 — 16.00**

**Venue: Gene Technology Access Centre**

A full day program that gives science coordinators and teachers the opportunity to find out about on-line resources and programs on offer from each of the specialist science education centres.

Teachers will select workshop sessions from four of the centres based upon curriculum needs and interest in a particular discipline.

9.30am: Keynote Presenter

A complimentary full buffet lunch will be provided.

Bookings are now open. Cost: \$25-00/participant. You need to specify the four centres whose workshops you would like to attend, when making your booking.

**For all bookings contact: [gtac@gtac.edu.au](mailto:gtac@gtac.edu.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](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:

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





Smurfs™ & © Peyo 2011 Lafig B. Movie © 2011 CPII/SPAI. All Rights Reserved.

### More free movie passes: Smurfs

For readers of eContact only. If you would like a chance to win one of these, please email [projects@stav.vic.edu.au](mailto:projects@stav.vic.edu.au) with your postal address and phone number.



## STAV Council meeting dates

13 September                      22 November  
18 October

**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

October	14 September 2011
November	14 October 2011
December	15 November 2011

## Contact Newsletter

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## Contact STAV

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