



ASET-NSW NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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Farewell Margaret Croucher

A huge thank you to Margaret who has been the pillar of the committee. Her enormous contribution to the success of ASET is priceless. Her initiative in setting up the committee from the ground up and keeping it strong year after year is now highly valuable to all Labbies across the state.



Current Elected Committee Members

Linda Robertson

Chairperson

Jo Walker

Vice-Chairperson

Linda Stanford

Secretary

Lisa Corado

Newsletter Editor

Loretta Fincato

Membership, Treasurer, Public Officer

IT Manager

Jasmina Hazrolaj

Committee Members

Katrina Fannelli

Andrea Jones

Links for Articles

- <https://assist.asta.edu.au/>
- <https://seaact.act.edu.au/conasta>
- <https://scienceweek.net.au>
- <https://envirostore.com.au>

The current committee has awarded Margaret a Lifetime Membership Award for her hard work and dedication.

Congratulations Margaret and happy retirement!

Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the 11th edition of the ASET-NSW newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to Margaret Croucher for the outstanding job she has done over the years as Chairperson of ASET NSW.

As the new chairperson of ASET I have enormous shoes to fill. The ASET committee is made up of all volunteers and is for all Lab technicians & assistants all over NSW. If you have any questions, ideas or tips feel free to share them with us. I would also like to welcome all the new committee members and am sure we can make a great team.

Science ASSIST received another year of funding, and this wonderful resource will continue to be on a subscription model. If enough schools register and pay for the subscription, then the website will continue.

ASET's 2023 Conference will be on from 6-7 November (TBC) at the University of Technology which is close to Central Train Station.

#STARweek 2023 – 6-10 November.

Stay safe.
Linda Robertson

Secretary's Report

I would like to welcome the new committee members and look forward to working with them this year. There will be lots to report from the next meeting.

I would also like to thank Margaret, our outgoing chairperson for assisting the new chairperson this year.

Linda Stanford

Calendar of Events

12 April 2023	International Day of Human Space Flight
15-26 May 2023	Australian Science Olympiads - Big Science Competition
3 August 2023	International Chemistry Quiz ICQ
12-20 August 2023	National Science Week – Innovation: Powering Future Industries
6-7 November 2023 (TBC)	ASET-NSW Annual Conference University of Technology Sydney
7 November 2023 (TBC)	ASET-NSW AGM
9-12 July 2023	CONASTA70: Space to Innovate - Springfield, Adelaide
11 October	HSC Exams begin.
16-2 October 2023	Aussie Backyard Bird Count
6-10 November 2023	#STARweek
13-19 November 2023	National Recycling Week
11 February 2024	International Day of Women & Girls in Science
03 March 2024	Clean Up Australia Day
21 March 2024	Harmony Day
30 March 2024	Earth Hour Day

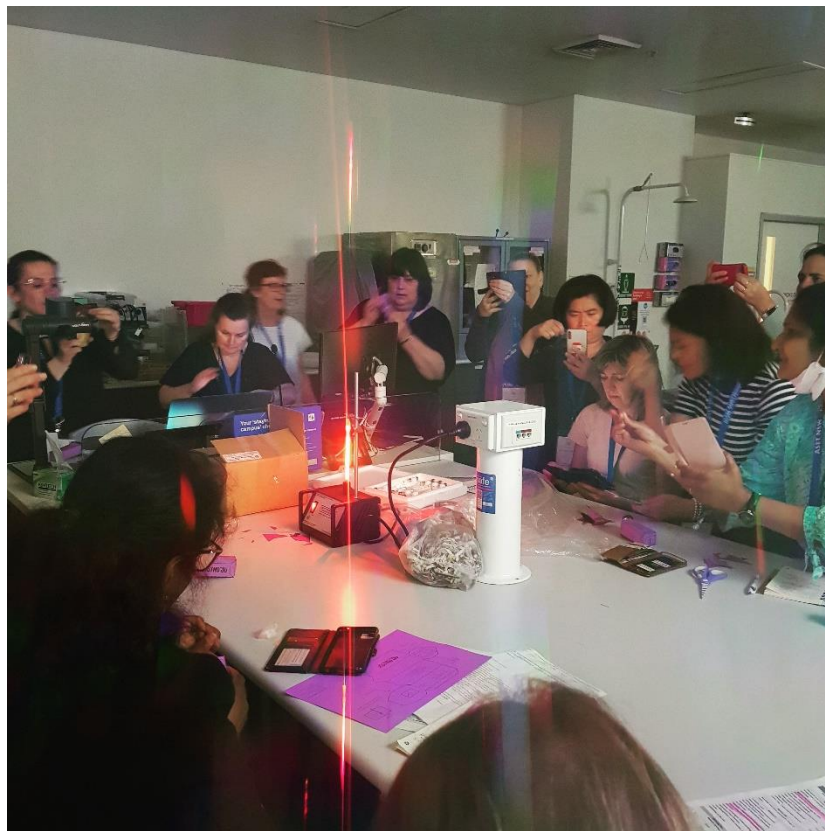
Snapshots of ASET Conference 2022



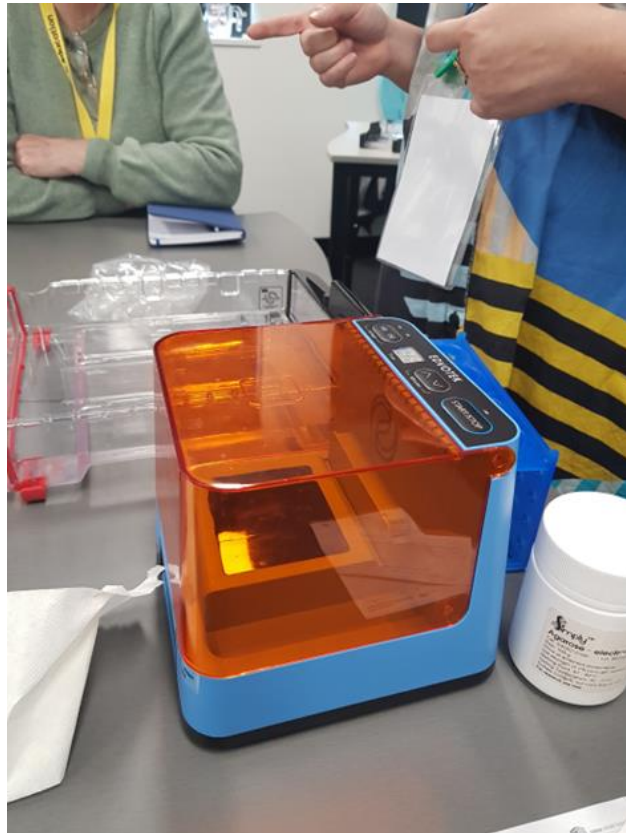
Margaret at the podium during the 2022 AGM



It's glammed up time during Melbourne Cup Day



Physics workshop with Matt Dodd



Electrophoresis with Janet Trang





Suggested List of Suppliers

Haines Educational
Labtek
Modern Teaching Aids
Southern Biological Educational Supply
Science Supply Australia
Scientrific
Bacto
Wiltronics
Omega Scientific Pty Ltd
Science Equip Australia
Science with Matt
WestLab
Alpha Chemicals

My First day as Labbie

Speaking to Labbies whom I met through network meeting, Fb page or other ways, I found out there is always a funny side of being the the first time Labbie. I encourage you to participate and send in your funny or confusing stories on your first day.

I'll start off with my story

The teacher asked me for “spatula”. There I was looking for this spatula

And of course, I didn't find it.



The teacher walked into the prep room and pulled the drawer out and there it was the elusive science spatula!

I still find it funny to this day!

Please email me yours and will



feature it on the next edition.

You know you work in a lab when: -

1. You are a walking billboard because most of your wardrobe consists of free t-shirts from vendors. Along those lines, because of your wonky lab hours, most of your shopping actually happens at vendor booths at trade shows and conferences *i.e.* “*This tote bag is so ME.*”
2. Even in your own home, parts of a whole are referred to as “aliquots”. “*Hey hon, can you pour me out an aliquot of olive oil, please?*”
3. You don’t actually wear a lab coat unless it’s absolutely necessary, since the majority of your clothes have already been stained or ruined from your experiments (thank goodness for #1).
4. Your brain is so full of science that you have no more space for important dates, times, and names *i.e.* “*And you are....*” “*I’m your neighbor. Next door. You’ve been at my house a dozen times?*” “*Right.... say, would you like to hear about the wonders of the immune system?*”
5. Most things you think are really basic to anyone with a science education are actually quite complicated. “*What do you mean you don’t know what ATP stands for?*”
6. You always point out scientific inaccuracies in movies and TV shows (think: “Outbreak”, “House”, “Grey’s Anatomy”, etc.).
7. If you carry on a one-hour debate over the expected results of a test that takes five minutes to run.
8. If your 3-year-old son asks why fire is hot and you proceed to go over the principles of thermodynamics and how combustion occurs.
9. You know that “42” is not the answer to life; “ $p < 0.05$ ” is.
10. You wear closed-toed shoes because duh.
11. You cringe at the headline with “*science says...*”
12. You can’t stand an argument based on only one example *i.e.* “*C’mon people! N of at least 3!!!*”
13. You’ve wondered why you can’t drink distilled water in the lab – shouldn’t it be clean?
14. You give the lab equipment motivational pep talks. *i.e.* “*I swear I will throw you out the window if you give me any kind of trouble today. I am NOT in the mood.*”
15. You’ve used dry ice to cool beer down.
16. You have developed protocols with incubations to work around your life *i.e.* “*72h incubation, undisturbed...I didn’t want to come in over the weekend.*”
17. You can no longer spell normal words but have no trouble with spelling things like immunohistochemistry or deoxyribonucleic acid.
18. If you happen to grab a handful of test tubes and it turns out to be the exact number you needed, you feel like magic.

A word from our sponsor...

My name is Chris Simm, and I'm the Service Manager for Conditionaire Manufacturing Pty Ltd. We are a Melbourne based company that specialises in fume cupboard testing & manufacturing, ductless fume hood testing, chemical storage cabinets, ventilation units & fans for chemical cabinets/chemical storage rooms in your school.

The company is well established and has been operating for 70 years. This gives us a very distinct advantage over our competitors when it comes to knowledge and problem solving. We currently repair/trouble shoot all makes and models on the market today. We are also NATA Accredited and adhere to the current standard AS/NZS 2243.8 and AS/NZS 2243.9. Our testing equipment is calibrated to NATA standards.

We have experience in all models of fume cupboards currently on the market, and most past makes & models. We can either offer you original parts or retrofit ours when replacement parts become unavailable. This is a huge advantage over our competitors when they cannot offer the same service.

All our reports come with a photo/sketch as per the standards requirements. It seems there are a lot of companies out there not adhering to this, and we now have access through a portal on the internet for all our clients to see or gather their test reports and have a full asset history on their fume cupboards etc including comments/repairs. We normally just email out as a PDF and there will be even more capabilities coming in the future!

What we can offer the regional NSW schools and Sydney Metro is this...we currently do a number of schools in the following areas: Albury, Cowra, Dubbo, Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Lithgow. This has come about due to the expensive pricing schools are being quoted from companies based in Sydney. For us to come to your region, I would suggest you contact all the lab assistants and facilities managers in the surrounding region, and discuss what you are currently paying for this type of service, and email me back with how many fume cupboards/fume hoods/ductless fume hoods (portable units on wheels) to get a no obligation quote for your school/s.

We would like to offer your school the following pricing...\$60 plus GST per NATA Test (airflow/smoke test with full report) and if you are 50klms or more out of Sydney, a travel cost of \$300 plus GST to anywhere else in NSW.

Remember also, double sided fume cupboards get tested both sides as per the standards and must have certification labels on both sides.

I hope to hear from you soon.



Chris Simm - Service Manager/Business
Development

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Email: chris.conairmfg@bigpond.com

Alpha Chemicals offers Australia wide distribution of our range of laboratory reagent grade products. Alpha Chemicals is a 100% Australian owned chemical distribution company with a strong background in inorganic chemicals.

We are committed to providing laboratory chemicals to Australian secondary schools with high quality, at the lowest possible prices and with the best service. We also supply laboratory chemicals to all industrial, research and scientific laboratories at very affordable prices.

Alpha Chemicals has taken on the role of providing quality products at affordable prices combined with unbeatable professional and personal service.

Our warehouse, in Sydney, stocks a wide range of chemicals that are used in many industries and applications, ranging from ceramics raw materials, paint raw materials, electroplating raw materials, concrete stain raw materials, laboratory chemicals, water and wastewater treatment chemicals, and animal health product raw materials through to a range of powder coating equipment and chemical additives and the complete range of anodising plant equipment and chemical additives.

Our staff would welcome the opportunity to provide further information on or assistance with your specific requirements. These may not be included on our website, but our experience, facilities and resources enable us to source a wider range of products.

<https://alphachem.com.au/product-category/laboratory-chemicals/>

Shane Longmore

(Managing Director)

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The advertisement features a green border and a diagram of a cube with vertices labeled d^1 and d^2 . The text is in a mix of bold green and blue fonts, with some elements in italics. The Fizzics Education logo includes a stylized globe and the text 'Since 2004'.

BOB'S INSTRUMENT SERVICE

Bob's Instrument Service specialises in the service and repair of school science lab equipment including microscopes, balances, power supplies, panel meters and other equipment throughout NSW and ACT.

Please feel free to contact Bob Death on 0416 721 011 or bobsinstruments@gmail.com to discuss your school's needs.

[Useful Science News Websites](#)

- Sciencedaily.com
- Sciencenews.org
- abc.net.au/news/science/
- sciencenewsforstudents.org
- sci-news.com

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editorasetnsw@gmail.com