



# ASET-NSW NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

Volume 6, Number 2

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## Contact Us

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- Jasmina Hazrolaj  
IT Manager
- Katrina Fannelli

## Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the 12th edition of the ASET-NSW newsletter. The Committee have been busy arranging presenters & displayers for the 2023 conference.

Thanks to Linda Stanford for the freebies, she has obtained for the conference's show bags. If anyone has any contacts and wants to help obtain more please get in touch! Thanks to Jo Walker for organizing a guest speaker & helping with workshops.

ASET's 2023 Conference will be on 6-7 November 2023 at the University of Technology which is walking distance from Sydney Central Train Station.

I am inviting you all for this learning and networking opportunity with other labbies. The skills and knowledge that you could take back and share to your school is so valuable.

Please be reminded that this could be part of your Professional Development. Your school could pay for it or you could personally pay for it and claim it back from tax return

So come and join us!

#STARweek 2023 – 6-10 November.

Stay safe.  
Linda Robertson  
ASET-NSW Chairperson

## Links for Articles

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

## Useful Science News Websites

- [Sciencedaily.com](http://Sciencedaily.com)
- [Sciencenews.org](http://Sciencenews.org)
- [abc.net.au/news/science/](http://abc.net.au/news/science/)
- [sciencenewsforstudents.org](http://sciencenewsforstudents.org)
- [sci-news.com](http://sci-news.com)

## Secretary's Report

Welcome to Term 2

The ASET conference organization is well underway so please save the date of 6-7 November 2023 to be held at UTS Ultimo.

Membership renewal reminder notices were sent out late last term.

If you have not organized payment yet, could you please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for supporting the organization that supports you.

Linda Stanford  
ASET-NSW Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Annual Membership fees are overdue for 2023. If a colleague has not renewed since 2020, then they have not used the new membership software at: <https://membership.asetnsw.org.au/>

If you have an existing account, log in, click under your name, and go through the User Detail to Member Area button. Click "Edit Contract" and hit the green "Renew Membership" button. If you cannot access the system as you have been deactivated, or do not know your password, please email me at:

[asetnswtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:asetnswtreasurer@gmail.com)

Sorry, credit card payments cannot be accepted on-line currently but it we are working on it for next year. We are only set up for direct debits into our AMB bank account.

Loretta Fincato  
ASET-NSW Treasurer



## What's On!

11 October 2023	HSC Exams begin
16-22 October 2023	Aussie Backyard Bird Count
6-7 November 2023	ASET-NSW Annual Conference University of Technology Sydney
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
12 April 2024	International Day of Human Space Flight
25 April 2024	ANZAC Day
7-11 July 2024	CONASTA71: <i>Perspectives: Science Educators Shaping tomorrow.</i> University of Melbourne Victoria
5-9 August 2024	Education Week
10-18 August 2024	National Science Week: <i>Species Survival - More than just sustainability</i>
12 September 2024	R U Okay? Day

# NOVEMBER 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	ASET-NSW's Annual Conference				4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Save the Date

Registration will be open on 4 September 2023. Get in early to avoid disappointments and book your preferred workshops 😊  
See our website for more information <https://www.asetnsw.org.au/>  
We look forward to seeing you there!

## ASET-NSW Annual Conference .....what is it you may ask?

This is a conference dedicated for all lab techs, whether you're a newbie or veteran there is always something new to discover. It is an opportunity to enhance your skills, expand your knowledge, broaden your network, and have fun catching up with like-minded colleagues!

Day 2 of the conference coincides with the Melbourne Cup. The committee would be looking for the Most Innovative Hat. The winner will be featured on the next issue of the Newsletter.



***Become a member of ASET-NSW today  
and enjoy the benefits including:***

- Access to professional development events
- Regular newsletter and information
- Networking with other labbies just like you
- Resources and ideas to support your work
- Opportunities to network with other members
- Receive and exchange ideas!
- Contribute to discussions through the email forum
- Actively support your professional association
- A discounted conference registration fee

Membership of ASET-NSW is open to science laboratory technical staff, science technician, aide, assistant, manager or education professional in all levels of educational institutions in New South Wales.

Membership costs just \$45 per year which is tax deductible, or your school could pay for it.

Full details are in our [ASET NSW Membership Letter.pdf](#). Download the Membership Form or click the 'Join Us Now' button below to complete the online application form.

All applications submitted on or after the 1st of September will also receive the following year of membership. This is only applicable for new members and for the first-time membership is processed.

**Join Us Now!**

**So, what are you waiting for? Head down to our website  
[asetnsw.org.au/membership](http://asetnsw.org.au/membership) to sign up.**

## Snapshots of CONASTA 70



### Sarah Cates Winning Article

I was lucky enough to win a competition sponsored by SETA and MTA which allowed me to attend CONASTA 70 The Space to Innovate. I am so grateful for this opportunity to meet many other science technicians and to enhance my skills.

CONASTA 70 took place in the picturesque Science Precinct of North Terrace and Adelaide University. The campus comprised a captivating blend of historic buildings transformed into cutting-edge facilities. I couldn't resist taking a few photos of the rooms, which seemed straight out of a scene from a Harry Potter movie. However, the primary purpose of our visit was not to admire the architecture but to immerse ourselves in learning, and that we did.



The theme of the event was "The Space to Innovate," and Adelaide proved to be the perfect host city for such an occasion. Among the brilliant keynote speakers, Professor Tanya Monro, Australia's Chief Defence Scientist, stood out. Her profound words resonated with the audience, emphasizing that defence is not solely about war but about protecting Australia in many different ways. She focused on the importance of fostering young women in STEM through the guidance of teachers and how a single encouraging comment to a student can dramatically alter their career trajectory.

I was fortunate to be invited by SETA to attend the Science Breakfast, an opportunity I eagerly embraced. The event took place at the Adelaide Zoo, and the esteemed speaker was Peter Clark, Director of Monarto Safari Park. During his talk, Peter passionately discussed Zoo SA's conservation efforts in both South Australia and Africa, with a special focus on the plight of the Rhinos. It was evident that Peter was a dedicated conservationist, and his speech left a lasting impact. Among the key points emphasized by Peter was the crucial role of science and technology in conservation worldwide, particularly for students. The event provided an excellent platform to learn about conservation while enjoying a delightful breakfast accompanied by the ambient sounds of nearby Dingos waiting for their breakfast. I am truly grateful to SETA for giving me this unforgettable opportunity to enrich my knowledge and understanding of conservation efforts.

The workshops at CONASTA 70 were hands-on and particularly relevant for science technicians like myself. I had the privilege of attending the Vernier workshop, organized by Scientrific and an Adelaide Science Technician, which provided invaluable insights for my planning in 2024. Another highly useful workshop was the "Hands-on Chromatography," offering practical experiments applicable to general science in Year 7, all the way through to biology in Year 12. Led by two experienced science technicians, the workshop encouraged engaging group

discussions on adapting methods based on available equipment and skill levels.



For me, the highlight of the conference was the Science Technicians dinner that followed the opening ceremony. It served as a fantastic icebreaker, allowing me to connect with fellow science technicians from across the country. These interactions spilled over to lunchtime and throughout the conference, providing friendly faces and a sense of belonging to a larger team. As science technicians often work in isolation, being the only one in their respective schools, this camaraderie was truly uplifting.

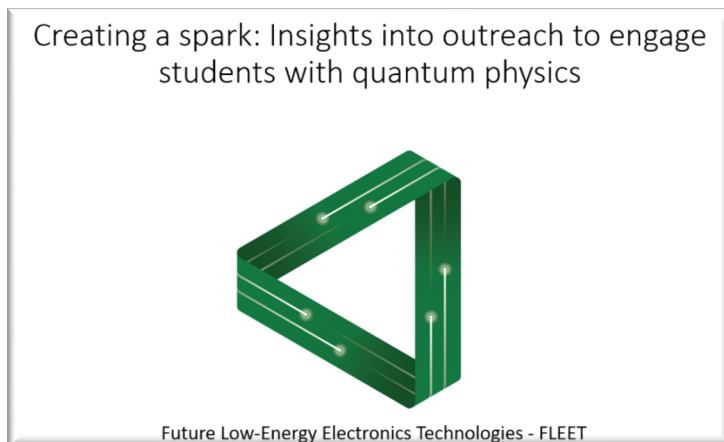
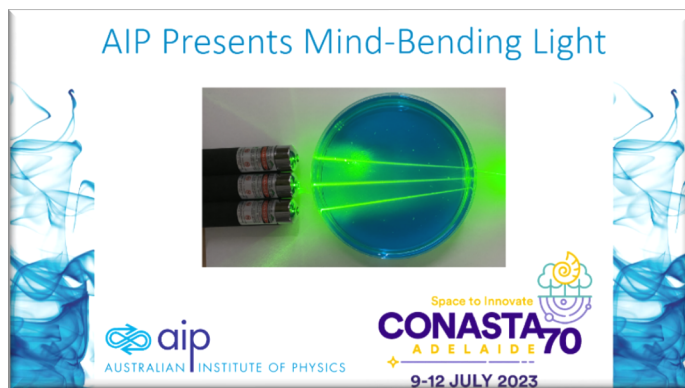
I extend my heartfelt thanks to SETA and MTA for making this remarkable opportunity possible. Already, I have begun sharing

my newfound knowledge with my team back at Varsity College, eager to contribute to our collective growth and success.

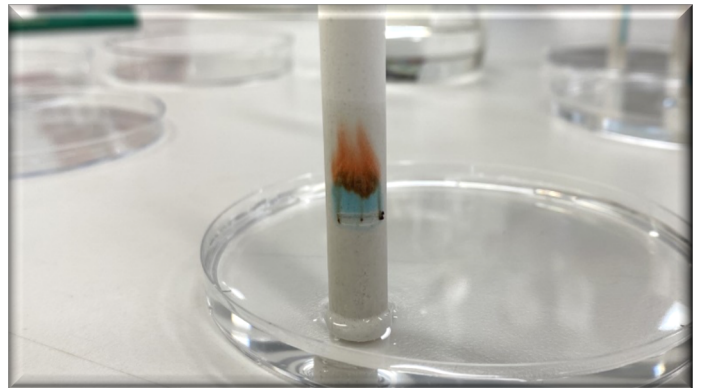
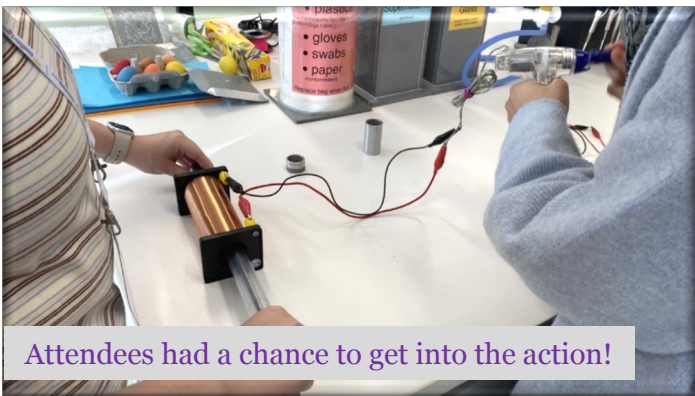
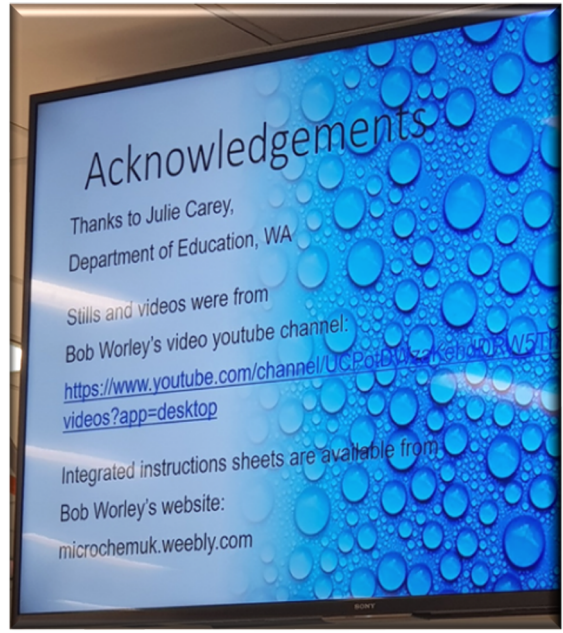
Sarah Cates  
Varsity College Science Technician

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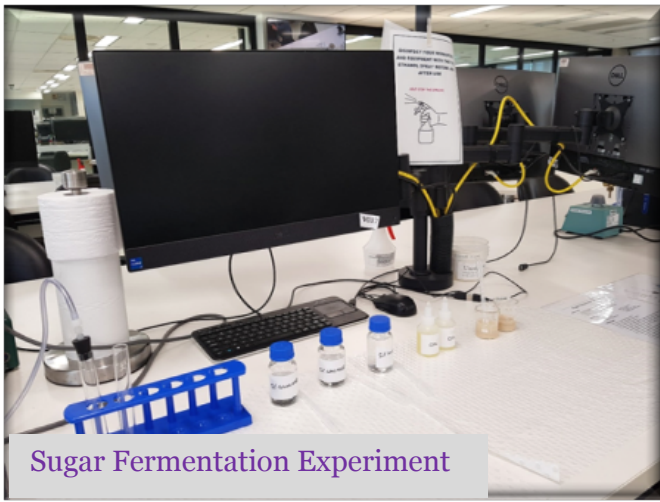
## Some of the presenters at the CONASTA 70 Conference







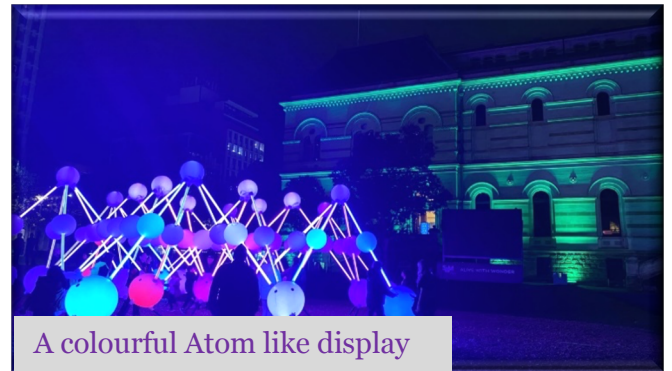




Sugar Fermentation Experiment



Anthremus Damage



A colourful Atom like display



Some of the exotic residents at Adelaide Zoo



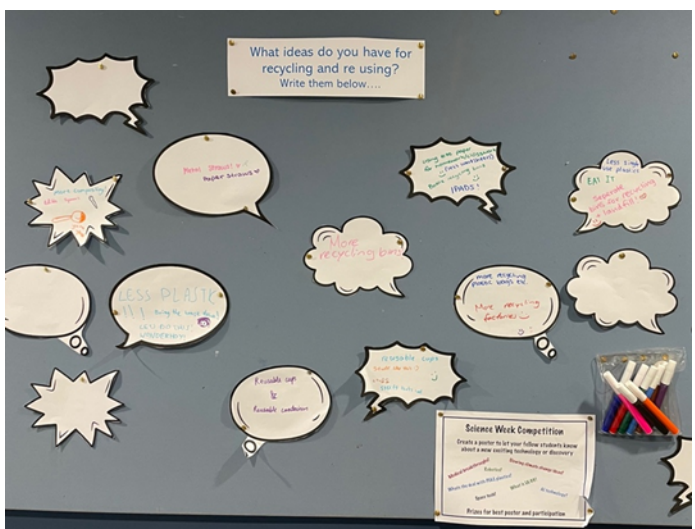


Photos are courtesy of Loretta Fincato, Sarah Cates and Jasmina Hazrolaj who did an amazing job capturing those photos for us to have a glimpse of the conference. Thank you for sharing!





Celebration @ Roseville College involved an AI displays, students making Binary Code bracelets and “Craig Reucassel” visited to talk about how to Fight Waste.



The week ended with a bang with a very popular lunchtime balloon rocket race, showing Newtons Third Law. Prizes were earned for fastest racer and best dressed balloon. Special guest star Einstein helped quiz the crowd with Brain Teasers





Celebration @ Cheltenham Girls High School with their special visitors from local primary school  
Photos are courtesy of Sudha Saligram





Well done guys! You looked like you had so much fun and as the little Einsteins!  
Thank you for sharing!

NB: Photos were purposely blurred for privacy.

## My Lab Day

Recently our labs had no gas supply for 6 weeks. Every day I reminded our maintenance that we cannot have Science classes without gas for experiments. After a couple of weeks, the maintenance guy responded with “we all have problems with gas at some time or other “.

Year 8’s are learning to use a microscope and after focusing on some pond water with micro-organisms, the teacher walks around the room to see the results of their work and 50% of the class have drawn an air bubble or the pointer.

During dissection topic a student asked if I was the butcher, which I found funny 🧐

We found out the second skeleton that had been in the department for over 40 years was actually real! The teeth were the giveaway.... Decided to donate to a university anatomy museum – it just happened to be the 31<sup>st</sup> of October when I drove him across town.



## Suggested List of Suppliers

Alpha Chemicals	<a href="http://alphachem.com.au">alphachem.com.au</a>
Bacto	<a href="http://Bacto.com.au">Bacto.com.au</a>
Haines Educational	<a href="http://Haines.com.au">Haines.com.au</a>
Labtek	<a href="http://Labtek.com.au">Labtek.com.au</a>
Modern Teaching Aids	<a href="http://Teaching.com.au">Teaching.com.au</a>
Omega Scientific Pty Ltd	<a href="http://Omegascientific.com.au">Omegascientific.com.au</a>
Science Equip Australia	<a href="http://Scienceequip.com.au">Scienceequip.com.au</a>
Science Supply Australia	<a href="http://Ssapl.com.au">Ssapl.com.au</a>
Science with Matt	<a href="http://Sciencewithmat.com.au">Sciencewithmat.com.au</a>
Scientrific	<a href="http://Scientrific.com.au">Scientrific.com.au</a>
Southern Biological Educational Supply	<a href="http://Southernbiological.com.au">Southernbiological.com.au</a>
WestLab	<a href="http://Westlab.com.au">Westlab.com.au</a>
Wiltronics	<a href="http://Wiltronics.com.au">Wiltronics.com.au</a>

### You know you work in a lab when:

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...



**Chris Simm** - Service Manager/Business Development

Conditionaire Manufacturing Pty Ltd

50 Glenbarry Road, Campbellfield, VIC 3061

**Ph:** 03 9308 7022      **Mob:** 0408 383 719

**Email:** [chris.conairmfg@bigpond.com](mailto:chris.conairmfg@bigpond.com)

## 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](mailto:bobsinstruments@gmail.com) to discuss your school's needs.



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

Shane Longmore

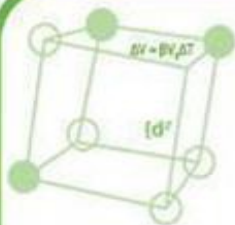
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4 Allen Pl, Wetherill Park NSW Australia 2164

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# Science Shows & Workshops

*across NSW & ACT!*

- ✓ Curriculum-linked
- ✓ Full risk assessments
- ✓ Easy to arrange
- ✓ Small groups or whole school

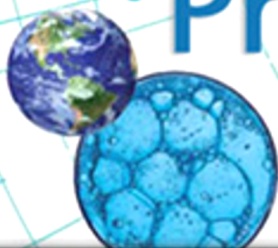
fizzics.com.au

 1300 856 828



## CIDER HOUSE TECH

Sensors  
Probes





## Microscope & Balance Services

Your microscopes/ balances keep calling in sick & you have **no time** or no idea how to deal with them?

- Microscopes produce out of focus, hazy and unsharp images like the left small image
- Microscopes have loose or missing parts
- Stiff adjustments appear on your microscopes
- Balances produce inaccurate or imprecise weighing results

*It's time to get them treated by our professionals!*



**1300 661 607**



[edusupplies@edusupplies.com.au](mailto:edusupplies@edusupplies.com.au)

# Stile

If you have any interesting science stories, photos, hints, tips, events, freebies or suggestions that haven't been published on other forums, please send me an email so I can add it in the next edition of the newsletter. Please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line,

I'm looking forward to your emails. 😊

[editorasetnsw@gmail.com](mailto:editorasetnsw@gmail.com)