



**Association of Science
Education Technicians NSW**
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For Labbies by Labbies

asetnsw.org.au

Term 3 2026

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Chairperson's Message

Hello everyone,

Registrations are now open for our annual conference, click [here](#) to register. UTS is kindly sponsoring us again and hosting us November 16-17th. If you have never been to an ASET conference before, then please see pages 3-5 for more information and for a look at our amazing 2026 program.

Congratulations to Tenzin Jorchuck Tsang and Katie Gleeson who won our Metro and Regional Competitions. We look forward to meeting you and are so glad you can make it along.

We look forward to announcing the winner of our Margaret Croucher award at the Conference. We have some fantastic entrants and more information will be circulated to all ASET members so you can help us to narrow down the field in Week 1 of Term 4. Stay tuned!

We hope you had a fun Science week – send through photos or a short article to our editor Salena editor@asetnsw.org.au to appear in upcoming newsletters or on our website. We love sharing what you are all doing!



Thank you to everyone who filled out the surveys recently. ASET is working with a team of passionate lab techs working on getting accreditation and more safety training for all lab techs in NSW. This is a long term project and we will keep you posted with any updates. We are looking for people who have GRANT WRITING experience as well as people to WRITE NEW MODULES for future MSL training. If you or someone you know has experience in these areas and would like to talk further on this subject, please get in touch with Jo at chair@asetnsw.org.au

Page 21 Message
from committee



Chairperson's Message cont.

I was lucky enough to visit the Galapagos islands last holiday break and can't help but share a couple of pics – such an amazing experience snorkelling with marine iguanas and sea lions and seeing massive frigate birds displaying and blue footed boobies dancing.



Blue footed Boobies



Frigate bird



Marine iguana!



Sea Lion

I want to shout out to our incredible team of volunteers on the ASET committee this year. So many moving parts to bring you these events and experiences and to keep you informed through our website and newsletter. Thank you to Jas, Lisa, Jo H, Ella, Salena, Melissa and Kate for everything you do to bring things together!

-Jo Walker (ASET-NSW Chairperson)

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Ella Scott

Committee Member

Melissa Siddons

Committee Member



Conference 2026

**16-17th
November
2026
University of
Technology,
Sydney**

**SEEDS OF
SCIENCE:
NURTURING
KNOWLEDGE
FOR ALL**

**Registrations
now open!**

Before registration:

1. **Check your Currinda login:** aset-nsw.currinda.com/login. Use *Forgot Password* if needed. Please contact us early if you have login issues or have changed your school email address.
2. **New to Currinda?** You'll need to create a Currinda profile before registering.
3. **Payment:** Credit card payment via the secure Currinda site is easiest. If requesting an invoice, you will need a Purchase Order number.

Questions? Contact treasurer@asetnsw.org.au

The program...A glimpse of this year's conference

What a ripper of a conference we have lined up for you all this year!
Here's a taster of the workshops the committee have organised.
I can't decide which ones to go to, there are so many interesting and professionally relevant learning opportunities available.

TITRATION

Outdoor Ed

CHEMICAL STORAGE

**EQUIPMENT
TESTING &
REPAIRS**

*genetic
engineering*

Lab Organisation

electrophoresis

Miracle Berries

ELECTROMAGNETICS

**TINY
SCIENCE**

Air Rockets

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

THERMODYNAMICS



Conference Program

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RISK ASSESS
Inventory

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MICROBIOLOGY

3D Printing

glass bending

**CHEMICAL
CALCULATIONS**

*Preventative
Microscope
Maintenance*

*Lunar Battery
STEM Design*



ASET-NSW Conference 2026

What makes it special?



1

We run a number of different workshops over the 2 days and you can choose the subjects that interest you most. First in will get first pick so if you haven't gotten final approval yet, please register, choose your workshops and request an invoice for payment later. If you are ready to go, our website provides easy credit card payment options.

Our generous sponsors host an exhibitor area where you can check out their latest products (often with discounted pricing) and the experts are there to give demonstrations and answer your burning questions. There are fun T-shirts to buy and giveaways to be had

2



3

Our show bags have special gifts for you, catering is included and of course there's the amazing company of other like-minded lab techs from around 180 other Australian schools. There are many new friends and connections to be made. Monday night drinks and dinner will include a Stargazing Night at Pyrmont hosted by Stem reactor and Science with Matt. Last year's event was great fun so don't miss out.

Our amazing volunteer committee has been working hard behind the scenes to make sure you have a fantastic learning and networking experience

4

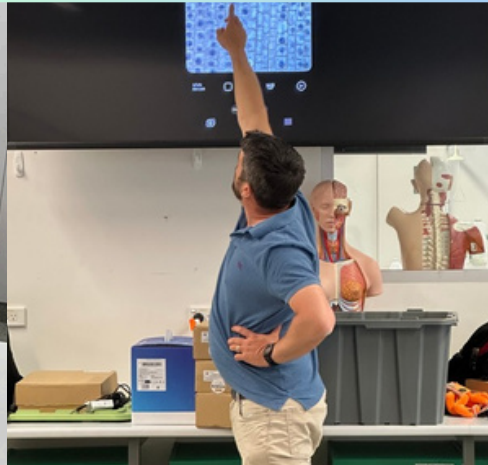
We hope to see you there :)

Jo, Jas, Lisa, Kate, Jo, Salena, Melissa and Ella



A Glimpse of Last Year's Conference to motivate you...

"Great experience and good to network with other schools."



"I loved it all, thanks especially for Matt's telescope prac!"



"Loved the hands on experiences."



"It was a wonderful experience meeting so many different people trying to make science better for schools."

"It was an amazing event and very useful for all Lab Techs to attend."

ASET-NSW Conference Competition winners

Congratulations!

Regional Winner

Congratulations **Katie Gleeson** from St Paul's College, West Kempsey! You have won transport and accommodation costs up to \$500 to attend our conference this year thanks to Westlab. You have also won full conference registration fees and 1 year ASET-NSW membership courtesy of us!



Metro Winner

Congratulations **Tenzin Jorchuck Tsang** of Northern Beaches Secondary College, Freshwater Senior Campus in Curl Curl, Sydney! You have won full conference registration fees for ASET-NSW conference this year and 1 year membership of ASET-NSW courtesy of us!

This could be you next year... Keep an eye out in future newsletters for details of next year's competition!

Calendar

I am sure you can find an excuse to celebrate here somewhere...!

SEPTEMBER

Biodiversity Month

7- National Threatened Species Day



20- World Cleanup Day



22 - World Car-free Day

22/09/1791 - Michael Faraday born

29/09/1901 - Enrico Fermi born



27 - World Rivers Day

OCTOBER

4 - World Animal Day



10 - World Animal Road Accident Awareness Day



DECEMBER



World Soil Day 5 December
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



United Nations

International Mountain Day
11 December

25/12/1642 Isaac Newton born

NOVEMBER

2-6 STAR WEEK



16-17 November
ASET-NSW Annual
Conference

7/11/1867 Marie Curie born

Don't forget to check out the member's only area on our [website](https://asetnsw.org.au). All member's received an email with a password to access the area. **Annual membership is only \$50.**

Some very important Thank You's

**ASET would like to thank everyone who has donated
and shared equipment for ASET Conference 2026.
We couldn't do it without you!**

Sam Matveevs glass bending class couldn't run without help from:-

Glass files from Tyrone
from Cabramatta High



Bunsen flame
spreaders from
Linda from Canley
Vale High



Rubber teats for pipettes from
Science Supply Australia



Glass tubing donated by Haines



Jasmina's demo classes:-



Thank you to Queenwood
school for lending ticker
timers and Bell jar.

Dearnes new labbie training workshop:-

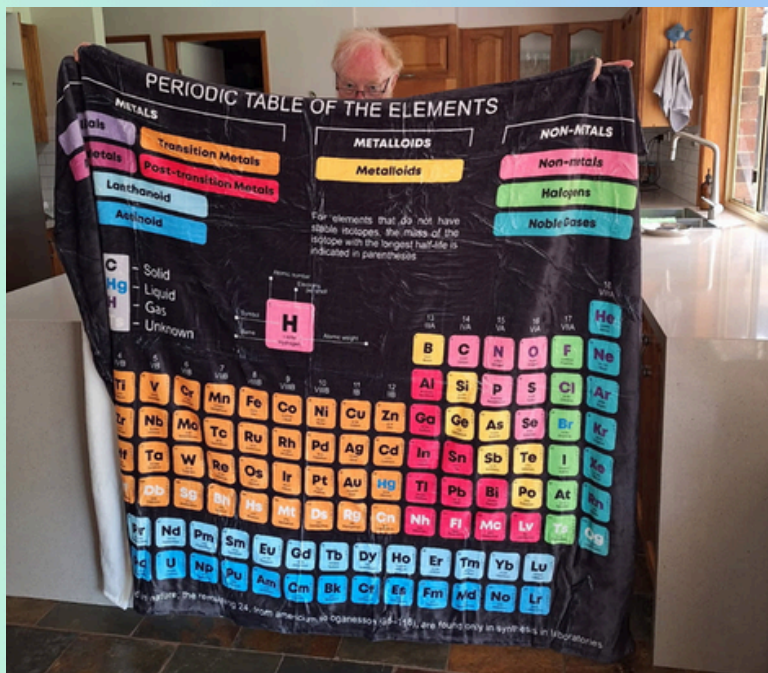
Thank you to Nel Bowen at MTA for donating the
chemicals for this exciting workshop.



What's Been Going On?

Bob had a health scare recently but he's doing much better and he loves the ASET team's gift to help with his recovery.

Bob Death will be back for our ASET Conference in November.



Lab Techs catch up in Campbelltown



Lisa Corado organised a lab techs catch up at Wests Leagues Club a few months ago. They had a ball and were lucky to have both Margaret Croucher and the inaugural Margaret Croucher Award winner, Dearne Stephen! These catch ups are great for morale as well as a wonderful opportunity to exchange knowledge.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET LAB TECHS IN YOUR AREA? ASET-NSW CAN HELP YOU GET STARTED WITH ORGANISING A CATCH UP AT YOUR LOCAL TO MEET SOME NEW LAB TECH FRIENDS.

CONTACT EITHER JO W (CHAIR@ASETNSW.ORG.AU)

OR KATE M (SECRETARY@ASETNSW.ORG.AU)

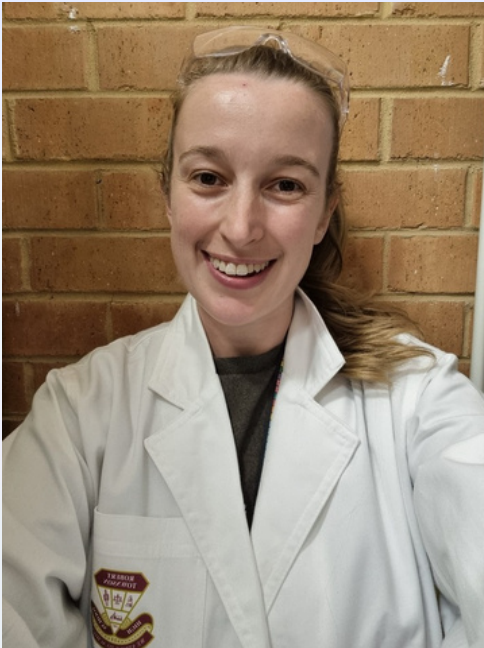
Behind the labcoat of...

Melissa Leslie

The committee at ASET–NSW are so excited to introduce you to Mel, as she is presenting at our conference this year, and we are all looking forward to a great Outdoor Education session with her.

Hi, I'm Mel!

I'm currently a labby at Robert Townson High School. I have been a Lab Tech since 2022 and am loving it!



I have always had a passion for science and the outdoors. Before working in schools, I worked as a Zookeeper, an Environmental Field Officer and as an Education Officer at National Parks and Wildlife. As a Zookeeper, I've worked with Australian natives, as well as tigers, gorillas, seals and more.



Behind the labcoat of... Melissa Leslie continued



My husband, Leigh, and I have been together since 2013 and have been married for 4 years. We have a daughter, Robyn, who has just turned 1 (still can't believe she is 1)! We also have two whippets, Barry and Charlie. You can usually find us all at the beach or going for bushwalks.

This November I will be running my first session at the ASET Conference on Outdoor Education. I look forward to meeting you all and exploring the outdoors.



Margaret Croucher Award update

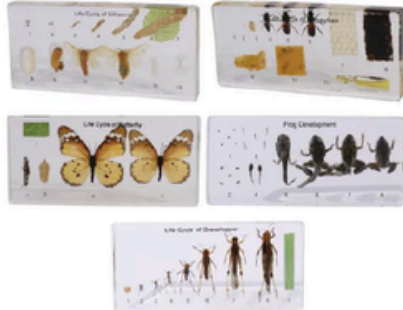
Hi everyone,

Thank you to all those people who have participated in the Margaret Croucher Award nominations. It's such a rewarding process as we uncover the quiet achievers all over the state.

You will be able to vote on our nominations in Week 1 of Term 4. The winner will be announced at the Conference in November.

*-Lisa Corado
ASET-NSW Treasurer*

Spotlight Jeffrey Keck from MTA



I work closely with Science departments to understand what they need and find practical solutions. Building genuine relationships with teachers and lab technicians is a big part of what I do. I particularly enjoy helping schools bring new science labs to life, from the initial planning through to resourcing and setup.



Jeffrey Keck
B.S. Education

Some of my favorite PD workshops I've delivered:

Garage Physics, 3D printing with Bambu Lab, Data Discovery with Micro:bits



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Science Week Activities

**Professor Botanica Bones – Chief Seed Analyst
Lynda from Marist Sisters, Woolwich.**

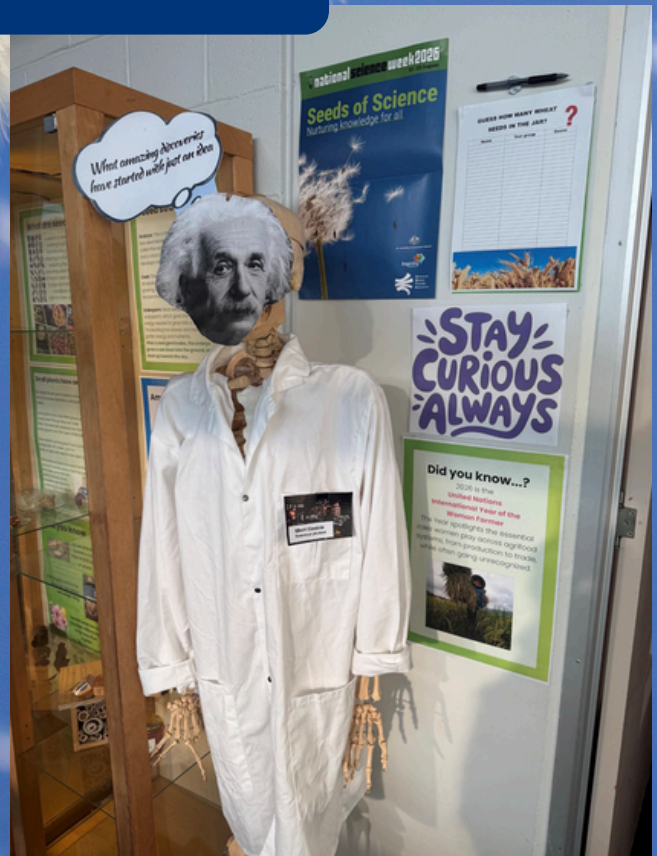


Michaela and Helen from Roseville College

Science Week Activities



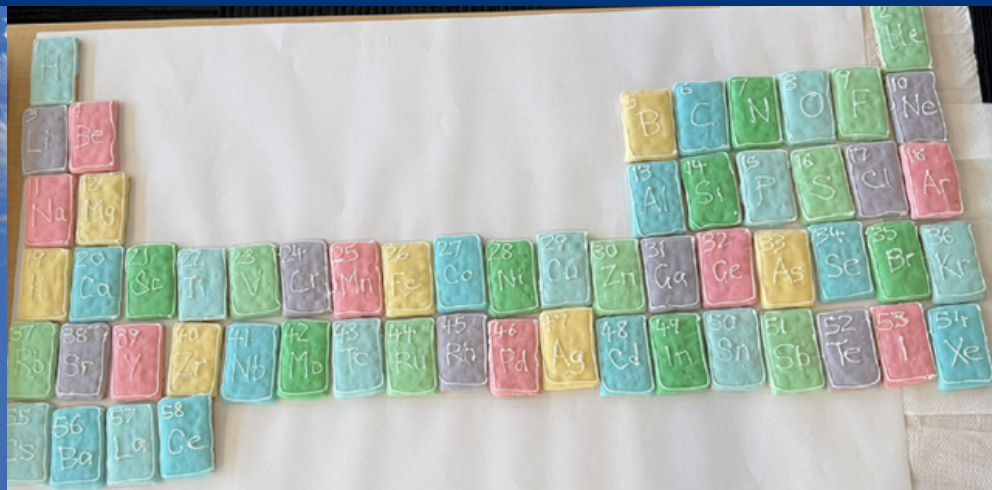
From Jo and Ratna at Queenwood School, Mosman



Science Week Activities



At Jo and Ratna's Science Week morning tea there was science themed nibbles and also a very special guest!



**More from Michaela and Helen from
Roseville College**



Project Humble

You may remember Mitchell Brennan, the key note speaker from our Conference 2025, who spoke of the **Seahorse Hotel Project**. Mitchell got in touch recently to let us know one of the recent school visits and seahorse hotel deployment he assisted with, stemmed from the ASET Keynote speech. We would love to hear more from you if your school was involved!



Photo Credit - Bill Gladstone

If your school wants to know more about the Seahorse Saviour Program, the scientists work in partnership with Project Humble www.projecthumble.com.au. Project Humble also runs several other activities, including bee and wombat projects for preschoolers through to Year 10 students.

SCIENCE ASSIST



SCIENCE WEEK PROMO

Here at ASET-NSW we love Science Assist. If you haven't already heard of them, they are a national online advisory service for school science educators and technicians, which is part of the Australian Science Teachers Association.

For National Science Week, Science Assist are looking after your safety!

No matter what activities you are running, safety is their priority and that is why they are providing several offers to schools.

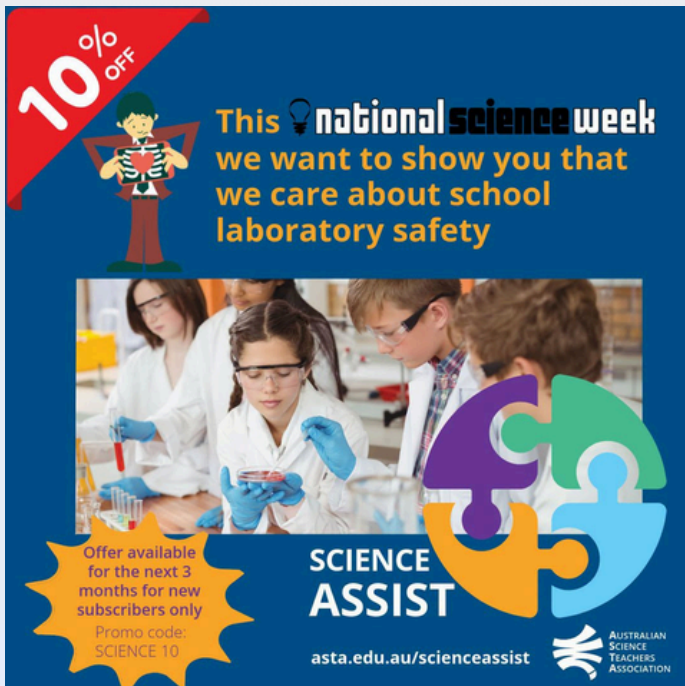
 For the next 3 months, new subscribers to Science Assist, get 10% off. Use the promo code SCIENCE10 to become a member to gain access to safety support advisors and a large range of resources to minimise your risk in school labs.

<https://asta.edu.au/scienceassist/>

 The Science Assist team are sharing a 'how to guide' on how to safely conduct the Elephant's Toothpaste experiment for both primary and secondary schools. It is free for you to download and use.

<https://asta.edu.au/reso.../ais-making-elephants-toothpaste/>

Have a wonderful and safe National Science Week ahead!



10% OFF

This  **national science week** we want to show you that we care about school laboratory safety

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national science week

Enjoy a free 'how to' guide for Elephant's Toothpaste on us

SCIENCE ASSIST

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION 1951-2026

SETA Forum – ConASTA 73

The SETA Forum at ConASTA 73 brought together delegates mainly from Queensland, with representatives from WA and the ACT. Discussions highlighted how similar the challenges facing school science technicians are across Australia.

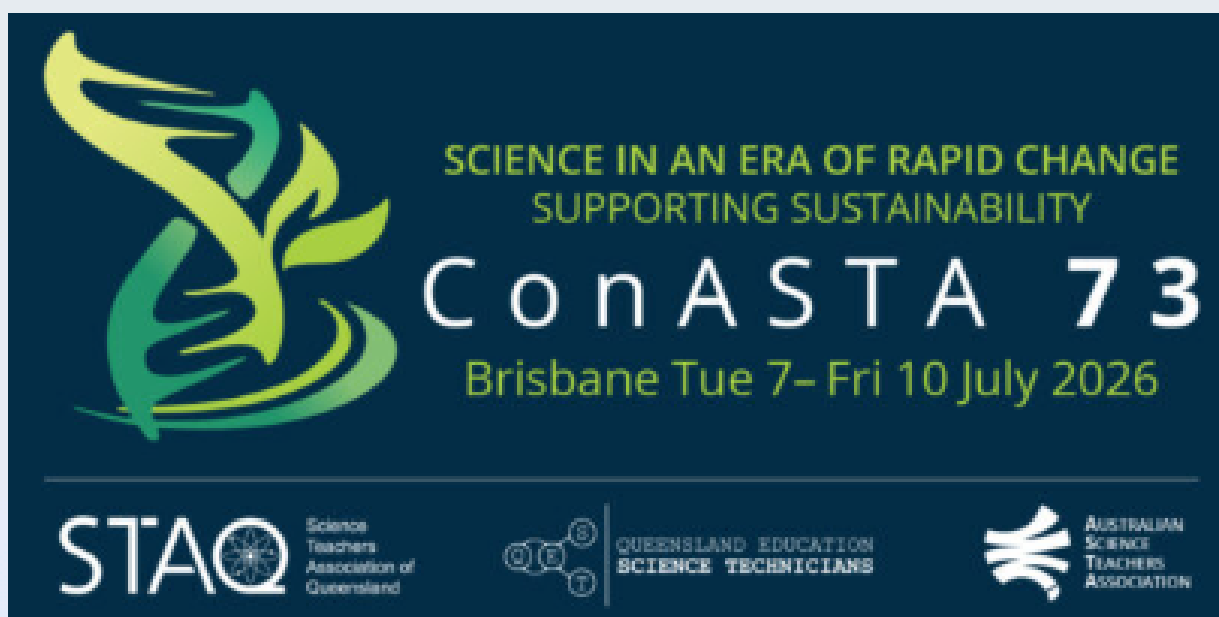
Key topics included chemical management and disposal, particularly unclear guidance; support for sole and regional technicians through buddy systems and technician-to-technician webinars; IT restrictions affecting science equipment and software; differences in pay, classification and recognition; and the need to raise the profile of science technicians nationally.

Delegates also discussed the value of self-advocacy and building stronger connections within our schools. Despite differences between states, one message stood out: we face many of the same challenges, and by sharing knowledge, resources and experiences, we can have a stronger voice together.

Jackie Burton

SETA representative from Queensland

The ConASTA conference, run annually by the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA), was held in July in Brisbane this year.





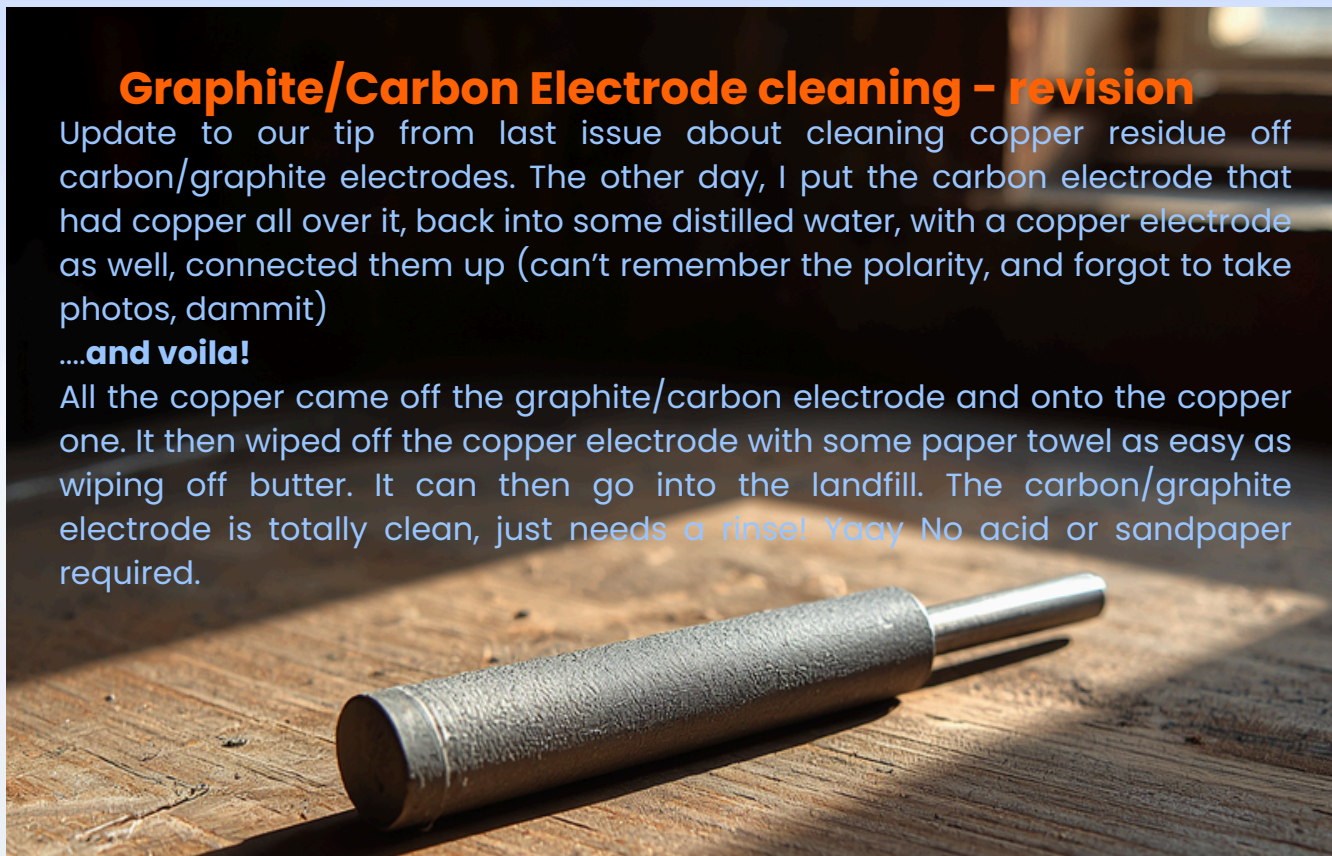
Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Lab Life

Graphite/Carbon Electrode cleaning – revision

Update to our tip from last issue about cleaning copper residue off carbon/graphite electrodes. The other day, I put the carbon electrode that had copper all over it, back into some distilled water, with a copper electrode as well, connected them up (can't remember the polarity, and forgot to take photos, dammit)

....and voila!

All the copper came off the graphite/carbon electrode and onto the copper one. It then wiped off the copper electrode with some paper towel as easy as wiping off butter. It can then go into the landfill. The carbon/graphite electrode is totally clean, just needs a rinse! Yayy No acid or sandpaper required.



Recipe 1 (for general large bubbles):

1 part DAWN dishwashing liquid

15 parts de-ionised water

Recipe 2 (for longer lasting bubbles):

Same as Recipe 1 but add:

2 parts glycerine

Recipe 3 (for bouncing bubbles):

100g gelatine powder

1 litre hot water

70mL glycerine

50mL DAWN dishwashing liquid

(this solution will need to be re-heated before use)

All mixtures benefit from the addition of some "toy store" bubble mixture – up to 1 container of bubble mixture in 15 litres of made up solution but quantities may be varied with experimentation.

All recipes courtesy Andrew Suttar, Bubblemania

Bubble mixture recipes



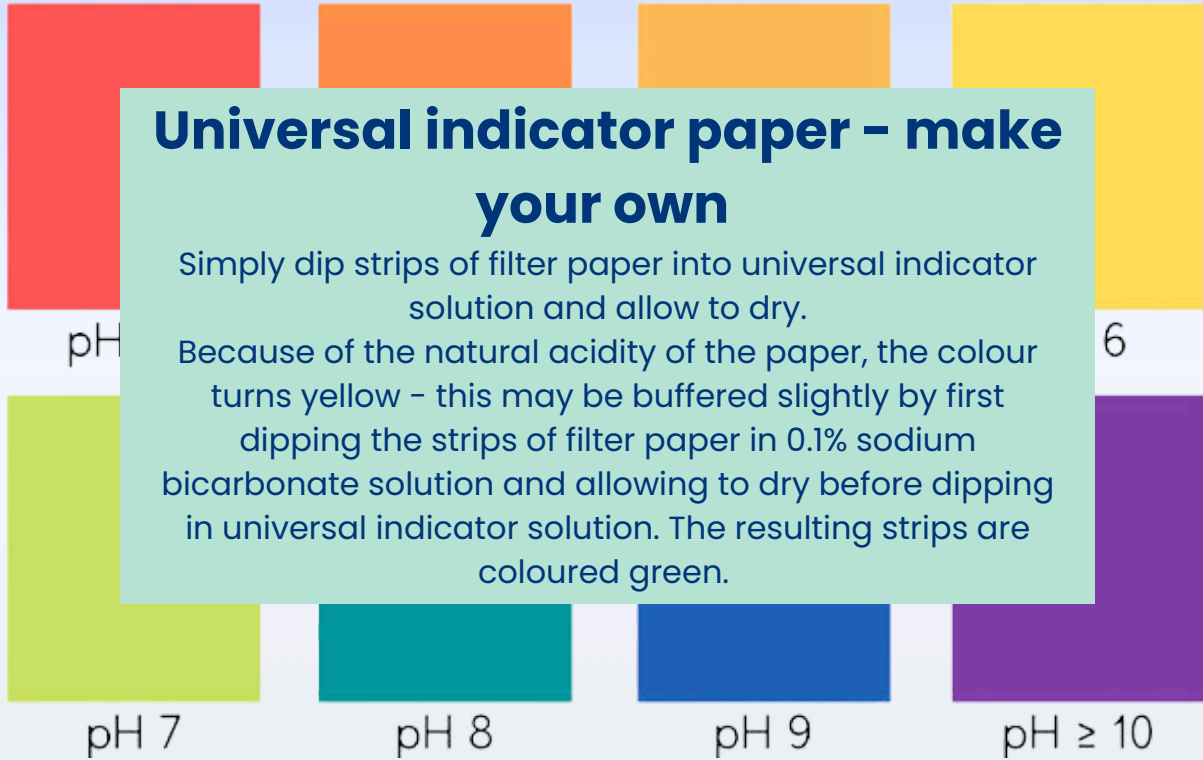
More Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Lab Life



Universal indicator paper – make your own

Simply dip strips of filter paper into universal indicator solution and allow to dry.

Because of the natural acidity of the paper, the colour turns yellow – this may be buffered slightly by first dipping the strips of filter paper in 0.1% sodium bicarbonate solution and allowing to dry before dipping in universal indicator solution. The resulting strips are coloured green.



I have started doing this with bulldog/binder clips when I send out the boxes of gloves on a trolley for a prac, it works a treat as it holds the box onto the trolley when you pull the gloves out. I also have one on my workbench and I also use it for my box of tissues. Just be careful when you cut the slit in the bottom of the box that you don't cut the gloves as well.



Science Funnies and Facts

"One of our science teachers was teaching Year 7 about force using examples of the bite force of different animals and he asked the students what unit we use to measure force, and the answer he was expecting was Newtons but one sweet girl very confidently said "Megabytes!" and even though she was very wrong, it was very funny and the teacher gave her a merit for the unintentional comedy."

From Ella

Did you know...?

Marie Curie's remains will stay radioactive for roughly 1,500 more years. This long timeline happens because she absorbed radium-226 during her life, an element with a half-life of about 1,600 years. Because of this, her body was placed in a lead-lined coffin.



Calling all wonderful Brain's Trust Labbies out there:

Please share your tips and tricks and stories with us – you are all such a wealth of knowledge and experience, its important we share it with each other to improve our professional lives and wellbeing in general. I know you know so much.

Email me, Salena, at editor@asetnsw.org.au, I can't wait to hear from you.

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If you have any interesting stories, jokes, photos, tips, events or other information with a science theme, that I can include in this newsletter please email me, I would love to hear your ideas.

Similarly, if you have any feedback about the newsletter please let me know, it would be greatly appreciated.

Salena Bryce

(ASET-NSW Newsletter Editor)

editor@asetnsw.org.au