



# **Association of Science Education Technicians NSW**

**Supporting - Monitoring - Training - Facilitating  
For Labbies by Labbies**

[asetnsw.org.au](http://asetnsw.org.au)

## **In this issue:-**

- Chairperson's Message
- Calendar/Save the Date
- Term 3 PD Days
- Conference Flyer
- April PD Day
- Tips and Tricks
- Science Funnies
- Our Sponsors

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## **Newsletter Term 2 2025**

### **Chairperson's Message**

Winter already! This year is flying by. Thank you to everyone who has already filled out our PD survey. Your ASET team has been working hard on organising the PD days around topics you have asked for.

Bob Death's *Troubleshooting in the Lab* session in Wollongong T2 was so popular that we are having a bonus session in Term 3 (21/7) at Barker College, Hornsby. Practical, useful tips that will change your labbie game! Thank you to the amazing and generous Bob for taking time out to share his knowledge with us.

ASET has organised a Chemical Safety presentation in T3 on 21/7 at Mungga-iri Jingee Academy of Future Skills for our Canberra lab techs. We are close to capacity, but if you live near the ACT and would like to take part, please reach out for more information.

Our volunteers are working on a new Members Only section for our website with lots of useful information to help you in your role. Stay tuned and we will let you know when this is launched. Keep your membership up to date to be able to access this new material.

Our ASET NSW 2025 Conference will run 17-18th November at UTS. We have some new presenters and fresh workshop topics. We would also love to hear from YOU, our amazing community of lab techs, about your special skills :) We have been lucky enough to have Jasmina, Dearne and Sam in the last few years. Would you like to get involved and teach a workshop? Please reach out to Jasmina or Jo Walker for more info.

Stay tuned for our Conference program which will be ready for release in the coming months and registrations will open late August/early September.

We look forward to a great couple of days of learning and networking.

*Jo Walker*

Chairperson ASET NSW

## Save the Date!

### Calling all amazing lab technicians!

Would you like to take part in this year's conference? Do you have a special skill or expertise in a subject you can share with our group? You can pair up with a friend or run your own session.

Please reach out for more information. We would love to hear more from our amazing lab tech community and are here to support you.

## Calendar



## Don't Miss This...

### ASET NSW Annual Conference

**When:-** Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th November, 2025




**Where:-** University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

**Cost:-** Single day \$150 members, \$190 non-members  
Both days \$280 members, \$360 non members

We are busy organising another fabulous line up for you to learn from. Our 2025 program will be released soon. Check out our [2024 program](#) for an idea of what to expect if you haven't been to an ASET Conference before.

Come and join us for a couple of fun days of hands-on learning, networking and workshopping. You choose what workshops and lectures best suit your context and your interests. There are so many future friends and colleagues to be met!

### Get Your Diaries Ready.....

<b>8 June</b>	World Oceans Day
<b>23 June</b>	International Women in Engineering Day
<b>7 July</b>	Shark Awareness Day 
<b>7-10 July</b>	ConASTA in Perth
<b>20 July</b>	Moon Landing Anniversary (only 56 years!)
<b>21 July</b>	ASET PD Day—Chemical Safety—Canberra.
<b>21 July</b>	ASET PD Day—Bob Death, Barker College, Hornsby, Sydney
<b>28 July</b>	National Tree Day 
<b>9-17 Aug</b>	Science Week 2025 'Decoding the Universe'
<b>4-8 Nov</b>	STAR Week - Science Technician Appreciation & Recognition Week. 
<b>17-18 Nov</b>	<b>ASET NEW Annual Conference at University of Technology, Sydney.</b>

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## What's On

Find all the information you need about our Professional Development Days, and other events, on the [Events page](#) of our website.



## ASET NSW PD Days Term 3

### Trouble Shooting and Equipment Repairs with Bob Death

**When:-** Monday 21st July (SD Day Term 3), 9am—2:45pm

**Where:-** Barker College, 91 Pacific Hwy, Hornsby

**Cost:-** \$60 ASET members, \$80 non-members, includes tea, coffee, snacks & lunch.

Our April PD Day with Bob Death was such a success, we have coaxed him back for another one. Bob will be teaching hands on troubleshooting and repairs of everyday lab equipment and safety around induction coils and VDG generators. Bob shares a wealth of knowledge from many years of hands on experience—have a read of Bob's Backstory in [last Term's newsletter](#).

Bring your multimeter to learn how to use it effectively and there will also be an opportunity for you to bring a piece of faulty equipment so you can learn how to make basic repairs.

Please email Jo Walker at [chairasetnsw@gmail.com](mailto:chairasetnsw@gmail.com) to secure your spot and request an invoice. Registrations close on 4 July 2025.

### Chemical Safety PD Day Canberra

**When:-** Monday 21st July (Term 3 SD Day)

**Where:-** Mungga Iri-Jingee Academy of Future Skills at Caroline Chisolm High School, Canberra.

**Cost:-** \$140 members, \$160 non-members

Julie Carey from Carey Consulting works closely with WA high schools presenting safety sessions. She will be teaching our ACT lab techs about Chemical Safety in the lab. We may have a few spare places for NSW lab techs in this region of the state.

Please email Jo Walker at [chairasetnsw@gmail.com](mailto:chairasetnsw@gmail.com) to secure your spot and request an invoice. Registrations close on 4 July 2025.

### ASET Membership

If your membership has recently expired or you wish to join our wonderful organisation, please sign up on our website;

<https://aset-nsw.currinda.com/login>

or reach out to our treasurer, Loretta Fincato, for credit card payments;  
[asetnswtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:asetnswtreasurer@gmail.com)

**Get your diaries out and start planning...**



**Association of Science  
Education Technicians NSW**  
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# **ASET NSW Conference 2025**

***Decoding the Universe -***

*exploring the unknown with nature's hidden language.*

**17th and 18th November 2025**

**University of Technology, Sydney**

\$150 single day for members

\$190 single for non-members

\$280 both days for members

\$360 both for non-members

*Stay tuned for more information...*

**Learning Workshops Networking**

Join up now—visit [asetnsw.org.au](https://asetnsw.org.au)

**Educating Lab Techs since 2011**



## What's On

## ConASTA Annual Conference

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# Eyes to the Future

## ConASTA 72

### Perth, July 2025

ASTA is the Australian Science Teacher's Association, ConASTA is their annual conference. This year is [ConASTA 72](#), and it will be in Perth, 7–10 July 2025.

However there is a special program made specifically for Lab Techs at ConASTA. Follow this link for more information [ASETNSW events page](#).

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## National Science Week “Decoding the Universe”

The Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) website has a free resource booklet (see link below) to download with a multitude of ideas for science week activities to do with students of all stages. with students for Science Week in line with this year's theme:- “Decoding the Universe”.

[ASTA Science Week Resource Book pdf](#)

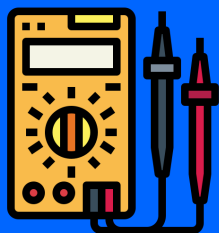
You can also download copies of [this year's poster](#).

The activities in the booklet for High School students are; Decoding DNA, Decoding Seed Shapes, Laser Interference and a Special Quantum Section.

The activities for the Primary School students look hugely entertaining as well as educational, so its worth looking through them as well and aren't we all big kids at heart anyway?



## How our April PD Went



## ASET NSW PD Day 28th April

17 lab techs attended Bob Death's hands-on lab equipment repair and troubleshooting session armed with their trusty multimeters.

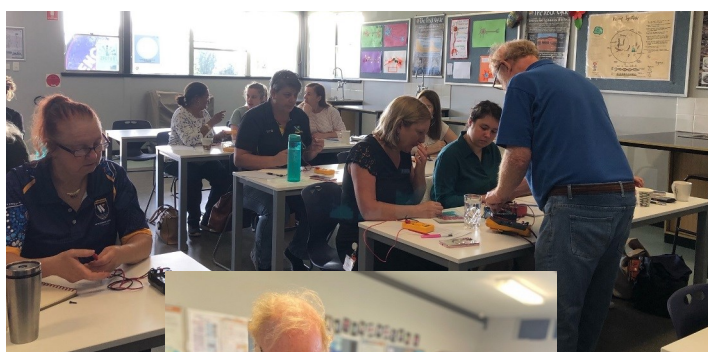
Bob's tips make everything so much easier!

It was a fun day of learning and networking together. So beneficial and popular that we are running another PD session with Bob on 21st July at Barker College.



*"I loved being host to the ASET PD Day! It was great to meet fellow labbies and to make some local connections. I am already looking forward to the next PD day so I can check out how other prep rooms operate. A big thanks to Jo and the team at ASET for making the day a great success."*

- Justine, our wonderful host at Holy Spirit College.





## Tips and Tricks



Can't get that  
limewater off  
your glassware?

Acid/Vinegar will  
do the trick!



## Tips to Improve Your Lab Life!

*"Did you know you can buy Sodium Metabisulfite from home brewing suppliers as it is used to sterilise fermentation equipment? This is very useful when you need lots for neutralizing potassium permanganate solution from science practicals. They also sell glucose powder and other useful products for the lab."*

**says Helen from Roseville College.**

Thanks Helen!

A reminder that SO<sub>2</sub> gas can be produced so best to do this in a working fume hood.

Ascorbic Acid is another tip for neutralising Potassium Permanganate and is available from home brewing suppliers as well.

### Spirit Burner Tip

**From Science Assist:-**

*Burners should be filled to more than half full. Keeping the volume of fuel in the bottle above 50% will help to avoid an explosive air fuel mixture in the bottle. To avoid having to use a larger volume of the fuel to maintain the less than 50% air ratio, an inert object like **some glass beads or marbles could be added to the flask.***

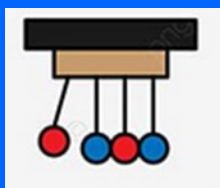
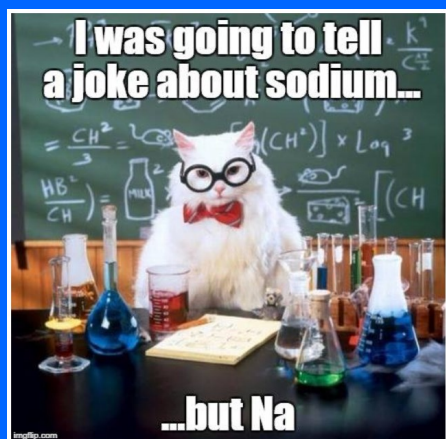
I brought my jar of clear marbles from home to try this and I have a few suggestions;

It was hard to find marbles to fit into the opening, out of my jar only about 20% would fit, so look for some very small marbles.

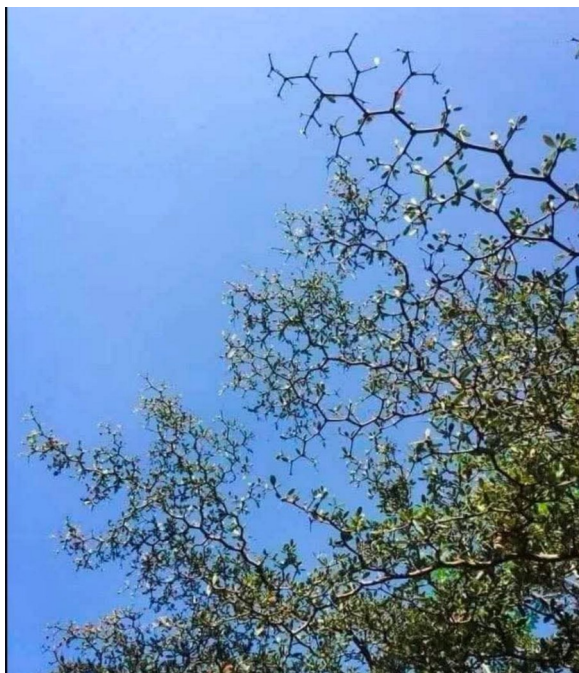
The marbles would not fit while the wick was still in the jar, so if you had smaller marbles you could leave the wick in while filling with marbles and the wick would then be under and through the marbles (preferable) instead of coiled on top of the marbles—see my picture below.



## Science Funnies



## Look, it's a Chemis-tree!



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**I only tell bad chemistry jokes because all the good ones Argon!**

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When the electrical tagger came during the holidays and day one Term 2 in the Prep Room looks like this!



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See you soon for ASET  
NSW Conference 2025!

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If you have any interesting science stories, funny science jokes, science photos, science hints and tips, science events (notice a theme here?) and any other science information relevant to lab techs that I can include in the newsletter please send me email, I would love to hear your ideas.

*Salena Bryce*

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