



ASET NEWS

ASET • NSW INC



FOR LABBIES • BY LABBIES

Inside this issue:

From the Chairperson	1
Wollongong PD Day	3
ASET Membership	4
Secretary's Report	5
Cosmetic Chemistry	6
Christmas Chemistry	7
Did You Know	8
Advertisements	9
SAS in DEC Schools	10
A Date with Carbon	11
It's Funny	12
Photo Gallery	13
Puzzled ??	14
Chairperson's Annual Report	15
Vice Chairperson's Annual Report	16
Secretary's Annual Report	17
Our Website	18

Semester 2 2013

From the Chairperson

Hi Everyone and welcome to our latest newsletter.

The second half of this year has been busy. We held another successful PD day at Sydney Grammar School "LAB MANAGEMENT IN THE 21st CENTURY". Dr Annie Wyatt was the keynote speaker on Mental Health and Conflict Resolution, things that affect us in our roles within the school. Workshops on WHS/GHS, GoldFFX, RiskAssess, and Using IT to Your Advantage, were held along with an entertaining presentation by Ben from Fizzics Education with some demonstrations relating to the new Australian Curriculum. Our patron, NSW Chief Scientist Prof Mary O'Kane addressed us at morning tea and offered her help and support for our future endeavours.

At the AGM, the 2014/2015 committee was elected and we welcome the newest committee member, Jasenka Juric from George's River Senior College. Jasenka is the Publicity Officer and along with Phirooza Battiwalla and Bahia Karam, representatives from the Independent and Catholic sectors, will be promoting ASET through the wider school networks. Jasmina Hazrolaj is the new Webmaster so we can look forward to a website full of new ideas and latest information.

Last month I attended CONSTANZ – the conference of Science Technicians Association of New Zealand – held at

John Paul College, Rotorua. It was an amazing 2 and a half days of workshops and excursions, starting with a Maori welcome and hangi which was a real cultural experience. Keynote speakers were Dr Phil Sutton – physical oceanographer – informed us of the movement of currents and their effect on land masses, and ability to absorb the heat created by them. He also discussed his work with the Argo project

Julianne Farrell – Forensic entomologist – told us of the effects of mouse plagues on our crops and therefore our economy. Ms Farrell also discussed her research on the development of maggots, and other insects that infest bodies, which enable the determination of time of death.

Dr. Paul Croucher (no relation), spoke at the dinner about his forays into the classroom. He also spoke of his years in academia pursuing research in chemical crystallography and the development of pharmaceuticals. After a midlife crisis he is now a brewer in his own company. In this he brings all his previous experience as chemist. His delivery was most entertaining.

Wendy Cottee and I presented a workshop on making fossils and rocks with chocolate and lollies as well as some simple but amazing demonstrations. The first excursion I attended was to Rainbow Springs where

we were taken behind the scenes to observe the Kiwi hatchery from egg birth to release. The second excursion was on an army duck. Our driver took us on a splashdown on 3 of Rotorua's lakes, told us the history of Rotorua and Maori culture, the how/when/where/why of WWII landing craft and gave us duck whistles to blow when passing people on the streets... much to their astonishment and amusement !

I can highly recommend attending CONSTANZ. The next one will be held in 2015 in Nelson.





From the Chairperson (cont.)

I recently went to Canberra along with representatives from Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and science based organisations, as part of the Project Reference Group to discuss the future direction of Science ASSIST. There was much positive input of where resources will be collected from and how to tap into them. Many are free and readily available.

www.scootle.edu.au/

www.asell.org

www.esa.edu.au

science.org.au/sciencebydoing/

www.raci.org.au

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home>

There will be science investigations, support & advice as well as practical activities available to everyone.

Teresa Gigengack is the LTSO (Lab Technician Support Officer) for Science ASSIST

Email : labsupport@asta.edu.au

We are endeavouring to make a list of regional contacts to assist with future PD days. If you would like to volunteer please make contact. Thanks in anticipation.

Margaret Croucher

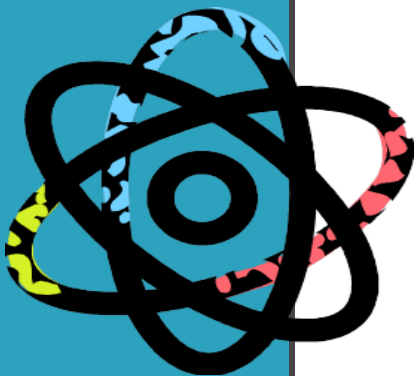
Chairperson



From L-R. Philippa Nobbs (UK), Margaret Croucher (AUS), Fiona Hamilton (NZ)
Rainbow Springs Kiwi Sanctuary- CONSTANZ



Margaret Croucher and the "Rubber Ducky"
CONSTANZ 2013





ASET Professional Development Day

Wollongong NSW

*Our
scientific
power has
outrun our
spiritual
power. We
have guided
missiles and
misguided
men.*

**Martin
Luther King,
Jr.**

CEO Wollongong was the venue for ASET's latest Professional Development presentation on Friday 22nd November 2013. Vice Chairperson Karen Mellenbergh, Secretary Julie Wells and myself, as well as Dr Phillip Crisp and his wife Eva, travelled south with looming grey clouds overhead.

Lab Technicians and Head Teachers made up the audience that listened to presentations on the latest updates on the GHS, Workplace Health and Safety by Karen, RiskAssess by Dr Phillip Crisp, ChemgoldFFX by Julie. Like at all events, there just wasn't enough time to cover everything that people wanted to know so one of our aims for 2014 is to run workshops on ChemgoldFFX.

Despite the inclement weather it was a pleasing to see the number of people in attendance.

Feedback was very positive and further testifies that more of these PD days are needed to address issues that every school needs to be aware of to comply with current legislations.

Thank you to Christine McCormack from CEO Wollongong for the hospitality and giving ASET the opportunity to be recognised for the job that we are doing.

Margaret Croucher



Used with permission of Teachers' Pocketbooks

ASET membership is now due!

Only \$45 and tax deductible

Appendix 1

ASET-NSW Inc.

Application for membership

Office use only:
ASET-NSW Inc. Membership
No.

Clause 3.1 (incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009)

Type of membership: (Tick appropriate box)

- ☐ New membership ☐ Renewal

Name and Contact details:

Title: Name: Surname:

☐ Address*:

Phone number: (.....).....

☐ Personal email address*:

Place of Employment contact details:

School / Institution Name:

☐ School / Institution Address*:

Work phone number: (.....)..... Work fax number: (.....).....

☐ Work email address*:

** (Tick preferred email address and postal address for communication)*

Educational Sector: (Tick appropriate box)

- ☐ Independent School ☐ State School ☐ Catholic School ☐ Tertiary Institution

Educational Region: (Tick appropriate box)

- ☐ Western NSW ☐ New England ☐ Nth. Coast ☐ Hunter/Central Coast ☐ Nth Sydney
☐ Illawarra & Sth. East ☐ Riverina ☐ Sydney ☐ South Western Sydney ☐ Western Sydney

I hereby apply to become a member of ASET-NSW Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the constitution of the association, for the time being it is in force.

.....
Signature of applicant

.....
Position Title

Office use only:

ASET-NSW Inc. Official Tax Invoice No.....

ABN 72778745840

Received from:

The sum of: (The cost is GST free)

For: Membership of ASET-NSW Inc.

For the time period:/...../..... to/...../.....

Date:

Signed:
(Secretary ASET-NSW Inc.)

Payment can be directly made to the following account (please place you name in the remittance field):

Account Name : Association of Science Education Technicians - NSW Inc

Bank Name: Sydney Credit Union

BSB: 802 084

Account Number: 141349

Or by sending a cheque or money order and membership form below to:

[/Group85/Documents/Membership_form_amended_new.pdf](#)

ASET-NSW Inc.

Membership Secretary

PO Box 245, Lidcombe

NSW 1825

Secretary's Report

ASSOCIATION OF
SCIENCE
EDUCATION
TECHNICIANS
OF NSW

PO BOX 245,
Lidcombe, NSW
1825

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

As we come to the end of 2013 our member numbers have fluctuated through the year as people renew their memberships and new "Labbies" join us. Renewal reminders for 2014 will be sent out by December.

Below is the current break down

N ^o Members	141
N ^o State schools	44
N ^o Cath Schools	40
N ^o Independent Schools	56
N ^o from Sydney	38
N ^o from South Western Sydney	17
N ^o from Western Sydney	27
N ^o from Nth Sydney	14
<i>Total from Greater Sydney area</i>	96
N ^o from Western NSW	3
N ^o from Nth Coast	3
N ^o from Hunter/Central Coast	22
N ^o from New England	8
N ^o from Riverina	0
N ^o from Illawarra & Sth Coast	7
N ^o from ACT	2
<i>Total from area other than Sydney</i>	45

We have had a busy year organising and holding PD days in the regional area of the Hunter Valley (Charlton Christian College, Fassifern) and Sydney Grammar School. We envision holding two PD days next year with the first in another regional area in NSW and the second in Sydney. Currently we have held four successful days since November 2011 and although it is becoming easier they still take a lot of team work and time. I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for all the hard work they do and thank them for making my job easier.

At our most recent PD day and AGM we again had great support from both member and non-member "Labbies". It is always fantastic to net-work and the camaraderie, regardless of which sector they were from was obvious.

The following major prizes were won at the end of the day:

Data Logger starter kit from Westlab Valued at \$500: Frances Byrnes, Patrician Brothers College Blacktown
A school presentation by Fizzics Education: Catherine Jones, Cedar Christian College Farmborough Heights
ASET Membership for 2014: Yidiz Sengun, St Catherines School Waverley
ASET Shirt: Zing Tang, SCEGGS Darlinghurst
\$100 gift voucher from Westfield: Wendy Preston, De La Salle College Cronulla
Plus many more miscellaneous items.

Thanks to Westlab who again supported ASET generously with goods and time and Ben Newsome of Fizzics Education with a brilliant presentation and a great prize of a school visit.

At our most recent AGM which included our new member Jasenka Juric (Georges River Senior College), we decided to form a sub-committee under the umbrella of Publicity. We will be using this sub-committee to concentrate on reaching as many schools as possible, particularly in the regional areas. We were fortunate to have had two members, Phirooza Battiwalla (Pymble Ladies College) and Bahia Karam (De La Salle College Caringbah), at the AGM indicate their willingness to help. Jasenka will head the sub-committee as Publicity officer.

I would like to take this moment to thank the out-going Committee member Joan Dziedzicak (De La Salle Revesby). Joan was part of the initial working party in early 2011 when the Association was in its inception. She then stepped up and became part of the inaugural Committee in June 2011. Joan's willingness to volunteer her private time and energy to ensure the Association's success will not be forgotten. We wish her well and envy her "time-off" now but know that we can always count on her support as an ongoing member.

Wishing all the best for Christmas and Happy New Year for 2014

Julie Wells

ASET • NSW INC



FOR LABBIES • BY LABBIES

Cosmetic

**HONEY-COCOA LIP BALM**

* makes 100 applications

2 tbls. Olive Oil

½ tsp Honey

½ tsp pure Cocoa Butter

¾ tsp Beeswax – grated

Flavoured Oil of your choice (like peppermint or vanilla)

1 Vitamin E capsule

- In a small saucepan, heat oil, honey, wax and butter over a low heat until just melted
- Remove from heat and allow to cool for 2 -3 mins
- Stir in flavouring and contents of Vitamin E capsule
- Pour into containers of your choice

<http://www.thedailygreen.com/living-green/how-to-make-lip-balm#slide-6>

*Hand Salve*

Recipe adapted for the lab from a page I found on the internet
<http://www.designsponge.com/2013/04/small-measures-garden-hand-salve.html>

Hand Salve *not cream (because it doesn't have any H₂O in the recipe)*

Makes: 187ml (¾ cup)

Ingredients:

- 200ml olive oil
- 30g beeswax (pastilles or grated wax)*
- 60 ml (3 Tablespoons) coconut oil
- 1/2 teaspoon Vitamin E oil - optional
- 8 drops lavender essential oil
- 8 drops tea tree oil
- 8 drops rosemary essential oil
- Or a combination of 24 drops of your choice

- 1) Place 3cm of water in the bottom of a 1L saucepan (borrowed from TAS Dept.).
- 2) Place a 600ml beaker in the middle of the pan.
- 3) Add the olive oil, beeswax, and coconut oil to the container.
- 4) Bring the water to a boil, and stir with a wooden skewer.
- 5) Once everything has liquefied, remove the pan from the heat. Add the essential oils and Vitamin E oil (if you are using it). Stir to fully disperse.
- 6) Carefully pour the oil into the container(s). (Fills 5 50ml glass jars)
- 7) Once the oil has cooled and solidified, label and date. Store in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

The salve works best within 6 months of making it, and will keep for up to one year. For the beeswax, you can use either small pastille (pellets) like those pictured here, or grated beeswax from a solid block.

Chemistry



Christmas Chemistry



Making Fake Snow

There are a couple of ways to get the ingredient necessary to make fake polymer snow. You can purchase the [fake snow](#) or you can harvest sodium polyacrylate from common household sources. You can find sodium polyacrylate inside [disposable diapers](#) or as crystals in a garden center, used to help keep soil moist. All you need to do to make this type of fake snow is add water to the sodium polyacrylate. Add some water, mix the gel. Add more water until you have the desired amount of wetness. The gel will not dissolve. It's just a matter of how 'slushy' you want your snow.

Sodium polyacrylate 'snow' feels cool to the touch because it is mainly water. If you want to add more realism to the fake snow, you can

refrigerate or freeze it. The gel will not melt. If it dries out, you can rehydrate it by adding water.

Tips:

Fake snow is non-toxic, as you would expect from a material used in disposable diapers. However, don't purposely eat it. 'Non-toxic' is not the same as 'good for you'.

When you are done playing with fake snow, it's safe to throw it away.

If you want yellow snow (or some other color), you can mix food coloring into the fake snow.

If you want drier snow, you can reduce the amount of water the polymer can absorb by adding a small amount of salt.



Make your own Snow Globe

What You Need:

Small Jars with Lids
Mineral Oil or Water
Egg Shell and/or Glitter
Glue Gun or Sealant
Decorative Objects

Here's How:

You can use a variety of jars: baby food, pimiento, jelly, or any clear jar with a tight-sealing lid.

Use a glue gun, aquarium sealant, or florist clay to adhere your 'scene' to the inside of the lid. Allow glue to 'set' the required time before

adding liquid.

Fill the jar with mineral oil, baby oil, or water. The snow or glitter will fall more slowly in the oil.

Add crushed egg shell for snow and glitter, if desired.

Carefully set the lid (with scene) onto the full jar and seal it tightly.

You may wish to apply more glue or sealant around the outside rim of the jar to ensure a good seal.

Enjoy.

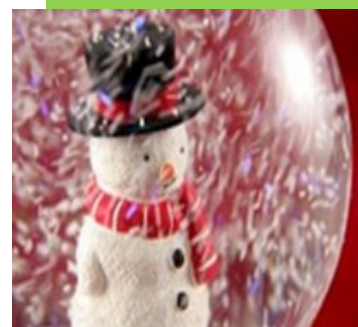
Tips:

Adult supervision is required if you are using a glue gun or sealant. Sealants often give off toxic fumes, so be careful!

Crush egg shells by rolling over them with a rolling pin, with the shells inside a heavy duty plastic bag.

Use your creativity! You can add food coloring, bits of costume jewelry, make figures from plastic twist-ties, etc.

You can make a decorative cover for the lid with fabric and ribbon.





DID YOU KNOW

A Polish concert pianist with a knack for invention has made Leonardo Da Vinci's cross between a piano and a viola come to life. For now, hear music as it could have been played 500 years ago, if Da Vinci had the time to build, as well as document his ideas.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sv3py3Ap8_Y

da Vinci sketched this device over 500 years ago, and he's still having a huge impact on humanity.

Details of how this thing works are available on

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viola_organista

When a flea jumps, the rate of acceleration is 20 times that of the space shuttle during launch.

10 percent of all human beings ever born are alive at this very moment.

At 15 inches the eyes of giant squids are the largest on the planet.

Good Web Sites

Preproom.org is a FREE comprehensive bank of resources for school science departments. It includes searchable Practical and Equipment databases, a data and info library, thousands of downloadables, the largest CPD database in the UK, apps, forums, guides and much, much more.

To register....

<http://preproom.org>

Lots of interesting topics, discussions, resources and webinars here.... You need to register first.

<http://moodle.asta.edu.au/enrol/index.php?id=65>



- * Australian Family Owned Company
- * Over 26 Years Experience in the Scientific Industry
- * Technical Staff to Assist
- * Focus on Customer Service
- * Quality Products at Competitive Prices
- * On Time Delivery
- * All of your Science Requirements in One Location

Contact our friendly customer service team today!

www.ssapl.com.au
 sales@ssapl.com.au
 ph: 03 9873 2588
 fax: 03 9873 2425

Prived Scientific Repairs provides expert repair and maintenance of laboratory and demonstration equipment for schools – from oscilloscopes to DC and AC power packs, microscopes, generators, vacuum pumps, meters and more.

Call John on 0418 430 338 or 9907 7431 for a free quote.



Prived Scientific Repairs

Sydney-wide expert repair and maintenance for schools for over 15 years.



What's happening in the lives of science assistants working in DEC high schools in Sydney?

Department of Education and Communities (DEC) is divided geographically into 10 Regions. Sydney Region SAS Staff Reference Group (RSRG) has an active Science Network that organises regular meetings and educational workshops on DEC Staff Development Days.

The last SDD workshop for science assistants was held at the Georges River Senior College Oatley Campus. The committee members conducted workshops on general laboratory safety and legislation, Chemgold III, Navigation of the DEC Website, e-learning, MyPI@edu.

The Workshop evaluation was very positive with the feedback such as;

- "all presentation were really useful to me and well presented"
- "I will be able to apply suggestions and do my job better"
- "my questions were answered very well"
- "love networking with all science assistants"
- "it is good to hear other people stories and brain storm"

"I now know where to find help, courses, information.....finding information on DEC web site and MyPI@edu was great"

Science Network Sydney RSRG future program aims to address further professional development needs of its members in the areas of best practice management of chemicals including disposal of chemical waste, further training on CSIS including DETRA/SSRA (DEC Risk Assessment procedures), GHS/WHs legislation etc.

Next meeting of the Science Network Sydney RSRG will be held on Wednesday 11.12.2013.

For any enquiries please contact chairperson, Jasenka Juric at GRC Oatley on 8567 3719, or email jasenka.juric@det.nsw.edu.au

A Date With Carbon

Bernie Hobbs, ABC Published 09 December 2010

Every organism contains carbon, in the proteins, carbohydrates and fats along with hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen – the organic compounds that are the building blocks of life. Carbon is the only one of these elements that has a radioactive isotope, Carbon-14, and this isotope decays slowly over thousands of years.

Radiocarbon dating is used to work out the age of things that died up to 50,000 years ago. Everything from the fibres in the Shroud of Turin to Otzi the Iceman has had ages determined the carbon-14 way.

Carbon-14 only makes up one trillionth of all the carbon in the world, chemically is no different from non-radioactive carbon atoms, so it ends up in all the usual carbon places, in air, plants, animals and us.

Radioactive isotopes are relatively unstable and radioactive decay is the movement from unstable to stable state. In the case of Carbon-14, the atom has 6 protons and 8 neutrons, become nitrogen with 7 protons and 7 neutrons. In the human body there are approx. 8×10^{26} carbon atoms, 8×10^{14} of which are Carbon-14 that become nitrogen at the rate of a million a minute. As organic materials are consumed as food, the levels of Carbon-14 are maintained. The levels in plants are maintained during photosynthesis.

Carbon-14 atoms are being constantly produced as cosmic rays bombard nitrogen atoms in the atmosphere and the newly formed Carbon-14 ends up in carbon dioxide, which ends up in plants that, in turn, turn up in the foods we consume. So the proportion of carbon-14 inside living things is the same as the proportion of carbon-14 in the atmosphere at that time. But when we stop eating, or when plants stop photosynthesising, our carbon-14 levels no longer get topped up. The longer period is from time of death, the lower the carbon-14 levels. From the rate at which Carbon-14 decays, it is possible to calculate the time since death. What is a half-life

The average atom of carbon-14 takes a little over 8,000 years to decay to nitrogen. We even know that in a gram of carbon, 14 carbon-14 atoms turn into nitrogen every minute. (The 14 is a coincidence).

The half-life of a radioactive isotope is the amount of time it takes for half of the atoms in a sample to decay. Carbon-14 has a half-life of 5,730 years. That means that no matter how many carbon-14 atoms were present when something died, after 5,730 years only half of them are left — the rest have decayed to nitrogen. After 11,460 years (two half-lives), only a quarter of the original carbon-14 atoms are left. After five half-lives (28,650 years) only $1/32$ remains. By about 58,000 years (ten half-lives) after an organism has died, there's so little radioactive carbon left (less than $1/1000$) that calculations of age are no longer accurate. So radiocarbon dating is only reliable for samples up to 50,000 years old. But old age isn't the only thing that affects the accuracy of carbon dating. The level of radiocarbon in the atmosphere has varied over time — it was about two per cent higher 3,500 years ago, possibly due to factors affecting cosmic rays (like changes in solar cycles or the Earth's magnetic field). And nuclear reactions have seen a leap in carbon-14 activity since 1945.

Records of atmospheric carbon-14 have been compiled by measuring the carbon-14/carbon-12 content in living and long-dead tree (12,000 years) rings and corals (50,000 years) and the result is a calibrated range that is 95% accurate.



It's Funny

Who says men don't remember?



A couple were Christmas shopping. The shopping centre was packed and as the wife walked through one of the malls she was surprised when she looked around to find that her husband was nowhere to be seen. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do and hence, she became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was.

In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"

The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop."

He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."

A photon checks into a hotel and they asked him if they can carry his luggage. He said "No thanks, I'm travelling light."

Have you heard the one about the sick chemist? If you can't helium, and you can't curium, you'll probably have to barium.

A neutron walks into a bar and asks "How much for a drink?" The Bartender says "for you, no charge!"

PHOTOS of Sydney Grammar PD

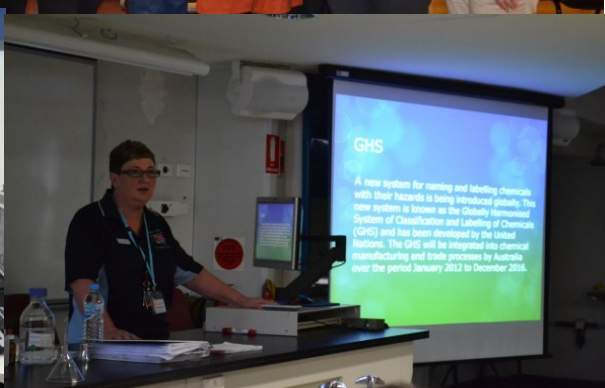
L-R. Beverley Leszinsky, Catherine Mullen, Margaret Croucher, Professor Mary O'Kane, Wendy Cottee, Julie Wells, Karen Mellenbergh



Sponsors for the day
Westlab



Getting their heads around IT with
Jasmina Hazrolaj



Learning about the new
Globally Harmonised System
for labelling chemicals



Keynote Speaker Dr Anne Wyatt



Fun with Fizzics Education

Science
is the
father
of
knowledge

but
opinion
breeds
ignorance.

Hippocrates



Puzzled???

Give this a go!



	Matching Game - Elements	Letter		
A	What do you do with dead people		H	Hydrogen
B	A cattle ranch owner		N	Nitrogen
C	Name of a girl		Ni	Nickel
D	Storage place for street cars		Si	Silicon
E	What do most scientists do		Cu	Copper
F	A thing which is dark when you turn it on		He	Helium
G	Eve's husband		B	Boron
H	An ox's outer covering		I	Iodine
I	Half a dime		Sb	Antimony
J	The Lone Ranger's horse		O ₂	Oxide
K	Not fat		Ph	Rhodium
L	A man who gives admission slips to traffic courts		Atom	Atom
M	Gin with water in it		Ba	Barium
N	What I do when I'm hungry		Hg	Mercury
O	Male of the Ganese tribe		Fl	Fluorine
P	What torpedoed ships do		Pd	Palladium
Q	Messenger of the gods		Fe	Iron
R	What he did to a bucking horse		Zn	Zinc
S	Night rider for Helen of Troy		Ag	Silver
T	What she got after the divorce		Catalyst	Catalyst
U	Big English theatre		Electrolyte	Electrolyte
V	What should be done to a wounded man		Sn	Tin
W	A crazy inmate		Mn	Manganese
X	Flatten out		C	carbon

Answers on page 18



Chairperson's Annual Report

We have had a busy and fulfilling 12 months with new memberships and two successful PD days having been held.

Our **“ENERGY EVOLUTION”** PD day last September offered workshops in Chemgold III, RiskAssess, Forensics, Sustainable Energy and an update on the Australian Curriculum, finishing off with a wonderful session by Carl Ahlers aka Prof Bunsen. The keynote panel of experts in their fields of Solar, Windfarms, Nuclear, Coal Seam Gas and Emerging Energies was compered by Dr Paul Willis, of ABC TV Catalyst fame. The panelists were very passionate about their forms of energy and could have debated for hours. The day was sponsored by Science Supply and representatives were on hand to demonstrate their latest products and take on board any concerns from the participants.

The first Regional PD day, **“INTO THE FUTURE WITH GHS & WHS - NEW RULES FOR SCHOOLS”** was held at Charlton Christian College at Fassifern in the Newcastle area on Monday 6 May. It was attended by over 100 labbies, executive, HODs and school Principals. The talks on GHS and WHS were well received and opened a lot of peoples' eyes on how to comply with chemical storage and the new Work Health and Safety Legislation that was introduced on 1st January 2012. The presentation concentrated on the aspects of the new legislation, the roles and responsibilities of employers and employees, that affect the workplace.

The day finished with a wizz bang presentation from Ben from Fizzics Education. The attendees' from a non-science background were amazed with a lot of the demonstrations. Westlab representatives, Gavin and Anthony were displayers on the day to show off their latest products and GHS labels.

There has been a demand for PD in the Lismore/Coffs Harbour/Port Macquarie area so a sub-committee is working on a program for a PD day to be held in early Term 2 2014. Science ASSIST is a national online advisory service for school science educators and laboratory technicians.

This service will provide free, timely and accurate advice and support to teachers and school science laboratory technicians from all year levels (preschool through to senior secondary), in all education sectors and jurisdictions across Australia.

Through the ASTA online portal, teachers and school science laboratory technicians will be able to access advice, new and innovative resources, and information on safe practices in school laboratories.

We celebrated ASET's 2nd birthday on 21st June and launched our new website www.asetnsw.org.au. We would appreciate any feedback on the website so please forward you comments.

Our patron, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer – Ms Mary O’Kane, is very supportive of our association and what we have achieved in such a short time.

We would not be where we are without the support of our sponsors and your ASET committee of tireless workers, but most importantly, you the members. Thank you.

Margaret Croucher
Chairperson 2012/2013



Vice Chairperson's Annual Report

As I reflect on our second year, I can't believe how quickly the time has flown and how far the association has come in such a short time. This year has seen the implementation of our new website, and although it is still a work in progress, it is a vast improvement on our first attempt and hopefully we have a platform from which to build a great means of disseminating information and communicating.

In 2012, we also saw the first of our regional PD Days being held in Fassifern. This day was very well received and we got some great feedback. Thank you to the organizing committee for all their hard work that went into the day. Hopefully we will be able to visit other regional areas, to offer much needed PD. This has always been a primary aim of this association, as we are well aware of how many of our colleagues work in regional areas with little or no support. If you come from a regional area, please consider applying for a committee position on a regional subcommittee.

This year also saw the publication of our third newsletter for the association, with some new suppliers coming on board to advertise in our newsletter. Please consider supporting these companies, as they are supporting us through their advertising dollar. I am always keen to get ideas, hints, tips or any other information to fill up the newsletter, so send them my way and I'll include them in the next issue.

It would be amiss of me to not thank the other committee members for their tireless work, above and beyond their own full time jobs, to make this association a reality. Many hands make light work and no one has a monopoly on good ideas, so if you have a passion for this association and a desire to help please consider applying for a committee position. It's a great way to meet some new people and to stay on top of what happening in our industry. Hopefully I will get to say hello at our next PD day "Lab Management in the 21st Century" at Sydney Grammar School on the 16th September. Until then, take care.

Kind Regards
Karen Mellenbergh
Vice- Chairperson
ASET- NSW



Secretary's Annual Report

ASET-NSW Inc. Committee as stated in the constitution consists of members from all three education sectors. The current Committee is as shown below:

Chairperson/ Public officer - Margaret Croucher, LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown (Catholic Sector)
Vice Chairperson- Karen Mellenbergh, Catherine McAuley College, Westmead (Catholic sector)
Treasurer- Wendy Cottee, Sydney Grammar School, Darlinghurst (Independent sector)
Secretary- Julie Wells, Aquinas Catholic College, Menai (Catholic sector)
Minute's Secretary- Catherine Mullen, Kogarah High School, Kogarah (State sector)
Publicity Officer- Beverley Leszinsky, St Ignatius College Riverview, Lane Cove (Independent sector)
Web Administrator- Joan Dziedziczak, DeLa Salle Catholic College, Revesby Heights (Catholic sector)

The committee meets every three months and also for informal organisational meetings involving PD.

As at the 30th June 2013 we had 127 members from all parts of the state. The largest group of 65% is from the Greater Sydney area and 35% is from the rest of NSW (including 2 applications from ACT schools). We had 3 member's resign due to changes in their employment and 29 members who have not renewed (reasons unknown). There were 17 new members since the last AGM.

Of the total membership each educational sector is:

- 34% from the DET system,
- 38% from the Independent Schools
- 28% from the Catholic system.

In my last annual report I wrote about the plans for our new website and database produced and hosted by Dibbs. Our new website is finally up and running and from the feedback I have been sent by our members it is well received. We still have a few things that need to be fixed but we are well on the way.

We have held our first regional PD in Fassifern, north of Sydney where we had approximately 100 people attending. This PD day attracted teachers and WHS officers as well as the Laboratory Technicians from near and far. Our second PD day for the year is being held again at Sydney Grammar school and this is where our second AGM will be called.

As this is our second year, the Committee is resigning and renominating as is required by the ASET-NSW Constitution. We are hoping to encourage our members to think about taking a more active role in the Association and nominate for one of the positions available. We need to keep growing and improving our association and injecting new energy through motivated members will ensure this.

I would like to thank the Committee for their support and also the Members for their patience.

Thank you to everyone

Julie Wells
Secretary
ASET-NSW Inc.
2012/2013

We're Alive



Our new and improved Website
is now up and running!
Visit

ASETNSW.ORG.AU

Check out our new features
including our members section
and information about our
upcoming Professional
Development Day.

This is a work in progress, so
we'd love your suggestions and
input. Please email our
webmaster at

webmaster@asetnsw.org.au

Answers to the puzzle on page 14

Answers : m-H, s-N, i-Ni, w-Si, l-Cu, v-He, e-B, n-l, t-Sb, h-O₂, r-Ph, g-atom, a-Ba, q-Hg, c-Fl, u-Pd, x-Fe, p-Zn, j-Ag, b-catalyst, f-electrolyte,