

	ASET-NSW NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2022	Volume 5, Number 2
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<https://membership.asetnsw.org.au/>

Current Elected Committee Members

Margaret Croucher

Chairperson, Public Officer

Linda Stanford

Secretary

Elizabeth Brown

Vice-Chairperson

Linda Robertson

Editor

Loretta Fincato

Membership, Treasurer

We've had new sponsors join us, so please see what they have on offer.

Annual Membership fees are overdue for 2022. If a colleague has not renewed since 2020, then they have not used the new membership software at: <https://membership.asetnsw.org.au/> Please advise them to re-join ASET and if they join after October, then we will give them till the end of 2023.

If you have an existing account, log in, click under your name, and go through 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

www.asetnsw.org.au/events

Sorry, credit card payments cannot be accepted on-line. We are only set up for direct debits into our AMB bank account.

We are looking for more help with newsletter content. If you are interested, please contact us via email.

Loretta Fincato

Calendar of Events

12 April 2022	International Day of Human Space Flight
2 May 2022	Australian Science Olympiads - Big Science Competition
20 June 2022	Booragul Professional Development Day
28 July 2022	International Chemistry Quiz ICQ
13-21 August 22	National Science Week – Glass: More than meets the eye
31st Oct -1 November	ASET-NSW Annual Conference University of Technology Sydney
31 October 2022	ASET-NSW AGM
26-29 September	CONASTA69 – Kingston, Canberra
11-13 October 2022	CONSTANZ – Christchurch, NZ
12 October	HSC Exams begin
17-23 October	Aussie Backyard Bird Count
7-11 November 2022	#STARweek
7-11 November	National Recycling Week
11 February 2023	International Day of Women & Girls in Science
06 March 2023	Clean Up Australia Day
25 March 2023	Earth Hour
26-27 June 2023	Conquest23 - Fortitude Valley State College
9-12 July 2023	CONASTA70 - University, Adelaide

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/>

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If you have any interesting science stories, photos, hints, tips or freebie suggestions, and they haven't been published on other forums, please send us an email so we can publish in the next edition of the newsletter. Please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

editorasetnsw@gmail.com

Supplier Suggestion



NEW from Haines Educational

123212G

Test Tube, Graduated, Glass, 150 X 24mm, Pk/50



End of Financial Year BUNDLE OFFER

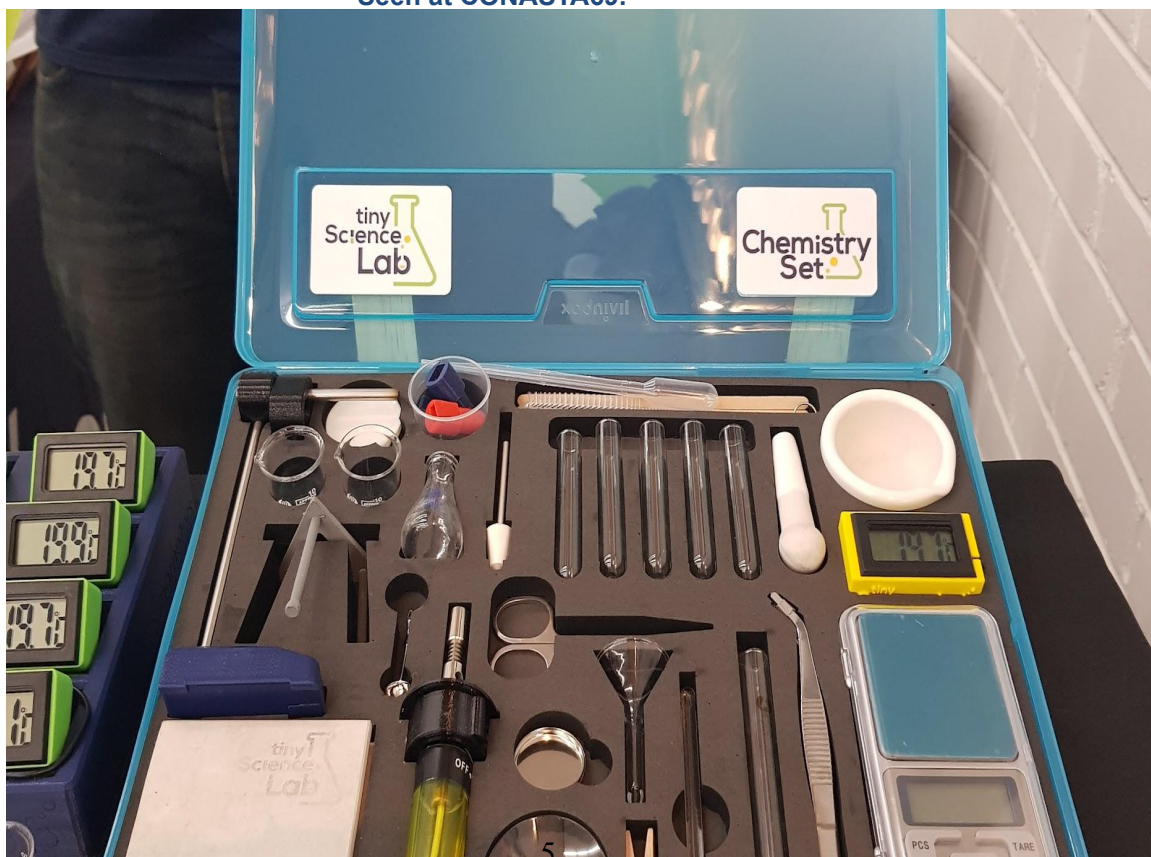
We're excited to announce the launch of our popular bundle offer campaign.

- Massive savings (up to 25%) on Quotes of \$5K or over
- Over 2,500 product lines in stock – same day despatch guarantee
- Bundle your Equipment and Consumable needs for a great deal!

Send your list of requirements to william.crick@westlab.com.au (state 'Bundle offer' in the heading) to receive a personalised proposal.



Seen at CONASTA69.



CONASTA69

By Loretta Fincato
St Clare College, Canberra

This year's science convention could be described as small in numbers but big on fun. About 300 attendees and just over 20 lab techs were there. We got to use the new multipurpose space at St Clare's. You meet pretty much everyone there when the attendance is not so large. Canberra was looking very pretty after all the rain.

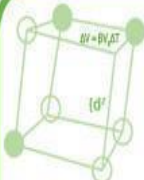
We started with the keynote address by Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt. Then I was off to build some solar car racers, and I went home with a basic kit. Went to all the supplier stands to check out the freebies. MTA had a Lego build that solved Rubik Cubes and Tiny Science Labs had some really cool miniature science sets. That night I teamed up with some fellow lab techs to battle Matt Dodd's team in the Stile static challenges. Took home a prize bag but it wasn't because our team placed first!

On Tuesday, my favourite astrophysicist Dr Brad Tucker escorted us around Mt Stromlo Observatory and showed us the clean room and the new telescopes built after the bushfires damaged the older ones. Astronomy hasn't been easy with all the cloud cover this year. Everyone was excited as the DART mission had collided with the asteroid that morning. Also toured Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex at Tidbinbilla. It is open to school groups, and has the awesome, huge communication dishes. Wish we could have spent more time there as there were a lot of space artifacts to admire.

I did a lot of workshops with Jeanette Tran from Stem Reactor, and Stile Education talked about changes to the science curriculum. I don't think that there will be too many changes there, it was more about what was being left out or moved to another year of learning. At one point, they wanted to remove rocks from the science program but most teachers objected to that.







Science Shows & Workshops

across NSW & ACT!

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

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- sci-news.com

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 any one 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 actually 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 retro-fit 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 50kms 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 have to have certification labels on both sides.

I hope to hear from you soon.



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

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.

Science Week 2022 at Roseville College

At Roseville College we had a few fun things for the students. Was a really fun science week!

- Senior science students melt ends of glass rods and fill with glitter for personalised stirring rods
- Year 7 made kaleidoscopes from mirrored acrylic
- We learnt about optical fibres from UTS professors
- Dry ice shows across junior and senior campuses
- Refraction and reflection science shows
- Huge marble run challenge from recycled materials between yr 9 and 10 – students answered a quiz for extra money for supplies to spend at the marble run shop. We collected boxes, egg cartons and toilet rolls for weeks!

Jo Walker



Gunter the Glass Blower in our library window. Monitor scrolling clips from Blown Away and glassblowing.



Reflection and refraction cupboard with rainbow themed songs every morning



Periodic table of cupcakes



JWST display with fairy lights, a rolling movie cut from YouTube clips and a morning playlist (star themed)

Science Week at Good Samaritan College, Hinchinbrook

Students and teachers alike at GSSC took part in celebrating Science Week: 'Glass: More than meets the eye'. Students had fun participating in different activities and teachers participated in a science quiz that tested their scientific knowledge and problem solving skills. Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Pearce for winning the inaugural GSSC Science Week Championship Trophy. Students across all science classes explored the variety of ways glass plays a role in our daily lives, ranging from learning how glass is made from liquid sand, to how it is used in daily electronic gadgets.

Throughout the week students also took part in the Education Perfect Championships achieving bronze and credit awards in their year group across 2440 schools that participated globally.

Students participated in first hand investigations with their science teachers where they mimicked creating glass optical fibre by making long thin strands of fibre using hot glue. Well done in particular to the Year 7 students for creating the longest fibre, stretching for more than 6 metres!

It was great to see both teachers and students participate in celebrating Science Week. Thank you to all Science teachers who helped organise a wonderful week of Science.

Miss Grace Khoury, Science Teacher & Anju Thomas, Science Assistant





Freebies

National Gold Education Program

<https://education.goldindustrygroup.com.au>