



ASET NEWS

ASET • NSW INC



FOR LABBIES • BY LABBIES

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The "Association of Science Education Technicians" is born!

We are pleased to announce that on the 21st June 2011 The Association of Science Education Technicians of NSW, was launched at Carnarvon Golf Club, Lidcombe

The launch was attended by school and department representatives from NSW Department of Education and Training, The Catholic Education Office NSW and The Association of Independent Schools of NSW. Mr Darren Vogrig, CSIRO Education Officer was also present. Gary Carey, science advisor CEO Sydney was the MC for the night.

The gathering was addressed by Merv McCormack CEO Sydney, Gerry McCloughan of DET NSW and Maree Wood from STANSW gave the Acknowledgement of Country. Dr Ric Morante (DET) cut the celebratory cake and the closing address was given by ASET-NSW Chairperson Margaret Croucher.

This association has been formed to support the large group of laboratory science technicians, aides, assistants and managers who work in the Education Sector of NSW.

A research report titled *"The Status of School Science Laboratory Technicians in Australian Secondary Schools"* by Professor Mark Hackling and prepared for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) highlighted the need to work together and to promote the standards and values that our profession requires. To date, NSW was the only State that did not have a professional Association for Science Education Technicians.

This Association will draw its membership from all the education sectors, State,

Independent, Catholic, TAFE and Tertiary Institutions. With this focus, our current committee members are from the three main education sectors.

The mission of ASET-NSW Inc. is to promote the profession of Science Technicians in Science Departments of Education Institutions in NSW.

Our mission will be to:

- ◆ Support members in their professional needs.
- ◆ Facilitate Training, Education and Development.
- ◆ Assist in communicating ideas and information.
- ◆ Be a voice for our members' professional interests.

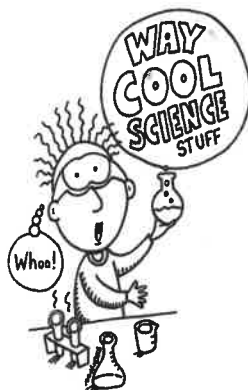


ASET Committee Members
(L-R) Joan Dziedziczak, Catherine Mullen, Margaret Croucher, Julie Wells, Karen Mellenbergh, Wendy Cotte, Beverley Leszinsky

How to become an "ASET" member



*"Science teachers depend heavily on good facilities and high quality technical support to implement an engaging and inquiry-oriented curriculum".
(Hackling, 2009, 4)*



Membership of ASET-NSW is open to science laboratory technical staff in all levels of educational institutions in New South Wales. Being a member of ASET-NSW Inc. provides opportunities to network with other members, receive and exchange the ideas, contribute to discussions and to actively support your professional association. Registration is annual and membership cost is \$49.50. (Incl. GST). * Membership for 2011 will be for 18 months and end 31 December 2012.

Download an application form from
<http://www.asetnsw.org.au>
and make your cheque or money order for \$49.50 payable to:

**Association of Science
Education Technicians –
NSW Inc**

Post the above payment and application form to:
PO BOX 245, Lidcombe,
NSW 1825
(Or Direct Deposit) to;
Account name: **Association of Science Education Technicians – NSW Inc;**

Bank name: Sydney Credit Union

BSB: 802 084
Account number: 141349

*Please place your name in the remittance field on the deposit form and send your application form to the above address.

Please note: Membership will not be processed without payment and is non-transferable and non-refundable

You will be sent an invoice and membership number once your form and payment is received.

The Status of Laboratory Technicians in Schools

Concerns about the status of technical support for science teaching programs in Australian schools expressed by the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) and Science Education Technicians Australia (SETA) led to the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) funding a study to investigate the training and support for technicians, their roles and the level of servicing provided by technicians for the teaching and learning of secondary science.

The research identified many issues in Australia's current systems including: inadequate service factors, training levels, career opportunities, and OHS risks. These concerns lead to the conclusion that the existing system is generally not well equipped to meet the new challenges of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum

The report made 8 recommendations which address training programs aligned with the needs of the educational sector, minimum standards for training and induction into the role, consistent job specifications, availability and support for ongoing professional development, minimum standards for staffing levels defined by a technicians' service factor and the establishment of an online advisory service. (Hackling, 2009)

This Working Party was formed at the July 2010 National Forum and sought to set out a national template for the professional standards, career structures and consistent job specifications for School Science Technicians that will support the good teaching of Science in our schools, and facilitate the successful implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Science. (ASTA 2010)

Currently a draft document has been formed by the working party and feedback if being sort from technician and teacher associations.

Could you please read the draft document and provide feedback via the ASET website

www.asetnsw.org.au and complete the online survey to answer the following questions:

Is the document set out in a clear and easy to follow format?

- Do the 13 Standards, as listed in Table 1 on page 7, adequately capture all aspects of the role?
- Are the four levels of job classification appropriate?
- Are the qualifications for entry into each level of classification clear and easy to apply?
- Do the descriptors contained within each Standard, pages 10 to 31, adequately cover all aspects of the Standard?
- Do the descriptors demonstrate an appropriate developmental sequence across the 4 levels of classification?
- Please add any additional comments you may wish to make.

Hints and Tips

Does it annoy you having to label lots of bottles for a one off experiment? Do you have trouble soaking the labels off afterwards? Why not try this.

For practical's that you repeat every year make removable labels and store them. Laminate your labels and punch a hole in the end. Attach to your bottles with an elastic band.



For quick, one off practical's where the chemical will be used the same day, make a temporary label from plastic laminating sheet, punch a whole in the end and write on it with permanent marker.

These labels are easily cleaned with methylated spirits and can be reused. Attach it to your bottle with an elastic band..

Just remember this labeling is not sufficient for chemicals that will be stored or dangerous chemicals where more information is required.



A message from Professor Mary O'Kane

I am delighted to be named patron for the Association of Science Education Technicians of NSW.

Lab Science Technicians, aides, assistants and managers are a vital part of the schools system and play an integral role in educating our young people in science and maths.

Improving the quality of training for lab technicians and providing great support for the profession are key pursuits of the ASET NSW and I thoroughly endorse the Association's mission.



Good Web Sites

In each newsletter we will share some good website's. Check out the website's below:

www.cellsalive.com Yr 12—For Better Health

<http://www.techtrader.com.au/> Buy, Sell and Exchange Lab Equipment

<http://www.fiddlersgreen.net/> Great Paper Models

www.teachkind.org/dissectalt.asp Alternative to Dissections

<http://www.dorlingkindersley-uk.co.uk/static/cs/uk/11/clipart/home.html>

Science Clipart

<http://www.graphpad.com/quickcalcs/Molarityform.cfm>
Calculate Molarity

Fun Science

Slime

Ingredients

- 10ml 4% borax solution
- 10ml PVA glue
- 1-2 drops of food colouring
- 1-2 drops of Glycerine
- Plastic cup
- Paddle pop stick

Method

- ◆ Pour PVA glue
- ◆ Add food colouring
- ◆ Add Glycerine
- ◆ Add Borax solution (DO NOT STIR)
- ◆ Remove slime with a paddle pop stick & knead until desired slime is obtained.

HAVE FUN



ASSOCIATION OF
SCIENCE
EDUCATION
TECHNICIANS
OF NSW

PO BOX 245,
Lidcombe, NSW
1825

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

ASET Update

As a newly formed association, your **ASET** committee is working hard to get this group up and running. High on the agenda items is the website. The **World Wide Web** will be a valuable means of getting information to members. The committee will also be looking at what funding may be available through grants etc. This funding will be put to good use providing new Professional Development opportunities for members. Below is a list of your **ASET** committee members.

Chairperson / Public officer	Margaret Croucher	LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown	9793 5600
Vice Chairperson	Karen Mellenbergh	Catherine McAuley, Westmead	9849 9155
Secretary	Julie Wells	Aquinas College, Menai	9543 0188
Treasurer	Wendy Cottee	Sydney Grammar School, Darlinghurst	9332 5873
Publicity Officer	Beverley Leszinsky	Saint Ignatius College, Riverview	9882 8593
Minutes Secretary	Catherine Mullen	Kogarah High School, Kogarah	9587 5815
Web Administrator	Joan Dziedziczak	De La Salle College, Revesby	9773 7755

Sharing Stuff

This group is all about sharing. We'd like you to share:

- ◆ Good ideas
- ◆ Fun Experiments
- ◆ Near Miss and
- ◆ Accident Information
- ◆ Equipment (Sale and Give Aways)
- ◆ Professional Development Opportunities
- ◆ Purchasing Advise and Pitfalls
- ◆ Funny and Feel Good Stories
- ◆ Questions and Answers
- ◆ Anything else you can think of!

If you have anything you would like to add to the next addition of our newsletter, please email

Karen Mellenbergh

@ Catherine McAuley on

kmellenbergh@mcauley.nsw.edu.au

Or phone

02 9849 9155

*Together
anything
is
possible*



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