For Science Co-ordinators by Science Co-ordinators

The conference program has been compiled to cover a number of issues that both newly appointed and established co-ordinators encounter. The conference offers an excellent opportunity for discussion, sharing of ideas, and networking with peers.

The conference package includes:

• All meals and catering including the Conference Dinner on Friday night
• Single en-suite accommodation on Friday night
• Full use of all recreational facilities

About the Venue

The Country Place Retreat is one of Australia’s premier residential conferencing venues located in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges less than 1 hour from Melbourne CBD. This award-winning retreat has won the Victorian Tourism Award five times and the Australian Tourism Award twice.

All conference rooms are air conditioned, have excellent natural light, ergonomic chairs for all day comfort and wonderful views of the gardens, mountain forest and Yarra Valley.

Stay over night in the stylishly appointed guest rooms with queen or king size beds. All rooms have garden views, en-suite bathroom, television, study desk, email and internet access.

The gourmet country cuisine is one of the main attractions that has made this venue extremely popular.

The recreation facilities include two tennis courts, basketball court, heated swimming pool, nearby golf, gym, pool tables and table tennis.
Science Co-ordinators’ Conference 2006 Program

Friday 1 September 2006

9:00 - 9:30am Registration
Arrival tea & coffee

9:30 - 9:45am Welcome & Orientation
Bob Aikenhead, STAV President

Session 1: 9:45 - 10:30am
STAV & you
Bob Aikenhead, STAV President
Science should be at the core of the school curriculum, and science teachers appropriately valued. Some basic scientific knowledge and a scientific outlook are the real education basics for this century’s citizens. But we find science itself under attack and science education too often supported solely for instrumental reasons. We need to engage kids inherent curiosity and have them experience the liberating power of science. This session will look at the bigger context in which science teaching is set, in the belief that if we seek to understand the educational environment we are better positioned to direct our own destiny instead of being passive participants.

Morning Tea: 10:30 - 11:00am

Session 2: 11:00 - 11:45am
Science Talent Search
Leonie Lang, STS Co-director
Science Talent Search is a Victorian science competition open to students from P-12. It is a great way to get students motivated in science, and cater for mixed abilities, mixed interests and individual learning styles. It is also an ideal vehicle for implementing VELS. The competition offers participation in Research, Models, Inventions, Games, Creative Writing, Video, Computer, Posters and Photography sections. The session suggests strategies to enable the science co-ordinator to motivate science teachers to use the competition as a teaching tool in the classroom.

Session 3 11:45am - 12:30pm
Applying for ASISTM grants
Dr Wan Ng, La Trobe University
The Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM) is part of the Australian Government's Boosting Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching (BISTMT) Programme. ASISTM will provide $33.7 million in funding to cluster initiatives throughout Australia. This session draws on the presenter’s successes in obtaining three ASISTM grants worth over $270 000, and a fourth one shortlisted for funding in 2007. An overview of the aims of the ASISTM initiative, the application process and addressing application criteria will be presented. Brainstorming of ideas for application in 2007 and how science coordinators can work together to apply for grants will form a crucial part of this session.

Luncheon: 12:30 - 1:45pm

Concurrent Sessions
1:45am - 2:30pm
This session has been split into two concurrent sessions. Session 4A is targeted at newly appointed co-ordinators whereas established co-ordinators will find content of interest in Session 4B. Please indicate which session you will be attending on the Registration Form.

Session 4A: Maintaining effective communication within your Science Faculty
Alex Abela, Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School
Establishing and maintaining effective communication within and beyond your faculty is an important and necessary part of your role as a Science Coordinator. As a beginning Science Coordinator, the promotion and employment of successful communication strategies will often assist with the prevention and solving of management issues but can also extend to the achievement of broader faculty goals. This session will explore several levels on which communication and consultation can take place within your faculty from face to face strategies to record keeping, running faculty meetings and electronic communications and the promotion of your faculty’s work throughout the school community. Opportunities will also exist for sharing and discussing ideas and experiences. Suitable for newly appointed co-ordinators.

Session 4B: Leadership Styles
Gary Prasad, Fairhills High School
Your leadership style is determined to a large degree by your personality. Learn what your leadership style is and its strengths and weaknesses. Science Co-ordinators are leaders that have to motivate and manage a team through immense curriculum change. But how do you do this? Suitable for established co-ordinators.

Session 5: 2:30 - 3:15pm
Lab Rules!
Darlene Pentland,
Southwood Boys Grammar School
Is your workplace complying with current legislation covering areas such as: safety in science laboratories, risk assessments, ethical use of animals in science etc. This session will outline laboratory management and safety issues and provide strategies to ensure your workplace complies with current rules and regulations.

Session 6: 3:15 - 4:00pm
VIT - PD Planning for 2008 & Renewal Process
Fran Cosgrove, VIT

Afternoon Tea: 4:00 - 4:15pm
Session 7: 4:15 - 5:00pm
Lab Staff - Your Partner in Science Education
Darlene Pentland, Southwood Boys Grammar School
Lab staff are an invaluable resource to the science faculty. How can you, as science coordinator, assist your lab staff in reaching their full potential? This session will look at the role of lab staff in schools and provide details of job-specific professional development and qualifications for lab staff. This session will also outline strategies for effective communication and time management within the faculty.

Session 8: 5.00 - 5:45pm
Sharing engaging science activities
Dr Wan Ng, La Trobe University
Research has shown that many middle years students are disengaged from science as early as year 7 and VCAA statistics show that the majority of students do not select science subjects in their VCE years. In order to sustain interest in science in middle years students, they need to be engaged with relevant and fun activities inside and outside of the classroom. The latter includes involving students in extra-curricular activities such as Science Talent Search, Science clubs and National Science week. The aim of this session is to share science activities that extend beyond the classroom and it will be useful if science coordinators could bring 1-2 activities or projects that have had success in their schools to share in the session. Some of the activities that will be presented in the session include using UV beads for investigating, constructing mini-spectroscope and building solar devices.

Dinner: 7:00- 8:30pm
Interactive Science Activities

Session 9: 9:00 - 10:30am
The VELS Science Curriculum
Gary Prasad, Fairhills High School
What does a new VELS Science syllabus look like? How do you get course outlines written by your KLA members? How can you incorporate the interdisciplinary ‘Thinking Skills’ into your everyday science curriculum?

Morning tea: 10:30 - 11:00am

Session 10: 11.00am - 11:45pm
Do you remember when you were brand new, not to coordinating but to teaching?
Dr Peter Morgan, Beaconhills College
Peter Morgan, convenor of STAV Beginning Science Teachers network, will explore a framework for participants to reflect on the different role of being a mentor to Student and Early Career teachers. What do mentees need/want? What are the expectations of mentoring? How does this fit in with the VIT process of registration? None of these questions will be completely answered, it is an ongoing process after all, but some important signposts will be illuminated for consideration.

Session 11: 11:45am - 12:30pm
Raising the profile of your faculty
Dr Peter Morgan, Beaconhills College
“Look at me Look at me.” You do good work, your staff are committed and talented, but much of what goes on does so behind the closed doors of the classroom. There are a wide range of ways in which these exploits can be brought to public attention.

Luncheon: 12:30 - 1:45pm

Session 12: 1:45 - 2:30pm
Science, Technology and ‘Essential Learning’

Session 13: 2:30 - 3:15pm
The changing face of Science Coordination
Dr Rod Fawns, University of Melbourne
This session will explore the ever changing and diverse nature of the role of the Science coordinator, as dictated by the inherent complexity and diversity of the position. Are Science coordinators now more than ever pivotal agents for school-wide change?

For further information
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Science Co-ordinators’ Conference Registration Form
1 - 2 September 2006 at The Country Place Retreat, Kalorama

Contact Details

Membership Status

☐ STAV Individual Member – STAV Individual Membership No. ☐ Non-Member or Subscriber School

School Purchase Order No.

First name  Surname  Male/Female

School

School Type: ☐ Government  ☐ Non-Government  ☐ Catholic  ☐ Other

Region: ☐ Northern Metro  ☐ Southern Metro  ☐ Eastern Metro  ☐ Western Metro

☐ Grampians  ☐ Barwon Sth Western  ☐ Gippsland  ☐ Hume  ☐ Loddon Mallee

School Address

Suburb  State  Postcode

Telephone: (work)  Fax:

Mobile:  Email*:

* Please ensure you provide your correct email address as ALL correspondence regarding conferences is by email.

An initial email is sent to confirm that we have received your registration form, then a further email is sent 1 WEEK BEFORE the conference to confirm your session allocations and other relevant conference information.

If you do not receive any information contact STAV on: 9385 3999 or email: stav@stav.vic.edu.au

Session Selection

Only required for Concurrent Session 4

☐ Session 4A (for new co-ordinators)  or  ☐ Session 4B (for established co-ordinators)

Accommodation

If you are travelling a long distance and would like to stay at the Conference Venue (or nearby) on Thursday night (31 August), Please tick applicable:

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Conference Fee

Note: All meals & catering as well as Friday night accommodation is included in the Conference Registration Fee.

$445 (including GST)

Dietary requirements: (eg Vegetarian)

Payment details

ABN 94 108 759 762  

☐ Cheque - make payable to: Science Victoria  ☐ Invoice School/Purchase order supplied

☐ Credit Card (Please tick applicable)  ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard

Card No.  Expiry Date  CCV No

Name of Cardholder (please print)  Signature

A Tax Invoice will be issued upon receipt of payment/school purchase order. Please note: All cancellations will be subject to a 20% administration fee. Notification of cancellation must be made prior to the conference and be in writing.

Registrations close FRIDAY 25 August 2006

FAX this form to STAV - 9386 6722 or MAIL to STAV PO Box 109 Coburg VIC 3058