lab lines

Newsletter of the Laboratory Technicians' Branch of STAV
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President's report

Transcript of the Report Jason Griffiths gave to Laboratory Technicians at Labcon in Nov 2004.

The year 2004 has been, overall, a successful year for LTB -STAV, although there have been many trials that have beset committee during the course of the year.

LABCON

LABCON 2003 was once again an outstanding success. More sessions than ever before - 58 in total - were presented, offering delegates the widest selection possible, with many old faithfuls combining with new innovations giving us a plethora of opportunities.

The unfortunate down-side of this was that expenses for room hire and presentation equipment were higher than originally budgeted, with the net result being a slight loss overall.

Our experiences of LABCON 2003, along with your feedback, have influenced the formulation of LABCON 2004. This year, 47 sessions were made available – 23 new and 10 updated from previous years. LTB-STAV members present many of these sessions, and I'd like to thank them for donating their time.

Last night, at the Conference Dinner, we acknowledged the contributions of a long serving committee member, Darlene Pentland, and presented her with a Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award recognises significant contributions to science education through branch activities and initiatives, and recipients must have demonstrated a long-term commitment to LTB-STAV in an organisational capacity.

Please put your hands together for Darlene.

Every year, LTB-STAV offers two scholarships for Victorian Laboratory Technicians and one international scholarship to attend LABCON. This year, the Victorian winners were Pam Heffey of Tallangatta Secondary College, and Alison Keene of St Josephs College, and our international winner was Rebecca Michaels of Forest Lawn High School, Calgary, Canada.

Please put your hands together for our scholarship recipients.

This year marks our fifth year working in association with Organisers Australia to convene LABCON. Unfortunately, it is also our last, as Jonathan Ricketts has decided to move north to the sunnier climes of Byron Bay.

Please join with me in thanking Jonathan for all his work.

Jason modeling the tie he hopes someone will give him for Christmas.

(Continued on page 4)

Editorial

Hello Everyone,

Firstly an apology. You have probably realised already, that the last edition of Lablines stalled on the computer at the end of last year. This then is a combined issue, all the stuff I had in the December edition, plus all the new required for the beginning of the year, such as the registration form.

I met a lot of you at Labcon, and although I could only attend one day, got a lot out of it. I hope you all enjoyed Labcon, and that you enjoyed and learned from the sessions you attended. This issue has a centrefold of photos from Labcon, and I hope you enjoy it.

Regards for now,
Jill.

Heres me trying
on ties too.

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Lab lines deadlines for 2005

Last week of May 2005, for June edition.
Last week of July 2005, for August edition.
Last week of October 2005, for November edition.

COPYRIGHT REMINDER
Just a reminder that all articles submitted to *Lab Lines* should not have been published elsewhere unless you can provide us with a signed clearance for re-publication. This also applies to any published material quoted in your article.

LTB-STAV Distinguished Service Award

This a transcript of the speech President, Jason Griffiths gave at the 2004 *Labcon* dinner, to honour Darlene Pentland, whom has been awarded the 2004 LTB-STAV Distinguished Service Award.

I feel a lot like Mike Munro, tonight, presenting this DSA, because the sheer amount that Darlene has achieved in the time that she has worked for Science Education would be enough for a lifetimes work for most people. So please bear with me as I take you through a time-line of Darlene's achievements.
Darlene Pentland, this has been your time with LTB -STAV.

1992
As a member of the Eastern/Maroondah region, she was approached to coauthor the first aid handbook in 1992, together with Ann Ruck, Pam Delahunt, and Brenda Simpson.

1993
The retiring incumbent, Alanna Witcombe, then approached her to come onto the LTB-STAV committee in 1993.
She was Judge of inaugural Science Education Awards on behalf of STAV in 1993.

1996
She became a councillor on STAV Committee in 1996, and continued in this role until 998, and became active in the National Science week committee, the Membership and Marketing committee and the Laboratory Staff policy committee.

1997
1997 was a very busy year for Darlene. She was National Science Week convener for STAV 1997 & 1998, and LTB-STAV Vice President for this period. She wrote articles for the VIEU magazine "Connections" entitled "Laboratory Growth", published in June, and "Keeping Animals in the Classroom" in November. She presented a session entitled "Animals in the classroom" at Conasta in July, and STAVCON in November, and was a guest presenter on Science and Technology Education in Primary Schools on "Animals in the Backyard" - a program filmed at the ABC studios - in October 1997. She presented a session "Fun activities for Science Week" at LABCON 1997, and wrote a two-part article "Did you remember to... ... ?" for the December 1997 and February 1998 editions of Lab Talk.
To cap it all of for the year, she was awarded the Education Award (Education Support) by the VIEU.

1998
1998 saw more articles published - "Tried and True: Hints for the Laboratory" for February Lab Talk, "Ideas for National Science Week" for March Lab Lines, and "Preserving Botanical Specimens" for April Lab Talk. She presented sessions "The Partnership with the Laboratory Manager" for the CEO Secondary science co-coordinators conference in August, and "Safety in Science" at the Blackburn Language School science facility in November.

1999
In 1999, Darlene became president of LTB-STAV - a position she retained until 2002. She presented a session "It's About Time" for the STAV National Science Week Schools Launch in May.
STAV rewarded her with a Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

2000 onwards.
2000 was a relatively quiet year by Darlene's Standards, with a session "The Science Co-ordinator and Laboratory Staff" presented at the STAV Science Co-ordinators conference in May. 2002 saw 3 articles published - "Lab Techs Day" and "LABC4N 2001 Review" in March Lab Lines, a session "Laboratory Staff - Your partner in the science lab" for the STAV Science Co-ordinators conference in May, and an article "Australia Post honours Australian Legends" in June Lab Lines. She stepped down as President of LTB-STAV at the end of 2002, and was immediate past President for LTB-STAV in 2003,
I'm sure that you'll all agree with me, that Darlene is a worthy recipient of this LTB-STAV Distinguished Service Award.

Darlene accepting her award from Jason at the LABCON Dinner.

(Continued from page 1)

Safety Information Officers

Once again, the Safety Information Officers have done exemplary work in bringing the LTB-STAV community excellent safety advice. They have answered queries that have come in the form of phone calls, emails, and on our list-serv, and have kept up-to-date through attending conferences such as the SafetyCare MSDS workshop and the WorkSafe "Safety in Action" conference.

The SIO's have also been involved with reviewing the new 2004 version of "Compliance Guidelines for Schools on Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations", published by Noel Arnold & Associates, reviewing the new "Guidelines for the Storage of Science Chemicals in Schools 2004", published by DE&T, and were involved in a stakeholders forum on the field intervention in schools by WorkSafe.

Unfortunately, during the year, Simon Benedetti was forced to step down from his LTB-STAV positions, due to personal reasons. Simon has been an invaluable contributor to the SIO team over the past several years, and it was with sadness that we lost his services.

Many Thanks to Glen Eckardt, Margot Clark and Simon Benedetti for their contributions this year.

STAV

STAV has been undergoing some changes this year, in an effort to rationalise their organisation and affect a more professional outlook. This has lead to a close working relationship with STAV, and an effort on our behalf to become more integrated with the professional secretariat that STAV has developed. The flow on effect is that several services that LTB-STAV and STAV use are becoming more integrated. This should not result in any change to our day-to-day activities, but will hopefully streamline our liaison with STAV and improve our efficiency and reduce our costs.

Thank you Meri Kapitanowski for your efforts as STAV liaison.

Regions

Regional representatives have been active in 2004, providing their regions with various Professional Development opportunities that have included:

Maroondah/Eastern Metropolitan – CFA presentation on correct use of fire extinguishers.
Geelong - discussion session about the collation / collection of MSDS's and general safety issues.
Moorabbin / South Yarra – General meeting to discuss various topics, use of IT, stocktaking etc.
Ballarat – General Discussion about the use of Chemwatch and OHS issues.
Northern Metropolitan – Visit to Australian Catholic University for general meeting and presentation / discussion.
Ballarat – Visit to the Anatomy and Pathology Museum.
Moorabbin / South Yarra – Guest speaker from South East water to discuss waste disposal.
Northern Metropolitan– Visit to Melbourne Water's Western treatment Plant.
Geelong – General meeting and construction of molecular models.
Western Metropolitan– Visit to Melbourne Water's treatment complex at Werribe and ARC (Frog center).

As a result of the visit by Northern Metropolitan region to ACU, the LTB-STAV has been asked to work with ACU to implement a safety strategy for Student Teachers in the laboratory, which a sub-committee comprising of representatives from ACU, Melbourne Uni and LTB-STAV is working on.

Please join me in thanking the regional representatives for all their hard work, and to Glenn Condon in his role as Regional Representatives Liaison.

Regional Representatives for 2004:

Ballarat Region
Helen Whatman
Dandenong Region
Jackie Jones
Eastern/Maroondah Region
Robyn Morrison
Geelong Region
Tempa Chodup
Gippsland Region
Sue Webb
Goulburn/North East Region
Janet Butt
Kew Region
Susannah Larratt
Loddon/Campaspe/Mallee Region
Anne Yarwood
Mornington Region
Leonie Leishman
Nillumbik/Banyule Region
Lois O'Meara
Margaret Le Grys
North Metro Region
Robin Marceau
Julie Parry
North/West Metro Region
Glenn Condon
South YarraMoorabbin Region
Geoff Gleadall
Sunraysia Region
Narelle Divola
Warrnambool Region
Leanne Baxter

Publications

LTB-STAV maintains and distributes a number of professional publications useful for Laboratory Staff.

During the last twelve months, LTB-STAV have sold:

Biology Manual
18
Physics Manual
13
LABCON CD Rom 2003
1
Money collected 13/11/03 to 13/10/04
$1035-00

Thank you Julie Parry for all you hard work.

Lab Lines

The publication of Lab Lines has gone through some changes this year, and has had some unexpected technical glitches.

There have been regular contributions from Jill Vella and Ritva Fazio, and contributions from Simon Benedetti, Margot Clark, Glenn Eckardt, Margaret Le Grys, Thelma Lobb and Jan Wiese. Advertsing space was purchased by Challenge Electronics, Bruno Annetta, Bipolar Electronics and A-C Direct Links.

Contributions are always welcome, however modest, as networking through Lab Lines is a great way of sharing information.

An unfortunate incident occurred in the June edition of Lab Lines, where an article was submitted without prior consent of the author. This situation was able to be resolved amicably, but it highlighted the need to ensure that all articles are correctly sourced and attributed at the time of publication. Thank you Jill Vella for all your hard work through this difficult year.

Registration

Registration is always a difficult position, as people are very passionate about receiving their quarterly fix of Lab Lines and making sure that they can get the best sessions possible for LABCON. It is important that people make sure that they fill in and return their subscription forms that will be coming out in the December edition of Lab Lines. Technicians must register every year in order for us to maintain accurate records. To help with this, a copy of the registration form is also included on the LABCON 2004 CD-ROM.

As of November 15, there were:

371 Victorian
7 Interstate
Lab Technicians registered with LTB-STAV.

Thank you Anne-Marie Griffiths for all your hard work.

National Networks

For the past 5 years, Dale Carroll as National Network Co-ordinator of LTB-STAV has worked tirelessly to promote the idea of a nationally integrated association of Laboratory Technicians working in an educational environment.

Earlier this year, Dale was a presenter and delegate to CONASTA 53, the annual conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association. For the past 3 years, Lab techs have played an integral part of this conference, with sessions being offered to and presented by Laboratory Technicians. This networking opportunity, along with the chance to liaise with ASTA, has resulted in the recognition by ASTA of the need to have a national body of laboratory technicians, and the nascent formation of a national body.

This national body will be provisionally known as SETA- Science Education Technicians Australia.

Many thanks to Dale Carroll for his continuing dedication to the cause.

List-serv

The LTB-STAV list-serv has continued from strength to strength, and has become an invaluable resource to many Lab Techs. Topics discussed cover virtually every aspect of Laboratory Technology.

This year has seen the creation of a temporary archive of material from the list-serv. This is freely available to everyone, regardless of whether you are registered on the list-serv or not. Details will be published in Lab Lines.

There are currently 177 technicians registered on the list-serv.

Thanks to Wesely College and Glenn Eckardt for the list-serv and archive.

And Finally

I would like to thank the regional reps and committee for all their dedication and hard work, for their contributions to LTB-STAV, for their time and their patience.

Please join me in thanking these hard-working individuals.

I would like to wish you all the very best for the future, as you continue to be "Partners in Science Education"

Jason Griffiths,
President
19/11/2004

Expressions of Interest for Labcon Session

If anyone would like to co-present with me a session based on Family Science Night activities for LABCON 2005, please contact me

Robin Marceau
9480 5300
email: rmarceau@stjohnspreston.vic.edu.au
http://www.stjohnspreston.vic.edu.au/

A Happy Ending to a Cautionary Tale.

Thank you to those who replied to my heartfelt plea for a blood tying prac. Here is one set of solutions that Lois Pilkington, Lab Manager at Padua College, Rose-bud Campus sent me. She says it was part of a Labcon Forensic Science workshop some years back, but can't remember who presented the session. Here is Lois's recipe for a blood type simulation.

Blood Type	A	0.5M $Ca(NO_3)^2$
	B	0.25M $Al(NO_3))^3$
	AB	0.5M $Ca(NO_3)^2$ + 0.25M $Al(NO_3)^3$ (equal quantities)
	O	Distilled water
Anti-serum	A	0.5M Na_2SO^4
	B	0.25M Na Salicylate

* Use equal quantities of sample and serum.

* Add a few drops of red food colouring to 'blood' samples for authenticity.

* Add different colours to anti-serum (Lois uses blue and orange).

* Can take up to 10 minutes to develop.

Blood type	Anti-serum A	Anti-serum B
A	clumping	-
B	-	clumping
AB	clumping	clumping
O	-	-

(Continued on page 11)

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1x Pressure Sensor Meter E3054/1
2x Light Level Sensor Meter E 30280/1

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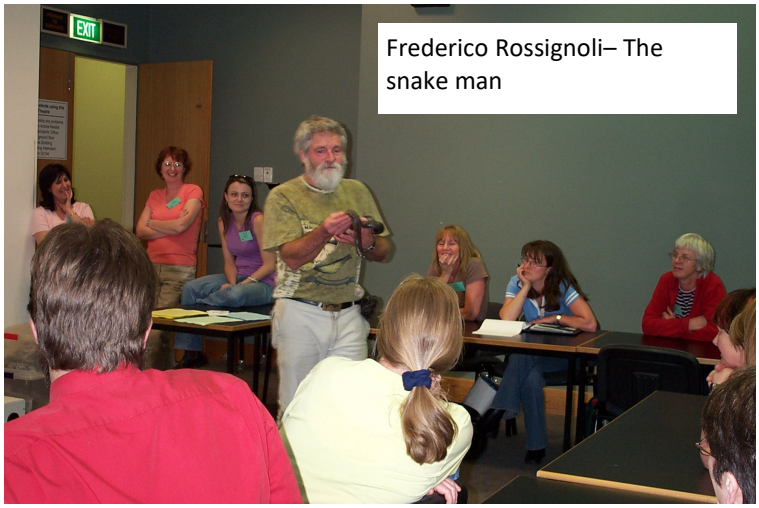
LABCON 2004

Flower Power!

Jason giving the Opening Address



Frederico Rossignoli– The snake man

I apologize to all who's name I wrote down as I took the photo's, because I've misplaced the paper I wrote them on (I swear I'm a better lab tech than I am journalist, although remember a cau-

Indrani Perera from Melbourne Grammar and Margaret Hassell, Bendigo Senior Secondary College

In the CSIRO VCE Materials Chemistry session

LTB-STAV Registration Form 2005

LTB-STAV maintains a database of all science laboratory staff employed in Victorian schools. To ensure accuracy of our records for 2005, **ALL laboratory staff must fill in this registration form** (or a photocopy if you do not want to damage your Lablines) and return it to:

ANNE-MARIE GRIFFITHS,
LTB-STAV Registration Officer,
PO Box 40,
Coburg, VIC, 3058.

This information will be used to send you personally addressed copies of Lablines 4 times per year, and will also be made available to LTB-STAV Regional Representatives.

TO REMAIN 'REGISTERED' WITH LTB-STAV YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM
PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY

SURNAME MRS/MISS/MS/MR _____

GIVEN NAME _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

_____ **POSTCODE** _____

PHONE _____ **FAX** _____

E-MAIL _____

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS Full time _____ Part time _____

Permanent _____ Temporary** _____

** State period of employment _____

** Name of technician you are replacing _____

Are you the only Lab Tech employed at your school? Yes _____ No** _____

**If not, how many are there?

**What are their names? _____

_____

REGION (please circle)

Ballarat
Dandenong
Eastern/Maroondah
Geelong
Gippsland
Goulburn/North East
Kew
Loddon/Campaspe/Mallee
Moorabbin/ South Yarra
Mornington
Nillumbik/Banyule
North Metro
North/West Metro
Sunraysia
Warrnambool
Other:

_____

(Continued from page 6)

Here are some blood solution recipes that use different chemicals, from Sylvia Towers.

Artificial Blood
Recipe No.1

Blood Group A = 0.5M sodium chloride (2.9g/100mL water) + red food dye
Blood Group B = 0.1M barium nitrate (2.6g/100mL water) + red food dye
Blood Group AB = mix equal amounts of the above two reagents + red food dye
Blood Group O = water + red food dye
Antiserum A = 0. IM silver nitrate 1.7g/100mL water
Antiserum B = 5% sodium silicate 5.0g/100mL water
Use only enough food dye to obtain desired colour.

Recipe No.2
An alternative recipe that is much easier to set up:
Blood Type
A = HCl
B = H_2SO_4
AB = HCl + H_2SO_4
O = water
All solutions are coloured with carmine.
Antisera
A = $AgN0_3$ solution
B = $BaCI_2$ solution
Concentrations of solutions are not critical (all <1 M)
Thanks to Lois and Sylvia for their contributions.

RECIPIENT				
DONOR	A	B	AB	O
A	A→A Antigen not foreign - no antibody reaction	A→B Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping	A→AB Antigen not foreign - no antibody reaction	A→O Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping
B	B→A Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping	B→B Antigen not foreign - no antibody reaction	B→AB Antigen not foreign - no antibody reaction	B→O Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping
AB	AB→A Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping	AB→B Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping	AB→AB Antigen not foreign - no antibody reaction	AB→O Antigen foreign-antibodies produce clumping
O	O→A No antigen. No antibody reaction	O→B No antigen. No antibody reaction	O→AB No antigen. No antibody reaction	O→O No antigen. No antibody reaction
SUMMARY	A group A recipient can receive blood from groups A and O.	A group B recipient can receive blood from groups Band O.	A group AB recipient can receive blood from any groups.	A group O recipient can receive blood from only group O.

CONASTA 54

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
54TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
3-7 JULY, 2005
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

For more information

Please access the CONASTA 54 website:
http://www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/conasta54
***Early Bird registration closes on 29 April 2005.**

All Enquiries
Conference Management
Old Physics Building
The University of Melbourne
VIC AUSTRALIA 3010
Telephone: (03) 8344 6107 • Fax: (03) 8344 6122
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Email: manuela@iprimus.com.au

Interesting Internet sites

Cause I just got a new kitten, who is a Bengal, and has an interesting coat
http://www.fanciers.com/other-faqs/color-genetics.html
A cute introduction to pH for junior kids, especially if they are going to make red cabbage indicator.
http://scienceview.berkeley.edu/showcase/flash/juicebar.html
http://www.middleschoolscience.com/alienjuicebar.pdf, for a worksheet
For people like me who also 'do' agriculture.
http://www.abc.net.au/landline/archives.htm

Happy Surfing!! Email me if you have any suggestions for inclusions on this page!
Jill Vella
Email: jillvella@leonsec.vic.edu.au

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30: 500ml Reagent bottles, 12: 250ml Reagent bottles
7; 25ml Burettes, 2 large Liebig condensers.
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12 junior and 12 senior Microscopes (old style) some working others not, but could be used as spare parts also hand made wooden carry boxes to fit the microscopes.

TO SELL for a reasonable offer

1 set of a Distance Sensor Meter (1999) Good condition, not needed now
Brand Phillip Harris sold by Southern Biological Service

Contact Rae Nicoll
email rnicoll@sacrecoeur.melb.catholic.edu.au

What's on

- **4 - 7 July.** CONASTA 54 in Melbourne
- **13 -21 August** . National Science Week 2005. The schools theme will be Energy: *Future Challenges*.
- **November** - LABCON 2005

Handy hint

Ok, so I don't have a hint. Send me one if you have !

Two Atoms

Two atoms are sitting next to each other and one says, "I've lost an electron."
The other asks, "Are you sure?"
"Yeah," the first replies. "I'm positive."

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Email kucicm@mail.crc.vic.edu.au

LTB-STAV Publications

Three laboratory reference manuals and a conference CD-ROM are available from LTB-STAV. Interstate lab staff, Victorian lab staff on leave and Science teachers etc should use this form for annual subscription to *Lab Lines* (4 editions) and the Conference booklet.

- **Biology Reference Manual**: $16.50 (incl. GST)**. This handbook contains information on biological techniques, reagents, stains and culture media commonly used in secondary schools.
- **First Aid in the School Laboratory**: $11.00 (incl. GST)**. This handbook provides emergency first aid procedures that may be required in a school science laboratory.

Sorry, Out of Print

- **Physics: A Laboratory Manual:** $11.00 (incl. GST)**. This handbook provides details on the use and preparation of equipment for physics demonstrations and practical exercises in secondary schools

***Price does not include postage and delivery.*

Please add $6 for 1 book plus $2 for every subsequent book ordered

- **LABCON 2001-2004 CD-ROMs**: $15.00 (incl. GST and postage). Limited numbers of the conference CD-ROMs are available. The CD includes all session notes by presenters and other information.
- **Interstate/lab tech on leave/teacher *Lab Lines* Subscription:** $25.00 per year (incl. GST and postage). Subscription entitles you to receive 4 editions of *Lab Lines* (March, June, September, and December) and the LABCON 2004 Registration booklet.

LTB-STAV Publications Order Form

ABN #: 32 004 748 118
Return to: Julie Parry, LTB-STAV Publications Officer
PO Box 40 Coburg Victoria 3058

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Order Number: _____

(or cheque made payable to *"Laboratory Technicians' Branch of STAV"* enclosed)

	Price:	Quantity:	Sub-Total:
Biology Reference Manual	$16.50	_____	_____
First Aid in the School La	$11.00	_____	_____
Physics: A Laboratory Manual	$11.00	_____	_____
Postage ($6 for 1 book + $2 for every subsequent book)			_____
LABCON 2001-2004 CD-ROMs	$15.00 each	_____	_____
Year(s) _____			
Interstate *Lab Lines* Subscription	$25.00 (includes postage)		_____
		TOTAL:	$ _____

Sorry, Out of Print

LTB-STAV Regional Representatives 2004

Ballarat Region
Helen Whatman
Mount Clear College
Box 257
Mount Clear Vic 3350
Tel: 5330 1500

Dandenong Region
Jackie Jones
St John's Regional College
Caroline Street
Dandenong 3175
Tel: 9791 3366
jonj@sjrc.melb.catholic.edu.au

Eastern/Maroondah Region
Robyn Morrison
Heathmont College
Waters Grove
Heathmont 3135
Tel: 9879 3111
morrison.robyn.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Geelong Region
Lozang Chotsol
Kardinia International College
203 Ballarat Road
Bell Post Hill 3215
Tel: 5278 9999
chotsoll@kardinia.vic.edu.au

Gippsland Region
Sue Webb
Kurani College – Churchill
Switchback Rd
Churchill Vic 3842
Tel: 5122 1455

Goulburn/North East Region
Janet Butt
Wodonga High School
Woodland Street
Wodonga 3690
Tel: (02) 6024 2100
but@wodonga.vic.edu.au

Kew Region
Susannah Larratt
D.S.M.E.
Faculty of Education
University of Melbourne
Parkville 3052
Tel: 8344 8560
slarratt@unimelb.edu.au

Loddon/Campaspe/
Mallee Region
Anne Yarwood
Flora Hills Secondary College
Bendigo 3550
Tel: 5443 4522
ayarwood@florahill.vic.edu.au

Mornington Region
Leonie Leishman
Mt Eliza Secondary College
Canadian Bay Road
Mt Eliza 3930
Tel: 9787 6288
lleishma@mesc.vic.edu.au

Nillumbik/Banyule Region
Lois O'Meara, Eltham College
Main Road, Research 3095
Tel: 9437 1421, leom55@hotmail.com
Margaret leGrys, Diamond Valley College,
Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek, 3089
Tel: 9438 1411
legrys.margaret.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

North Metro Region
Robin Marceau
St Johns Greek Orthodox College
21 Railway Place
Preston West 3072
Tel: 9480 5300
marceaur@stjohnspreston.vic.edu.au

North/West Metro Region
Glenn Condon
Westbourne School
PO Box 37
Werribee 3030
Tel: 9731 9444
condog@westbourne.vic.edu.au

South Yarra/Moorabbin Region
Geoff Gleadall
Brighton Grammar School
90 Outer Cr
Brighton 3148
Tel: 8591 2200
gleadallg@brightongrammar.vic.edu.au

Sunraysia Region
Narelle Divola
Irymple Secondary College
Karadoc Ave
Irymple Vic 3498
Tel: 5024 5407
divola.narelle.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

Warrnambool Region
Leanne Baxter
Hamilton & Alexandra College
P O Box 286
Hamilton 3300
Tel: 5572 1355
science@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au

Laboratory Technicians' Branch of S.T.A.V. 2005 Committee

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

JASON GRIFFITHS
Glen Waverley Secondary College
Tel: 9886 4193
Fax: 9886 4189
jgi@gwsc.vic.edu.au

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

SUE SKIRDE
Geeelong Grammar School Corio
Tel: 5273 9385
SueS@ggscorio.vic.edu.au

TREASURER

THELMA LOBB
Bundoora Secondary College
Tel: 9468 9559
lobb.thelma.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

BEVERLY HUNTLEY
St Albans Secondary College
Tel: 9366 2555
rhuntley@optusnet.com.au

MERI KAPITANOWSKI
Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School
Tel: 9336 1835
Meri.Kapitanowski@pegs.vic.edu.au

JULIE PARRY
(LTB-STAV Publications Officer)
Thornbury-Darebin Secondary College
Tel: 9458 6164
parry.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

GLENN CONDON
(LTB-STAV Regional Reps Liaison)
Westbourne Grammar School
Tel: 9731 9444
condog@westbourne.vic.edu.au

ANNE-MARIE GRIFFITHS
(LTB-STAV Registration Officer)
Xavier College
Tel: 9854 5411
A.Griffiths@xavier.vic.edu.au

GEOFF GLEADALL
Brighton Grammar School
Tel: 8591 2200
gleadallg@brightongrammar.vic.edu.au

GENERAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS

MARY L. JONES WILLIE
Keilor Downs College
Tel: 9367 4200
willie.mary.lj@edumail.vic.gov.au

DOMENIC ROSA
St Mary's Coptic College
Tel: 9302 2788
domrosa@copticvic.org

DANUTA KASINSKA-TESSARI
Sacred Heart Regional Girls College
Tel: 9568 5488
dkasinsk@shgcoak.melb.catholic.edu.au

EX - OFFICIO COMMITTEE POSITIONS

SAFETY INFORMATION OFFICERS

MARGOT CLARK
Overnewton College
Tel: 9334 0034
Fax: 9336 1835
margot@overnewton.vic.edu.au

BRONWYN DUNCAN
Victoria University
Tel: 9284 8715
Bronwyn.Duncan@vu.edu.au

NATIONAL NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR

DALE CARROLL
Geelong College
Tel: 5226 3136
dcarroll@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au

LAB LINES EDITOR

JILL VELLA
Leongatha Secondary College
Tel: 5662 4333
Fax: 5662 2155
JillVella@leonsec.vic.edu.au

Please feel free to contact any member of your committee with any queries or concerns. Members are welcome at committee meetings. Contact The Secretary for more information.

LTB-STAV Committee Meeting Dates 2005.

Committee will meet at 5 Munro Street, Coburg from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the following dates:

May 11th,
July 13th,
September 14th,
October 12th.

All members are most welcome to attend. Contact Meri Kapitanowski for more details.