



Laboratory Technicians'
Association of Victoria Inc.

LABCON 2026

Federation University Berwick
100 Clyde Road, Berwick, Victoria

**Thursday 3 and
Friday 4 December**

***Bringing Excellence
to Science Education***

*The Conference specifically
for Laboratory Technicians*



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**



Dreamstime.com

Why you should attend LABCON 2026

LABCON 2026 enables you to hear from two keynote speakers, select up to 10 workshops to attend and see the latest equipment and tools available to lab techs.

- Meet with your colleagues to discuss all the issues that are an everyday part of our profession
- Get to know your suppliers by visiting the various displays whilst at LABCON 2026
- Enjoy the chance to socialise with your colleagues during the catering breaks
- Attend the conference dinner on Thursday evening

Registration Information

How to Register

Register ONLINE: www.ltav.org.au

EMAIL: info@margscarlett.com

SCAN the form (p17 & 18) and EMAIL to: info@margscarlett.com

POST the form (p17 & 18) to: PO Box 208, Lynbrook VIC 3975

Complete all sections of the form. This includes your details, workshop selection and ensure you provide more than one choice as workshops book out very quickly.

Registration Payment

You can pay in one of three ways:

1. Provide a school purchase order number on your registration form
2. Credit Card payment online: www.ltav.org.au
3. EFT Direct Debit into the LTAV Account:
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Warragul
BSB: 063532 Account Number: 10401068
Account Name: Laboratory Technicians Association of Victoria Inc.

Note: EFT payments – it is IMPORTANT that you email your EFT advice to info@margscarlett.com

Conference Venue

Federation University Berwick, 100 Clyde Road, Berwick

This modern university provides all the space we need for our 79 workshops. We have a theatre, multiple size classrooms and two labs, which have long been requested. Be inspired by Melbourne's entrepreneurs and creative thinkers onsite during LABCON. You will be made very welcome at this venue. Located only minutes from the Berwick Railway Station or free parking on site.

How to get there

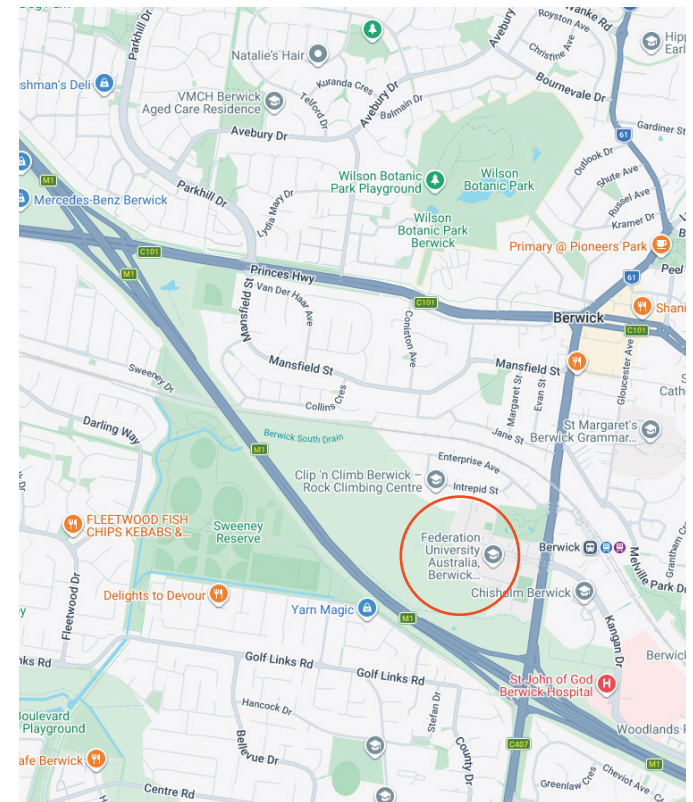
BY CAR: Berwick Campus is 40km from the Melbourne CBD. It takes 45–60 minutes to drive, depending on how much traffic there is. Our best tip? Use the toll roads [HERE](#). Parking is available off Gustav Nossal Boulevard [HERE](#). See the campus map [HERE](#) for car park locations and mobility routes.

BY BUS: There are seven bus routes that stop either at campus or the nearby Berwick Train Station. You'll need a Myki ([HERE](#)) to travel on buses: Routes 828, 831, 834, 836, 837, 839 and 846.

BY TRAIN: If you're travelling to campus from the Melbourne CBD, take the Pakenham Metro train ([HERE](#)) to Berwick Station. It's only a 500-metre walk from there to Federation.

If you're travelling from the east of Melbourne, get the Traralgon V/Line train ([HERE](#)). Unfortunately, V/Line doesn't stop at Berwick Station, but you can get off at Pakenham Station and board the Pakenham Metro train to Berwick. You'll need a Myki to travel on trains.

More information page 18.



Invitation from the President

Welcome to LABCON2026!

LABCON continues to be one of the most significant and comprehensive professional development opportunities available to laboratory technicians and science educators. We are delighted to welcome you to **Federation University Berwick Campus**, located at **100 Clyde Road, Berwick, Victoria**.

Following the success of recent years, delegates will again have the flexibility to choose between a 90-minute workshop or two 45-minute workshops during each workshop session, allowing you to tailor your conference experience to your interests and professional needs.

LABCON2026 offers an outstanding opportunity to:

- Attend presentations and workshops that address current issues, emerging trends, and practical skills relevant to your workplace.
- Develop your knowledge through hands-on learning, innovative teaching ideas, and cost-saving strategies for your laboratory.
- Meet and connect with LTAV Committee members and learn more about the work of your professional association.
- Participate in the LTAV Annual General Meeting and have your say in the future direction of the Association.
- Visit our exhibition and speak directly with suppliers about the latest products, equipment, and resources available to schools.
- Network with colleagues from across Victoria, sharing ideas, experiences, and best practice.
- Enjoy our conference dinner and social evening – an excellent opportunity to relax, reconnect, and celebrate our profession.

Workshop places are limited, so we encourage you to register early to maximise your chances of securing your preferred sessions. If you are an LTAV member, don't forget to take advantage of the discounted member registration rates.

On behalf of the LTAV Committee, thank you for choosing to be part of **LABCON2026**. We look forward to welcoming you and hope you enjoy a rewarding and inspiring conference.

Kind regards,

Mary L. Jones
President, LTAV (Inc.)

Keynote Speakers

Thursday 3 December 2026 • 9.00am-10.00am



Professor Iven Mareels

Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Federation University

Iven Mareels is ProVice Chancellor Research & Innovation and the Institute for Innovation, Science and Sustainability, at Federation University Australia, and nonexecutive Director of Rubicon Water. He was a Director of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE 2018/2024), a partner in IBM Consulting, and Director of IBM Research (Feb 2018 April 2022); Dean of Engineering and Redmond Barry Professor at the University of Melbourne (2007/2018).

Iven obtained a PhD from the Australian National University (ANU, 1987), and a Master of Engineering from Gent University (1982). He has coauthored nearly 600 refereed publications, including 5 monographs, and a suite of patents assigned to Rubicon Water.

Iven received inter alia a 2021 IBM Research Achievement Award (bronze level); the 2017, Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize from the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC); the 2014 IEEE Control Systems Society Technology Award; the 2013 Asian Control Association Wook Hyun Kwon Education Award; the 2008 ATSE Clunies Ross Medal; the 1994 ANU ViceChancellor's Award For Excellence In Teaching; and two civil awards: Commander in the Order of the Crown of Belgium (2013), and the Centenary Medal of Australia (2003).

He is a Life Fellow of IEEE, Fellow of ATSE, IFAC, International Artificial Intelligence Industry Alliance and Engineers Australia, a foreign fellow of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, and an inaugural fellow of the Asian Control Association.

Keynote Address: A Brief History of AI and What It Tells Us About The Future of Lab Based Learning?

See page 9 for Keynote address details.

Friday 4 December 2026 • 9.00am-10.00am



Associate Professor Robert Ross

LaTrobe University

Robert is the head of Robotics and Electronics and is an Associate Professor in the Engineering Department at La Trobe University. Robert founded the RAMPS Robotics Lab and has developed a collection of robots to explore wombat burrows, prune grapevines and inspect sewers. Robert is also an educational pioneer and since 2018 has designed over 30 specialised educational escape rooms and a reconfigurable electronic decoder box for use in the classroom. Robert has published over 10 papers related to research in educational escape rooms.

Keynote Address: Inescapable Learning through Escape Rooms

See page 9 for Keynote address details.

LABCON 2026 – Program in Detail



Thursday 3 December 2026

7.30am	Registration				Ground 901 Foyer				
8.50am-9.00am	Conference Opening Day One Mary Jones, President LTAV				Ground G121 Theatre				
9.00am-10.00am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER A Brief History of AI and What It Tells Us About The Future of Lab Based Learning? Professor Iven Mareels, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Federation University								
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea and Exhibition				Ground 901 Foyer				
10.30am-11.00am	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Mary Jones, President, LTAV				Ground G121 Theatre				
11.00am -12.45pm Concurrent workshops x 90 minutes									
T1 KidWind Challenge – Harnessing renewable energy Katie Cadogan, Scientrific	Theatre G121	T2 Photosynthesis in 10 minutes Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Pty Ltd	Classroom 1140	T3 Discover how Micro:bits can be used as affordable data loggers in Years 7-10 Science Amanda Brick, MTA	Classroom 1117	T4 Grounded in Science: Soils and Food Security in Melbourne Dr James Driscall, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School	Classroom 1121	T5 Managing chemicals in the laboratory and storage areas – understanding AS/NZS 2243.2.2021 Lisa Stevens & Dr Neale Jackson, Lisa Stevens & Associates	Classroom 1118
11.00am-11.45am Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes									
T6 TESEP Rocks and Minerals Peter Nisbet, TESEP	Classroom 1116	T7 Meteorites Trevor Hand, MPAS	Classroom 1119	T8 Science Assist Dale Carroll	Classroom 1120	T9 Demonstrations to Amaze and Ignite your Imagination Peter Hill, Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School	LAB G100	T10 Unlock the microscopic magic of root tip mitosis! Grow, squash, stain and see Roslyn Clark, Melbourne High School & Sonia Holland, Star of The Sea College	LAB G125
11.45am-12.00pm CHANGE ROOMS									
12.00pm-12.45pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes									
T11 Update on Digital Cameras from Motic Peter Jackson, Australian Instrument Services	Classroom 1116	T12 How we do what we do Geoff Gleadall	Classroom 1119	T13 Microscopes preventative maintenance Rod Aggett, EduSupplies	Classroom 1120	T14 From Plant to Plate: Practical Techniques for investigating the antibacterial efficacy of plant-based medicine Catherine Chambers & P Marietta Perera, Federation University	LAB G100	Lo	
LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM: 12.00pm-12.45pm				LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM: 1.30pm-3.15pm					
T80 The Good, the Bad and the Ewwy Natalie Geary, St Aloysius College			Bld 902 Theatre 195		T81 Blood in Forensic Science Ivana Poulton, Optimum Technology			Bld 902 Theatre 195	
12.45pm-1.30pm Lunch and Exhibition							Ground 901 Foyer		

LABCON 2026 – Program in Detail



Thursday 3 December 2026

1.30pm-3.15pm Concurrent workshops x 90 minutes					
T16 Theatre G121 From Policy to Practice: Safer Chemical Management in Schools Nicole Christians, DET & Naomi Peters, Werribee Secondary College	T17 Classroom 1140 Titration made easy – using sensors Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Pty Ltd	T18 Classroom 1117 Power Up Your Circuits: Practical Skills for Lab Techs Amanda Brick, MTA	T19 Classroom 1121 Fire Down Under: Uncovering Victoria's Volcanic Past Dr James Driscall, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School	T20 Classroom 1118 Multimeters – How to understand, use and repair them Harvey Edwards, Principles & Practice	T21 Classroom 1120 What Rock is that Peter Nisbet
1.30pm-2.15pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
T22 Classroom 1116 CSI – Crime Solving Investigations Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College	T23 Classroom 1119 Reliable AOS3 Investigations for Chemistry and Biology Structured for Lab Techs, Engaging for Students Lauren Farrugia & Glauca Costa, Genazzano FCJ College	T24 LAB G100 From Reaction to Results: Aspirin Synthesis in the School Laboratory Adam Trewan & P Marietta Perera, Federation University	T25 LAB G125 Invisible Worlds: Hands-On Microbiology for the Classroom Stuart Lewis, Scientrific		
2.15pm-2.30pm CHANGE ROOMS					
2.30pm-3.15pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
T26 Classroom 1116 It's not easy being green Dr Jeff Hughes, RMIT	T27 Classroom 1119 Avoiding Burnout in the Lab Ellen Clarke, Glen Waverley Secondary College	T28 LAB G100 Prep Room Mastery: In-House Maintenance for School Balances, Pipettes, and Microscopes P Marietta Perera & Adam Trewan, Federation University	T29 LAB G125 The Science of Us Stuart Lewis, Scientrific		
3.15pm-3.30pm Afternoon Tea and Exhibition					Ground 901 Foyer
3.30pm-4.15pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
T30 Theatre G121 Safe storage of chemicals: the law and best practice Phillip & Eva Crisp, RiskAssess	T31 Classroom 1140 How we MacGyver? Mary Jones, Keilor Downs College & Lynette Baker, Assumption College Kilmore	T32 Classroom 1117 Radioactivity in schools Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Pty Ltd	T33 Classroom 1120 Exploring Thermodynamics with Vernier Eric Windsor, Haines Educational	T34 Classroom 1116 TESEP Education Program Peter Nisbet, TESEP	
T35 Classroom 1118 The Science of the Ridiculous Stuart Lewis, Scientrific	T36 Classroom 1121 OHS in the Lab, Reasonably Practicable? Naomi Peters, Werribee Secondary College	T37 Classroom 1119 Tips and Tricks Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College	T38 LAB G100 Microscale Chemistry for Student Practicals – Doing more for less and Miracle Berries! Daniela Migliorati, Science Supply Australia & Marcia Rogerson, Crest Education	T39 LAB G125 An Investigation into Plant Cloning Techniques Dr Radhika Iyer & Anne-Marie Griffiths, Whitefriars College	
4.15pm Conference Close – Day One					
6.30pm-10.30pm CONFERENCE DINNER – Sponsored by MTA Pink Hill Hotel, 20 Pink Hill Boulevard, Beaconsfield					
					

LABCON 2026 – Program in Detail



Friday 4 December 2026

8.00am	Registration	Ground 901 Foyer	
8.55am-9.00am	Conference Opening Day Two Mary Jones , President LTAV	Ground G121 Theatre	
9.00am-10.00am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>Inescapable Learning through Escape Rooms</i> Associate Professor Robert Ross , LaTrobe University		
10.00am-10.30am	Morning Tea and Exhibition		Ground 901 Foyer
10.30am -12.15pm	Concurrent workshops x 90 minutes		
F40 Multimeters – How to understand, use and repair them Harvey Edwards, Principles & Practice	Classroom 1119 F41 Practical investigations of electromagnetic induction & transformers Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Pty Ltd	Classroom 1118 F42 Discover how Micro:bits can be used as affordable data loggers in Years 7-10 Science Amanda Brick, MTA	Classroom 1116 F43 Fire Down Under: Uncovering Victoria's Volcanic Past Dr James Driscall, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School
10.30am -11.15pm	Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes		
F44 How we MacGyver? Mary Jones, Keilor Downs College & Lynette Baker, Assumption College Kilmore	Classroom 1121 F45 Avoiding Burnout in the Lab Ellen Clarke, Glen Waverley Secondary College	Classroom 1120 F46 Structures and Materials: Building bridges in the classroom, who can design the best bridge? Stuart Lewis, Scientrific	Classroom 1117
F47 Reliable AOS3 Investigations for Chemistry and Biology Structured for Lab Techs, Engaging for Students Lauren Farrugia & Glauca Costa, Genazzano FCJ College	Theatre G121 F48 Microscale Chemistry for Student Practicals – Doing more for less and Miracle Berries! Daniela Migliorati, Science Supply Australia & Marcia Rogerson, Crest Education	LAB G100 F49 Experimental Ideas in Environmental Science, Bio-Med and Criminology Dr Radhika Iyer, Whitefriars College	LAB G125
11.15am -11.30am	CHANGE ROOMS		
11.30am-12.15pm	Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes		
F50 RiskAssess: New chemical inventory and chemical register Eva & Phillip Crisp, RiskAssess	Theatre G121 F51 How we do what we do Geoff Gleadall	Classroom 1120 F52 Physics Playground – Exploring High School Physics Stuart Lewis, Scientrific	Classroom 1121
F53 CSI – crime solving investigations Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College	Classroom 1117 F54 From Plant to Plate: Practical Techniques for investigating the antibacterial efficacy of plant-based medicine Catherine Chambers & P Marietta Perera, Federation University	LAB G100 F55 Little green balls of Photosynthesis. Make your own Algae Balls. Roslyn Clark, Melbourne High School & Sonia Holland, Star of The Sea College	LAB G125
LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM: 10.30am-11.15am		LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM: 1.00pm-2.45pm	
F82 The Good, the Bad and the Ewwy Natalie Geary, St Aloysius College	Bld 902 Theatre 195	F83 Light in Forensic Science Ivana Poulton, Optimum Technology	Bld 902 Theatre 195
12.15pm -1.00pm	Lunch and Exhibition		Ground 901 Foyer

LABCON 2026 – Program in Detail



Friday 4 December 2026

1.00pm-2.45pm Concurrent workshops x 90 minutes					
F56 KidWind Challenge – Harnessing renewable energy Katie Cadogan, Scientrific	Theatre G121	F57 Chemwatch Beehive System Aarlene Villafranca, Chemwatch	Classroom 1140	F58 Power Up Your Circuits: Practical Skills for Lab Techs Amanda Brick MTA	Classroom 1118
F59 Grounded in Science: Soils and Food Security in Melbourne Dr James Driscall, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School	Classroom 1116	F60 Volcanoes – what a blast! Peter Nisbet	Classroom 1119	F61 Managing chemicals in the laboratory and storage areas – understanding AS/NZS 2243.2:2021 Lisa Stevens & Dr Neale Jackson Lisa Stevens & Associates	Classroom 1117
1.00pm -1.45pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
F62 Microscopes preventative maintenance Rod Aggett, EduSupplies	Classroom 1120	F63 OHS in the Lab, Reasonably Practicable? Naomi Peters, Werribee Secondary College	Classroom 1121	F64 From Reaction to Results: Aspirin Synthesis in the School Laboratory Adam Trewan & P Marietta Perera, Federation University	LAB G100
				F65 Handling and Storage of Radioactive Sources Dan O'Keeffe OAM, Vicphysics Teachers' Network	LAB G125
1.45pm -2.00pm CHANGE ROOMS					
2.00pm – 2.45pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
F66 Exploring Thermodynamics with Vernier Eric Windsor, Haines Educational	Classroom 1120	F67 Science Assist Dale Carroll	Classroom 1121	F68 Prep Room Mastery: In-House Maintenance for School Balances, Pipettes, and Microscopes P Marietta Perera & Adam Trewan, Federation University	LAB G100
				F69 Using a Ruhmkorff coil for demonstrations requiring high voltage Dan O'Keeffe OAM, Vicphysics Teachers' Network	LAB G125
2.45pm – 3.15pm Afternoon Tea and Exhibition Draw Exhibitor Passport Prizes					Ground 901 Foyer
3.15pm – 4.00pm Concurrent workshops x 45 minutes					
F70 Meteorites Trevor Hand, MPAS	Theatre G121	F71 TESEP Education Program Peter Nisbet, TESEP	Classroom 1119	F72 Update on Digital Cameras from Motic Peter Jackson, Australian Instrument Services	Classroom 1117
				F73 Environmental Science – suggested investigations incorporating sensors and electronic measurement technology Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Pty Ltd	Classroom 1121
F75 Tips and Tricks Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College	Classroom 1116	F76 SCOTS: A New Professional Learning Program for Out-of-Field Chemistry Teachers Mick Moylan & Emily Rochette, The University of Melbourne	Classroom 1120	F77 Essential Lab Safety: What Every Technician Needs to Know Andrea Rowe, Safety Action Pty Ltd	Classroom 1118
				F78 A Healthy Land – Measuring the environment with Vernier dataloggers Stuart Lewis, Scientrific	LAB G100
				F79 Hazardous Waste Management Callum Stagg, DGL Envirostore	LAB G125
4.15pm Conference Close					

LABCON 2026 Keynote Descriptions

Thursday 3 December 2026

9.00am-10.00am

Professor Iven Mareels

Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation,
Federation University



*Keynote Address: A Brief History of AI and What It Tells Us
About The Future of Lab Based Learning?*

First, we review some of the history of AI, so as to try to understand the future and indeed importance of lab based learning. The latter's essential nature in human learning is supported by such old proverbs as "Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand", which can be traced back to Confucius in 300BC. Equally, and perhaps contrary to what the popular press tells us about the emergence of AI, AI has a very long history, almost 5,000 years in fact.

AI was named in 1955, but certainly not invented in 1955! At its core, AI must grapple with the key questions of intelligence and free-moral-agency, which have been a topic of study since the dawn of humanity. The technology, we call AI today, has roots in mechanics, biology and mathematics, dating back at least a 1,000 years. This technology has taken off because of modern electronics, in particular computing, data handling, and communication. With this type of inertia driving AI forward, the (r)evolution we are experiencing is going to last and we may expect it will transform most jobs for ever. Most, because, like all technologies, AI has fundamental limits, which we are starting to understand, so it cannot do everything we would like it, or imagine it to do. New jobs will be created.

We also perceive that the value proposition of human work is shifting, and intuition, judgement, emotional IQ, and critical thinking are more relevant than ever. AI does not challenge lab based learning, which will continue to provide one the richest and most permanent forms of human learning that our education system offers. I will argue that its place in the formation of observational skills, and critical thinking is becoming even more important than ever. Nevertheless, our lab based learning won't be immune from AI's influence, and the technology will support our lab experience. However, the fundamental role of lab-based instruction in education, for as long as we want to educate humans, is secure.

Friday 4 December 2026

9.00am-10.00am

Associate Professor Robert Ross

LaTrobe University



*Keynote Address:
Inescapable Learning through Escape Rooms*

Educational Escape Rooms offer a unique opportunity to engage and motivate students to learn (and help them want to learn) by immersing coursework within fun game-based learning narratives. Robert will provide escape room examples and will equip you with key skills to develop and deploy storylines, puzzles and hardware to unlock learning in your classroom.



**Laboratory Technicians'
Association of Victoria Inc.**

**NOT AN LTAV MEMBER
BUT WANT TO JOIN?**

Free Membership
for first year Lab Techs

Go to
www.ltav.org.au

DISCOUNTED RATES FOR LTAV MEMBERS

Please check the status of your membership before
lodging your registration form.

Contact: membership@ltav.org.au

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

A Healthy Land – Measuring the environment with Vernier Dataloggers

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific

F78

The natural world is made-up of many complex systems that connect together.

This workshop will look at using datalogging to measure various environmental conditions in plants, the soil and water.

- Looking at chlorophyll in plants
- Investigating plant photosynthesis
- Investigating respiration
- Abiotic conditions
- Water analysis

New Session

An Investigation into Plant Cloning Techniques

Dr Radhika Iyer & Anne-Marie Griffiths, Whitefriars College T39

Lets explore and dive deep into various hands on techniques used for the study of asexual propagation in plants.

Through this session, the presenters wish to give a broader perspective so the delegates are able to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of reproductive methods in plants. Both natural and artificial strategies with a greater focus on the process and application of reproductive cloning techniques would be discussed. The participants are encouraged to use these techniques to initiate similar work in their school Laboratories for the VCE studies. This session is directly relevant to VCE study design of Biology, Unit 2, and Area of study 2.

New Session

Avoiding Burnout in the Lab

Ellen Clarke, Glen Waverley Secondary College

T27 F45

Many laboratory technicians are balancing constant requests, increasing workloads, tight timeframes, and high expectations which can quickly lead to stress and burnout. Come explore the realities of overwhelm in the lab, common challenges faced by lab techs, and find practical strategies to improve workload management, communication, and personal sustainability in the role. Drawing on over 35 years' worth of experience, this session is suitable for both new and experienced technicians.

New session

Chemwatch Beehive System

Arlene Villafranca, Chemwatch

F57

Chemwatch Beehive is a comprehensive chemical management platform designed to support safe and compliant laboratory operations. This presentation will demonstrate how schools can efficiently manage

Safety Data Sheets (SDS), chemical inventories, and risk assessments in a single system. Attendees will learn how Beehive simplifies compliance requirements, improves access to critical safety information, and enhances laboratory safety practices. The session will also highlight tools that reduce administrative workload and support effective chemical governance in educational environments.

New Session

CSI – Crime Solving Investigations

Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College T22 F53

Some new ideas for forensic science and maybe some not so new ideas. Planning and preparation of samples for class use.

Observation of a crime scene, How to make a dead body, decomposition, Entomology, electrophoresis, chromatography, fibres, blood typing, drug testing, soil testing, foot prints, bones.

New Session

Demonstrations to amaze and ignite your imagination

Peter Hill, Penleigh & Essendon Grammar School

T9

A series of demonstrations will be presented, these could be used in a Science fair / Expo or in specific Science units to engage the students.

Demonstrations may include:

- Lenz's law
- Singing rods
- Lota bowl
- Golf ball float
- Cartesian diver
- Centre of gravity
- Pressure mat
- Friction demonstration
- pH column

New session

Discover how Micro:bits can be used as affordable data loggers in Years 7-10 Science

Amanda Brick, MTA

T3 F42

In this hands-on session, you'll explore how these tiny devices make real-time data collection fun, accessible, and meaningful for students. Learn just how simple and versatile Micro:bits are, even with no prior experience. Experiment with real applications – track temperature, test soil moisture, and explore acceleration in action – and have a go at using a Micro:bit to collect and analyse your own data!

Repeat Session

Environmental Science – suggested investigations incorporating sensors and electronic measurement technology

Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Tech Pty Ltd

F73

Explore the science behind some of today's most important environmental challenges through hands-on investigations and real-world data collection. This workshop will examine key environmental indicators, including air quality, carbon dioxide levels, ocean acidification, water quality, and temperature, using a range of sensors. We will investigate how these factors influence ecosystems, climate, and human health while developing practical skills in environmental measurement, data analysis, and discover how environmental data can be collected, interpreted, and applied to better understand local and global environmental issues.

New Session

Essential Lab Safety: What Every Technician Needs to Know

Andrea Rowe, Safety Action Pty Ltd

F77

This session delivers a practical update on OHS and chemical safety requirements for laboratory technicians, focusing on common compliance gaps and emerging risks in school laboratories. Attendees will learn how to correctly identify hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods, undertake effective risk assessments, and meet their policy and legislative responsibilities. The session includes real insights, practical examples, and simple tools to improve labelling, storage and segregation of chemicals, supporting safer and more compliant laboratory operations.

Repeat Session

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

Experimental Ideas in Environmental Science, Bio-Med and Criminology

Dr Radhika Iyer, Whitefriars College

F49

Environmental science is an exciting field holding lots of promises for future. Sadly, it is a neglected subject in many schools due to lack of awareness/shortage of Trained Teachers and Techs in this area.

There is still hope. Science Techs can play a major role by introducing some novel ideas at their respective schools to add this exciting field into the curriculum. The hands-on experience gained during the workshop will be useful for Year 9, 10 and VCE chemistry specifically.

Likewise, Criminology studies would be beneficial for Year 9 and 10. In this workshop, an attempt will be made to convey novel ideas through hands on experiments in the respective fields. Techs will have a great opportunity to practice few techniques during the workshop.

New Session

Exploring Thermodynamics with Vernier

Eric Windsor, Haines Educational Pty Ltd

T33 F66

Explore thermodynamics through hands-on lab investigations aligned to ACSHP016, covering conduction, convection, and radiation in real-world contexts like household heating and insulation. Using Vernier Go Direct sensors, participants collect live thermal data to observe heat transfer as it happens. The session is designed to be practical and low-barrier, making use of equipment schools likely already have. Aimed at teachers and lab technicians, the focus is on building genuine student understanding rather than rote memorisation. Attendees leave with short, engaging investigations they can run with confidence in their own classrooms.

New Session

Fire Down Under: Uncovering Victoria's Volcanic Past

Dr James Driscoll, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School

T19 F43

Our planet is constantly shifting beneath our feet as tectonic

plates move, shaping Earth's surface and driving volcanic activity. This hands-on workshop explores how these processes have formed Victoria's volcanic landscapes, including lava plains, scoria cones and crater lakes. Participants will investigate the links between plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunami, and examine how scientists monitor and forecast these geophysical hazards. Join us for an interactive, curriculum-aligned exploration of the science behind Victoria's volcanoes and Earth's most powerful natural events.

New session

From Plant to Plate: Practical Techniques for investigating the antibacterial efficacy of plant-based medicine

Catherine Chambers & P Marietta Perera, Federation University

T14 F54

Bring science to life by exploring the power of plant-based medicines. This interactive workshop guides technicians through essential oil extraction and antibacterial testing using reliable, classroom-ready methods. Build confidence in steam distillation, culture preparation, and agar diffusion assays, while learning practical troubleshooting and biosafety strategies. By blending traditional knowledge with modern science, this session equips you to support engaging investigations that spark curiosity and deepen student understanding of microbiology.

New Session

From Policy to Practice: Safer Chemical Management in Schools

Nicole Christians, Department of Education & Naomi Peters, Werribee Secondary College

T16

What does good chemical management look like in a school?

In this session we will share how the recent updates to the Chemical Management Policy were shaped by real input from lab technicians, health and safety representatives (HSRs), and schools. This has helped make the policy more practical, easier to follow and better aligned with how labs operate day to day. We will discuss how HSRs and lab techs can help identify issues, raise concerns and test whether risk controls work.

We'll also walk through the full lifecycle of chemicals covering purchasing, storage and disposal with the aid of the department's digital chemical management tool, Chemwatch. We will unpack what works well in practice, where things can go wrong, and who plays a role at keeping schools safe at each stage of the chemical management processes.

Along the way, we'll challenge some common myths and share simple, practical steps schools can take to strengthen chemical management. We will highlight key supports for lab technicians and demonstrate some essential Chemwatch features.

This session is designed for lab technicians who want a practical learning experience they can use straight away to improve efficiency and safety in their labs and schools overall when it comes to chemical lifecycle management.

New Session

From Reaction to Results: Aspirin Synthesis in the School Laboratory

Adam Trewarn & P Marietta Perera, Federation University T24 F64

Take a classic chemistry experiment from good to exceptional. Using aspirin synthesis as a case study, this session walks through reaction setup, purification by recrystallisation, and product verification using FTIR and melting point analysis. Gain practical insights into preparation, material management, and safe lab practices. Designed for technicians, this presentation connects each stage of the process, helping you confidently support successful, high-impact chemistry experiments in the school laboratory.

New Session

Grounded in Science: Soils and Food Security in Melbourne

Dr James Driscoll, Monash University & Anna Zonneveld, John Monash Science School

T4 F59

In this workshop, we will explore the science of soil through hands-on activities that immerse students in real-world inquiry. Using soil and rock samples from diverse regions across Victoria, students will investigate the physical and chemical attributes of soils and consider how these influence food production. Practical tasks include analysing soil colour, texture, pH and

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

porosity, as well as examining parent materials to understand soil formation.

New session

Handling and Storage of Radioactive Sources

Mr Dan O'Keeffe OAM, Vicphysics Teachers' Network F65

The session begins with information on radioactivity the covers sources in schools, how to handle and store them and admin procedures in regard to risk and compliance.

New Session

Hazardous Waste Management

Callum Stagg, DGL Envirostore T15 F79

Navigating the treacherous path of industrial waste. From the waste management hierarchy to disposal options, waste has become more complicated over the years. Listen in to understand more.

Repeat Session

How we do what we do

Geoff Gleadall T12 F51

This session gives an overview of your association's policies and how we go about common tasks. The session will cover our rules (constitution) and Aims as well as policies on how we go about tasks, who in the committee is responsible for what tasks, and policies that outline LTAV's view of what is best practice in our profession. This session is intended to demystify the processes and procedures and perhaps encourage members to step forward and take part in this important work. LTAV is an organisation that is run by volunteers. Having well-defined policies gives those volunteers clear and transparent guides about how we go about this.

Repeat Session

How we MacGyver?

Mary Jones, Keilor Downs College and Lynette Baker, Assumption College Kilmore T31 F44

STEM projects that reinvent old experiments, build problem-solving skills, and create practical solutions for your labs and students.

In true MacGyver fashion, we keep things running in our labs every day with whatever's on hand – from paper clips to duct tape.

New Session

Invisible Worlds: Hands-On Microbiology for the Classroom

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific T25

Microbiology shapes our world in powerful ways – from disease transmission and antibiotic resistance to biotechnology and environmental sustainability – yet it often feels invisible and abstract to students. This practical workshop explores engaging, classroom-ready ways to make the microbial world visible and meaningful through hands-on investigation.

Participants will experience a series of safe, accessible activities designed to model key microbiology concepts including bacterial growth, contamination pathways, infection transmission and outbreak investigations.

Using commonly available classroom resources such as agar plates, sterile swabs, petri dishes and digital microscopes supplied by Scientrific, educators will explore how simple investigations can reveal powerful insights into the behaviour of microbes.

The workshop will demonstrate how teachers can guide students to collect evidence, interpret patterns of microbial growth and connect their observations to real-world issues such as hygiene practices, antimicrobial resistance and public health responses.

Designed for easy classroom implementation, these activities emphasise inquiry, critical thinking and scientific literacy while supporting key curriculum concepts in biology and health science. Participants will leave with practical strategies, adaptable investigation ideas and confidence to bring the fascinating "invisible world" of microbiology into their classrooms

New Session

It's not easy being green

Dr Jeff Hughes, RMIT T26

This workshop will dive into the wonderful (green) world of frogs. Why do we study frogs? What are the main threats to

frog population? What is the best way to get information about frogs? How can the general public contribute as citizen scientists? to help contribute to get information on the distribution of frogs in the environment.

New Session

KidWind Challenge – Harnessing renewable energy

Katie Cadogan, Scientrific T1 F56

People are drowning in information but thirsty for insights – and renewable energy is no exception. This interactive workshop introduces delegates to the internationally recognised KidWind Challenge, a dynamic STEM program where participants design, build and test wind turbines or solar devices, then analyse real performance data to determine the most efficient solutions.

Aligned with the Big Data stream, this session demonstrates how hands-on engineering design can generate authentic datasets that drive deep scientific understanding. Participants will explore how students collect, interpret, and refine performance data from wind tunnels or solar testing arrays, transforming raw measurements into meaningful insights about energy transfer, efficiency, blade design, and environmental variables.

New Session

Little green balls of Photosynthesis. Make your own Algae Balls

Roslyn Clark, Melbourne High School & Sonia Holland, Star of The Sea College F55

Looking for cheap, simple and reliable Photosynthesis Practicals that are easy to prepare and give great results? Learn how to grow Algae cultures and make your own Algal Balls. Get ideas for using Algal Balls in practicals for Year 9 carbon cycle, and Year 11 and 12 Biology.

New session

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

Managing chemicals in the laboratory and storage areas – understanding

AS/NZS 2243.2:2021

Lisa Stevens & Dr Neale Jackson, Lisa Stevens & Associates T5 F61

This session will take participants through a guided tour of AS/NZS 2243.2:2021 Safety in Laboratories Chemical Aspects and Storage and how they apply the requirements in secondary school laboratories including design elements, how much chemicals can be stored on benches, in dangerous goods cabinets and chemical stores.

New Session

Meteorites

Trevor Hand, MPAS

T7 F70

Most meteorites burn up in the atmosphere and never make it to the ground, but some do! Learn what happens during a meteorite impact and see real examples of various types. After the talk you can hold them in your bare hands, so be sure to have a camera with you.

Repeat Session

Microscale Chemistry for Student Practicals – Doing more for less and Miracle Berries!

Daniela Migliorati, Science Supply Australia & Marcia Rogerson, Crest Education

T38 F48

This presentation will explore how using small quantities of chemicals not only saves money but also reduces waste, improves safety for students and supports sustainability in lab practises. This will be a hands-on session where you will learn practical tips to implement micro scale chemical experiments, produce minimal waste and best of all, no more test tubes to wash

It's a miracle ... Sour to Sweet! Explore what happens when we eat a West African berry that makes common sour and bitter foods taste sweet by temporarily masking your taste buds! A fun experience for any curious mind!

New Session

Microscopes preventative maintenance

Rod Aggett, EduSupplies

T13 F62

Regular microscope maintenance is often overlooked in busy classrooms and labs, resulting in avoidable faults, poor image quality, and increased repair costs. This workshop provides a practical, hands-on approach to preventative maintenance, equipping attendees with simple techniques to keep microscopes functioning at their best. The session will cover cleaning procedures, correct handling, storage practices, and early identification of common issues. Attendees will also learn how to implement a basic maintenance routine that can be easily integrated into school or lab workflows.

Ideal for teachers, lab technicians, and procurement staff, this workshop focuses on reducing equipment downtime, extending product lifespan, and improving overall user experience.

New Session

Multimeters – How to understand, use and repair them

Harvey Edwards, Principles and Practice

T20 F40

This will be a walk through how multimeters work, using them and even how to repair the most common faults on them.

They may often be very cheap and also uneconomical to fix. But there are times when replacing them on short notice or distance issues means that maybe a little time repairing them would be worthwhile. Harvey Edwards of Principles and Practice, with over 50 years of using these beasts, will attempt to take you through the steps necessary to understanding them.

New Session

OHS in the Lab, Reasonably Practicable?

Naomi Peters, Werribee Secondary College

T36 F63

Lab OHS Compliance, one Labbie's experiences

As the Lab Manager and HSR of a DET school, I oversee many aspects of OHS Compliance in my duties. I will discuss writing SWPs for chemicals, changes to SDS requirements from DET, finding information on PAL, Risk Registers and getting ready for audits (such as the current OHS E&Y external audits), plus the

capacity to move OHS onto EduSafe Plus, which DET schools are now becoming able to do if they haven't already started.

I'm not an expert, so it's more of a chance for a conversation between Lab Techs rather than me telling people how to do it all.

OHS is really coming into focus within DET and do you know who to call? Or where to find that information? Let's chat.

Repeat Session

Photosynthesis in 10 minutes

Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Tech Pty Ltd

T2

Monitor common photosynthesis experiments in a controlled aquatic environment. Understand photosynthesis through direct measurements of oxygen, carbon dioxide, pH, and more, while controlling variables including light, temperature, and nutrient levels.

New Session

Physics Playground – Exploring High School Physics

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific

F52

"Physics is science where you think with your hands" Are you looking for ways of collecting data related to experiments in the Australian Curriculum – Physics (Especially when inertia keeps you at home)? This workshop explores Physics using Vernier Dataloggers. With multiple workstations, and support from our presenter, participants will use dataloggers to explore different physics experiments. Topics will include:

- Examining motion using a Motion Probe, a Photogate and Video Analysis
- Investigating electrical induction using magnets
- Magnetic fields in a coil
- Newton's Laws of Motion

Repeat Session

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

Power Up Your Circuits: Practical Skills for Lab Techs

Amanda Brick, MTA

T18 F58

Build confidence in supporting electrical circuits with this hands-on workshop. Learn practical tips for setting up and troubleshooting electric circuit pracs, along with smart storage strategies to extend the life of your equipment. Explore different circuit types by building your own and compare common components – including the pros and cons of the different types of power sources, meters, globes etc. Walk away with practical knowledge you can apply straight away.

New Session

Practical investigations of electromagnetic induction and transformers

Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Tech Pty Ltd

F41

A hands-on introduction to electromagnetic induction. Often viewed as “hard” by students, the use of voltage and/or current sensors can bring this topic alive for students, generating a broader, deeper understanding and in much less time and at a lower cost than traditional methods. Even your teachers might understand the topic! We'll look at generating Lenz and Faraday's laws from firsthand data, generators, and transformers.

New Session

Prep Room Mastery: In-House Maintenance for School Balances, Pipettes, and Microscopes

P Marietta Perera & Adam Trewarn, Federation University

T28 F68

Keep your lab running smoothly and your results reliable. This workshop shows how in-house maintenance of balances, pipettes, and microscopes can transform your prep room practice. Learn practical techniques for calibration, troubleshooting, and repairing common faults, including everyday wear and student damage. Discover how proactive care reduces costs, limits downtime, and extends equipment life – empowering technicians to maintain a reliable, efficient, and resilient laboratory environment.

New Session

Radioactivity in schools

Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Tech Pty Ltd

T32

The Geiger counter allows exploration of the invisible world of radioactivity. Working with radiation poses potential problems. Either the sources are not suitable or safe for use in a school (get rid of that yellowcake sample right now!), or the commercial, licensed for school source is too expensive. There are some great options that make the study of radiation and nuclear physics both safe and real. We'll be using a Geiger counter to investigate radiation counts, looking at things from food to balloons. We'll suggest some real-world, engaging practical activities suitable for a range of year levels.

New Session

Reliable AOS3 Investigations For Chemistry and Biology Structured for Lab Techs, Engaging for Students

Lauren Farrugia & Glaucia Costa, Genazzano FCJ College

T23 F47

This presentation showcases four trialled and tested classroom-ready investigations for AOS3. For Chemistry, a fresh way of investigating fuel cells will be explained as well as a reliable two-step titration method for accurately determining chlorine levels in pool water. For Biology, attendees will learn a new method to investigate the antibacterial properties of honey in addition to a tried and tested recipe for artificial blood plasma that functions in commercial blood glucose meters for homeostasis. Detailed documentation of all methods will be given to all attendees.

New Session

RiskAssess: New chemical inventory and chemical register

Eva & Phillip Crisp, RiskAssess

F50

RiskAssess now has a chemical inventory and chemical register with SDS management, plus QR codes for emergency services. You can also do quick and easy stock taking from your mobile phone. RiskAssess can solve your practical and legal problems with chemical management. See it all in action!

Repeat Session

Safe storage of chemicals: the law and best practice

Phillip & Eva Crisp, RiskAssess

T30

We will consider legal requirements and best practices for storage of chemicals in the chemical store and in the prep room, and for chemicals ‘in use’ in a laboratory. We will highlight particular dangers relating to fires, explosion, spills and associated personal injuries to skin, eyes, lungs and allergic reactions.

New Session

Science Assist

Dale Carroll, Retired

T8 F67

Learn about how ASTA's Science assist can help with your lab safety concerns and how to master the Science Assist website.

We will cover different aspects of school and classroom laboratory safety including our most popular resources that can help you prepare for your next science lesson. The session will explore examples of real-life questions on a range of topics which have been answered by our expert science advisory team and how Science Assist can help you to make science education safer and enjoyable.

Repeat Session

SCOTS: A New Professional Learning Program for Out-of-Field Chemistry Teachers

Mick Moylan & Emily Rochette, The University of Melbourne

F76

This session will provide a hands-on snapshot of a new program of professional learning for out-of-field teachers of the chemistry part of Year 7-8 science. The program focusses on laboratory learning and focusses on building teachers' ability to teach chemistry and safely run laboratory activities through pracs that are highly engaging. We focus on the most fundamental ideas in chemistry that are essential for progression through to VCE level.

The program is for the approximately 1/3 of the teachers of chemistry in Years 7-10 in Australia who feel they need a little more knowledge, and hands-on experience with chemistry and it highlights the language and ideas that are needed to confidently teach at this level. It's especially designed for people

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

who haven't chemistry beyond first-year tertiary level, or don't have a teaching qualification in chemistry, and these teachers could be trained in anything else – from psychology to history.

This new initiative is from the Chemistry Education Association, (the professional organisation for chemistry teachers) and the full program involves 15 hours of commitment over 18 weeks, with specially designed lab activities, online learning, and coaching and support. All of these are designed to be needs-based and on-demand.

New Session

Structures and Materials: Building bridges in the classroom, who can design the best bridge?

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific

F46

Have you wanted a STEM activity that can safely explore the strength of materials as well as testing the flexibility of a bridge design?

In this STEM workshop participants will use an integrated STEM approach to design, make and test a bridge structure.

Participants will first conduct a scientific investigation of bridge building materials by gathering data using the Vernier Structures and Materials Tester. The results of this test will then be incorporated into the design and building of a bridge.

Bridges will be analysed using Vernier's Bridge Competition Software.

New Session

TESEP Education Programs

Peter Nisbet

T34 F71

This session introduces the various activities and information on Rocks, Minerals and Earth and Environmental Science that is available to Upper Primary and Secondary teachers through the Teacher Earth Science Education Programme – TESEP. TESEP offers face-to-face and online Professional workshops to teachers and classroom incursions with students. Teaching resources, rock/mineral kits and visuals for online and classroom use.

Repeat Session

TESEP Rock & Mineral Kits

Peter Nisbet

T6

The Teacher Earth Science Education Programme (TESEP) Rock Kit and Critical Minerals Kit for Australian Schools will be introduced to participants. The kits are complemented by a range of online resources such as 3D imagery, the stories behind the rocks in the kit, virtual thin sections, questions for students and model answers. The TESEP Plate Tectonics poster will also be introduced to enable participants to explore how this resource can be utilised in conjunction with understandings gained from the kits. Participants will be given the opportunity to investigate these resources and assess their suitability for use within the Earth Science units in the Australian Science Curriculum.

Repeat Session

The Science of the Ridiculous

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific

T35

The everyday, all around us, is filled with so much wonder that we are flooded by it. We make the extraordinary normal. We forget to take time to play, to be silly, and to find the little sparks that turn it into back into the extraordinary, the ridiculous.

In this workshop we will start playing with science (if necessary, applying it to the curriculum). Fun will be had with (but potentially not limited to): People and their reactions; The mind and what it can hold; Colours; And Food.

Repeat Session

The Science of Us – measuring humans using Vernier Dataloggers

Stuart Lewis, Scientrific

T29

Humans are not simple. We are a series of complex systems streamed through a conscious brain. This means that there is a lot that can be measured, from bioelectric impulses required to move muscles to an analysis of touch. This workshop will use Vernier datalogging equipment to explore topics such as:

- EKG and heart analysis
- Muscle analysis and strength
- Wavelengths of light that fool the eye
- How to tell if a room is well ventilated

- Which feels warmer? Tactile illusions
- How much dye is in foods?

Repeat Session

Tips and Tricks for Techs

Leonie Leishman, Cranbourne East Secondary College T37 F75

Cleaning, sorting, saving money, time and sanity. New to teaching, learn to work smarter not harder.

Repeat Session

Titration made easy – using sensors

Doug Bail & Megan Simkin, Cider House Tech Pty Ltd

T17

Acid-base titrations can be tricky. One moment your analyte looks clear, and the next it's bright fuchsia. For this reason, many modern acid-base titration setups use both a pH sensor and a drop counter to plot and monitor the titration curve in real time. With this method, a live plot can be used to predict the equivalence point. In a conductometric titration, the concentration of the analyte solution is determined by tracking the exchange of ions during the reaction.

New Session

Triple R Meeting

Jodie Pignataro, LTAV Rural liaison Officer. Wimmera LTAV rep F74

Our Regional Representatives Rage is open to all current LTAV Regional Representatives, along with anyone that is interested in taking on the role. This will include informal discussions about activities held at regional PDs, what worked and what failed and we don't want to repeat, difficulties faced, possible solutions and general discussion.

Annual Update

Unlock the microscopic magic of root tip mitosis! Grow, squash, stain and see

Roslyn Clark, Melbourne High School
& Sonia Holland, Star of The Sea College

T10

Struggling to grow garlic roots in your lab? Break free from the garlic rut in this workshop! We will troubleshoot your growth

LABCON 2026 Workshop Descriptions – Alphabetical by topic

setups and explore alternate plant possibilities and vibrant staining techniques that make viewing chromosomes easier. Let's bring the cell cycle to life!

New Session

Update on Digital Cameras from Motic

Peter Jackson, Australian Instrument Services

T11 F72

Digital cameras are a great addition to the classroom microscope for presentations and the capturing of images and videos. There have been a number of new Motic digital camera products released recently, and this presentation will provide an overview of digital microscopy and cover the new camera models and their different uses.

New Session

Using a Ruhmkorff coil for demonstrations requiring high voltage

Dan O'Keeffe OAM, Vicphysics Teachers' Network

F69

Evacuated tubes are used in a number of demonstrations. These require a high voltage. This hands-on session will go through how to use a Ruhmkorff coil to set up the demonstrations.

New Session

Volcanoes – What a Blast!

Peter Nisbet

F60

This session explains the different types of volcanoes, where and why they are located in certain areas and what causes them to erupt. The chemistry of their gases will be discussed and how volcanoes have affected life on Earth. Victorian examples will be included. Volcanic rock samples will be examined and examples of model volcanoes that can be used in the classroom demonstrated.

Repeat Session

What Rock Is That?

Peter Nisbet

T21

This session uses a hands-on approach to learn the main identifying features and names of the most common rocks.

Participants use supplied identification keys to name supplied rock samples throughout the session. Explanation of the formation of Coal, Oil and Gas includes samples of the different types of each. Interesting minerals and fossils add variety to the session.

Repeat Session

LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM:

Blood in Forensic Science

Ivana Poulton, Optimum Technology

T81

This interactive workshop introduces the detection and interpretation of blood evidence in forensic science.

Participants will examine blood using forensic light sources and luminol. Practical activities explore how height, angle and surface type affect bloodstain patterns. Teachers will learn how these patterns help reconstruct events at a crime scene. The workshop provides safe classroom exercises designed to engage and inspire science students.

Repeat Session

Light In Forensic Science

Ivana Poulton, Optimum Technology

F83

This interactive workshop explores how light can reveal hidden evidence in forensic science. Participants will learn how different wavelengths produce absorption and photoluminescence effects. Practical demonstrations show how to develop and lift fluorescent fingerprints from various surfaces and develop a quick, mess-free method for producing and examining footwear impressions. The workshop demonstrates how 1,2-indanedione can reveal old and fresh fingerprints on paper by ironing.

New Session

The Good, the Bad and the Ewwy

Natalie Geary, St Aloysius College

T80 F82

Every laboratory technician will eventually be faced with preparing a biological dissection, and if Biology is not your specialty, the task can seem daunting. This presentation will share practical tips for purchasing specimens, setting up dissection laboratories, and managing safe disposal while reducing mess, odour and the inevitable "eww" factor. The session will focus on creating high-quality specimen presentations that support student learning and prevent specimens from deteriorating before use. It will also showcase a range of Year 8 body systems activities that can be used prior to dissections to build student skills, confidence and anatomical understanding. Please note: despite the title, no organs will be present during this presentation. Instead, attendees can expect plenty of practical discussion, tips and resources to help build confidence and develop the skills needed to successfully support biological dissections in the science laboratory.

New Session

LABCON 2026 Sponsors & Exhibitors

LTAV would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Conference Sponsors – your support is greatly appreciated.



EXHIBITORS



To enquire about the sponsorship and display opportunities available, please contact:
Marg Scarlett, LABCON Conference Manager • PO Box 208, Lynbrook Vic 3975 • email: info@margscarlett.com • Tel: 0419 805 362



Laboratory Technicians'
Association of Victoria Inc.

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Please indicate any health related dietary, disability assistance required:							

REGISTRATION FEES

GST inclusive

	LTAV Member	Non Member	
Full Registration – Thursday & Friday includes Dinner	\$600.00	\$675.00	\$
Full Registration – Thursday & Friday excludes Dinner	\$530.00	\$605.00	\$
One Day Registration includes dinner ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday	\$550.00	\$625.00	\$
One Day Registration excludes dinner ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday	\$480.00	\$555.00	\$
Presenter Registration: ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday (No charge day(s) of presentation)			
Presenter attending Dinner ☐ Yes ☐ No (No charge)			
Conference Dinner Thursday (extra tickets)	\$135.00	\$150.00	\$

LTAV MEMBERS ONLY EARLY BIRD SPECIAL Register by Friday 14 August to receive \$50 discount

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES – GST inclusive

AUD\$

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Quest Apartment Hotels Narre Warren, 2 Verdun Drive, Narre Warren • Tel: 03 9796 6944

Book direct and use the code LABCON2026 to receive 10% discount

RATES PER NIGHT: \$249 One Bedroom Apartment • \$399 Two Bedroom Apartment • \$499 Three Bedroom Apartment

Alternative accommodation may be found via one of the many online websites.

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS PREFERENCES

(Note: there are strict limits on numbers attending each workshop)

Please use Session Codes in preferences below and places will be allocated in order of receipt of payment.

Please **complete all boxes**. Note: You will automatically be booked to attend the keynote presentations.

Select one 90 minute workshop
or two 45 minute workshops.

		1st Pref	2nd Pref	3rd Pref	4th Pref
Thursday 11.00am-12.45pm					
Thursday 11.00am-11.45am					
Thursday 12.00pm-12.45pm					
Thursday 1.30pm-3.15pm					
Thursday 1.30pm-2.15pm					
Thursday 2.30pm-3.15pm					
Thursday 3.30pm-4.15pm					
Friday 10.30am-12.15pm					
Friday 10.30am-11.15am					
Friday 11.30am-12.15pm					
Friday 1.00pm- 2.45pm					
Friday 1.00pm-1.45pm					
Friday 2.00pm-2.45pm					
Friday 3.15pm-4.00pm					

Principal/Science Co-ordinator's name:

Signature:

LABCON 2026 • TO BE HELD THURSDAY 3 & FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2026

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION *please read carefully*

Register ONLINE www.ltav.org.au alternatively, complete form and EMAIL to info@margscarlett.com

DIRECT DEBIT/EFT PAYMENTS

If paying directly into the LTAV bank account, please ensure that the **EFT remittance advice together with the Registration Form is EMAILED to info@margscarlett.com INCLUDE YOUR NAME OR INVOICE NUMBER.**

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Branch: Warragul
BSB: 063 532
Account Number: 10401068
Account Name: Laboratory Technicians Association of Victoria Inc.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

A confirmation letter will be sent to you by email with sessions allocated. The earlier you register the more chance you have of receiving the workshops of your first choice.

If you are not able to register for LABCON on either day, you are very welcome to visit the Exhibition outside the catering breaks (shown in the program).

ACCOMMODATION

Federation University Berwick: A limited number of rooms may now be available. Email info@margscarlett.com for information.

Quest Apartment Hotels Narre Warren,
2 Verdun Drive, Narre Warren • Tel: 03 9796 6944

Book direct and use the code LABCON2026 to receive 10% discount.

RATES PER NIGHT: \$249 One Bedroom Apartment
\$399 Two Bedroom Apartment
\$499 Three Bedroom Apartment

Tea/Coffee facilities in the room, Breakfast box available.

We recommend that you source your own accommodation via one of the many online websites.

CONFERENCE DINNER

The dinner this year will be held at
Pink Hill Hotel, 20 Pink Hill Boulevard, Beaconsfield.

Attendance at the conference dinner on Thursday evening is complimentary for workshop presenters who have pre-registered. Please consider attending the dinner as it really is a great opportunity to network with colleagues and friends.

SPECIAL DIETS

We endeavour to provide for medical dietary requirements such as diabetic, gluten free, vegetarian etc., and cannot provide Paleo, Weight Watchers, Lite and Easy diets. Only those who have pre-registered for a special diet will be catered for.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The Privacy Act 2000 provides that, before a name, organisation and state/country details can be published in the list of the conference delegates for distribution to fellow delegates or any other party; you must give your consent. If you **DO NOT** wish to have your name and details included in the Delegate List please indicate below and send this instruction with your Registration Form and payment.

☐ Do not include me on distribution list

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat. Cancellations received prior to the registration deadline of **30 October 2026** will receive a refund less an administration fee of \$100. No refund will be given after this date; however, an alternative delegate name may be submitted. You may wish to take out **insurance** to cover forced cancellation.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

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Please feel free to contact any member of your committee with any queries or concerns. Members are always welcome at committee meetings. Please contact the Secretary to confirm time and location of next meeting if you wish to attend.

LABCON 2026 PROGRAM GRID

Shades workshops are 90 minutes in duration

THURSDAY							FRIDAY							
8.50am-9.00am	9.00am-10.00am	10.00am-10.30am	11.00am-11.45pm	12.00pm-12.45pm	1.30pm-2.15pm	2.30pm-3.15pm	3.30pm-4.15pm	8.55am-9.00am	9.00am-10.00am	10.30am-11.15am	11.30am-12.15pm	1.00pm-1.45pm	2.00pm-2.45pm	3.15pm-4.00pm

Topics	Presenter													
Conference Opening	Mary Jones*	X								X				
LTAV Annual General Meeting	Mary Jones*			X										
KEYNOTE: <i>A Brief History of AI and What It Tells Us About The Future of Lab Based Learning?</i>	Professor Iven Mareels		X											
KEYNOTE: <i>Inescapable Learning through Escape Rooms</i>	Associate Professor Robert Ross									X				
A Healthy Land – Measuring the environment with Vernier Dataloggers	Stuart Lewis													F78
An Investigaation into Plant Cloning Techniques	Dr Radhika Iyer & Anne-Marie Griffiths							T39						
Avoiding Burnout in the Lab	Ellen Clarke							T27			F45			
Chemwatch Beehive System	Arlene Villafranca												F57	
CSI – Crime Solving Investigations	Leonie Leishman						T22				F53			
Demonstrations to amaze and ignite your imagination	Peter Hill				T9									
Discover how Micro:bits can be used as affordable data loggers in Years 7-10 Science	Amanda Brick				T3						F42			
Environmental Science - suggested investigations incorporating sensors and electronic measurement technology	Doug Bail & Megan Simkin													F73
Essential Lab Safety: What Every Technician Needs to Know	Andrea Rowe													F77
Experimental Ideas in Environmental Science, Bio-Med-and Criminology	Dr Radhika Iyer									F49				
Exploring Thermodynamics with Vernier	Eric Windsor							T33					F66	
Fire Down Under: Uncovering Victoria's Volcanic Past	Dr James Driscoll & Anna Zonneveld						T19				F43			
From Plant to Plate: Practical Techniques for investigating the antibacterial efficacy of plant-based medicine	Catherine Chambers & P Marietta Perera				T14						F54			
From Policy to Practice: Safer Chemical Management in Schools	Nicole Christians & Naomi Peters						T16							
From Reaction to Results: Aspirin Synthesis in the School Laboratory	Adam Trewarn & P Marietta Perera						T24					F64		
Grounded in Science: Soils and Food Security in Melbourne	Dr James Driscoll & Anna Zonneveld				T4								F59	
Handling and Storage of Radioactive Sources	Dan O'Keeffe OAM											F65		
Hazardous Waste Management	Callum Stagg				T15									F79
How we do what we do	Geoff Gleadall				T12						F51			

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Topics	Presenter													
How We MacGyver?	Mary Jones & Lynette Baker							T31			F44			
Invisible Worlds: Hands-On Microbiology for the Classroom	Stuart Lewis						T25							
It's not easy being green	Dr Jeff Hughes							T26						
KidWind Challenge – Harnessing renewable energy	Katie Cadogan				T1								F56	
Little green balls of Photosynthesis. Make your own Algae Balls	Roslynn Clark & Sonia Holland										F55			
Managing chemicals in the laboratory and storage areas – understanding AS/NZS 2243.2:2021	Lisa Stevens & Dr Neale Jackson				T5								F61	
Meteorites	Trevor Hand				T7									F70
Microscale Chemistry for Student Practicals – Doing more for less!	Daniela Miglioni & Marcia Rogerson							T38			F48			
Microscope Preventative Maintenance	Rod Aggett				T13								F62	
Multimeters – How to understand, use and repair them	Harvey Edwards						T20				F40			
OHS in the Lab, Reasonably Practicable?	Naomi Peters							T36					F63	
Photosynthesis in 10 minutes	Doug Bail & Megan Simkin				T2									
Physics Playground – Exploring High School Physics	Stuart Lewis										F52			
Power Up Your Circuits: Practical Skills for Lab Techs	Amanda Brick						T18						F58	
Practical investigations of electromagnetic induction & transformers	Doug Bail & Megan Simkin										F41			
Prep Room Mastery: In-House Maintenance for School Balances, Pipettes, and Microscopes	P Marietta Perera & Adam Trewarn							T28					F68	
Radioactivity in schools	Doug Bail & Megan Simkin							T32						
Reliable AOS3 INVESTIGATIONS FOR Chemistry and Biology Structured for Lab Techs, Engaging for Students	Lauren Farrugia & Claucia Costa						T23				F47			
RiskAssess: New chemical inventory and chemical register	Eva & Phillip Crisp										F50			
Safe storage of chemicals: the law and best practice	Phillip & Eva Crisp							T30						
Science Assist	Dale Carroll				T8								F67	

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Topics	Presenter														
SCOTS: a New Professional Learning Program for Out of Field Chemistry Teachers	Mick Moylan & Emily Rochette														F76
Structures and Materials: Building bridges in the classroom. Who can design the best bridge?	Stuart Lewis										F46				
TESEP Education Programs	Peter Nisbet								T34						F71
TESEP Rock & Mineral Kits	Peter Nisbet				T6										
The Science of the Ridiculous	Stuart Lewis								T35						
The Science of Us	Stuart Lewis							T29							
Tips and Tricks for Techs	Leonie Leishman								T37						F75
Titration made easy – using sensors	Doug Bail & Megan Simkin						T17								
Triple R Meeting	Jodie Pignataro														F74
Unlock the microscopic magic of root tip mitosis! Grow, squash, stain and see.	Rosilyn Clark & Sonia Holland				T10										
Update on Digital Cameras from Motic	Peter Jackson					T11									F72
Using a Ruhmkorff coil for demonstrations requiring high voltage	Dan O'Keeffe OAM													F69	
Volcanoes – What a Blast!	Peter Nisbet												F60		
What Rock Is That?	Peter Nisbet						T21								
LATE ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM															
Blood in Forensic Science	Ivana Poulton						T81								
Light In Forensic Science	Ivana Poulton												F83		
The Good, the Bad and the Ewwy	Natalie Geary					T80					F82				