

LAB LINES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LABORATORY TECHNICIANS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Editor: Jenny Emery

Volume 44 | 2024 | Issue 3

Conasta71

- **Stunning Tin Crystals**
- **Magnetic Forces**
- **Regional PD Reports**

Year 8: A Space Odyssey

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Contents...

- 4. From the President
 - 4. From the Editor
 - 6. Hints & Hacks Lab
 - 8. Living in Space
 - 12. Anions & Cations
 - 14. Conasta71
 - 15. Riddle-Me-This
 - 17. Hume Region PD Report
 - 19. Dandenong Region PD Report
 - 20. Geelong Region PD Report
 - 21. Gippsland Region PD Report
 - 22. LTAV LINKS
 - 23. LTAV Regional Reps Directory
 - 24. LTAV Committee Members Directory
-



LABCON2024

14 & 15 November 2024

Bringing Excellence to Science Education



#STAR
week

4-8 NOVEMBER 2024

Science Technician Appreciation & Recognition week

Front Cover: A human, aligned with the Milky Way, looks at the stars from Oeschinensee (Switzerland) during Perseids in search of shooting stars. Photo by Giles Laurent.

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Article "Living in Space" pages 8-11

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Mary Jones



Hello everyone,

I hope you're all doing well, even during this busy term. In my last update, I mentioned ways you can contribute to the association.

This time, I'd like to hear from you—what can the association do better to support you? Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to offer the best support possible.

Please feel free to reach out to me at:

president@ltav.org.au

or, via my school email:

mary.jones@education.vic.gov.au.

As I write this, I can't help but wish you a belated Happy Science Week, even though it will be well behind us by the time this reaches you.

I hope the extra work was enjoyable for everyone.

If you ever feel overwhelmed, remember to take a moment to reflect on something positive—it can often turn a challenging day into a better one.

Don't forget to take care of yourself, too.

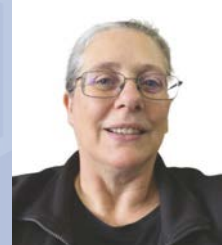
Make sure you're taking your allotted breaks.

Take care, everyone, and I look forward to seeing many of you at LabCon2024 on November 14th and 15th.

Mary
LTAV President

FROM THE EDITOR

Jenny Emery



Picture this... 1987... Year 11. My dream of becoming a journalist, photographer, and documentary filmmaker shattered when the school drops Media Studies and Photography for Year 12. Devastated, I rebelled and switched schools, yet quickly lost focus and barely attended.

Soon I found my way into a role as a technical and administrative assistant in an electronics lab at a research facility, which laid the foundation for a future career as a Lab Technician in Education.

I took on the LabLines Editor role in 2023 to support the LTAV and to challenge myself to create a publication, proving that my skills and experience could meet the task. On reflection, I do feel very satisfied with the results of my efforts.

With LabCon2024 fast approaching, I'm looking forward to seeing you all, and I've again challenged myself - by agreeing to run a session. I'm nervous, yet also confident in my skills.

For those attending I strongly encourage you to participate in the AGM held on Day 1, and perhaps even consider getting involved and help shape the association's future. How?? By putting your hand up.

I've enjoyed this role, and if you're interested in any committee position, be rest assured that the current committee welcomes new volunteers and is eager to see fresh faces take on these roles.

As usual... for submissions or suggestions for future Lablines editions, please email your text files (Word, email, or PDF) and photo files (JPG or PNG) with an appropriate subject line to:

jennifer.emery@education.vic.gov.au.

Your contributions shape LabLines into the informative magazine it is – created by technicians, for technicians.

Jenny, LTAV Lablines Editor



PRINCIPLES and PRACTICE



Are you tired of having
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make it work?



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Lablines 2024 Submission Deadlines:

Issue #4 : 10 20 November

<date extended to allow LabCon2024 experiences to be submitted, hint hint!>

Please be aware that content capacity may be reached before this date

Note: Issue 4, 2024 will be posted at the start of the 2025 school year

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The Editor, Jenny Emery: jennifer.emery@education.vic.gov.au

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HINTS & HACKS LAB

Magnetic Forces

- submitted by Patrick Hull, Traralgon College

Made a fun way of demonstrating magnetic repulsion, all you need is two neodymium magnets, a syringe and plastic tubing a suitable diameter for the magnets, one screw to stop the plunger popping out and two red sticky dots to show the north poles.



Lab Coat Storage

- Elisa Ziani, Aussie Labbies facebook group

This is my lab coat storage solution. I'm happy with the solution and appearance! It has stopped the lab coats being all out of order and all over the floor. Key-chains and hooks from Temu.



HINTS & HACKS LAB

Growing TIN Crystals

- Lauren Ferrugia, Genazzano FCJ College, via LTAV LIST

None of the acidified tin chloride methods work for this experiment because even a small amount of acid attacks the zinc, creating gas bubbles that then block the tin solution from contacting the zinc.

I discovered that the white residue is insoluble oxychloride that forms upon contact with oxygen. There's no need to clear it with acid since it's not crucial to the solution—it can be discarded. I initially thought tin chloride wasn't dissolving properly, but it does, of course—silly me, it's a chloride!

I dissolved tin chloride in water, filtered it, and used it immediately, which gave fantastic results. The solution did start to oxidize and become cloudy over time, but making it fresh and diluting it in agar kept the cloudiness to a minimum in the final result. And what a result!

So, the solution for tin crystals: make the solution fresh, filter it right before the experiment, and skip the acid. It works like a charm.



Want to WoW your students? Grow needle-like tin crystals in a 250mL con flask during a double period! Check out the below website for more details, or use the QRCode:
<https://chemistrytalk.org/tin-crystals-tin-chloride/>



Living In Space

by Jodie Pignataro, Horsham College

Background

Horsham College has introduced Science Electives at year 8 in 2024. We no longer offer any core year 8 science and students need to select at least 1 semester of science for the year.

The Science Electives that were introduced this year are:

Body Detectives
Elemental Explorers
Space Invaders

These topics offer a wide range of potential practicals. Today, I'd like to share one that a teacher and I developed at the end of last year, inspired by the theme of Space Invaders. As the title of this article suggests, it's called "Living in Space." The activity is still a work in progress, so if you have any suggestions or modifications, I'd love to hear them.

Station 1: Space Gloves

Station 2: Space Walking Boots

Station 3: Temperature Variations

Station 4: Freeze Dried Ice Cream

Station 5: Space Helmet

Purpose: This set of practical tasks has been designed to simulate the challenges and experiences that astronauts have living in the ISS. Students will complete ordinarily simple tasks using equipment which result in them being more difficult.

Station 1: Space Gloves

Equipment:

Oven Mitts or Heat Proof Gloves, Stopwatch, Lab Coat with buttons, Rubber-band, Pipe Cleaners/Skewers, Pencil/Marker, Laminated Maze, Methylated spirits + paper towel for cleaning, Lined Paper, Power Pack, 12V globe and globe holder, Connecting wires, Lace-up Boots

Method:

Put on the gloves and try the following activities:

1. Stopwatch: With your gloves on, start the stopwatch and stop it to get as close to 1 minute as possible. Then reset it to zero.
2. Lab Coat: Put on the lab coat and try to do up the buttons.
3. Pipe Cleaners: Undo the rubber-band and lay the pipe cleaners/skewers onto the bench. Try to pick them back up and then tie them with the rubber-band.
4. Maze: Use the marker to make your way through the maze. Clean the maze with a small amount of methylated spirits once you have completed it. You can use a pen to try and write your name also on the sheets of paper.
5. Power Pack: Follow the instructions.
 1. Turn the power-point on.
 2. Ensure the power pack dial is set on 2V.

3. Plug the connecting wires into the DC plugs on the power pack.
 4. Carefully screw the globe into the globe holder. Do not force it.
 5. Using the alligator clips carefully attach the wires to the globe holder.
 6. Turn the power pack on. What happened?
 7. Turn the dial to 6V. What happened to the globe?
 8. Turn the dial to 12V. What happened to the globe?
 9. Turn the dial back to 2V to reset for next group.
 10. Turn off the power pack.
 11. Turn off the power-point.
 12. Remove globe and wires, to reset for next group.
6. Boots: Untie and retie your shoe laces.



Station 2: Space Walking Boots

Equipment:

Gumboots with weighted blocks, Stopwatch

Method:

Put on the gumboots and try the following activities.

1. Walk in a straight line using the join in the flooring.
2. Do the "Twist"
3. Take the boots off and lift one leg until your knee is at 90 degrees. Start the stopwatch and hold it for as long as possible. Now repeat with the boot on. Compare your results.
4. Sit on the ground with your legs stretched out in front of you. Try to stand back up without being assisted.



Station 3: Temperature Variations

Equipment:

3 x ceramic bowls, Thermometer, Stopwatch, Water, Towel, Tea Bag, Heat proof mat, Matches
Pattern Paper

Method:

Activity 1: Temperature Reception

Set the three bowls up with one bowl at 35 degrees, one at 25 degrees and one at 15 degrees.
Place the 25 one in the middle.

1. Place one hand in the hot water and one in the cold water.
2. Leave them in there for 1 minute.
3. Now shift both hands into the middle bowl.
4. Describe what you feel.
5. Record your observations.

Activity 2: Tea bag Rocket

1. Cut the end off the tea bag where the string is attached.
2. Open the bag and empty the tea into the bin. You should now have an empty tube.
3. Open the tube and stand it upright on the bench mat.
4. Light the TOP of the tube with a match.
5. Using the pattern paper make a larger version of the tea bag rocket.

Station 4: Freeze Dried Ice Cream

Equipment:

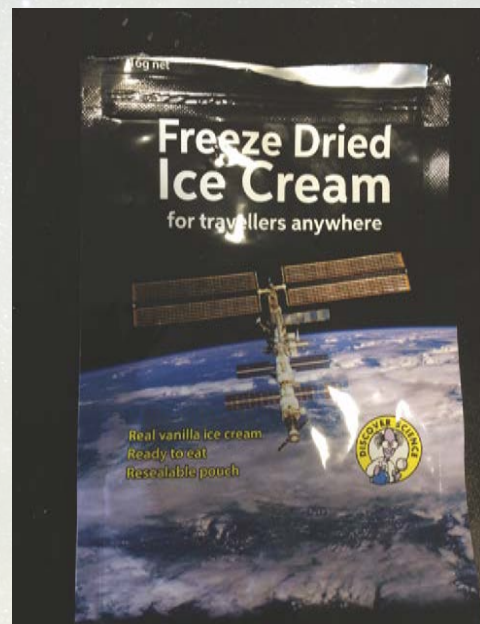
Freeze dried ice cream sachet
Paper plate
Spoon

Task:

Try a small amount of the freeze dried ice cream and describe your experience.

Then research:

- 1) How is freeze dried ice cream made?
- 2) Is it nutritional? Why or why not?
- 3) Is it used at the ISS?



Station 5: Space Helmet

Equipment:

Helmet with restricted vision, Tray, Circle made from poly-pipe, Rubber bands, Match sticks, Tennis ball, Rubber ball, Table tennis ball, Marbles, Lanyard, Eraser, Metal hook, Foam Dice, Texta, Pencil, Juggling Balls, Balloon, Stopwatch

Method:

1. Randomly place all the equipment from the tray into the pipe circle.
2. Stand in the circle and put on the helmet.
3. Without looking down, crouch down and look straight ahead.
4. Pick up all of the equipment and place it back into the tray without looking down to find it. You may turn your head and feel around.
5. Once you think you have everything back in the tray, stand up looking straight ahead, then take the helmet off.
6. Repeat the activity having someone time you for 30 seconds because you are “running out of oxygen”. See how much you can get back into the tub when you are under pressure.



Discussion

The students seem to be really engaged. We do need to come up with one more station, and we have a few ideas but haven't had the time to do anything yet.

Maybe something to do with sound or light?

If anyone has any great ideas please send them through!

We do have a full worksheet to go with this Prac and if anyone would like to have a go at it, feel free to get in touch to get a copy: jodie.pignataro@education.vic.gov.au

Credit/Permissions:

Background image: Photo by Giles Laurent.

CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=142168411>

Photos of student published with permission of parent.

Anions & Cations

submitted by William Hardman, Newstead College, TAS

At that school somewhere in Australia, the one we know and love so well, relative calm prevails.

Dumper and Tschinta have come to an educational arrangement.

Teachers expect absolutely nothing from them.

When attending, they give exactly what is expected.

Today, the teacher feels confident enough to deliver on the promise of a chemistry practical to identify anions.

The class had previously identified cations (the positive component of a compound) by flame test without causing death or serious injury to anyone.

It may be recalled that Dumper and Tschinta were suspended at that time.

As a further precaution, they have been invited to be elsewhere when this practical runs.

Testing for anions is a systematic step process of adding reagent to an aqueous sample and carefully observing whether a reaction occurs.

Subsequent steps are dependent upon the observation.

Anions are ultimately identified by following the processes described on the flow chart presented on the following page.

Normal laboratory precautions apply, with safety enhanced by keeping aliquots small.

Laboratory testing for both cation and anion is a reliable way to identify an unknown substance.

No exotic reagents or expensive equipment are needed.

Since only basic laboratory skills are called for, this work is within reach of junior science students.

The graphic resource on the next page can be photocopied, or if you prefer to print, you can download using the QRCode > or directly from:

<https://cloud.itav.org.au/index.php/s/2LGHeEJj3wZHoyX>



TESTING FOR ANIONS

No gas is given off

DIVIDE INTO 2 PORTIONS

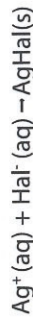


ADD SILVER NITRATE SOLUTION

ADD BARIUM CHLORIDE SOLUTION

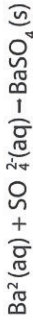
No precipitate forms
Not a halide

A precipitate forms
Anion is a HALIDE



White Precipitate CHLORIDE Cl
Cream Precipitate BROMIDE Br
Yellow Precipitate IODIDE I

A precipitate forms
It is a SULPHATE(VI)
The anion is SO_4^{2-}



TESTING FOR NITRATES

Nitrates are recognized using the brown ring test

1. Make a fresh solution of iron (II) sulphate
2. Add this to the unknown solution.
3. Hold the tube at 45. Add slowly and with care a little concentrated sulphuric acid.

The dense sulphuric acid settles in the bottom of the tube. If the unknown is a nitrate, a brown ring will form at the top of the sulphuric acid.

SAFETY

- follow instructions precisely
- wear safety glasses
- acids and alkalis are corrosive: handle them carefully and mop up any spills
- take care with hot objects

UNKNOWN SOLUTION

A gas is given off: it is colourless

The gas has no smell

The gas has a sharp, acid smell

TEST WITH LITMUS
Blue litmus goes pink

TEST WITH LITMUS
Blue litmus goes pink

BUBBLE THE GAS
THROUGH LIMEWATER

Lime water goes cloudy.
Gas is carbon dioxide.
The anion is CARBONATE CO_3^{2-}
 $2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{CO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$

TEST WITH POTASSIUM
MANGANATE (VII) PAPER

Purple paper goes colourless.
Gas is sulphur dioxide.
The anion is SULPHATE (VI) SO_4^{2-}
 $2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{SO}_4^{2-}(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{SO}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$



report by **Dale Carroll, Geelong College, LTAV SETA Rep**

2024 was the year for STAV to host CONASTA71, it was held at Melbourne University on 7 – 10 July 2024. It promised to be a fascinating conference with many high-profile presenters and a range of interesting sessions on offer.

I am a big believer that the best educational outcome for students is to have a science department work as a team, and this includes the technicians. With everybody working together the students get the best practical experience they can and come out better science aware people. What better way to build on this teamwork than attending a conference with teachers and technicians sharing the experience, the sessions and the comradeship that at the CONASTA conference. Sitting in sessions not knowing if the person you are sitting next to is a teacher or a technician, then discussing things from the different perspectives.



Lab tech dinner

The conference kicked off with a welcome function at Melbourne Connect with a few drinks and nibbles. An informal dinner for the Lab Techs followed at nearby Lygon St. We were fortunate to have Prof Lyn Beazley join us, Lyn was the Chief Scientist of WA from 2005 to 2013. She currently heads the Australian Academy of Science. Lyn has been and still is a great support to lab technicians and has championed our cause for recognition whenever she can.

For more information on Lyn, visit:

<https://www.science.org.au/profile/lyn-beazley>



Dale Carroll with Lyn Beazley

The conference proper began on Monday morning with an early breakfast for those early birds at the State Library. There they had a conversation quarter where there were 4 researchers from CSIRO to connect with and hear their stories.

The opening keynote was from Pasi Sahlberg from Melbourne University giving a thought-provoking talk titled: “The Transformative Role of Science Teachers in Shaping Tomorrow's Schools”. By harnessing the power of science teaching, he argues that we can reimagine education as a dynamic force for positive transformation. Through a combination of practical suggestions and inspirational anecdotes, this keynote challenges science teachers to seize a leadership role in reshaping our schools to meet the evolving needs of future generations.

Another keynote was from Michael Shawn Fletcher on “Re-writing the Australian narrative: Indigenous knowledge and a sustainable future”. The catastrophic fires and biodiversity loss began more than a century before post-industrial CO₂ driven climate change. Rather, there are inextricable links to the shift from Aboriginal care and management of Country to British land management.



Dale and the suit for the BSL-4 lab

Aside from the keynote speakers there were more than 150 sessions on offer over the 3 days, there was something for everybody every session.

The conference dinner was held at the Melbourne Aquarium, having a delicious dinner and music beside the huge aquarium tank and the monstrous croc, Pinjarra at 65 years old and almost 6m long.

I also had the pleasure of leading a small group of participants to the Doherty Institute. Seeing some of the state of the art facility up close and hearing of the work that they have done in relation the COVID and other diseases was fascinating. Australia will continue punching above its weight with these facilities and enthusiastic researchers.

CONASTA72 will be held in Perth 7 – 10 July 2025 - put it in your calendar.

INTERESTED IN LAB TECH RELIEVING WORK?

Maybe you are part-time, or retired, and would like a bit of extra lab time?

If so, please put your name on the LTAV Relievers List! You get to specify how far you would like to travel and what days you are available. If a school needs someone and you fit the criteria, they will then contact you.

If this sound like you, or someone you know, please email Maeve, LTAV Relievers List Officer:

relievers-list@ltav.org.au

or for more information, visit:

<https://ltav.org.au/relief-laboratory-technicians/>

(or scan the QR Code >>>)



RIDDLE-ME-THIS

1. I am full of holes but still hold water.

What am I?

2. I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old.

What am I?



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HUME REGION LAB TECH NETWORKING DAY

held 18 June 2024 at The Scots School Albury

Report by Claire Stock LTAV Hume Region Rep Myrtleford P-12 College

At the end of Term Two, Lab Technicians from across the Hume Region and beyond came together for our annual Professional Development Day. The event was a vibrant display of collaboration and learning, with 30 Lab Techs representing 25 different schools and traveling from Albury, Beechworth, Benalla, Corryong, Culcairn, Lavington, Moama, Mount Beauty, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, Tallangatta, Thurgoona, Walla Walla, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Yarrawonga.

Hosted by The Scots School Albury, attendees were warmly welcomed with a morning tea. Laboratory Manager, Tracie Davis then led a tour of the school's science facilities, which featured five laboratories, including a dedicated robotics lab, extensive equipment storage, and well-designed chemistry, physics and general science storerooms. A notable storage solution under the laboratory



prac benches were clear sliding tubs housing a heat proof mat, Bunsen burner, tripod and a gauze mat, making it easy to see if all items are present.



Clear tubs for Bunsen burner storage below the benches at The Scots School Albury make it easy to see the contents

The day featured insightful training sessions from two expert presenters. First was Doug Bail from Cider House Tech, who demonstrated PASCO data logging equipment and SPARKvue software for environmental studies. Examples included using temperature probes for students to determine the best location for a frog pond or measuring the photosynthetic response of spinach with CO₂ sensors. He also over-viewed EcoZone units which are well-suited to Climate Change investigations. They have three connected chambers that can be used to consistently compare different environmental scenarios e.g. land, water, decomposing materials, etc.

Following this, Harvey Edwards from Principles and Practice provided a hands-on workshop on basic microscope maintenance. Between keeping busy all day completing much-appreciated equipment repairs, Harvey over-viewed basic microscope maintenance. For regional Lab Techs, it is costly and time consuming to send items away to the city for repair when

sometimes only a quick fix is required. To help understand how a microscope functions, Harvey had the attendees create a "human microscope" using people and oversized parts for the build. This was an effective and fun method of deconstructing a microscope!

Following a tasty lunch in the school's chapel, it was time for sharing information and tips & tricks. Regional Lab Techs know that there are benefits to collaborating with each other for shared activities and equipment. This might be scheduling chemical waste collection at the same time to minimise travel costs or sharing materials amongst schools rather than duplicating resources. An example of this is the Victorian State Government's initiative with STELR sustainable house and renewable energy kits, which can be loaned between

schools in the region at no cost - contact Wodonga Senior Secondary College or Myrtleford P-12 College to arrange this.

Catering for the day was prepared by The Scots School Albury's hospitality students and staff. Everyone enjoyed the delicious welcoming cuppa, morning tea and lunch, and thank you to the school and to the Lab Tech Association of Victoria for sponsoring.

In the lead-up to the PD Day, Tracie reached out to several of our suppliers to see if they would be interested in contributing promotional giveaways and catalogues to showcase their companies. This was a fantastic opportunity for our suppliers to promote their businesses to the 30 Lab Techs attending the event.

A huge thank you to Westlab and Haines Educational for their generous donations of promotional items and catalogues, which the Lab Techs were very grateful to explore and take back to their schools.

Thank you to Tracie Davis and her colleagues for hosting the day - it was fantastic to visit the school and see the quality facilities. It was truly energising to gather with fellow Lab Techs, and it was pleasing that people traveled hundreds of kilometres from across the Hume Region plus neighbouring areas to attend.



Building a "human microscope" with Harvey Edwards (Principles and Practice) are Carolyn Trethowan (Cathedral College, Wangaratta), Annette Blanchfield (Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta), Sheree Hubbard (Benalla P-12 College), Jennifer McMillan (Trinity Anglican College, Thurgoona) and Helen Malitz (Corryong College)

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SCAN ME

DANDENONG/EAST MOORABBIN REGION PD

held on 20th June 2024 at HAINES EDUCATIONAL P/L

Report by Deborah Sun
Waverley Christian College
LTAV Metro Liaison Officer

We had 17 lab technicians from the Dandenong and Eastern Moorabbin regions attend a fantastic Professional Development Meeting at Haines Educational.

The first workshop was presented by Peter Mansel, a former owner of Jupiter Scientific and now a member of the Haines Educational team. Peter shared his extensive experience from 30 years in the field, discussing unique products he designed, such as transmission line models and Earth magnetic field detectors. He not only explained the concepts and formulas behind these apparatuses but also linked their applications to the current curriculum.

In the second workshop, Peter covered the basics of microscopes and their maintenance. This was an excellent session for beginners, and particularly beneficial for any first-year lab technicians.

The third workshop, "Fun Behind STEAM," was the highlight of the day. While many of us are familiar with handling dry ice, it was still fascinating to see demonstrations from the trained staff of Haines Educational.

As for liquid nitrogen, it was the first time many of us saw hands-on demonstrations. Most schools can't afford the dewar and delivery charges for LN, so this was a rare opportunity and it was exciting to see it in action - from freezing a fresh banana as hard as a hammer, to turning Blu-Tack into a "real" nail. There was a lot of laughter, and most importantly, the lab technicians had the chance to try it out themselves, fully suited up in PPE, including face shields.

The lab technicians and workshop presenters also enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea provided by LTAV.



**Report by Dale Carroll
Geelong Region Rep
The Geelong College**

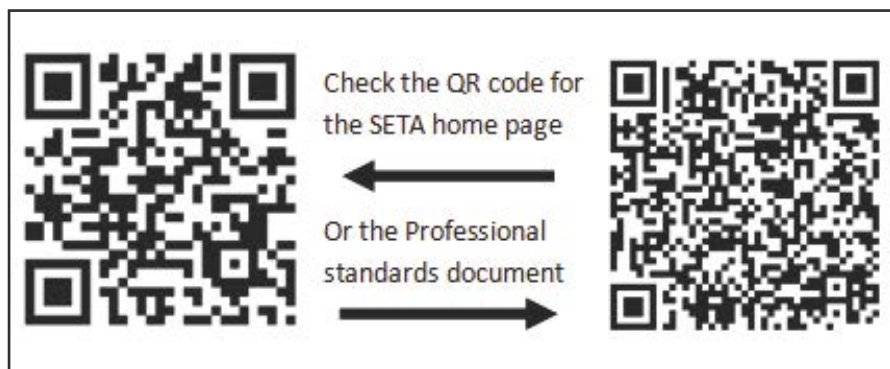
The Geelong Region held a meeting at St Josephs College on Thursday 25 July 2024, with 12 people in attendance. We began with a chat over a coffee and slice covered by St Josephs College and LTAV.

Dale then spoke about LTAV, with a brief history and what LTAV does for the profession in the way of providing PD on both a regional and State level. Also mentioned were the publications that they have produced to make the life of a school technician easier. Becoming a member is the best way to show support of the association.

Science ASSIST was also covered encouraging all schools to sign up to keep the service running. The types of articles that are available on Science ASSIST include: SOP's, question and answer, chemical management and microbiological techniques. The benefit of Science ASSIST is that the information presented has been researched and verified, while information on a listserve is not.

SETA (Science Education Technicians Australia) was mentioned and explained where they fit into the scheme of things. SETA is the National body for science technician associations from each of the Australian States. SETA was responsible for the introduction of Science ASSIST along with also compiling the "Professional Standards for Australian School Science Technicians". It is useful to know what the recommended level of technician support should be available for the number of science lessons taught, or the expectation of work level for the classification level of the technician. Check the QR codes below for more information.

Michael Pola from Envirostore then give a presentation on "Chemical handling and Disposal". Michael has



lots of experience in the chemical handling/disposal area, particularly with schools. He shared a lot of information with questions being asked. Knowing the hazard groups and segregation is important so that incompatible chemicals are not near each other.

Information can be found on the Envirostore website at:

https://www.envirostore.com.au/a/Chemical_Waste_Management_for_Schools

Discussion followed about writing risk assessments and who does them.

There had been mentioned on the listserve about technicians banning teachers from doing particular experiments. Dale mentioned that he does not think he can ban a teacher from doing a practical, however if there is a concern over it he will mention to the HOD and the teacher, the teacher then does their risk assessment and decides if they will continue. It is then the responsibility of the teacher what happens. If it is safe for the technician to prepare the equipment they can, however if they do not think it safe to prepare, they have the right to say no to preparing it, subject to their risk assessment.



Writing of Risk Assessments for the classroom practical is the responsibility of the teacher, not the technician. The technician does not know the students and their behaviour. The technician may assist the teacher in writing this. The technician concern is that we risk assess our side of the preparation of the experiment, e.g. making of the solutions.

GIPPSLAND REGION PD DAY

held 21 July 2024 at Lavalla Catholic College

Report by Debby Butler
LTAV Gippsland Region Rep



Does this happen at your school where the Y7/8 Geology unit gets squeezed to the end of the year and often (conveniently) not done because we 'ran out of time'? Or is this unit a quick week or two on the rock cycle and the three main types of rocks? Mostly this happens because the last time our teachers, or ourselves, did any Geology was in Y8 too.

I usually choose some of the Geology sessions at LabCon, because this is where my largest knowledge hole is.

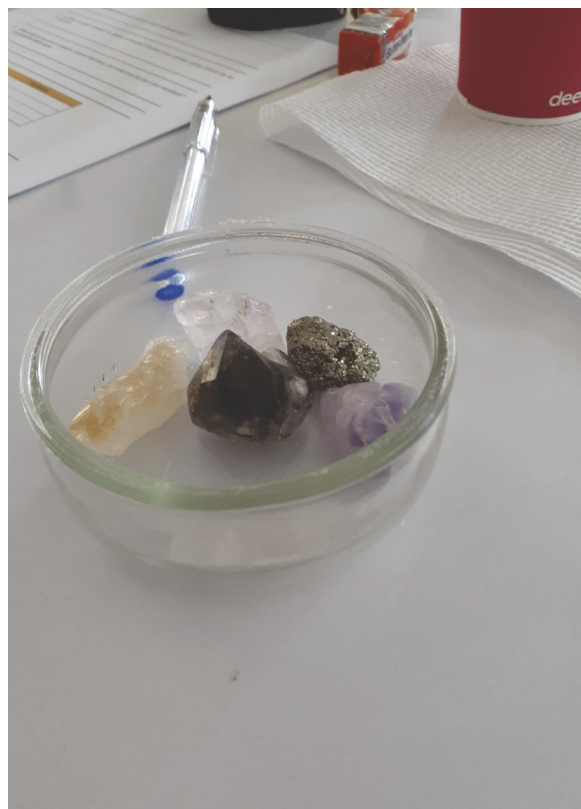
By happy coincidence, James and his team had decided to focus their new outreach program on Gippsland, so on the 31st of July he came and presented to 23 Lab Techs (including three from towns adjoining Gippsland), and the assistant Head of Science at Lavalla Catholic College.

James took us through the characteristics of minerals; unravelling the mystery of cleavage and how to spot it and demonstrating that colour is a very poor way to classify minerals. We learnt about the Mohr's Scale and how to teach it in the classroom, along with the cheapest and best resources for pracs. James shared with us not only his knowledge, but resources such as powerpoints, worksheets and lesson plans we could give to our teachers to more effectively and confidently teach these topics.

Finally, James presented on igneous rocks and volcanos including his own story of field work studying the most recent eruption on Hawaii (where he was threatened with a gun and baseball bat by some conspiracy loving locals). We also learnt that there are active volcanoes in south west Victoria.

Many of the group are not able to attend LabCon due to time, cost, distance or other reasons, so this was a very valuable PD for us. Everyone enjoyed James' enthusiasm for his topic, interactive activities and sense of humour. The meeting was finished off with a lunch and the chance to network. There were a few 1st time attendees, so it was good to welcome them to the group.

Attendees: David Akers (Yarrum SC); Layne Allman, Jenny Northe and Debby Butler (Lavalla CC); Kathy Bittner (Gippsland GS); Corrina Chalmers (Chairo CS); Catherine Chambers (St. Paul's GS); Niluka Chandrasera (St Margaret's GS); David Collins and Shelly Jones-Evans (CCSale); Michelle Dawson (Mirboo Nth and Foster SCs); Christine Johnson and Dulip Denewaka (Drouin SC); Kerry Dijis (Sale SC); Bethany Dunbar (Nagal CC); Stephen Fitzpatrick (Lowanna SC); Mary-Therese Gorman (Neerim SC); Carrie Hay (Warragul RC); Joelle Hines (Trafalgar SC); Patrick Hull (Traralgon SC); Damon Kennedy (Maffra SC); Leela Pathiramalhelge (Nossel HS); Brydie Phillips (Mary Mackillop CC); and Nishani Rathrayake (Westen Port SC).





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



LTAV Membership

To renew your membership online, scan the QR Code, or visit ltav.org.au

Any questions, please email the Membership Officer, Simone:

membership@ltav.org.au

Membership is open to laboratory technical staff (including retired technicians) in all levels of educational institutions in Victoria.

Membership is a calendar year – January 1st to December 31st regardless of when the membership fee is paid.

MEMBER DIRECTORY



LTAV Member Directory NEW!

Please check your entry in the member directory and correct any errors. This "Phone Book" helps you find lab techs and schools in your region without needing to send a LIST message. Please remember, that the information here is visible to anyone with the link, so avoid sharing personal details like private emails and phone numbers. Also, do not share this link outside of lab tech community. Participation is voluntary, and you're responsible for updating your own information. This list is not for commercial use.

Use the QCode or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4789zyyf>

LABCON 2024



LABCON 2024

I'm confident you've all registered by now, but this link and reminder are here because the Editor needed to fill some space with something different from the last issue. That's also why she's writing this paragraph - otherwise, this section would look rather empty, don't you think?

However, the world is full of surprises, so if you haven't registered for our EVENT OF THE YEAR yet, you'd best get cracking!

LTAV PUBLICATIONS



LTAV SHOP

Three laboratory reference manuals and a conference USB are available for purchase from LTAV:

1. Chemistry Reference Manual + USB, 2008.
2. Biology Reference Manual + USB, 2013.
3. Physics Reference Manual + USB, 2013.
4. Laboratory Management Databases Conference USB, V2, 2009, by L.Geoff Gleadall, Dip.App.Sci.

ltav.org.au/shop/

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Riddle Me This Answers: 1. A Sponge | 2. A Candle

Thanks for playing! If you have a riddle or puzzle or an original joke you'd like to share in LabLines, please email it to The Editor - jennifer.emery@education.vic.gov.au

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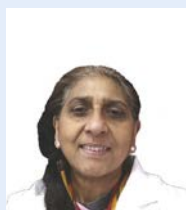
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Please feel free to contact any member of your committee with any queries or concerns. Members are always welcome at committee meetings. Please contact the Secretary to confirm time and location of next meeting if you wish to attend. 2024 MEETING DATES (TBC): 22/10; 14/11; and either 6/12 or 13/12