

# Handbook 2020

# Deep Blues Innovations for the future of our oceans



Science Victoria
Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

# Science Talent Search Committee 2019

The STS Committee consists of volunteer members of the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. and other interested persons who volunteer their time and expertise to organise the judging and exhibition of entries. In 2018 the STS committee consisted of:

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The STS Committee acknowledges the significant contribution made by David Trotter for the development and maintenance of the STS database and online registration system.



David Trotter, at an Award ceremony

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The Committee reserves the right to retain selected entries after Exhibition and Presentation Day and to use such entries for public display to further the aims of STS.

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For each further copy of the STS Handbook please send a cheque to the value of \$15.00 (including postage & handling) to: STAV, PO Box 109, Coburg Victoria 3058.

Phone (03) 9385 3999.

Edited by: Janice Teng, STS Officer.

# **Contents**

Ah aut tha Caionas Talaut Caonah	Page
About the Science Talent Search	
mportant Dates for 2020	
General Information for School STS coordinators and teachers	
An Invitation to all Students in Victoria to enter the 69th Annual Science Talent Search How to Enter	
Special Judging Day	
Awards	
How to Get Started	
Experimental Research Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions	
Junior, Intermediate & Open Divisions	
Class Project	
Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions only)	
Creative Writing	13
_ower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions	
Junior & Intermediate Divisions	14
Working Models	15
All Divisions)	15
nventions	16
All Divisions)	16
Posters - Scientific Wallcharts	17
ower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions	17
Junior & Intermediate Divisions	
Games	
(All Divisions)	19
Computer Programs - Games & Simulations	
(All Divisions)	20
Science Photography	
(All Divisions)	
Video Productions	
(All Divisions)	
How to cite references and write a bibliography	
Risk Assessment Sample Proforma	23
Exhibition & Presentation Day	24
STS Presenters in 2019	24

# **Doing STS for the first time?** See page 8

# About the Science Talent Search



The Science Talent Search (STS) is a familiar concept to primary and secondary science teachers in Victoria.

STS was founded in 1952, making it one of the longest running programs of its type in the world!

### STS has three broad aims:

- 1. To stimulate an ongoing interest in the study of sciences by:
  - encouraging independent self-motivated project work amongst students of science;
  - giving students the opportunity to communicate their achievements to a wider audience;
  - according recognition of effort and achievement in a scientific enterprise.
- 2. To promote the direct involvement of the students in the processes of science and its communication.
- To give the public at large an opportunity to see the quality of work being achieved in science, by both primary and post primary students.

### Why STS?

We believe that science teachers have a professional responsibility to encourage students to develop a broader understanding and application of science and technology which is fundamental to sound social and personal judgement, now and in the future.

Science Talent Search is for everybody: for those planning a career in one of the sciences or technological disciplines, for those interested in scientific hobbies, or for those concerned enough to present a point of view about science through the medium of poster, essay, video, photography, games or computer programs.

The substantial participation in STS indicates that a significant number of teachers are making provision for students of widely differing interests and abilities to pursue scientific activities of interest to them.

We believe that personal expression of interest and concern through independently executed, open project work is an essential ingredient in the appreciation and understanding of science.

We believe that through STS we are developing in students, skills and attitudes which will contribute to the well being and development of the wider community in which they will live and work.

# **Important Dates** STS 2020

Monday 24 February	Online entry REGISTRATION OPENS
Monday 25 May	Entry REGISTRATION CLOSES/Online system closes (This includes student and judge details)
Tuesday 9 June	Schools Pack 1 (Entry Labels) sent to schools
Friday 17 July	<b>Actual entries of Country Posters and Photography ONLY</b> STAV House, Coburg
Friday 19 June - 19 July	Online Submission by STS Coordinator of:- All Experimental Research and Creative writing Country Entries (all entries other than Posters and Photography)
	LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
Saturday 8 August	<b>Public Judging Day</b> Models, Inventions, Computers, Games, Photography, Posters, Video, and Class Project
Thursday 20 August	Schools Pack 2 (Entries received) sent to schools (via email)
Monday 5 October	Schools Pack 3 (Results & certificates) sent to schools
Monday 26 October (TBC)	Exhibition and Presentation Day

# **Entry registration closes Monday 25 May**

# The STS School Coordinator's Role

Each school that enters STS **MUST** appoint an STS School Coordinator.

This person then becomes the contact person for all STS correspondence and is responsible for the following:

### February to May

Publicise the STS competition in their school and ensure students and parents are given the relevant information concerning the appropriate sections.

### **February to October**

Answer questions from staff and students about the STS competition.

### March to May

Enter correctly and fully, all entry details on the STS online database by the due date.

Before you enter students please check that students and their teachers are aware of specific guidelines for the section they wish to enter.

Students will be disadvantaged if they don't follow all of the guidelines in this Handbook.

Ensure you have attended to the following:

- ☐ Read the STS School Coordinators' Role Description & General Information (page 3-5).
- ☐ Included Volunteer Judges details.
- ☐ Checked spelling of student names.
- ☐ The maximum number of entries is equal to 5% of your student enrolment at each campus OR 25 entries (whichever is the greater).
- ☐ The maximum number of entries per category each Division or Section has no more than 25 entries (with exception of Class Project).
- ☐ Students are made aware of the current guidelines for the Sections they have entered, including presentation requirements.
- ☐ Students have been told to keep a copy of their entry (recommended as STS takes no responsibility for lost entries).
- ☐ Enter judges details online.

### May

☐ Check Entry Data. Check your online data.

Print your own data from "View all entries" in the online database.

### June

☐ Receive and distribute Schools Pack 1 (Entry labels and yellow face sheets for student projects).

### July

- ☐ Arrange payment of entry fees. Your school will be invoiced for all on-line registration of entries.
- ☐ For Research & Creative Writing, you are requested to collect electronic copies and upload to submit using the registration portal.
- ☐ For Country Entries, you are requested to collect electronic copies of student projects. A short video may also be submitted in place of talking to judges (file size limited to 50mb). Upload to submit using the registration portal.
  - Videos are recommended to be uploaded to an online platform such as Google Drive, vimeo and You Tube with a link provided in the report.
- ☐ For Country Posters and Photography, post/deliver to STAV by the due date.
- ☐ Ensure that the students do not individually send their entries to STAV.

### **August**

- ☐ Make sure students are aware of venues and times for the Special Judging Day.
- ☐ Remind students to bring projects to the Judging Day. All metropolitan students **MUST** attend Judging Day.
- ☐ Ensure Judges from your school are aware of their judging commitments. Judges from Metropolitan Schools **MUST** assist with judging on the Saturday set aside for Judging Day.
- □ Due to the organisation and distribution of judges over the entire competition, judges are still required even if some or all of your entries are subsequently not submitted. Please be aware that some sections require a higher judge to entry ratio and without our volunteer judges this competition would not be able to continue.

### August/September

☐ Receive and check Schools Pack 2 (Projects received).

### **October**

- ☐ Receive and distribute Schools Pack 3 (Bursary Results and Presentation day details).
- ☐ Ensure that all registration details are followed precisely for Exhibition and Presentation Day.

A commitment by students to the Science Talent Search also involves a commitment by teachers from your school.

### **STS Website**

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

Make sure you have a look at the "For Teachers" pages as well as all of the other information.

Please note that the entrant's ID code is unique and not transferable.

\*\* Names cannot be substituted once the online registration closes.

# **General information**



### for School STS coordinators and teachers

### 1. Maximum Number of Entries per School Level: Primary Level (F-6) or Secondary Level (7-10)

- Enrolment numbers in a Primary campus include all students enrolled from F to 6, while enrolment numbers in a Secondary campus include students in Years 7 to 10 only.
- Each school campus (ie. F-6 or 7-10) is restricted to a maximum number of entries equal to 5% of the student enrolment at that campus OR 25 entries, whichever is the greater.
- In addition, each campus is allowed to submit a MAXIMUM OF 25 ENTRIES IN ANY ONE DIVISION OR SECTION of STS. Thus a campus with an enrolment of 1200 will be entitled to 60 entries, with no more than 25 entries in each division or section. As an example, this campus may submit 60 entries with, say, 25 in Intermediate Research, 15 in Junior Models and 20 in Junior Games. Class projects are not included in these numbers.
- There is a maximum of 8 entries per school for the Class Project. A class project can have up to 35 students per project.
- For STS purposes a campus is a separate location with students permanently enrolled at that location and administered by a campus Principal.
- Primary and Secondary components at the one location are regarded as separate campuses.
   Separate Entry details must be completed for primary and secondary.

Note that a group entry is TWO students only.

### 2. Open Section (Year 11 and 12)

- STS aims to encourage students to pursue their interests in science by allowing keen students who have personal interests in one of the Sections offered, the opportunity to develop these interests provided they fit into the guidelines of the competition. Students may enter all Sections except Posters and Creative Writing.
- We hope teachers will encourage only those students who are capable of organising their time to fulfil VCE requirements and complete work on personal projects.

### 3. Individual and group entries

- Students can enter an individual project or a group project.
- A group consists of TWO students only, with the exception of the Class Project.
- The Class Project can have up to 35 students per project.

# 4. Schools' responsibilities for judging entries

All schools entering STS must provide 1 Judge per twelve entries (or part thereof). Therefore, even if your school has only one entry, you must still supply one judge. You must nominate judges by the registration closing date.

All Judges from the metropolitan area will be required to select a Section which will be judged at one of three venues on Special Judging Day. You may, however, choose Creative Writing and Experimental Research as your **second** preference.

Teachers who cannot judge on Saturdays due to religious reasons can request to judge Creative Writing or Experimental Research by email to sts@stav.vic.edu.

Judging on the Special Judging Day requires a commitment of about 5 hours - from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

Judging on the Special Judging Day is usually in pairs. Where possible a primary and secondary judge will be paired together. Judges are expected to evaluate all divisions within a section.

- Country Judges can select any Division / Section.
  If posters/photography/videos/games/models/
  computers are selected, the Judge is committed
  to attend one of the Special Judging venues
  on judging day. If research or creative writing
  is selected, judges will be given access to the
  projects for evaluation.
- If a judge becomes unavailable at the required judging time, it is the school's responsibility to provide replacement judges for those who cannot fulfil their obligation.
- If a school cannot supply the required number of judges, then the STS Committee will not judge entries from that school.

Students who win major bursaries in the experimental research and inventions sections will be eligible for the **National BHP**Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. You must notify STS if you do NOT want your project forwarded to

BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. For more information go to <a href="http://www.scienceawards.org.au">http://www.scienceawards.org.au</a>

### 5. How to enter your students

First, register your school to ACTIVATE your account for the current year. All entry is through the STS web registration system.

The STS registration site will become live on 24 February 2020 at 9.00am. The site will be closed off at 5.00pm on Monday 25 May.

### To get started:

- Have the following information ready before you start:
  - a. School STS coordinator details (including correct email address)
  - b. List of volunteer judges (1 judge per 12 entries or part thereof) and their two preferences for judging sections.
  - c. Full STS student entry details.

[Download student and judge proformas from the Science Talent Search website to help collect full details.]

- 2. Log onto the STS online system web address: www.stav.vic.edu.au/sts/login
- 3. Click on the "Register here" link
- 4. From the drop down list choose your school (check that the campus is correct). Primary and secondary must register as separate campuses.
- 5. If your school isn't on the list, contact STAV by email: sts@stav.vic.edu.au
- 6. Enter STS coordinator email address. Ensure you enter the address <u>precisely.</u>
- 7. Enter a password of your choosing and Login. Record your password somewhere for future reference.
- 8. Press "Login" and the program will generate an email message from which you can access your own area of the STS website. Make a copy of the web address for your records.

### Once you receive your confirmation email:

- 9. Enter your email address and your password to access and edit the records for your school.
- Check and update your school details.
   Choose the "Update School Details" link.
   Ensure you click on the "Update Details" button once your changes have been made.
- Enter appropriate student and judge details. Please check spelling carefully and ensure you enter all details requested. STS will not make corrections for student details.
- 12. Ensure you press both the "Add Student" button & the "Submit" button or your information won't be saved.

- 13. You can add, edit or remove entries at any time from this point **until the closing date Monday 25 May**.
- 14. Enter your judges information.
- 15. You should print your data from the "View all Entries" section of the database. Make amendments and correct errors online. The online system **closes permanently** on 25 May. No further changes can be made by you. Changes requested via the STAV Office will incur a fee of \$10 per entry.

For more detailed instructions visit the STS website www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts.html

### 6. Payment

Your school will be invoiced via your STS coordinator for the **number of entries in the online database on the closing date**. Entry fees will need to be paid from this data as the administration of the entries will have already occurred from this point on.

### 7. Submission of entries

- Metropolitan entries (within 100km radius of GPO): entries in posters/photography/videos/ games/models/inventions/class projects/computers must be taken by students to the appropriate judging venue on Judging Day. Entries in Research or Creative Writing must be submitted electronically by Sunday 19 July.
- Country entries (outside 100km radius of GPO): Entries in Research or Creative Writing must be submitted electronically by Sunday 19 July.

Country Posters/ Photography/ Videos/ Games/ Models/ Inventions/ Class Projects/ Computers

**Option 1:** Students attending special judging day DO NOT SEND entries to STAV House, Coburg

Option 2: Submit all entries electronically\*

\*Exception: Posters and Photography are still required to be mailed in.

Entries other than Country Posters and Photography delivered to STAV House, Coburg **will not** be transferred to Special Judging Day venues.

### 8. Collection of entries

- Teachers in metropolitan schools MUST arrange for the collection of all entries from the Exhibition venue, from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm on Exhibition Day. Entries not collected on this day will be disposed of.
- Country Posters and Photography will be returned by arrangement, provided they are within the size limits. Please notify STS by email if you want your entries returned.

# An invitation to all students in Victoria



# to enter the 69th Annual Science Talent Search

The Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. invites all students to enter this year's Science Talent Search. You may enter as an individual or as part of a group of **two (2).** You may enter into one or more of the Sections described in this book. Please check this Handbook for the Section guidelines, as entries which do not fulfil these guidelines will be disadvantaged.

### **Divisions**

Division	Code	Year Level
Lower Primary	L	Foundation to Year 2
Middle Primary	М	Year 3 & 4
Upper Primary	Р	Years 5 & 6
Junior	J	Years 7 & 8
Intermediate	I	Years 9 & 10
Open	0	Years 11 & 12

### **Sections**

R W M
M
I
G
С
P
F
V
S
_

Country Posters and Photography entries can be sent by your teacher to STAV House, Coburg. All other country entries will be submitted electronically. However, keep your entry if you are going to attend a Special Judging Day Venue.

### Ask your science teacher for details on how to enter.



**Exhibition & Presentation Day** 

### **Important Dates for 2020**

- Entry registration
   Opens Monday 24 February 2020.
   Closes Monday 25 May 2020.
- Experimental Research & Creative Writing
   Entries due Sunday 19 July.

   Teachers upload and electronically submit projects online.
- Judging Day Video Productions & Photography
  Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
  Parade College,
  1436 Plenty Road, BUNDOORA
  (9.00am 12.30pm)
- Judging Day Models, Inventions & Class Project
   Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
   Methodist Ladies' College,
   Fitzwilliam Street entrance, KEW
   (9.00am 12.30pm)
- Judging Day Posters Scientific Wallcharts
  Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
  Auburn South Primary School,
  419 Tooronga Road, HAWTHORN
  (9.00am 12.30pm)
- Judging Day Games & Computer Programs
   Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
   Wesley College,
   577 St Kilda Road, PRAHRAN
   (9.00am -12.30pm)
- Exhibition & Presentation Day
   Monday 26 October (TBC)
   (9.00am 1.30pm)
   La Trobe University, Union Hall, Bundoora.
   Students to bring winning entries for Models,
   Inventions, Computers, Games, Creative Writing
   and Research sections. STS committee will arrange
   display of Posters and Photography winning entries.

### **STS Website**

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

Make sure you have a look at the "For Students and Parents" pages as well as all of the other information.

# How to enter

### 1. Entry details

- a) Obtain an STS student entry proforma from your science teacher or from the STAV website: <a href="http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/regInf.html">http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/regInf.html</a>
- b) Return the completed form ONLY to your Science Teacher.
- c) Your school STS Coordinator will enter the data online.

Your school STS coordinator will receive acknowledgement of your entry from STAV including: Entry Label, Face Sheets and general information.

### 2. Entry fees

Individual	\$8.00 per entry (inc GST)
Group (maximum 2 students)	\$15.00 per entry (inc GST)
Class Project (Primary	
divisions only)	\$30.00 per entry (inc GST)

Note that a group entry is TWO students only.

### 3. Submission of entries

# **Special Judging Day**

You must bring your project with you to Judging Day.

- A. ALL Creative Writing and Experimental Research (Metropolitan and Country entrants)
  Entries in Creative Writing and Experimental Research Section must be **electronically** submitted by your teacher.
- B. METROPOLITAN entrants
  Working Models, Inventions, Computer Programs,
  Games, Photography, Posters, Videos and Class
  Project Entries in these sections must be taken
  to the SPECIAL JUDGING DAY VENUES by you on
  Saturday 8 August 2020.
- C. COUNTRY entrants

Working Models, Inventions, Computer Programs, Games, Photography, Posters, Videos and Class Project

**Option 1:** Students attending special judging day DO NOT SEND entries to STAV House, Coburg

Option 2: Submit all entries electronically\*

\*Exception: Posters and Photography are still required to be mailed in.

- D. ALL entrants Remember:
- DO NOT bring live specimens.

### **Working Models, Inventions & Class Project**

### Venue

Methodist Ladies' College, Fitzwilliam Street entrance, KEW Saturday 8 August 2020

### Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower, Middle and Upper Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

### **Posters - Scientific Wallcharts**

### Venue

Auburn South Primary School, 419 Tooronga Road, HAWTHORN Saturday 8 August 2020

### Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower, Middle and Upper Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior & Intermediate

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

# Video Productions & Photography

### Venue

Parade College, 1436 Plenty Road, BUNDOORA Saturday 8 August 2020

### Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower, Middle and Upper Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

Videos entrants must bring their own laptop for their presentation.

### **Games & Computer Programs**

### Venue

Wesley College, 577 St Kilda Road, PRAHRAN Saturday 8 August 2020

### Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower, Middle and Upper Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

Computer entrants must bring their own computer, monitor, etc.

No responsibility is taken for lost or damaged equipment.

Please ensure you keep your property secure.

\* Judges decisions are final.

No correspondence will be entered into.\*

# **Awards**



All students who enter the Science Talent Search are eligible for Awards. Schools also become eligible for special awards.

### **Student Awards**

### A. Bursaries

Every year individuals and groups are awarded bursaries totalling tens of thousands of dollars, thanks to the generous sponsors of STS. Major and Minor bursaries are awarded in all Sections.

As a gift for attending the Presentation Day ceremonies, special medallions are also presented to Bursary winners. Bursary winners who do not attend their Presentation Ceremony WILL NOT receive a medallion.

Bursary cheques are made out to individual entrants. In the case of a group award, the cheque value will be halved and made out to each member of the group.

### **B.** Certificates

A Bursary certificate is printed for each student gaining a Major or Minor award. This certificate includes the student's name, school name, title of project, division/ section entered, sponsor's name and amount awarded.

A Distinction Certificate is issued to entrants whose projects met all of the criteria and were of a very high standard and quality that deserves special commendation.

A Merit Certificate is issued to entrants whose projects were of high standard and deserve recognition for their work.

Those entrants who don't receive a prize-winning Bursary, Distinction or a Merit Certificate, receive a Certificate of Acknowledgement.

### **School Awards**

Schools with a very high standard of entries across all the sections are nominated by the STS Management for special awards.

### The Peter Craig School Awards 2019

(Sponsored by STAV Publishing)

- Glendal Primary School
- Holy Rosary School
- Cheltenham Secondary College
- · Presbyterian Ladies' College Senior School

# The 'Hugh McKnight' Encouragement Awards 2019

(Sponsored by The BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards, managed by CSIRO)

- Balwyn Primary School
- Mentone Grammar School Primary
- Thornbury High School
- Fintona Girls' School Senior Secondary



### **ATTENTION TEACHERS!**

Thinking of introducing Science Talent Search in your school?

Is this your first time entering or coordinating STS?

### Don't know where to start?

Order a free copy of our STS professional development kit, consisting of an information booklet and accompanying resources.

The kit provides general information about the competition's sections and

divisions, your responsibilities, hints on how to implement the competition successfully.

Contact the STAV office for an electronic copy.

# Discover how STS integrates with Victorian Curriculum

Science Talent Search fits ideally into the Victorian Curriculum philosophy of teaching and learning. STS encourages creative, self-motivated project work through open-ended multi-disciplinary projects. The competition requirements integrate well with many of the Victorian Curriculum strands and substrands; and they closely align with many of the achievement standards for science and other learning areas and capabilities.

For more information about using Science Talent Search as an integral part of your Victorian Curriculum implementation, contact the Science Talent Search office on 9385 3999 or go to: <a href="https://www.sciencevictoria.com.au">www.sciencevictoria.com.au</a> and follow the links to Science Talent Search.

# How to get started

### a. For teachers

### A few ideas on how to get classes going

- Run your own science competition to stimulate interest (complete before the end of Term 1).
- Contact STS Coordinators at other schools to see how they organise their students.
- Set a project as part of your Science program in primary, junior, and intermediate classes.
- Look at projects from previous years. (eg. from students previous work in STS)
- Put some questions to the class to discuss how to structure a project.
- In class, suggest things like "This task would make a good basis for an STS project."
- When demonstrating a technique, say "You could use that to look at .....and that would make an interesting STS project."
- When a class is investigating a phenomenon, suggest that anomalies be followed up.
- Declare your availability to assist students.
- Outline criteria and guidelines as specified in the Section Information (photocopy for students).
- Attend sessions on STS which are part of some STAV conferences.

If you need support or have suggestions you can contact the STAV office.

### b. Professional development kit

Order a free copy of our STS professional development kit, consisting of an information booklet and accompanying resources. The kit provides general information about the competition's sections and divisions, your responsibilities, hints on how to implement the competition successfully.

Contact the STAV office for an electronic copy.

### 2020 Sample Key Words

- aquaculture
- biomimicry
- oceanography
- autonomous ships/ ocean ROV
- **SCUBA Droids**
- ocean energy
- marine biotechnology
- ocean plastic pollution
- ocean sustainability

- deep ocean diversity
- ocean technology
- hydrology
- ocean acidification
- BBC Earth the ocean and us
- world oceans day
- ocean innovations
- ocean floor map

### **STS Website**

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts Make sure you have a look at the "For Teachers" pages as well as all of the other information.



### c. For students

- The best thing to investigate or produce is something that strikes you as worthwhile – perhaps something that you have seen or heard which you would like to have a closer look at or tell others about. You may find something interesting in your science classes, around the house or outside. Talk to others about your ideas.
- Below are some suggested sources of ideas. If you borrow an idea, try to introduce some original slant to it. But remember, your own ideas are best.
- You may need help with some presentation skills in your project – make sure you acknowledge them – but the content and ideas of your STS project must be yours. For example, if you are Lower Primary you may choose to ask someone to type your work for you; this typing should be word for word from either your own handwriting or your verbal description and must be acknowledged as such in your 'Acknowledgements' section.

## d. Project references

Many ideas may be found in the following publications:

- STS Handbooks from previous years
- STS Bursary Award books from previous years
- LabTalk and Let's Find Out various issues
- Let's Find Out Vol.36 No.4 2019, Biomimicry what nature can teach us? by Peter Hope.
- Teaching Science (ASTA's journal)
- Daily papers
- Magazines eg. Search, Omega, Omni, New Scientist, Double Helix, Cosmos, Scientific American, (check SAGE or GUIDELINES - Ask your school Librarian)
- Science web sites
- Science text books
- Check the 500 Section of your library
- www.csiropedia.csiro.au
- ga.gov.au/home
- blog.csiro.au/tag/oceanography
- bbc.com/earth/tags/oceans
- en.unesco.org/themes/one-planet-one-ocean
- neal.fun/deep-sea

# **Experimental Research**



### (Lower, Middle and Upper Primary **Divisions**)

### **Experimental research involves:**

- Choosing and defining a topic. Pick a topic that interests you. Does not need to be based on this year's theme.
- Asking questions about your topic. Why? What if...? How? It would be a good idea to do some reading about your selected topic. Libraries and the internet are very useful resources. You could also discuss ideas with others familiar with your topic.
- Forming an hypothesis. This is an educated "guess" as to what you think will happen in a certain set of circumstances or conditions. (Look at ONE change at a
- Investigating your hypothesis. To do this properly you will need to design and carry out experiments in a safe
  - Data logging equipment can be used to collect data.
  - If able, repeat the experiment a number of times to reduce random errors.
  - Use experimental controls eq. variables, to make results more meaningful.
- Carefully record the results of the experiments. A survey, if it is used to collect data as part of an investigation, is regarded by STS as an experiment. (Keeping a log book or taking photographs are useful ways of recording).
- Analysing results. What do your results mean?
- Being prepared to change your original ideas and procedures as you get results which may be unexpected.
- Working logically through your results so as to support or reject your hypothesis.
- Writing a report to tell others what you did and what you found, based on experiments you carried out. The experimental report is NOT a research assignment.

### **Entries must be electronically submitted:**

Project files should be given to your teacher at least a week before the due date.

Online submission portal closes: 19 July 2020

### Writing an experimental research report

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

Your report format may be written in passive or active voice but must include the following:

- ☐ **Introduction** What gave you the idea? How did you get started? Provide some background information on the topic.
- ☐ **Aim** What you are trying to find out?
- ☐ **Hypothesis** A scientific guess on what you think will happen based on your initial understanding of your idea
- ☐ **Materials** List everything used!
- ☐ **Method** List everything you did, but remember to keep them in order (like a recipe).
- ☐ Describe the **safety requirements** you followed in conducting this experiment. Attach **Risk Assessment Form**, sample provided on page 23.
- ☐ **Results** Everything you discovered (or found out). Keep a little book (logbook) and record everything as you go. To show all this use graphs, tables, pie charts, photos
- ☐ **Discussion** Judges pay particular attention to the quality of your discussion. Consider using the following questions as prompts. (Discussion should not be question/answer style)
  - What happened and what did you learn?
  - Did it reflect your hypothesis? Do you think you know why?
  - Did you find any unexpected results? Can you explain this?
  - What problems did you encounter?
  - How could you improve on your experiment or data
- ☐ **Conclusion** This is a simple paragraph that links back to your aim and hypothesis. Did you find out what you wanted? Was your hypothesis right?
- ☐ Acknowledgements and References Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help/advice and outline the ways they helped you.
- ☐ List any books or websites you used. (See page 23 to reference correctly)
- ☐ When your report is finished ask your teacher or parent(s) to check your report to make sure it follows the guidelines.
- ☐ **Keep a full electronic copy of your work**, including scans of log book etc. See page 23 for naming your file

### All guidelines should be followed to avoid being disadvantaged during judging.

Students who win major bursaries in the experimental research and inventions sections will be eligible for the National BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. You must notify STS if you do NOT want your project forwarded to BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. For more information go to http://www.scienceawards.org.au

# **Experimental Research**

# (Junior, Intermediate & Open Divisions)

### **Experimental research involves:**

- Choosing and defining a topic. Pick a topic that interests you, preferably one which will give you the opportunity to learn something you did not already know. Don't forget to use skills you already have!
- 2. Asking questions about your topic.
  - What if...?
  - What can I investigate in this topic that is useful to the world and perhaps solves a problem(s) or makes life better or easier?
  - What is this investigation going to achieve?
- Search out what has been done previously (libraries, internet) in this area to become familiar with this topic and ensure you don't repeat existing work. Maybe discuss ideas with others familiar with your topic. NEW, ORIGINAL, and USEFUL IDEAS are paramount!
- 4. For projects based on standard experiments, please note that these are generally not original and have been previously investigated. However, you could apply them in a NEW way to solve a problem or benefit the community. Make some changes, or repeat the experiment a few times under different conditions to make it a new investigation with outcomes to potentially benefit the world. Remember that Science continuously builds on previous research and discoveries.
- Any investigations, especially one that solves a problem, with the aim of making life better or easier for the community, in an ORIGINAL way and for a USEFUL purpose that has not been previously investigated, are likely to be more highly regarded by judges.
- Forming an hypothesis: what you think will happen in a certain set of circumstances/conditions. Make it specific, so that at the end, you can clearly say supported or rejected.
- 7. Investigating your hypothesis. To do this properly you need to design and carry out experiments in a safe manner.
  - The method should be logical and test the hypothesis.
  - Allow sufficient time to get meaningful results.
  - Repeat the experiment several times to reduce random errors.
  - Use Experimental Controls to make results meaningful.
- 8. Carefully recording the results of the experiments. A survey, if it is used to collect data as part of an investigation, is regarded by STS as an experiment. (Keeping a log book or taking photographs are useful ways of recording).
- 9. Analysing results. What do your results mean?
- Being prepared to change your original ideas and procedures as you get unexpected results. You may want to completely change the topic if something unexpected shows up.
- 11. Working logically through your results to support or reject your hypothesis.
- Writing a report to tell others what you did and what you found, based on experiments you carried out. The experimental report is NOT a library research assignment.

### Writing an experimental research report

Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

Your report format may be written in passive or active voice but must include the following headings:

- ☐ **Abstract** Give a brief description of what you did and what you achieved. Around 100 words should suffice.
- ☐ Introduction This must be relevant to the topic and explain why you chose this topic. It must define key terms and provide some background information as well as answering the question "what were you looking at?" Some information from your background reading would be useful.
- ☐ **Aim** this must give a clear indication of your investigation. Include your specific hypothesis.
- ☐ **Materials** List or describe the equipment you used to carry out your experiment.
- ☐ **Method** Presentation of the method should allow someone else to follow your experiment step by step. Method should report what was <u>actually</u> done, not what you should do. Include any mistakes.
- ☐ Remember to include a description of the **safety precautions** you used to conduct the experiment. Attach **Risk Assessment Form**, sample provided on page 23.
- ☐ **Observations and Results** Present your results in an easily understood format which may include tables, graphs, photos, maps and descriptions. All information should be clearly labelled. Where possible, results should involve measurement. Avoid subjective results such as those involving likes and dislikes.
- □ **Discussion** Judges pay particular attention to the quality of your discussion. Analyse what your results show. Discuss the implications and validity of your results. Did your results support or reject your hypothesis? What problems did you encounter? How could you improve on your experimental design or data collection? What errors did you make? Reflect on unexpected results.
- ☐ **Conclusion** The conclusion must relate to the aim. Has the hypothesis been supported or rejected?

### ☐ Acknowledgements and references

A reference list must be included. All research is based on some background information. You should list the books, journals and websites you referred to. Acknowledge the people who gave you help or advice and explain in what ways they helped you. Specific information from another source, when used, must be cited. See page 23 for methods of citing others' work.

- ☐ When finished ask your teacher or parent(s) to check your report to make sure it follows the guidelines.
- Keep a full electronic copy of your work, including scans of log book etc. See page 23 for naming your file
- ☐ Posters, videos and other accessories are not judged.

### **Entries must be electronically submitted:**

Project files should be given to your teacher at least a week before the due date.

Online submission portal closes: 19 July 2020

### All guidelines should be followed to avoid being disadvantaged during judging.

Students who win major bursaries in the experimental research and inventions sections will be eligible for the **National BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards**. You must notify STS if you do NOT want your project forwarded to

BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. For more information go to <a href="http://www.scienceawards.org.au">http://www.scienceawards.org.au</a>

# **Class Experimental Research Project**



### (Lower, Middle and Upper Primary)

The class experimental research project provides the opportunity for a class to engage in experimental research of greater scope than would be possible within the experimental research section of the competition. This could be achieved by choosing to investigate a hypothesis in great depth or a set of linked hypotheses.

- This section is for Lower, Middle and Upper Primary students only. There is a maximum of 8 entries per school across the 3 divisions.
- The project **must** be based around the investigation of a hypothesis (question) through experimental research.
- All students listed within the class entry must be involved in the project.
- The topic or theme is unrestricted **however**, students will be judged on the:
  - level of student involvement in decision-making
  - scientific skills and knowledge gained by students
  - quality of science within the project
  - ability to extend their learning and knowledge beyond the science class room
  - originality and creativity of the topic.
- A representative group of 4 to 6 students will need to present the class project on the Judging Day.
- **Country entrants** are strongly encouraged to attend the Judging Day. Country entrants who cannot attend the Judging Day are required to record a 5 minute video presentation answering the questions listed in the oral presentation section of the guidelines. This should be sent along with their entry. Please notify STAV via email that you will not be attending the Judging
- The class needs to be clearly identified eg. Victoria Primary School -Year 1, Class XXX
- A complete bibliography must be included along with acknowledgment of any assistance from teachers and other adults. See page 23 to reference correctly.

### **Entry guidelines**

The class project consists of three **compulsory** parts.

- The written scientific experimental research report
- Evidence of class involvement
- An oral presentation on Judging Day (or a video for country entrants).

Each part should be presented according to the following quidelines:

### Scientific Research Report

The research and written report must follow the guidelines for 'Writing an experimental research report' Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Division found on page 10 of this STS handbook. Both passive or active voice is **equally** 

The report must be stapled or bound together with a cover or in a manila folder. No loose paper or paper

### inside plastic sleeves will be judged. The Yellow Face Sheet must be firmly attached to the front cover.

Bibliography and acknowledgment list for the whole project should be attached to the back of the Report.

### **Evidence of Class Involvement**

Evidence must demonstrate the participation of the class, and assist the children attending the oral presentation to explain the scientific learning that has taken place.

### All evidence must be the work of the children.

Evidence may include:

- Children's experimental notes, drawings and diagrams.
- Photographic poster
- Products of the experimental investigation

The evidence must be easily transportable, carried by up to three students.

If using a computer program/DVD as part of providing evidence you must provide your own laptop and ensure the students can run it independently.

Any assistance that the children receive in producing and compiling the evidence must be clearly acknowledged.

### **Oral Presentation**

- When/if preparing your oral presentation focus should be on the results and discussion sections of the project. The Aim, Method and Materials will be judged from the written report and will not require reading out.
- Judges look favourably on the ability for students to communicate the science beyond the initial investigation and the understanding of errors in science. (Part of discussion in written report).
- A small group of 4 6 children representing the class need to attend Judging Day and present their entire project at a designated time.
- Possible guestions asked may include but are not limited to:
  - 1. What decisions did your class have to make during the experimental research?
  - 2. What science have you learnt from doing this research project?
  - 3. When doing experimental research what important skills must you use?
  - 4. How was the workload distributed amongst the members of your class?
  - 5. How does the scientific learning extend beyond the classroom (wider world applications)
  - 6. Science celebrates errors. What problems and/or errors occurred during the experimental process?

Metropolitan schools must take their projects to Judging Day at Methodist Ladies' College, Kew with their group representatives on Saturday 8 August 2020. Schools with Class Project entries will be contacted prior to judging day and be allocated a judging time.

# **Picture Story Books (Creative Writing)**

# (Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions)

### **Topics for 2020**

- Your picture story book must BE ONE OF THE BELOW TOPICS and relate to the theme Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans.
- Create a science picture story book based on this theme using one of the following topics.

### Note: These are the ONLY topics that will be judged.

- 1. One fish, two fish, ocean blue...
- 2. Journey to the bottom of the ocean
- 3. My ocean adventure
- 4. My ocean cleaning device
- ✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines and criteria below.

### **Entry guidelines**

- Your picture story book must **BE** ONE OF THE ABOVE TOPICS. Please print the topic on your Yellow Face Sheet.
   The creative writing and pictures must be done as an imaginative fictional story (detective, horror, drama,
- biography, etc.)
   You must incorporate factual scientific information into your pictures and words. Your story should convey science concepts through pictures supported by minimal
- ☐ A list of at least 5 key science ideas you used in developing the picture story book (with a brief explanation) must be included as an appendix. Picture Story Books without scientific content worked into the story and pictures do not rate highly.
- ☐ You must include a Bibliography at the end of your book listing all the books, magazines, websites that you have referred to or used. You must use a range of these resources. See page 23 for "How to list a Bibliography".
- ☐ Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help and advice and explain in what ways they helped.
- ☐ Typed or printed scripts are easier to read, but this is not essential if your handwriting is clear. The Judges will take notice of presentation, so it is important that your book is neat and looks attractive. Picture story books will be penalised for poor presentation.
- ☐ Pictures must be hand drawn or produced on a computer. Clip Art or downloaded illustrations won't rate highly and may infringe copyright requirements. Any art medium is allowed.

- ☐ Picture story books for Lower Primary (Foundation Year 2) can be up to 200 words in length. Middle and Upper Primary (Year 3 Year 6) entrants must be between 100 and 300 words in length. A **word count** must be included at the end of the book. The word count is applicable to the story only.
- ☐ Students are advised to keep an electronic copy of their work (scan a copy as back up).

### **Judging criteria**

Your picture story book will be judged according to the following criteria:

### Scientific content including:

□ accuracy of scientific ideas
 □ appropriate amount of scientific content
 □ integration of science ideas into your pictures and story

☐ identification of basic scientific ideas

☐ 5 key science ideas in appendix

### **Expression and Presentation including:**

- $\ \square$  grammar and spelling
- ☐ clarity of expression
- ☐ use of own words☐ development of story line
- ☐ originality and creativity

### Format including:

- ☐ interest of introduction
- □ variety of resources used
- ☐ creativity of format
- ☐ interest and entertainment of pictures and story
- ☐ quality of conclusion
- ☐ length within the maximum word count.
- ☐ bibliography and acknowledgement of assistance given by others.

### Tip for hand-made picture story books:

We recommend that students keep their work unbound and numbered before scanning their pages for electronic submission.

### **Entries must be electronically submitted:**

Project files should be given to your teacher at least a week before the due date.

Online submission portal closes: 19 July 2020

# **Creative Writing**



### (Junior and Intermediate Divisions)

### **Topics for 2020**

Your creative writing piece must relate to the theme Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans.

Note: These are the ONLY topics that will be judged.

- 1. The deep, deep ocean
- 2. SOS: Save our oceans!
- 3. Oceans of the future
- 4. Uncovering the secrets of the ocean
- ✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines and criteria below.

### **Entry guidelines**

- ☐ Your creative writing must follow one of the above topics. Please indicate the topic on your Entry Form and Face Sheet.
- ☐ The creative writing must be done as an imaginative story (any genre: eg. detective, horror, drama, biography), in the format of an **essay** or any other style such as comics, cartoons, graphic novels, diary, letter and so on.
- ☐ You must incorporate scientific information in your story.
- ☐ A list of at least 5 key science ideas that you used in developing the story (with a brief 2-3 sentence explanation) must be included as an Appendix. The Judges will be looking for scientific content worked into the story.
- ☐ You must include a Bibliography at the end of your entry in which you list all the references (eg. books, journals, websites) you have used or referred to. Specific information from another source, when used, must be cited. See page 23 for methods of citing others' work. Note the guidelines for websites.
- ☐ Acknowledge people who gave you help (if any) and explain what ways they helped.
- ☐ Typed or printed scripts are easier to read, but this is not essential if your handwriting is clear. The Judges will take notice of presentation, so it is important that your entry is neat and looks attractive. Poor presentation will be penalised. Grammar and spelling should be correct.
- ☐ Illustrations may be hand drawn or produced on a computer. Clip Art or downloaded illustrations are not acceptable and may infringe copyright laws.



- ☐ Your writing should be 500 to 1000 words in length. Entries over the word limit will be penalised. A word count must be included at the end.
- ☐ Students are advised to keep an electronic copy of their work (scan a copy as back up).

### **Judging criteria**

Your entry will be judged according to the following criteria:

Scientific content including:

- ☐ identification of basic scientific ideas
- ☐ appropriate amount of scientific content
- ☐ accuracy of scientific ideas
- ☐ integration of science ideas into your creative writing
- ☐ 5 key science ideas in Appendix (see STS website for examples).

Expression and Presentation including:

- ☐ grammar and spelling
- ☐ clarity of expression
- ☐ use of own words
- ☐ development of story line
- □ originality and creativity.

Format including:

- ☐ interest of introduction
- □ variety of resources used
- ☐ creativity of format
- ☐ interest and entertainment in reading the story
- ☐ quality of conclusion
- ☐ length within the maximum word count
- ☐ Bibliography (refer to page 23).

### **Entries must be electronically submitted:**

Project files should be given to your teacher at least a week before the due date.

Online submission portal closes: 19 July 2020

# **Working Models (All Divisions)**

### Students are encouraged to explore ANY scientific area of interest.

### Scale models

This is a scaled representation of an **existing** device/invention. You are asked to make a WORKING model that simulates the operation of, and the scientific principles behind, an existing technology. You should choose a model which clearly illustrates a scientific principle. For example, you could construct a scale model of an operating small scale radio telescope demonstrating the process of receiving radio waves.

### Information models

Information models are WORKING models that either demonstrate a scientific principle or concept, or simulate a scientific technique. These models are intended to educate people about the concept being illustrated. For example, if you wanted to show how electrons flow through a wire you couldn't use electrons (because they are too small) but would use something large enough to see to represent the electrons.

# Note that Information and Scale Models is a separate section to Inventions. See page 16 for information about the Inventions section.

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines and criteria below.

### **Entry guidelines and criteria**

- ☐ Your model must be a WORKING model.
- ☐ Your model must be no larger than 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m, and weigh no more than 15 kg unless special permission is granted by the Science Talent Search Section Coordinator.
- ☐ Your model must be safe to operate in a crowded area. All models must have appropriate safety features; e.g. boilers must have correctly operating safety valves. Dangerous chemicals must not be used, and rocket models will not be judged. Projects that involve cruelty to animals will not be judged.
- ☐ Your model must be original (volcanoes will score poorly!!). Models made from kits without original input do not score well.
- ☐ The best Scale models will clearly and accurately illustrate only one or two scientific concepts. These should be the major concepts in the operation of the model.
- ☐ Information models should show original, creative and innovative presentation.
- ☐ Your Model is well constructed.
- ☐ You have shown resourcefulness in the parts you have chosen to use, including consideration of properties of the materials.
- ☐ Your Model is easy to use and has operating instructions.
- ☐ The scientific principle used is clearly understood and demonstrated.
- ☐ Due to new safety standards, STS recommends students use their own battery pack for power.

### Written report

You must include with your Model a written report that includes the following:

☐ **Introduction** – What the model represents and ideas behind it. Identify your model either as a scale model or an information model.

- □ Design brief describes how you went about building and testing, problems you encountered and how they were solved, and the science principles used and applied to the design. Draw and label diagrams of your prototype designs, including relevant explanations.
  - > Scale model: you must address how appropriate your model is in the explanation of the science concept being demonstrated. Also include how accurate your scale model is and note where exceptions were made to the size ratio
  - ➤ Information model: you should show original, innovative and creative design in the implementation of the scientific principle(s) being demonstrated.
  - List any safety considerations in your design. Attach **Risk Assessment Form**, see sample on page 23.
- ☐ **Instructions** Operating instructions of your model.
- ☐ **Discussion** Discuss the scientific principles involved and how they apply to the Model. What are the limitations of your design and/or suggest how you would make further improvements.
- □ Acknowledgements and References Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help/advice and outline the ways they helped you. Also list other sources of information used (refer to page 23).
- ☐ Include or attach a photo(s) of your Model in your report.
  ☐ Your report should be no more than 1000 words in
- length, (log books and appendices are not included in word count) on A4 paper and presented in a paper manila folder (not plastic) with a copy of the completed Face Sheet firmly attached to the front.
- ☐ **Keep a full electronic copy of your work**, including scans of your log book etc. See pg 23 for naming your file.

### **Judging Day**

Students will be expected to give an oral presentation that demonstrates to the judges how the Model works and discuss the following aspects:

- ☐ ➤ The accuracy of the scale model and its appropriateness in demonstrating the scientific principles and/or concepts
- **or** > How your Information Model is original and creative in demonstrating a scientific principle and/or concept.
- ☐ Your understanding of the **scientific principles** used in the design and its application.
- ☐ What materials and their properties have you used in your model. Would you use anything else to construct your model if you could do it again?

Judges will look for evidence of depth of research into the science behind your Model.

### JUDGING DAY FOR MODELS Saturday 8 August 2020

Methodist Ladies' College, Fitzwilliam Street Entrance, KEW

**Country entrants** are **encouraged** to bring their model along to Judging Day to discuss their entry with Judges. Country entrants may submit their projects electronically. This includes your report, log book, risk assesment and a video

# **Inventions (All divisions)**



# Students are encouraged to explore ANY scientific area of interest. Design a device to solve a real world problem.

### What is an invention?

Inventions are **original applications** of technology which **solve a problem**. The scope for inventions is limited only by your imagination. You are asked to apply your **knowledge of science** to make a WORKING invention that has a practical application. Your invention may be a new device, method or process that has not existed before or you may choose to look at an existing device and invent a solution that works better.

Note that Inventions is a separate section to Information and Scale Models. See page 15 for information about the Working Models section.

Wo	orking Models section.		
✓	Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.		List any safety considerations in your design. Attach <b>Risk</b>
En	try guidelines and criteria	_	Assessment Form, see sample on page 23.
	Your invention must be presented as a WORKING invention.	Ц	<b>Discussion</b> – discuss the scientific principles involved and how they apply to the invention. Explain how your invention solves a problem. Analyse and include the
	Your invention must be no larger than 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m and weigh no more than 15 kg unless special permission is granted by the STS Coordinator.		results of your field tests. Describe the limitations of your design and/or suggest how you would make further improvements.
	Your invention must be safe to operate in a crowded area and must have appropriate safety features (e.g. boilers must have correctly operating safety valves). Dangerous chemicals must not be used and rocket-type inventions will not be judged. Projects that involve cruelty to animals will not be judged.		Acknowledgements and References – Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help/advice and outline the ways they helped you. Also list other sources of information used (refer to page 23).  Include or attach a photo(s) of your invention in your
	Your invention solves a <u>real problem</u> .	_	report.
	Your invention is well constructed.		Your report should be no more than 1000 words in
	You have shown resourcefulness in the parts you have chosen to use including consideration of properties of the materials.		length, (word count does not include any appendix or logbook attached) on A4 paper and presented in a paper manila folder (not plastic) with a copy of the completed Face Sheet firmly attached to the front.
	Your invention includes a <b>design brief</b> that clearly shows the scientific principles involved and/or how it applies to the invention.		<b>Keep a full electronic copy of your work</b> , including scans of your log book etc. See page 23 for naming your file
	Your invention is easy to use and comes with instructions on how it operates.		A student self-assessment checklist to assist with your entry requirements is available from the STS website.
	Your invention demonstrates a high level of applied	Ju	dging Day
	scientific principles.		udents will be expected to give an oral presentation that
	Your invention must be highly <b>original, innovative</b> and <b>inventive</b> . (Scale models of existing devices should	de	monstrates to the judges how the invention works and scuss the following aspects:
	be entered in the Working Models section.) Be sure to		How it solves a problem.
	research thoroughly that your invention has not been tried already.		How your invention is original, innovative and/or
	Due to new safety standards, STS recommends students		inventive.
	use their own battery pack for power.		Your understanding of the <b>scientific principles</b> used in
W	ritten report	_	the design and its application.
	u must include with your invention a written report that cludes the following:	Ц	What materials and their properties have you used in your device. Would you use anything else to construct your invention if you could do it again?
	<b>Aim(s)</b> - Explains the purpose of your invention and how it solves a problem		dges will look for evidence of depth of research into e science behind your Invention.
	Introduction - Explains what is original or new about		·
	your invention, and your ideas behind it. How your invention is important or relevant to an existing problem.		JUDGING DAY FOR INVENTIONS Saturday 8 August 2020
	<b>Instructions -</b> operating instructions of your invention.		Methodist Ladies' College,

Students who win major bursaries in the experimental research and inventions sections will be eligible for the **National BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards**. You must notify STS if you do NOT want your project forwarded to BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards. For more information go to <a href="http://www.scienceawards.org.au">http://www.scienceawards.org.au</a>

video.

Fitzwilliam St Entrance, KEW

**Country entrants** are **encouraged** to bring their invention

Country entrants may submit their projects electronically.

This includes your report, log book, risk assesment and a

along to Judging Day to discuss their entry with Judges.

☐ **Design brief** - describes how you went about building and testing, problems you encountered and how they

to the design. Draw and label diagrams of your

**prototype designs**, including relevant explanations.

were solved, and the science principles used and applied

# **Posters - Scientific Wallcharts**

# (Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Divisions)

### **Topics for 2020**

The theme for Posters is *Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans.* 

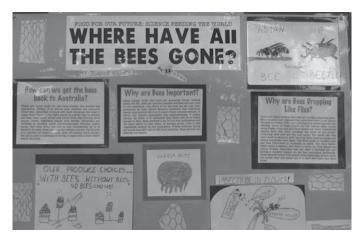
Note: These are the ONLY topics that will be judged.

- 1. SOS: Save our oceans!
- 2. Conserving ocean life
- 3. Ocean energy
- 4. Deep blue ocean
- ✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

You are required to:

- ☐ Give a clear explanation of the scientific and technical principles involved (refer to the diagrams you have used that help illustrate these principles)
- ☐ Explain the significance and impact that the topic has in the real world (refer to the diagrams you have used that help illustrate these principles)
- ☐ Include at least 3 relevant diagrams which summarise the two guidelines above
- ☐ List acknowledgements and references used. Put these in a **small box** at the **bottom right hand corner** of the poster.
- ☐ Maximum poster size is 80cm x 60cm. The minimum size that will be accepted is 60cm x 40cm.
- ☐ Use flexible poster paper that can be easily rolled up.
- ☐ All diagrams and text must be original.
- ☐ Firmly attach the Entry Face Sheet to the back of your poster.



- ☐ Text must be in your own words. It may be hand written or produced via computer. The text needs to be concise (use just enough words to explain the topic ideas when a person looks at the poster/chart for a couple of minutes.)
- ☐ Written information must be legible (visible from 1 metre) and contain a major heading for the topic and sub-headings (visible from 2 metres) for ideas/concepts within the topic.
- ☐ Maximum word limit is 400 words, including headings, explanations and captions; excluding bibliography
- ☐ Diagrams may be either hand drawn or produced using tools on a computer. Diagrams copied from other software or downloaded are not acceptable.
- ☐ Scanned pictures, photographs of pictures and photographs are not acceptable on any part of your poster.
- ☐ Diagrams must have clear headings/labels and be distinguishable from a distance of 2 metres.
- ☐ Diagram labels/headings are not included in the word count.
- ☐ Posters must not have any built-up or three-dimensional sections.
- ☐ If you have stuck or attached any diagrams or writing to the poster, you must laminate or 'contact' it, so that there are no loose edges protruding from it.
- ☐ You will be expected to answer questions from the judges about your poster.
- ☐ Judges will look for evidence of accurate and relevant scientific content, understanding of the material presented, and depth of investigations, innovative and creative thought in the visual presentation and in the selection of ideas investigated.

### JUDGING DAY FOR POSTERS

Saturday 8 August 2020

Auburn South Primary School, 419 Tooronga Road, HAWTHORN

**Country entrants** may send their poster to STAV House, Coburg by 17th July 2020.

It must be rolled and in a tube with a **copy** of the completed Face Sheet firmly affixed to the **outside** of the tube. A clear written explanation of scientific & technological principles involved should also be included (No more than two A4 pages). Country Entrants are **strongly encouraged** to attend Judging Day with their poster to discuss the entry with Judges.

# **Posters - Scientific Wallcharts**



### (Junior and Intermediate Divisions - Secondary)

### **Topics for 2020**

The theme for Posters is *Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans.* 

### Note: These are the ONLY topics that will be judged

- 1. Biomimicry in the oceans
- 2. Oceans of the future
- 3. SCUBA droids of the deep
- 4. Oceanic aquaculture
- ✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

You are required to:

- ☐ Give a clear explanation of the scientific and technical principles involved (refer to the diagrams you have used that help illustrate these principles)
- ☐ Explain the significance and impact that the topic has in the real world (refer to the diagrams you have used that help illustrate these principles)
- ☐ Include at least 3 relevant diagrams which summarise the two guidelines above.
- ☐ List acknowledgements and references used. Put these in a **small box** at the bottom **right hand corner** of the poster.
- ☐ Maximum poster size is 80cm x 60cm. The minimum size that will be accepted is 60cm x 40cm.
- ☐ Use flexible poster paper that can be easily rolled up.
- ☐ Firmly attach the Entry Face Sheet to the back of your poster.
- ☐ All diagrams and text must be original.
- ☐ Text must be in your own words. It may be hand written or produced via computer. The text needs



- to be concise (use just enough words to explain the topic ideas when a person looks at the poster/chart for a couple of minutes.)
- ☐ Written information must be legible (visible from 1 metre) and contain a major heading for the topic and sub-headings (visible from 2 metres) for ideas/concepts within the topic.
- ☐ Maximum word limit is 400 words, including headings, explanations and captions; excluding bibliography
- ☐ Diagrams may be either hand drawn or produced using tools on a computer. Diagrams copied from other software or downloaded are not acceptable.
- ☐ Scanned pictures, photographs of pictures and photographs are not acceptable on any part of your poster.
- ☐ Diagrams must have clear headings/labels and be distinguishable from a distance of 2 metres.
- ☐ Diagram labels/headings are not included in the word count.
- ☐ Posters must not have any built-up or threedimensional sections.
- ☐ If you have stuck or attached any diagrams or writing to the poster, you must laminate or 'contact' it, so that there are no loose edges protruding from it.
- ☐ You will be expected to answer questions from the judges about your poster.
- ☐ Judges will look for evidence of accurate and relevant scientific content, understanding of the material presented, and depth of investigations, innovative and creative thought in the visual presentation and in the selection of ideas investigated.

### JUDGING DAY FOR POSTERS Saturday 8 August 2020

Auburn South Primary School, 419 Tooronga Road, HAWTHORN

Country entrants may send their poster to STAV House, Coburg by 17th July 2020. It must be rolled and in a tube with a **copy** of the completed Face Sheet affixed to the **outside** of the tube. A clear written explanation of scientific & technological principles involved should also be included (No more than two A4 pages). Country Entrants are **strongly encouraged** to attend Judging Day with their poster to discuss the entry with Judges.

### **Games**

### (All Divisions)

### **Topics**

You may choose <u>any topic</u> that is based on a real issue. This year's theme is *Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans,* so you could base your game around that.

Your entry does not have to be a board game. There are many other ways in which games can be played. Why not design a card game which teaches a scientific idea, or think of ways in which players use stories or drawings or perhaps act out scientific events. Just make sure your game meets the entry guidelines listed below. The judging criteria will be sufficiently broad to cater for different kinds of games. The judges will be looking for games which are original and creative and not too closely modelled on existing games. Computer games must still be entered in the Computer Programs section.

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

### Produce a game which:

- ☐ presents a scientific idea.
- ☐ shows evidence that research was used to develop the game.
- ☐ aims at finding solutions to real issues (eg. rather than a game based on 'water', base it on water pollution).
- $\square$  is interesting and clear.
- ☐ is educational and involves the players in completing tasks, answering questions and making decisions.
- ☐ if it is a board game, avoids having players land on "luck" squares and being sent off without teaching them anything or finding out if they know anything.
- ☐ has a high level of Scientific processing in tasks set for the players.
- ☐ has tasks that promote problem solving and concept development rather than questions that require recall of facts. If you ask questions, don't make them trivial or obscure.
- ☐ The game must be original and fun to play.

- ☐ The game must be self contained in a box and labelled on the outside. The maximum box size is 25cm x 45cm with a depth of 14cm. If used, the maximum board size is 42cm x 60cm (4 X A4 size).
- ☐ Ensure the game is well presented and packaged.

  Make sure that all of the bits will stay together in the one package. Parts must not easily separate during transport.
- ☐ Include with your game a clear set of step-by-step instructions or rules.
- ☐ Specify the age group the game is aimed at and make it appropriate for the target audience.
- ☐ Include a written statement on what aspect of science the game is intended to teach. This should be about one A4 page in length.
- ☐ Acknowledgements and References Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help/advice and outline the ways they helped you.
- ☐ You will be expected to give an oral presentation on your game for approximately 5 minutes on the science the game is intended to teach and answer Judges' questions.

### JUDGING DAY FOR GAMES Saturday 8 August 2020

Wesley College, 577 St Kilda Road, PRAHRAN

Country entrants are encouraged to attend Judging Day with their game to discuss their entry with Judges. Country entries must include a written description about the scientific content/principle of the game and include evidence that research was used to develop the game (no more than two A4 pages). Entries must be electronically submitted with a video by 19 July 2020.



All guidelines should be followed to avoid being disadvantaged during judging.

\*\* No responsibility will be taken by STS for lost or damaged games or parts of games.

# **Computer Programs - Games and Simulations**



### (All Divisions)

Although you are encouraged to follow this year's theme, you may choose to explore a scientific topic of your choice.

In this section you will create an **interactive** Game or Simulation (or a combination of these) on a computer. Your creation must illustrate a **scientific concept** and **must** be interactive.

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

- ☐ Your program must demonstrate and integrate scientific content and your understanding of this content.
- ☐ If your project is a game, is it fun to play? Is there some variety in the game? Are the instructions clear? Is your work well organised?
- ☐ There must be a level of **interaction** for the user.
- ☐ Does your computer program incorporate good use of graphics and text?
- ☐ The program script or language may be varied including HTML, VB. Net, Scratch, Game Maker, Unity, Python, etc. NOTE: Interaction, input and reaction is required.
- ☐ Is the program USER FRIENDLY and largely error free?
- ☐ Include with your Computer Program, a brief written explanation giving:
  - the aim of the program
  - what the program does
  - the intended audience for the program
  - how to start/run the program (instructions)
  - Explanation of the Scientific content upon which your game is based
  - Web link to a copy of your game. See page 23 for how to name your file! (Dropbox, Google Docs, Microsoft One Drive, etc)
  - a list of references used, in the correct format (refer to page 23)
- ☐ The written explanation should be about 1 A4 page, presented in a paper manila folder (not plastic) with a copy of the completed face sheet firmly attached.
- ☐ Acknowledgements and References Make sure you include a list of people who gave you help/advice and outline the ways they helped you.

- ☐ Your simulation/game should run for less than 5 minutes.
- ☐ Be prepared to discuss both the science and the program used in your entry with a Judge on the Special Judging Day.

All Students attending Judging day **MUST bring their own Computer equipment**, if web connection is required, that is also the entrant's responsibility.

No responsibility will be taken by STS for lost or damaged equipment.

Please ensure your entry is kept secure.

### **JUDGING DAY FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMS**

Saturday 8 August 2020

Wesley College, 577 St Kilda Rd, PRAHRAN

Country entrants are encouraged to attend Judging Day with their computer program and computer hardware to discuss their entry with Judges. If this is not possible entrants must include a written statement with their entry (not more than two A4 pages) summarising the scientific principles demonstrated by their program, and submit this electronically by 19 July 2020.



# **Science Photography**

### (All Divisions)

In this section you are asked to submit photographs which record some scientific event or illustrate some scientific phenomenon. You may submit between three and six photographs, which must be linked by a common theme. Be careful to prepare prints that are suitable for display. Your topic may be based on any scientific theme or you may use the theme for this year.

Prints that indicate cruel or dangerous procedures have been used, will not be judged.

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

Students must submit their prints, and original images or negatives and a written report according to the following guidelines. The entire entry must be presented in a **document wallet** with a copy of the Yellow Face Sheet attached to the back.

- $\square$  Submit only 3 6 photos.
- ☐ Each print must be separately mounted on thick card (not paper) no bigger than A4 size. Professional mounting is not required. Prints are for display. Book, poster and collage format are not allowed.
- ☐ Each separately mounted print must include:
  - Title on the front
  - a caption on the front that explains the scientific relevance in 1-2 sentences
  - the student's name(s) and school on the front
  - labels on the back of all parts of the entry, with photographer's name, school and STS code.
- ☐ Photographs must be taken by the entrant using a traditional or digital camera (with traditional photography students are not required to develop their own photos). Any enhancements to photographs either digital or traditional must be done by the student.
- ☐ Images **cannot** be taken from other print or electronic sources.
- ☐ The official yellow face sheet must be signed by a teacher and/or parent/guardian. Without this signature verifying originality the entry will not be eligible for a bursary. (The face sheet is sent to schools after entries are received).

### **Original images**

☐ **Digital Photography:** all original, unaltered images must also be provided on **ONE** separate A4 sheet of paper as part of the explanation of the process undertaken, regardless of whether you altered the final images.

☐ **Traditional Photography:** the negatives must be supplied (attached to one A4 sheet of paper).

### Written report

☐ The entry must include a written report following the guidelines below and not more than 800 words. Entries without reports will not be eligible for a bursary.

This report should be set out as follows:

- **Aim** State clearly what you intended to do in terms of your topic and the photography.
- Method

State clearly how you set up and took your photographs (images). Include information about the type of camera, other hardware and software you used and how you altered the images (if relevant).

- **Scientific Content** Describe the scientific principles or ideas you are displaying in your photographs and the relevance of the particular photographs you have selected.
- Bibliography/Acknowledgements see page 23
- ☐ The report and mounted photographs must be presented in a **document wallet** with a copy of the completed Yellow Face Sheet firmly attached to the back.

### **On Judging Day**

☐ Students need to be prepared to discuss their entry with a Judge. An understanding of the scientific content of the photographs and explanation of techniques used to produce the photographs will be the focus of the discussion.

When assessing entries judges look at the following criteria:

- all handbook guidelines for photography have been followed
- explanation of the scientific topic/theme
- scientific relevance of photographs
- technical skill in producing the photographs
- dramatic impact and presentation.

### JUDGING DAY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday 8 August 2020

Parade College, 1436 Plenty Rd, BUNDOORA

**Country entrants** may send their photos for delivery to STAV House, Coburg by 17 July. However, country entrants are **encouraged** to attend Judging Day with their photographs to discuss their entry with Judges.

# **Video Productions**



### (All Divisions)

Your video, should focus on areas of science where motion, colour and sound are important. Although you are encouraged to follow this year's theme, you may explore a scientific topic of your own choice.

✓ Tick that you have satisfied each of the guidelines below.

### **Entry guidelines**

- ☐ Assessment of video productions will include:
- the science content
- originality, creativity, and clarity of thought
- impact on the viewer
- video skills
- ☐ Ensure your video does not simply display a technique used in science (eg. how to safely light a Bunsen burner); emphasise the science involved (eg. why is the flame blue or yellow?)
- ☐ Since technical quality is important, you should use a good quality camera for your original recording and editing software to keep the original resolution.
- ☐ With videos there will be times when 'extras' are called for either to act or hold the camera, so the entrants can appear in the recording. This does not contravene the entry requirements of Science Talent Search as long as the two students recorded on the entry form are the driving force behind the production and any help has not brought with it a level of presentation beyond the skills of the entrants in the group.
- ☐ Some useful techniques might be:
  - Editing segments of your video.
  - Adding music.
  - Time lapse sequences.
  - Superimposed graphics or lettering.
  - Zooming.
  - Fading in and out.
  - · Audio level adjustment.
- ☐ Your entry must be an original work, generated by you and definitely not recorded from some other person's video recording and not entered in a previous year.
- ☐ The entry must be self-contained. Your program must not rely on any other additional material such as posters, audiocassettes, notes or specimens. It will be judged on its own merits.
- ☐ All videos See page 23 for naming your file.
- ☐ The entry MUST be submitted on **a USB** or as a weblink on an A4 page. Use any movie-making software to create your video. Please test the USB

- **before you submit** your final video! You must state the program you used to produce your video.
- ☐ You must bring your own laptop to play your video on Judging Day. And you MUST submit your video to the judges on a USB. (Prefered video formats MKV, WMV, MPEG, MP4, MOV, AVI, XVID, FLV, FLAC, REAL, VOB, ASF and OGG).
- ☐ The program must end with a list of credits, including a list of video equipment used, software, titles or any scientific references consulted and an acknowledgment of any help received.
- ☐ The program running time must not exceed 5 minutes. (This includes the credits.)
- ☐ Include your name, school, division and title on the outside of your USB\* and on its packaging, or on an A4 page with your weblink, attached to your completed Face Sheet. (\*For USB label with your name and entry code.)
- ☐ You need to be prepared to discuss your entry with a Judge on the Special Judging Day. An understanding of the scientific content of the video and explanation of techniques used to produce the video will be the focus of the discussion.
- ☐ If you are a **country entry** not attending judging day, you must include an additional 3 - 5 minute segment at the end of your video featuring your teacher asking the following questions and the student(s) answering:
  - · What inspired you to do this topic?
  - Tell us about your video (what do you expect us
  - What scientific principles are demonstrated by your video?
  - · What resources did you use?
  - Did anyone help you put together the show? Who did the camera work?
  - How long did it take to do?
  - What did you learn?
  - Did you have to edit? How did you do this?

### JUDGING DAY FOR VIDEOS Saturday 8 August 2020

Parade College, 1436 Plenty Rd, BUNDOORA

Country entrants may submit their Videos electronically either as the actual file (50mb or Less) or with a weblink in a word document. However, country entrants are **encouraged** to attend Judging Day with their video to discuss their entry with Judges.

# How to cite references and write a bibliography

### What needs to be cited?

Some information that you use in a **report** or **project** need to be referenced. The type of information that should be referenced includes factual data (dates and numerical figures), graphs, diagrams and others' opinions. You should also acknowledge any assistance given by other people.

### Methods of citing others' work

There are a number of methods used to cite other people's work. Two common ways are described in the examples below.

### **Example 1: (Using footnotes)**

- Factual information in text: The LD50 is the amount per kilogram body mass which will kill half the animals it is given to.<sup>1</sup>
- Footnote 1: (at bottom of page)
   Coghill Graham (1985) Sciencescope 2, Heinemann
   Educational Australia p 167

### Example 2:

# (Acknowledging the source in brackets directly after the statement)

 The LD50 is the amount per kilogram body mass which will kill half the animals it is given to (Coghill, 1985, p167).

Sample Risk Assessment Proforma. A blank form can be downloaded from the STS website.

### How to list a bibliography

The system used to cite information must be supported by a bibliography. A bibliography is a list of all the sources of information you used (eg. books, journals, magazine and newspaper articles, TV broadcast, videos, personal interviews, websites, etc.)

### For books, you should write:

Author(s), year, title of book, edition, publisher information, page number. eg. Coghill, Graham (1985) *Sciencescope 2* Heinemann Education Australia, p167

### For journals and other articles:

Author(s), title, article, source, edition, information, page

eg. Lemonick, Michael. *Are We Ready for Fat-Free Fat? TIME* (January 22, 1996) pp 40-46

### For web sites:

- Name of article/source
- Date article placed on the web or last updated (if available)
- URL address
- Date and time accessed.

Electronic copies of your project should be saved using the following format:

**Individual entry** 

STAV\_SurnameFirstname\_title\_entrycode

**Group entry** 

**STAV\_SurnameFirstname\_SurnameFirstname\_title** \_entrycode

\* Do not use apostrophes or special characters

Name of Entry				
Student Name:		s	ignature:	Date:
Student Name:		s	ignature:	Date:
Type of Risk	Hazard	Level of Risk	Precaution taken to control risk	Source of information
☑ Chemical or	Dilute Sodium		risk May cause harm on contact	information Teacher and
microorganism  Procedure or equipment	hydroxide solution (less than 0.05M)		with eyes or in a cut, wear eye protection and gloves. If contact is made with eyes or on skin, flush immediately with water and follow up with doctor	Material Safety Data Sheet
<ul> <li>□ Chemical or microorganism</li> <li>☑ Procedure or equipment</li> </ul>	Scalpel	Medium risk	May cause severe injury if used inappropriately. Store scalpel where it will not be stolen or used inappropriately	Teacher and www.riskassess.co m.au

# **Exhibition and Presentation Day**



All Bursary winners are expected to display their projects on Exhibition and Presentation Day in the Union Hall, La Trobe University, Bundoora on **Monday 26 October 2020. (TBC)** 

Winners in the Games, Models, Inventions, Computers, Experimental Research and Creative Writing sections must bring their entries and other necessary equipment to the Exhibition.

Posters and Photography winning entries will be delivered to La Trobe University by the STS Committee.

The Presentation of bursary cheques and medallions (special gift for your attendance) will take place on Presentation Day at a Presentation ceremony. All bursary winners are expected to be in attendance between 9.00am and 1.30pm to discuss their projects with visitors and to receive their awards.

### The proposed plan for the day is:

8.00am - 9.30am	Registration
9.30am	The Exhibition is opened to invited guests and the Press. It is important that prizewinners are present to discuss their work with interested people.
10.00am	The Exhibition will be officially opened, after which families and members of the public are encouraged to look through the Exhibition.
	Then comes the long awaited reward for your efforts this year - the presentation of bursaries and medallions. This is a fitting conclusion for your efforts.
11.15am -12.15pm	Bursary Ceremony 1
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Bursary Ceremony 2

**Note:** The above plan may change. Bursary winners will be sent a detailed plan for this day when they are notified of their success early in Term 4.

### What happens next?

Having seen how you can benefit from STS, we hope that you will start to plan another entry for 2021. Perhaps you will have gained some new ideas from seeing the work of others and from talking to prize winners from other schools.

### **COLLECTION OF ENTRIES**

All metropolitan entries (winning & non-winning) MUST be collected on: **Exhibition Day** 

from the Union Building, La Trobe University between 12.00 noon and 1.00pm

Country entries should be collected at this time if possible.

Remaining metropolitan entries will be disposed of immediately after the exhibition if they are not collected. Remaining country entries will be returned on arrangement by mail.

### STS Presenters in 2019

STAV and the STS Committee would like to thank each of the opening speakers and presenters for their contribution to Presentation Day and acknowledge their involvement and commitment to Science Education.

**Professor Shaun Collin**, Head, School of Life Sciences, College of Science, Health and Engineering, La Trobe University

**Prof. Sarah Maddison**, Swinburne University of Technology

**Dr Evan Robertson**, La Trobe University

Ms Linda Le, Note Printing Australia

Ms Lauren Story, The University of Melbourne

Ms Tess Bacic, Halliburton

Adj. Assoc. Prof. Gale Spring, RMIT

Mr James Kennedy, Sincerely Chemicals

**Dr Lindy Lumsden**, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

# The following organisations are thanked for their donations and contributions to our expenses in 2019

Australian Skeptics

Australian Skeptics - In Memory of Mark Plummer

Australian Society for Biochemistry and

Molecular Biology

Bank First

Biology Teachers' Network Inc.

Catholic Education Melbourne

**Chemistry Education Association** 

Deakin University: Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment

Don and Robyn Hyatt

Electric Energy Society of Australia Inc.

Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

Humanist Society of Victoria Inc.

In Memory of Eileen Goodfield and

**Dorothy Dalton** 

Independent Primary School Heads of Australia

Institution of Engineering and Technology

Ken Greatorex

La Trobe University: College of Science, Health

and Engineering

Methodist Ladies' College

Minerals Council of Australia (Victorian

Division)

Monash University: Faculty of Engineering

Mordialloc Skeptics

Order of Australia - South Central Suburban

Regional Group

Parade College (Bundoora)

Quantum Victoria

Rowe Scientific Pty Ltd

Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

STAV Publishing

Swinburne University of Technology

The BHP Foundation Science and

**Engineering Awards** 

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

The Royal Society of Victoria Inc.

The University of Melbourne - School of Physics

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical

Research

Victoria University

Wesley College (Prahran)

Yakult Australia Pty Ltd

# **SCIENCE TALENT SEASCH**





Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. Science Victoria

5 Munro Street Coburg VIC 3058

**Postal address:** PO Box 109 Coburg VIC 3058 **Phone:** (03) 9385 3999 • **Fax:** (03) 9386 6722

Email: sts@stav.vic.edu.au • Website: www.sciencevictoria.com.au

Front Cover Image: Great Ocean Road in Australia
Back Cover Image: Ocean Litter, Giant Pacific Octopus

