

## President's Report – SASTA AGM 2020

2019 was another successful year for SASTA. While the number of Primary Members, whether they have Personal membership, or alternatively School or Corporate membership, decreased from 477 to 428, there was an overall stability in total membership. The number of teachers attached to School membership accounts increased from 750 to 791, giving a total membership of 1,219 teachers in 2019, remaining approximately steady in number from 1,227 science teachers in 2018.

Financially, we had a healthy surplus of approximately \$104 682, which represents a decrease in the surplus from that of the previous year, and Marianne will elaborate on this shortly in her Treasurer's Report.

Significant changes in personnel had occurred at the SASTA office during 2019, with Tegan McClean, SASTA's Marketing and Communications Officer taking maternity leave from 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Her role was filled by the temporary appointment of Toby Spencer to cover her absence. Kate Dilger has consolidated her role as the SASTA Executive Officer, in conjunction with her role as the SASTA Education Officer, which she commenced in October, 2018. Our OSA and Events Coordinator, Becci van Schuilenburg, returned from her maternity leave at the beginning of January to work 2 days a week.

Members would be aware that SASTA relies heavily upon the sale of its resources for income, and in particular from the sales of its study guides. Study guide sales decreased slightly in 2019 to 9650 from the higher figure of 10 088 in 2018. As with other Stage 2 resources, there had been a jump in 2018 sales figures due to the start of the new subject content for Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Not unexpectedly, in 2019 sales figures returned to a level mostly around those of 2017.

Second Editions of the Stage 1 workbooks for biology, chemistry and physics were released at the end of 2018 for sale in 2019. A second edition of the Stage 2 Biology Workbook was published in October 2019 to respond to significant changes in the Biology subject outline.

The Stage 2 Biology Textbook (Living Science: Biology) was developed and published towards the end of 2019.

A Research Project Workbook and Guide was developed and published in October 2019. Sales have commenced strongly for this new venture outside of our normal science resources.

### Professional Development

While SASTA conducts a number of regular conference and professional learning activities throughout the year for all science teachers, the introduction of a new curriculum for Stage 2 biology, chemistry and physics in 2018 meant that SASTA had a particular focus on organizing professional learning activities which would provide support for our members teaching these subjects. In order to support teachers who were new to teaching Stage 2 science subjects in 2019,

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SASTA ran five different 'Teachers new to (that subject) Workshops' for the science subjects of biology, chemistry, physics, psychology and nutrition in February and March of 2019. A number of other Stage 2 workshops were held throughout 2019, including Marking and Moderation workshops, and also a workshop which took teachers through the new Deconstruction Practical requirement.

Carolyn Pinchbeck and Irena Atherton once again convened our Psychology Summer Conference in January, and Dr Jane Wright also once again convened our Annual Conference in April and the STEM 6 – 11 Conference in November.

Kate Dilger ran a number of popular STEM based workshops for both primary and secondary teachers in her capacity as Education Officer. Kate also ran a full day of STEM learning for which Early Years teachers were the main target audience.

SASTA continued its tradition of facilitating Exam Postmortems for teachers of Stage 2 science. We thank our generous hosts and the teachers who attended those events.

A free teacher excursion to Cleland Wildlife Park was also held for SASTA members in May.

In addition, Peter Beveridge convened the SASTA Early Career Teachers conference in October 2019.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all, together with the members of the Professional Development Reference Group who also contributed to these events.

My report would not be complete without commenting on our Oliphant Science Awards competition. The number of entries in 2018 decreased slightly overall from 2169 in 2018 to 2100 in 2019. The total number of students participating consequently decreased to 2890 from 3010 in 2018, while the total number of schools participating in the Oliphant Science Awards decreased from 106 in 2018 to 98 schools in 2019. Overall, however, 22 newly participating schools entered the competition in 2019.

It is with immense excitement that I would like to announce that the National Teacher Award winner of the BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards for 2020 is SASTA Board member Anthea Ponte. Our congratulations are well deserved.

It is also highly gratifying to acknowledge a number of outstanding participants from the Oliphant Science Awards who **were finalists in the BHP Foundation Science & Engineering Awards. They are:**

**Secondary student Finalist:** Prathicksha Venkatesan - Investigations | Walford Anglican School for Girls.

**Secondary student Semi Finalists:** Surani (Nethaya) Karunagaran - Investigations | Emmaus Christian College, and Vanessa Ricks - Investigations | Emmaus Christian College.

**Primary Investigations Award Winner:** Emily Estcourt Hughes | Walford Anglican School for Girls

**3 Primary Encouragement recipients** Cristina Parletto | Walford Anglican School for Girls.  
Eugene Lee | Mawson Lakes and Tailey Barnes | Stirling East PS

I would like to congratulate the staff, the Oliphant Science Awards committee and all volunteers involved, but especially the Conveners, Peter Turnbull and Gerald Little, who put so much work into the Oliphant Science Awards competition on behalf of students and their teachers.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow board members who have met regularly throughout the year, our many SASTA volunteers who freely gave their time and effort, and our SASTA staff for their contribution to SASTA's ongoing strength and success.

*Vanessa Fay*

SASTA President

24 April 2020

# SASTA Annual Report 2020

## SASTA Board

### As at 24 April 2020

Vanessa Fay (President), Jane Wright (Vice President), Marianne Nicholas (Treasurer), Peter Beveridge, Anthea Ponte, Anita Trenwith, Peter Turnbull and Yvonne Zeegers.

## Staff

Kate Dilger (Executive Officer and Education Officer), Rebecca Cooke (Office Manager), Tegan McClean (Marketing & Communications Coordinator – maternity leave from June 10, 2019), Toby Spencer (Marketing & Communications Coordinator – from May 27, 2019) and Becci van Schuilenburg (OSA and Events Coordinator).

## Awards

- **SASTA Medal:** Ian McMahon
- **Helen Castle Memorial Scholarship:** Hannah Fryar Mount Gambier High School
- **Credit Union SA/SASTA Outstanding Teacher Awards:**
  - Junior primary- Carly Tate, The Grove Education Centre
  - Primary- Abby MacPherson. Burnside Primary School
  - Middle years- Alexandra Fowler, Woomera Area School
- **BHP Billiton Teacher Awards:**
  - Finalist - Kathleen Best - Clarendon Primary School, SA
- **Graduate Teacher Awards**
  - **The University of Adelaide:**
    - Physics: Mitchell Browne
    - Science (Junior): Isobel Cansdell
    - Science Studies (STEM): Simon Kwan
    - Biology: Lauren Fleming
    - Chemistry: Angela Joy
    - Psychology: Chelsea Freeman
  - **UniSA:**
    - Simone Phelan - Bachelor of Education (Primary)
    - Isabel Wilson - Bachelor of Education (Primary and Middle)
    - Emily Playford - Master of Teaching (Secondary)

## Professional Learning

- Psychology Summer Conference - 18 January at Education Development Centre. Conveners: Carolyn Pinchbeck and Irena Atherton.

- Workshops for Teachers new to SACE Stage 1 and/or SACE Stage 2 Biology, Chemistry, Physics Nutrition and Psychology were held in February and March.
- Annual Conference & Expo: 15 & 16 April at Pulteney Grammar School. Convener: Dr. Jane Wright.
- Marking Workshops for Stage 2 Psychology, Biology, Chemistry & Physics were held in Term 3.
- Early Career Teachers Conference - 11 October at Immanuel College. Convener: Peter Beveridge.
- STEM 6-11 Conference in conjunction with Mathematical Association of SA: - 29 November at Adelaide Botanic High School. Convener: Dr. Jane Wright.
- Workshops and in-school professional learning to support teachers in STEM and Science teaching and learning were provided by Kate Dilger throughout the year.

### **Resources**

SASTA published a range of resources including SACE Stage 1 & 2 Workbooks, Study Guides, Trial Exams, Living Science Biology Textbooks Stage 1 & 2, Research Project Workbook and Guide, Year 8 & 9 Student Practical Workbooks and “What if we do Science?”, “Watch This” and “Watch This Too!”

### **Publications/Communications**

- Newsletter: Distributed in February, May, August and November
- SASTA E-News: Distributed the first day of each month excluding January
- Bulletin from Education Officer once per Term
- Journal: Two editions per year: Editor – Brent Banham
- Website
- Facebook - approximately 1287 likers (up from 916 last year)
- Twitter – 1191 followers (up from 1033 last year)

### **Student Activities**

- Oliphant Science Awards  
The Oliphant Trophy Winner 2019 was awarded to Phoebe Wood from Upper Sturt Primary School. 2100 entries were submitted by 2890 students who entered the competition.

### **National Science Week Grants**

- Grant Applications – Priscilla Martinus

### **Examination Preparation Seminars (The University of Adelaide)**

- Biology – 31 August: Presenter – Tony Diercks / Karen Palumbo
- Chemistry - 14 September: Presenter – Glen Arthur
- Physics - 7 September: Presenter – Brian Parsons
- Psychology - 7 September: Presenter – Rebecca Triantifilakis

### **Representation and Advocacy**

- Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) Vanessa Fay represented SASTA as the ASTA Board member from South Australia.
- SASTA Patron – Throughout the year we appreciated the support of our Patron, Professor Caroline McMillen
- EducatorsSA – Marianne Nicholas & Anthea Ponte represented SASTA