

## **President's Report for January – December 2021**

**Presented at the SASTA AGM 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Yet again the impacts of COVID and its restrictions have played a part in the story of SASTA throughout 2021 but it is a testament to the hard work of all: Board members, staff, volunteers and members that has contributed to another successful year for our Association.

SASTA has continued to grow in various ways across the year including increases in memberships and attendance at professional learning events. There have been challenges of course, but the organisation as a whole has banded together to ensure that the state of science education in South Australia has remained strong, united, and resilient.

### **Membership**

2021 was another successful year for SASTA. Total members stand at 427, comprising 286 Personal (Individual) Members and 141 Corporate/School Members. Our 141 Corporate Members are able to have up to 20 teachers attached to their school membership accounts. The number of these teachers, called corporate associates, had a pleasing increase from 818 in 2020 to 909 in 2021. This has seen an increase of 9% in Individual memberships from 2020 to 2021 and a 2% increase in Corporate membership. This is a positive trajectory for SASTA into the future with a greater variety of Professional Learning opportunities confirmed for the 2022 calendar including Teacher excursions and wider communication with science institutions.

A major change following the SASTA AGM in 2021 was a reduction in membership prices for members as follows:

- Personal Membership reduced from \$130 to \$95
- Lab Officer Membership reduced from \$120 to \$85
- Retired Membership reduced from \$120 to \$85
- Joint Membership reduced from \$175 to \$140
- Student Membership reduced from \$39 to \$15
- First Year Teachers Membership reduced from \$59 to \$25
- Second Year Membership reduced from \$99 to \$65

### **Finances**

Financially, we had a healthy surplus of approximately \$82,626 which represents a decrease in the surplus from that of the previous year. Peter Turnbull will elaborate on the reasons for this in his Treasurer's Report.

### **Board**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members who have supported me in my first year as elected President. The Board met regularly throughout the year providing guidance and oversight to SASTA's many endeavours. I would also like to extend my thanks to the many sub-committees chaired by Board members which also provide valuable recommendations to the Board. The Professional Development Reference Group co-chaired by Katrina Elliott and Glen Arthur, the Membership and Awards Reference Group co-chaired by Anthea Ponte and Dina Phan, the Oliphant

Science Awards Group chaired by Peter Turnbull, and the Policy Development Committee chaired by Peter Beveridge.

### **Staffing**

Kate Dilger continues in her role as the SASTA Executive Officer, in conjunction with her role as the SASTA Education Officer. Rebecca van Schuilenburg, OSA and Events Coordinator, took maternity leave from 8 April 2021. Jennah Mills was appointed in January 2021 on a part time basis, increasing to full time in late March to cover Becci's maternity leave. Jo Wood was appointed in July 2021 after Jennah handed in her notice. Unfortunately, Jo was unable to continue her employment due to ill health. Bianca Warnock was employed 3 days per week in November 2021. Bianca's employment is a permanent part time contract.

### **Resources**

Members would be aware that SASTA relies heavily upon the sale of its resources for income. In 2021 sales of the Study Guides decreased by approximately 6% from 2020 sales. This decrease was driven mostly by the drop in sales of Chemistry and Biology Study Guides. A corresponding but less steep decline was seen in enrolments in these two subjects.

SACE enrolment data shows a 7% decrease since 2015 in the numbers of students taking on science courses at Year 12, however our decrease in sales is tracking ahead of the drop in SACE numbers.

Stage 1 workbook sales were very strong throughout 2021. Stage 2 workbook sales were steady.

### **2021 Professional Learning**

One of SASTA's important roles is to conduct regular conference and professional learning activities for science teachers throughout the year.

To support teachers new to teaching the Stage 2 SACE science subjects of biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, and nutrition, SASTA ran 5 different 'Teachers New to... Workshops' in February and March 2021. A number of other Stage 2 workshops were held in 2021 including Marking and Moderation workshops and Task Design workshops.

Kate Dilger ran a number of popular STEM based workshops for both primary and secondary teachers. Other presenters including Anthea Ponte, Katrina Elliot and Meegan Ballantyne were contracted to run Primary and Secondary workshops throughout the year highlighting the newly released Department for Education Science Units. All of these workshops were well received.

Carolyn Pinchbeck convened the Psychology Summer Conference in January with fifty-three delegates in attendance. This number was lower than usual due to COVID restrictions at the venue.

A Psychology workshop was run in November at Adelaide Botanic High School with a total of 108 teachers in attendance.

Peter Beveridge convened the SASTA Early Career Teachers conference on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Nazareth College, a new venue for the conference. There were a record number of seventy-nine delegates in attendance. Catholic Education SA (CESA) generously agreed to support the SASTA Early Career Teachers conference this year through providing bursaries for up to 10 ECTs in the first 2 years of teaching in a Catholic school, and any Aquinas College preservice teachers who want to attend the conference. In addition, CESA will pay for a one-year SASTA membership for each of these delegates.

SASTA continued its tradition of facilitating Exam Post Mortems for teachers of SACE Stage 2 science subjects. These sessions were conducted via ZOOM. This facilitated a much larger participation at each of the sessions. We thank those teachers who presented at these events.

The SASTA Annual Conference was held between the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at Pulteney Grammar School and had 111 delegates. Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SASTA included a Celebratory Dinner for approximately 40 attendees.

The STEM conference was held on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Underdale High School. We had 112 delegates register for the event. This included 65 SASTA members, 29 MASA members and 18 Non-Members. Of the 65 SASTA members, 11 are pre-service teachers, 10 Personal members and 44 associated with a corporate membership.

Two teacher excursions were held for SASTA Members. One to visit the Thin Ice exhibition at the SA Museum and another to BAE Systems Maritime Australia, Osborne Naval Shipyard.

SASTA had a display stand at the Science Alive weekend from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Our stand showcased the Oliphant Science Awards and featured many of the winning projects from this year's competition. Student OSA ambassadors came along with their own winning projects to talk to the many children and families that flocked to the Adelaide Showgrounds for this amazing event. It was a very successful weekend as we were able to bring OSA to the notice of so many people who had not heard of the competition before. Over 200 flyers about the awards were handed out to interested teachers, students, and parents. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped out over the weekend.

### **Oliphant Science Awards**

The Oliphant Science Awards continued to grow in 2021 with increases across many aspects of the awards as below:

- Total number of registered entries – 2292 (2115 entries in 2020)
- Total number of entries submitted – 1797 (1727 entries in 2020)
- Total number of registered students – 3069 (2839 students in 2020)
- Total number of students that submitted entries – 2251 (2131 students in 2020)
- Total number of schools – 106 (92 schools in 2020)

I would like to congratulate the staff, the Oliphant Science Awards committee and other volunteers ably led by 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, our many SASTA volunteers, including board members, who continue to give freely of their time and expertise, and our SASTA staff for their contribution to SASTA's ongoing strength and success.

**Pete Beveridge**  
**SASTA President**  
**28 March 2022**

## **SASTA Annual Report 2021**

### **SASTA Board**

#### **As at 13 April 2021**

Jane Wright (President), Peter Turnbull (Treasurer), Katrina Elliott, Peter Beveridge (Vice President), Anthea Ponte, Marianne Nicholas, Dina Phan, Katie Gloede and Anita Trenwith

#### **As at 31 December 2021**

Peter Beveridge (President), Peter Turnbull (Treasurer), Anita Trenwith (Vice President), Katrina Elliott, Anthea Ponte, Katie Gloede, Dina Phan, Glen Arthur and Meegan Ballantyne.

### **Staff**

Kate Dilger (Executive Officer and Education Officer), Rebecca Cooke (Office Manager), Tegan McClean (Marketing and Communications), Bianca Warnock (Admin and Member Services Assistant) and Becci van Schuilenburg (Events Coordinator).

### **Awards**

- **SASTA Medal:** not awarded
- **Helen Castle Memorial Scholarship:** Grace Edwards, Mount Gambier High School
- **Credit Union SA/SASTA Outstanding Teacher Awards:** Senior Secondary – Katie Gloede

**SASTA Honour Awards:** Glen Arthur and Katrina Elliott

### **Professional Learning**

- Psychology Summer Conference - 15 January at Education Development Centre. Convener: Carolyn Pinchbeck
- 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 12-13<sup>th</sup> April, Pulteney Grammar School – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 111 delegates. Celebratory Dinner held. Approx. 40 people attended.
- Marking Workshops for Stage 2 Psychology, Biology, Chemistry & Physics were held in Term 3.
- Early Career Teachers Conference - 27 September at Nazareth College. Convener: Peter Beveridge.
- STEM 6-11 Conference in conjunction with Mathematical Association of SA, November 26<sup>th</sup> at Underdale High School
- Workshops in STEM and Science teaching and learning were provided by Kate Dilger and other presenters.
- Psychology workshops with online access provided in November.
- Teacher Excursions for Members provided.

### **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 & 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
- Journal: Two editions per year: Editor – Brent Banham
- Website
- Facebook - approximately 1510 likers (up from 1287 last year)
- Twitter – 1340 followers (up from 1191 last year)

### **Student Activities**

- Oliphant Science Awards  
The Oliphant Trophy Winner 2021 was awarded to - Eugene Lee, Pedare Christian College, SA.  
1797 entries were submitted by 2251 students who entered the competition.

### **National Science Week Grants**

- Grant Applications – Priscilla Martinus

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

- Biology – 28 August: Presenter – Tony Diercks / Karen Palumbo
- Chemistry - 28 August: Presenter – Luke Starczak
- Physics - 4 September: Presenter – Paul Gavini
- Psychology - 4 September: Presenter – Carolyn Pinchbeck

### **Representation and Advocacy**

- Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) Peter Turnbull/Jane Wright represented SASTA as Federal Councilors
- SASTA Patron – Throughout the year we appreciated the support of our Patron, Prof Caroline McMillen
- EducatorsSA – Peter Beveridge represented SASTA