Chemistry

Yr 11 IA Workshops

During February each year VCE students from across Gippsland make their way to the School of Applied and Biomedical Sciences chemistry labs to participate in our Instrumental Analysis workshops.

Atomic Absorption (AAS), UV-Vis and Infra-Red Spectroscopy, Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) and High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) are all covered during the workshops, capably delivered by science undergraduates. This year over 270 students from 19 schools participated.

The workshops have been designed by University staff and are aimed at meeting the outcomes for VCE Chemistry Unit 3: Chemical Pathways.

This year we will be running Flame-AAS, HPLC and UV-Vis mid-year, for Yr 11 students.

RACI’s Hartung Youth Lecture

Kitchen Chemistry

Dr Chris Thompson. Associate Dean Education, Faculty of Science Senior Lecturer BA(AS), BSc(Hons), PhD(Chemistry) and Senior Lecturer at Monash University. Chris has a background in physical chemistry, spectroscopy and computation chemistry. His research focus lies in the domain of science education.

Food has recently re-emerged as a key topic in VCE Chemistry.

Chemicals often get a bad rap in the media, so most people need to be reminded that everything - even water - is a 'chemical' and that everything that lives in our kitchen cupboard and our fridge is a chemical.

This presentation seeks to explore that chemistry, and investigate why different molecules can achieve different things when we use them in our food.”

There will be opportunity for questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>11-15 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Laboratory</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>9 -12</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>11am Thursday 8 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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Biology

DNA Workshops

These hands-on workshops are designed to provide practical experience relevant to Outcome 1 of Unit 4: Biological Continuity and Change.

Last year over 270 students from 21 schools participated in these hands on workshops. The content is designed by academics in the School of Applied and Biomedical sciences and is regularly reviewed. During Term 2 last year, we hosted the VCAA’s Implementation Briefings in the key areas of science, including Biology.

Registrations are now open for the 2016 workshops.

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<th>Years</th>
<th>VCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Location</td>
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Information and registration, contact us!

Engagement

The Conoco-Philips Science Experience (TSE)

It’s on again during Term 3 holidays 20-22 September. New faces, new programs and new field trip destinations!

This 3 day program brings together like minded Yr 9 and 10 students from across Gippsland to share a university experience designed to demonstrate the various fields of science.

This experience is particularly useful to students contemplating a career in science. They will meet academic staff, undergraduate students and members of the Young Scientists of Australia.

The 2016 program is under development. For full registration information visit https://www.scienceexperience.com.au/

Rotary Australia support students interested in attending this event.

What 2015 participants thought!

‘Exploring the different fields of science, team bonding/leaders were fun, meeting new people’.

‘Because it helped me know what I want to do.’

Some even said they were coming back this year!
National Science Week 2016
13-21 August

2016 school theme: Drones, droids and robots

In 2016 schools explore ‘Technology’ in STEM. Autonomous technology, with the National Science Week school theme of Drones, droids and robots, will centre on the real-world application of autonomous technologies in areas including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, medicine and space and deep ocean exploration. And let’s not forget how this technology has transformed our day-to-day lives – from robot vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers to automated pool cleaners.

Applications for school grants of up to $500 are now open and close 22 April 2016. There’s a grant pool of $90 000 and applications are welcome from all schools from preschool to senior secondary.

Find out more

First place 2015 Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize (Secondary)
The secret of the appendix

Check out Paige Beebe revealing the secret of the appendix.

Paige is from Ivanhoe Girl’s Grammar.

To find other entries visit http://australianmuseum.net.au/eureka

What’s coming up?
Our team are currently working on:

→ The annual and highly competitive Maths Challenge for Yrs 8 & 9
→ Discipline Development Workshops for Teachers (including Meet the Assessor sessions) in
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics

And don’t forget National Science Week 2016 is coming up too! 13-21 August.
To find out how schools can get involved visit http://www.scienceweek.net.au/