



Newsletter

November 2025



Contents:

STANT President's report

STANT Committee and AGM

Information and Resource links

ASTA news

Upcoming Events

STANT AGM

Monday 8 December 2025
1CDU Danala, Level 3, Room 18
Afternoon Tea provided

ConASTA74 Planning Workshop

Friday 12 December at CDU Danala,
Cavanagh Street Darwin.
9am-1pm.
Morning Tea and lunch provided.

ASTA News

Teaching Science Journal

Overview of articles

Release of 2026 Science
Week Theme

Exciting News for NT

Conasta74 in Darwin

5 - 8 July 2027

Look out for exciting new
Professional Learning
Opportunities for STANT
members in 2026

2025 Committee and President's Report



President's Report

What a busy and productive year it has been for STANT. From presenting our first NTBOS Psychology Award to agreeing to host ConASTA74 in Darwin in 2027.

Four of our members attended ConASTA72 in Perth this year, and 3 members received scholarships to support participation in interstate conferences.

The Territory Young Scientists Awards received over 800 entries this year, and we have secured a \$7000 donation towards new climate focused categories and awards starting in 2026.

A big thank you to our Vice president, Jude for developing our first newsletter. Our aim is to send one out each term, so if you have any special news, please email Jude or Justine.

STANT 2025 Committee

President: Justine Small

Vice President: Jude Dawson

Secretary: Hemangi Surti

Acting Treasurer: Justine Small

Public Officer: Callum Williamson

ASTA Representative: Rebecca Pan

Territory Young Scientists Awards Committee:

Hemangi Surti, Rebecca Pan, Shenae Kuo and Roopa Bandi

e. hello@stant.tidymail.co

w. <https://stant.tidyhq.com>

For all membership enquires contact hello@stant.tidymail.co

AGM Monday 8 December, 4:30-5:30pm, CDU Danala, Level 3 Room 18, Darwin City

Scan the QR code below to access the STANT committee nomination form.



STANT'S VISION:

- Provide high quality professional learning to our members.
- Offer support, advice and networking opportunities.
- Opportunities to apply for grants to attend state and national conferences.
- Reduced registration fees for PTANT events.
- Provide membership to the Australian Science Teacher's Association (ASTA)
- Access to, and recognising best practice in teaching via bi-annual PTANT Awards.

SCAN FOR MEMBERSHIP



Information, Suggestions and Resources

Information

Are you in a remote location and want to travel to Darwin for the face-to-face workshop on Friday 12 December? If so, please email justine.small@education.nt.gov.au to ask about PTANT grant funding to support you.

We are hoping to complete Finance and Risk training with interested members before the end of the year. If you are interested in joining, please contact Justine or Jude.

Suggestions

We would love to hear your recommendations for professional development. Is there someone you would like to invite to present? Is there a particular resource we should invest in? Do you have ideas for ConASTA74 in Darwin? Should we invest in gifts for our members?

Links to Resources

[Science: The Conversation](#)

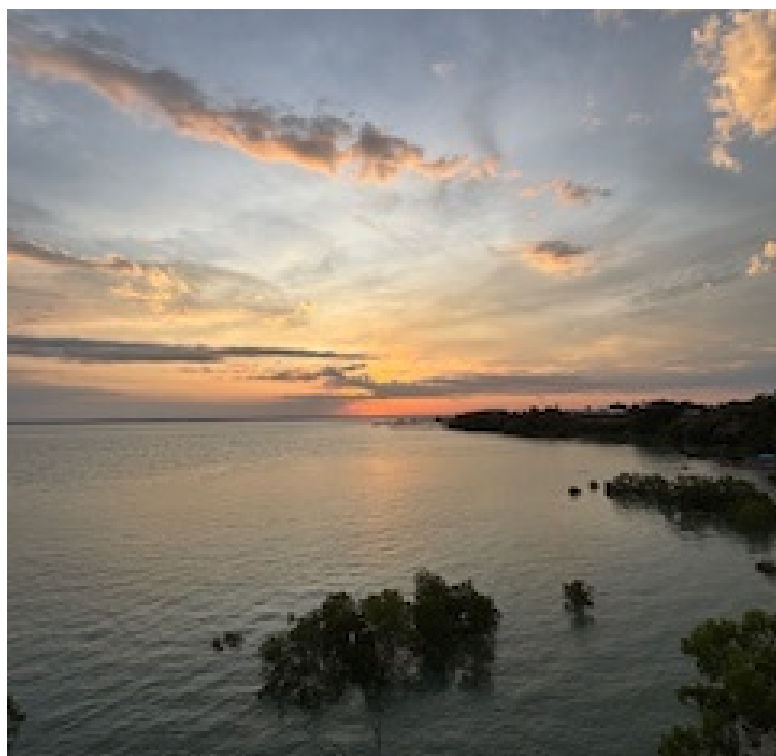
[CSIRO: Education](#)

[STTOP Free Education Program](#)

[Find Your Path Competition](#)

[Give Earth a Chance](#)

[Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia Resources](#)





ASTA News

We're pleased to share the latest edition of Teaching Science Journal – Issue 71.3 – featuring two insightful papers for science educators, plus an important position paper from ASTA.

1. Productive Failure in Science Education

Learning from failure is a key skill for scientists, yet in classrooms it often triggers negative emotions. Sandra Vecchio demonstrates how junior secondary science teachers can reframe failure as a meaningful learning opportunity. Using earthquake seismology, she illustrates how productive failure design fosters resilience, helping students become comfortable with setbacks and better prepared for STEM careers.

2. Exploring Microbial Growth and Diversity

Shruthi Chakravarthy and Venkata Bayinini introduce hands-on microbiology activities for high schoolers (ages 14–15), exploring microorganisms from varied samples. Students enhanced their experimental design skills, deepened understanding of microbial diversity, fermentation and food safety – and reported improved lab skills and engagement. Early exposure to active microbiology boosted both scientific literacy and interest in STEM paths.

3. ASTA position paper: Inquiry vs explicit teaching – Misrepresentation

ASTA challenges the idea that inquiry-based and explicit teaching are opposing methods. Both are essential and framing them as mutually exclusive oversimplifies teaching and limits opportunities for student learning.

You can read the full articles and explore the latest issue here:

<https://asta.edu.au/other-resources/tsj-latest-edition/>

The National Science Week schools' theme has been announced for 2026:

<https://asta.edu.au/national-science-week-schools-theme-announced-for-2026-seeds-of-science-nurturing-knowledge-for-all/>

