



Newsletter

June 2026



INTERSECT at CDU Radicle on Tuesday 24 March

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Upcoming Events

ASERA57 Brisbane
30 June -3 July 2026

ConASTA73 Brisbane
7-10 July 2026

ConASTA74 Committee Meeting
17 July at CDU Radicle

GeoScieEdX Adelaide
14-16 August 2026

ASTA News

Teaching Science Journal

Overview of articles

2026 Science Week Theme
Seeds of Science: Nurturing
Knowledge for all

Exciting News for NT

Conasta74 in Darwin
5 - 8 July 2027

Thank you to all who participated in filming the handover video at INTERSECT and CDU Danala.

Monthly planning meetings CDU Danala start Friday 17 July at 4pm, please join the committee to get involved.

Partnerships include:



How to Enrich STEM Learning Through Community Partnerships: Insights from a Churchill Fellowship

Last year, Dr Luke Steller, a science educator and Northern Territory Regional Leader at Questacon, undertook a Churchill Fellowship to explore how schools can work alongside community partners to create more meaningful and engaging STEM learning opportunities. Through visits to schools, museums, libraries, and community organisations across the United States and United Kingdom, Luke explored practical approaches to connecting classroom learning with local people, places, and industries.

The Fellowship was inspired by Luke's own experiences working across science research, STEM education, and community engagement over the past decade. Throughout working with schools across Australia, he observed that learning is often most powerful when students engage with authentic local experiences, learn from community expertise, and see their own cultures, strengths, and aspirations reflected in the learning process. The Fellowship set out to investigate how schools and communities can build these connections more effectively.

Throughout the journey, Luke met educators and organisations leading innovative approaches to place-based and community-led learning. Reflecting on the experience, he said: "It was inspiring to see how many organisations were creating world-class STEM learning by building on the strengths, knowledge and interests already present in their communities. It also reinforced how much outstanding work is already happening here in the Territory, and now that I'm back I'm excited to connect with and learn from others working in this space."

Luke's Churchill Fellowship report includes six practical recommendations that educators can begin applying in their own schools and communities. The report is [available here](#). If you would like to connect, learn more about the Fellowship, or share examples of how you're working with community in your school, please contact Luke at luke.steller@Questacon.edu.au. Luke will also be sharing Fellowship insights with STEM NT members later this year (so watch this space)!

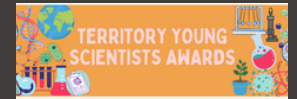


(photos of some of the amazing educators Luke met with, including teacher Fredi Lajvardi, who's Arizona based high school robotics group won an international university robotics challenge (and was the inspiration of the movie Spare Parts), and the incredible education team at the American Museum of Natural History.

STANT are delighted to welcome Luke to the team as one of our newest members.



Information, Suggestions and Resources



Information

The Territory Young Scientists Awards are now open for entries. This year we've added three climate-focused categories to help students explore how human actions affect Earth's climate and inspire ideas to reduce CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions. Access the competition booklet and entry form [here](#).

[CoolPlus](#) supports science classrooms through curriculum-aligned, classroom-ready resources, online professional learning, and a teacher-centred AI lesson builder designed specifically for Australian contexts. If you are interested, they are offering STANT members a reduced subscription fee.



Suggestions

We would love to hear your recommendations for professional development. Is there someone you would like to invite to present, or a particular resource we should invest in?

Links to Resources

[World Environment Day Resources at Cool.org](#)

[The Climate Council has a huge array of resources](#)

[Future You have a new STEM role model in the Antarctic](#)

The latest [Educator Update from Questacon](#) has great reflections on reconciliation as well as links to resources.

[Get into STEM](#) have increased their tools and resources

President's Report

What a super busy term we have all had and Semester 1 of 2026 is almost over!

Thank you to all the amazing people who made it along to our two filming sessions for the handover video for ConASTA73 in Brisbane. We filmed at the Term 2 INTERSECT event at MAGNT, at CDU Danala, including our partners at the CDU Radicle STEM Centre and at Nightcliff. Our amazing videographer, Chiranth, will capture the final footage of Edwin Fejo, with the Welcome to Country next week.

Our new shirts have arrived and will feature heavily in the video, which will be shared with you when it becomes available. We are still waiting for permission from Larrakia Nation to put it onto our website for the year leading up to ConASTA74, our opportunity to shine.

If you have not received a STANT branded shirt, USB or highlighter yet, please email Justine with the best way to get these to you.

Please remember, if you have any special news, resources, ideas or information you would like to add to the newsletter please email Justine:
justine.small@education.nt.gov.au



ASTA News

We're pleased to share the latest edition of Teaching Science Journal – Issue 72.2.

What does it take to build Australia's future science capability?

This edition explores this question through ASTA's latest position paper, which calls for genuine education reform to strengthen science and mathematics participation, reduce inequity, and better prepare students for future challenges.

This issue also features:

- Hands-on microbiology activities that help students investigate microbial diversity, fermentation, food spoilage, and disease prevention.
- New research exploring what influences students to value science, using personal artefacts to uncover the experiences and relationships that shape science identity.
- Information from Science Assist on Microbiology and immunocompromised students.
- Fostering experimental skills through intense hands-on microbiology activities.

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

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

Please remember to check the ASTA website regularly <https://asta.edu.au/> they advertise science PL that is happening around the country, and this is the ideal spot to register for the conferences mentioned on the first page of this newsletter. We can access many valuable online presentations through the other STA's.

Just a reminder, the 2026 National Science Week Schools Resource Book is here! This year's theme, **Seeds of Science: Nurturing knowledge for all** invites students and teachers to explore how agricultural practices have changed over time to enable food security. However, sowing science knowledge in all of us plays a very crucial role.

[Download your FREE copy now](https://asta.edu.au/science_resource/seeds-of-science) and spark curiosity in your classroom!

https://asta.edu.au/science_resource/seeds-of-science

TEACHER PD

MEMBERS FREE Webinar Series

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR ONLINE EXAMS
with Sarah Shoobridge

Wednesday 3 June
4.00-5.00pm

SASTA

📅 3 June 2026
🕒 4.00-5.00 PM

SASTA: Webinar Series

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

CONFERENCE AT 2026

Seeds of Science

Nurturing Knowledge

13th June

📅 13 June 2026

ConSTAT 2026: Save the Date

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

