**E-newsletter #2 December 2013**

**Induction workshop for Science ASSIST expert groups**

In Adelaide on 9 December 2013, the members of the Online Science Teachers Expert Group (OSTEG) and Online Laboratory Technicians Advisory Group (OLTAG) attended an induction workshop coordinated and run by the Science ASSIST project operations group.

The workshop aimed to provide the expert group members with a broad understanding of the background of the Science ASSIST project and a detailed understanding of their roles within it. In addition, members were able to give feedback on the work already undertaken and offer guidance to support the development of the Science ASSIST website as well as contribute to the development of a survey regarding science in primary schools.

OSTEG members will be working to create a curated collection of resources that cover all year levels and strands of the Australian Curriculum: Science. One of their tasks will be to populate, catalogue, and maintain a curated collection of online science resources. They will identify valuable online resources while avoiding substandard ones. There may also be the opportunity to create resources and/or enrich or adapt existing ones.

To begin this work, each OSTEG member has been assigned an initial focus area of the Australian Curriculum: Science. They will begin populating the Science ASSIST website with appropriate and high quality resources over the coming months. In addition, these resources will be catalogued to form a resource directory.

Initially, OLTAG will develop some key resources for laboratory technicians. These will be progressively uploaded to the Science ASSIST website. OLTAG will:

* develop a thesaurus of science laboratory equipment and chemical terminology. This is required so resources can be tagged to enable an effective search function on the website.
* develop a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) template
* collate a set of SOPs
* develop a standardised Risk Assessment template that is easy to use
* prepare answers to queries already submitted. These will form the first set of queries and expert responses on the Science ASSIST website
* begin investigating options to developing standardised labels that are suitable for small containers used in school science.

The workshop was an exciting step forward in the Science ASSIST project and each team member participated with enthusiasm. It was quite evident that the OSTEG and OLTAG teams were cohesive and motivated to work productively and collaboratively to make this project a success. There was also recognition of the hard work already done in getting the project to this point and of the tasks ahead.

As this is the final Science ASSIST newsletter for 2013, the project team would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your interest in, and support of, the Science ASSIST project. We look forward to a BIG 2014 with the launch of Science ASSIST mid-year. Our next newsletter will be in February.