

Welcome to the May issue of the **In2science** Update. There are just a couple of weeks left of the program for this semester. Placements are due to **finish the last week of May** though some Mentors have already expressed an interest in continuing into their exam period – these are dedicated Mentors indeed!

Part of the aim of **In2science** is to foster **links** between schools and the universities. Through our Mentors there have been excursions by classes to campuses and incursions of university staff to the schools. Many schools have sought support with new and exciting aspects of the curriculum. A big thankyou goes out to all university staff and Mentors who have facilitated this to happen.

In2science prize winners – this year we are invited companies and organisations to donate prizes that we can give away to teachers and Mentors who have participated each semester. The following teachers and Mentors names were drawn out of a hat on Monday 12th May at the Science Faculty Office, La Trobe University, Bundoora:



Prize	Winner	Winner
Nature of biology VCE Bk1 – X2 teachers	Vandana Chooromoney – Lalor North SC	Mark Brentnall – Viewbank College
Physics 1 VCE – X1 teacher	Amanda McTernan – Eltham HS	
Science Alive level 6 teacher support kit – X1 Mentor studying education	Tim Caldow	
Science Quest 1&2 – X1 Mentor studying education	Adam Jensen	
Science Quest 3&4 – X1 Mentor studying education	Gemma Slussareff	
Earth Echoes – DVD of Victoria's crust and seismic survey – X2 teachers	Emmy Malfroy – Mt Waverley SC	Melanie Hunt – Montmorency SC
National Ocean Flythrough (3d footage), Uluru & Kata Tjuta a geological history, Silicate Chemistry – teachers notes– X1 teacher	Helen Lloyd – East Doncaster SC	
ESRI Australia – mapping package for education – X2 teachers	Kellie Felmingham – McKinnon SC	Andy Marshall – Wodonga Middle Years College

Many thanks again go to **Geoscience Australia** and **John Wiley & Sons Australia Ltd** for their kind donations. Prizes will be on their way to the recipients by post.

There is still time for schools to enter for the nanotechnology prize:

Nanotechnology Victoria Ltd – the offer of \$1000 each towards the costs of attending a nanotechnology-related conference in Australia for any two teachers who are able to show evidence of developing nanotechnology-based curriculum in their school during this semester. Submissions will be due to the Peer Mentoring Manager by the end of placements (**week of the 26th May**) for judging. This is open to school involved in the **In2science** program and those who have participated in the **In2nanotech** roadshow.

In2science News

In2science Board member and Dean of Science at the University of Melbourne, **Professor Peter Rathjen** has been promoted to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). **In2science** wishes to thank Prof. Rathjen for all his support and commitment to the program and wish him well in his new role.

Professor Liz Sonenberg will take over as Dean of Science in the interim. Professor Sonenberg is an outstanding scholar in the field of Information and Computing Sciences. Her research interests are in the design of adaptive, distributed, and intelligent information systems. We welcome Liz in her new role and look forward to sharing the successes of the **In2science** program with her.

This semester saw **seven** of our Peer Mentors complete their third semester of placement. These Mentors will receive a letter of commendation from their respective Dean. These students have shown a lot of commitment to the aims of the program and it is through their diligence and dedication that **In2science** is able to keep growing. Students completing their third placement are:

Shaun Khoo, BSc/BA – the University of Melbourne
Richmond Glasgow, Eng/BSc - the University of Melbourne
Victoria McGrath, BSc/BA - the University of Melbourne
Megan Huggard, Bachelor of Medical Science – La Trobe University
Amanda Perdomo, BSc/Science Education – La Trobe University
Rebecca Pantelejenko, Bachelor of Biological science – La Trobe University
Jacob Heppell, BSc (Chemical Sciences) – La Trobe University, Bendigo

We look forward to presenting these students with their letters of commendation.

In2science arranged for Gabriel, a student from partner school **Eumemmerring College - Gleneagles Campus** to spend an afternoon with Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Adrienne Chandler-Temple. He learnt about material science and imaging. Many thanks also to Mentors Tom and Daniel for showing the Gabriel round the physics department.



Gabriel finds out about imaging techniques

Peer Mentoring in Action

Despite the teachers strikes, public holidays and numerous curriculum days and athletics days our Peer Mentors have endeavoured to attend their school to help teachers engage their students in science and mathematics. It seems that environmental issues and sustainability have been popular topics this semester. Here is a selection of what they have been up to in recent weeks:



Mentor Gemma helps students with data logging at Eltham HS

At **Eltham HS**, Mentor Gemma has been helping students get to grips with forces and motion. They had a great time using 'Logger Pro' software and 'go motion' sensors to plot graphs of bouncing balls.

Mentor Bec at **Bundoora SC** has been doing a great job engaging the students about some aspects of botany. Students were keen to learn about fungi and which ones to stay away from.

At **Viewbank Coll** Mentor Jenny has been specifically working with some Y12 Specialist Maths students. Although VCE classes are not normally targeted by the program Jenny has been a great help to both students and teacher. Jenny also

organised a visit to La Trobe for the students to do some problem solving in the maths department.

At **East Doncaster SC**, Mentor Matt has been helping students with immunology while Mentor Lori has been supporting students learn about the carbon cycle and modelling the reaction in photosynthesis using 'Smarties'. The students had a great time allocating the lollies



Mentor Megan at Coburg SHS

for different elements and then balancing the equation (plus eating a few along the way. Well done Lori.

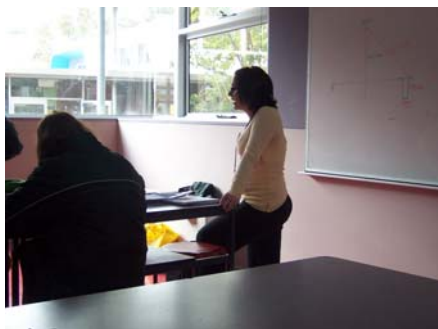
At **Mill Park SC**, Mentor Amanda has been helping the teacher organise a visit in to La Trobe. While at the senior campus Mentor Jessica is back at her old school and helping Year 10 students understand environmental issues and sustainability. Mentor Alex at the school was helping small groups of students use a simple spectrometer. Well done.

Mentors Megan and Philippa have been supporting students at **Coburg Senior HS** with their work in chemistry, investigating emulsifiers and chemical bonding. Well done.

Our Mentors at **Pascoe Vale Girls College** have been having fun too. Mentor Keshia was helping the students get to grips with using light boxes. Although this was not her area of specialism she did a great job of explaining things to the students. Mentor Adam has also been working with the same year level using light boxes. Being a physicist, Adam was in his element! Helping students learn about the solubility of materials in water, Mentor Adele has been building a great rapport with both students and teacher.

In Bendigo, Mentor Hayley was helping students prepare for a test on genetics at **Flora Hill SC** (hopefully they all did well).

It is great to have new school **Gilmore College for Girls** on board this year. At the school Mentor Tri Thang has been helping out Year 9 students with the maths component of their investigations into water and sustainability. Mentor Nick has been helping the students with physics and is looking for ways of sharing his passion for pharmacology and sport with them in the coming weeks.



Mentor Temi at Strathmore SC

Mentor Temi was doing a great job of explaining a problem solving exercise to her maths class at **Strathmore SC**.

At **Reservoir District SC** the Mentors have been very hands on in their activities. Mentor Shainie has been helping the students learn about acids and bases and helped them make their own indicator from red cabbage. Mentor Cassie has been supporting students in the SEAL program learning about classification of species after their recent trip to the Aquarium. Mentor Amy was being challenged to remember her organic chemistry and helping students make esters. Well done.

Mentor Lu was doing a great job of explaining fractions on a recent visit to **Melbourne Girls College**. The students were very enthused and motivated by her explanations. Well done Lu.

Mentor Emma at **Mac Robertson Girls' HS** has been spending a lot of her time looking down microscopes both helping the students at the school identify plant stoma and at university for her own studies!

At New school to the program **Sandringham College's Highett Campus**, Mentor Alexandra has been having great fun helping students understand the brain and make 'playdo' brains themselves.

These are just some of the recent activities our mentors have been up to in the schools lately.



Mentor Alexandra at Sandringham Coll

At **Fitzroy HS**, Mentor Shaun has organised a visit into the zoology museum at the University of Melbourne.

Information for Mentors

Congratulations on all your hard work this semester.

Placements end the week of the 26th May so please ensure you let the class teachers know. If you are carrying on (as many of you are) make sure you let us know and talk to the teacher about when your last session will be. The students do get attached and like to say good bye.

Many of you have already expressed interest in mentoring again **next semester** which is fantastic. Make sure you let us know and then just inform us of your availability times. Feel free to stay at the same school (you may want to talk with the teachers about continuing with certain classes) or request a change. Several of you have already put your names down for 2009 as you are going on student exchange or know you are going to be overloaded for your course.

Do let your friends and classmates know about the program and direct them to the website or the **In2science** office to find out more or register.

Evaluations forms will be in the schools soon. For those new to the program, we ask that the teacher give you some feedback that may be of use for resumes etc. these will probably be done in the last week. Peer Mentors complete an online [evaluation](#), reminders of which we will be sent out soon.

Travel claim forms can be submitted either to John at La Trobe or Alison Wray (via the Faculty Office) at the University of Melbourne. Forms can be found in the Mentor packs and on the [website](#).

Information for Schools

As we come to the end of this round of placements we would like to thank all the teachers for their efforts this semester. Teachers that are willing to have Peer Mentors in their classes to help them engage their students are the linchpin of the program. The more teachers we have volunteering in schools then the more Mentors we can place. **In2science** is happy to talk with staff about the program and how to use the Peer Mentors to achieve the best benefits for all involved. Please contact us if you wish us to attend a departmental meeting etc. The program is also looking at running similar sessions at **STAVCON** this year and other similar events.

Evaluations forms will be in the schools soon. Link Teachers should be able to distribute them to the relevant teachers and then return them in the coming weeks. The evaluation process has been extremely valuable in allowing us to prepare Mentors for their placement and manage the program appropriately. The evaluations have also provided us with the vital evidence of the success of the program, essential for gaining ongoing funding for the program.

Please ensure all classes know when the **Mentors last week** will be so they can say goodbye. Many of the students get very attached to the Mentors so it is important that there is formal closure for them.

Website to try

If you are doing some work on [minerals](#) and want a good site to help find out about them try this UK site.

The following site has information about a range of Victorian environmental initiatives including PD and things for student to enter <http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/> it includes information on entries for the 2008 Victorian **ResourceSmart** School of the Year Awards.

[Practical Physics](#) is a UK site that has a useful range of resources for both teachers and students.

News from the institutions

La Trobe University

Annual Medical Research Tertiary Careers Evening, Tuesday 20th May– of interest to teacher, Y12 science students and university students.

Presented by The Australian Society for Medical Research during Medical Research Week@2008. Hear from speakers with biomedical science degrees about:

What can you do with a biomedical degree or a PhD in medical research? How work can take you overseas.

Careers in science communication, biotech, public health and much more!

Where: BUNDOORA CAMPUS - WEST LECTURE THEATRE 2LA **Time:** 6.30 - 8.30pm

Free: Plus free pizza and drinks.

For more information contact bkgriffiths@optusnet.com.au

The Faculty of Education at the Bundoora campus is running a professional learning program for middle years (5-9) teachers and science days for students. [More information](#)

Nancy Millis Lecture: "VACCINES, GLOBAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY"

The speaker is **Professor Myron M. Levine**, M.D., D.T.P.H. He is the Grollman Distinguished Professor and Director of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Center for Vaccine Development.

Venue: West Lecture Theatre 1, Bundoora campus. **Thursday the 3rd of July from 6:15pm.**

The University of Melbourne



Welcome to Real World Maths in Action

***** Registration is open from Thursday 1st May 2008, until Friday 20th June 2008 *****

Wednesday 25th June 2008, 9.00am - 3.30pm

Every two years, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics holds a one-day maths fair at the University of Melbourne. The target audience consists of Year 11 and 12 students and their teachers. The main objectives of the fair are:

- To promote the importance and broad applications of mathematics and problem solving skills
- To raise awareness of career opportunities for mathematics and statistics graduates.

The program is designed to both engage as well as inform. There are two key events: Mathematicians Exposed! and the Mathematics in Industry and Technology (MIT) Challenge.

<http://www.msaction.ms.unimelb.edu.au/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.unimelb.edu.au%2F>

Monash University

RESEARCH

New evidence of dinosaurs found in south Pacific

A Monash University researcher has found the first evidence that land-dwelling dinosaurs lived on isolated islands of the south-west Pacific.

Dr Jeffrey Stilwell, a research fellow in palaeontology led a team that found fossils of theropod dinosaurs on the Chatham Islands, 860 kilometres east of New Zealand. Finger, spinal and foot bones as well as a claw of the carnivores were uncovered.

John McDonald
In2science Manager