



**Welcome to the last edition of the In2science newsletter for 2009.** Placements have now finished and our Mentors are busy with their end of year exams at university.

This is our last newsletter for the year and we look forward to resuming them in 2010.

**In2science** has been busy interviewing prospective Mentors for 2010 and we have been really impressed by the young people we have spoken with. At this stage we have well over **180** students keen to be placed in schools in Term one next year, over 50 more than this time last year which is excellent.

Many of our current Mentors will be finishing university this year. It is always sad to see them leave, but we wish them all the best and hope they will keep in touch.

We wish to thank our funding partners, the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** and the **George Alexander Foundation**. Without their generous support **In2science** would not be able to continue and grow.



**Professor David Finlay**, current Dean of Science, Technology and Engineering at La Trobe University, will be retiring at the end of the year. David was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the **In2science** program in 2004 and he has worked tirelessly to ensure its success since. David has been an ambassador for the benefits that can be achieved from the program for teachers, students and the Peer Mentors themselves. The Board of **In2science** sincerely hopes that David will continue to work with the program and take up the seat on the Board recently vacated by Dr Alan Finkel.

**Professor Brian McGaw** will be taking over from David as Dean of Science, Technology and Engineering at La Trobe University in the New Year and will take up the Dean's position on the **In2science** Board. We welcome Brian to his new role and look forward to working with him on the **In2science** program.

## In2science News

**In2science roadshows** – this year we are running two roadshows to regional Victoria. The **In2nanotech** roadshow will visit schools in the northern and alpine areas. Schools already booked in are **Wangaratta HS, Euroa SC, Mansfield SC, Beechworth SC, Bright P-12 Coll and Myrtleford P-12 Coll**.

We will also be running a biotechnology roadshow in conjunction with the [Get into Genes](#) program. Called **In2biotech**, this will look at the issue of climate change and the work being done to use biotechnology to address these issues from an agricultural perspective. This roadshow will be visiting schools in the Wimmera District including **Stawell SC, Warracknabeal SC, Murtoa SC and Dimboola Memorial SC**.

Both roadshows will be running the first week of December and we look forward to visiting the schools and working with their students.

We look forward to reporting on our travels in 2010.

**In2science** manager John and Mentors Amanda and Emma recently attended a public science event in Ballarat run by [RIAus](#) as part of their Free Range Science events program here in Victoria. The topic was nanotechnology and there was a good turnout of locals, eager to find out more.



*Mentor Emma explains the theory behind gold nanoparticles at the RIAus event*

## Mentoring in Action

There were several exciting activities going on in the schools at the end of the placement and many Mentors have continued on at their school for a few more weeks. Here are a few examples of what has been happening towards the end of the placements.

At **Lalor North SC**, Mentor Jess was able to organise a visit into the Space Science area of La Trobe University for her Y10 class. The students were able to see a presentation about solar output and its effects on the Earth by two PhD students and then go to the observatory to actually look at a recently appeared sun spot. Thanks Jess for organising this, and to Brett, Adam and Shaun for their presentation and help. The students really enjoyed it. Brett and Adam are also doing the presentation at a couple of our other partner schools in the near future.



*Students from Lalor North with Jess and Shaun*

At **Eltham HS**, Mentor Ruth ran a pharmacology activity for the students. She introduced them to the topic and then ran an investigation into the effects of high energy drinks on the body. The students really enjoyed it and had an opportunity to see a different side of science to what they were used to. Well done Ruth and a big thank you to past Mentor Francis who provided the ideas. Francis is now doing a PhD in pharmacology and was an In2science Mentor in 2006.



*Students from Strathmore SC get to grips with microbes*

Students from **Strathmore SC** recently attended La Trobe University to undertake a microbiology activity. Mentor Hewitt organised everything and microbiology academic; Anna Morris ran an excellent activity for the students in the lab. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Mentor Laura at **Pascoe Vale Girls' Coll** has been putting her university studies of chemistry to good use by helping out with Cosmetic Chemistry. Laura built a great rapport with the students and the class teacher.

At **Sandringham SC**, Mentor Sam has been helping out with some electronics. Sam was able to attend the Solar Challenge event on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October held at Scienceworks. Well done Sam a real commitment to the program and the students

At Northcote HS, Mentor Shaun challenged his scientific knowledge by helping students understand earth science. Shaun was able to source some samples from the Geology Department at the University of Melbourne and take them to the school for investigation by the students. Great effort Shaun.

We look forward to many more excellent interactions between the Mentors and our partner schools in 2010.

## Information for Schools

Many thanks for all your hard work this year. **In2science** hopes that teachers and students have gained from the experience. Many teachers comment that they were able to learn from the Mentor about a particular aspect of science and that the support in the classroom has been invaluable for their students.

Please try to get the **In2science Evaluations returned as soon as possible for inclusion in the annual report.**

**Teacher's and link teacher's evaluations are done online and emails have been sent out regarding this.**

**Student feedback from the classes hosting a Mentor is sought from each class and forms have been sent out to schools.**

It is only by undertaking evaluations that we can determine how successful the program is and the benefits being achieved. It is also a way in which we can learn about issues regarding the program and then endeavour to put them right.

In October we sent out letters to the principals of all the schools associated with the program to thank staff for involvement. Letters also included some best practice examples of how teachers had ensured the program had a high profile in the school:

1. The Link Teacher keeps in regular contact with the program.

2. Departmental/faculty meetings allocate some time to discuss the **In2science** program and teachers share their experiences.
3. Students and teachers include articles in the school newsletter about the classes with the **In2science** Mentors.
4. Senior management within the school are kept informed via the Link Teacher.
5. Teachers are encouraged to participate in the program and to experiment with new pedagogy whist supported by the Mentors in the classroom.

**We look forward to working with the schools to help maximise the achievable benefits of the program in 2010.**

### **2010 Placements**

Please ensure the **Link Teacher form** is completed even if your school did not host a Mentor this semester. Information you provide helps us with the planning and allocation of Mentors. We will be contacting schools in early February with details of the Mentors we have available. If schools have preferences for Mentors with a particular discipline background then do let us know so we can do our best to meet your needs.

### **Information for Mentors**

Thank you for all your hard work this semester. It has been fantastic working with you all and seeing you in action in the schools.

Make sure you have completed the [evaluation form](#) - your feedback is extremely valuable whether this is your first or fifth placement.

If you have not let John or Jacinta know your interest in mentoring again next year then please do so. You may be finishing uni this year so again keep us informed.

Don't forget to submit your travel expenses for reimbursement of up to \$10.00 per week. Travel claim forms are located at the back of your Peer Mentor's pack or on the [website](#).

**- Best wishes for the exams -**

### **News from the Institutions**

#### **La Trobe University**

##### **Free XBOX 360 Games Development Workshop**

**Date:** Wednesday 18 November

**Time:** 10.00 and 4.00pm

**Venue:** Beth Gleeson Building, Level 1, La Trobe University, Bundoora campus

What to bring: Lunch or money for lunch, Headphones for muzik and sound editing, USB memory stick to take home your projects, Ideas, drawings, images, concepts, sounds

To register please contact Paul Taylor – [p.taylor@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:p.taylor@latrobe.edu.au) , 0400 014 159.

##### **Public Lecture**

*"What can neuroscience tell us about the nature of consciousness?"*

What is consciousness? How can we determine when someone is conscious? Are humans the only animals capable of conscious experience?

To be presented by **Professor Jason Mattingley**,

Queensland Brain Institute & School of Psychology, The University of Queensland, Australia

**When:** Tuesday 10 November 2009, 6pm - 7pm

**Where:** Hooper Lecture Theatre, Bundoora campus

Further information: email [k.pascoe@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:k.pascoe@latrobe.edu.au)

## The University of Melbourne

### School of Botany Biennial two-day teachers' Conference 2009:

**Date:** Thur 3rd December, Fri 4th December 2009

**Time:** 9.00am to 3.30pm each day (2 days)

**Venue:** The School of Botany, University of Melbourne,  
Parkville Campus

**Cost:** Free of charge

For further information, to join our email list, or to book for the conference, contact Marie Thorpe on 8344 5071 or email [thorpem@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:thorpem@unimelb.edu.au).

<http://www.botany.unimelb.edu.au/botany/schoolresources/teaprofdev.html>

**The Chemistry Education Association**, in conjunction with the **School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne**, presents an *in-service day* of interest to Chemistry teachers. The lectures will highlight some exciting recent developments and applications of Chemistry. The workshops are practical laboratory activities. It is also a great way to network with teaching colleagues.

**Date:** Tuesday 24 November 2009

**Time:** 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

**Venue:** Bio 21 Institute, The University of Melbourne

[http://www.cea.asn.au/chemistry\\_news.html](http://www.cea.asn.au/chemistry_news.html)

## Monash University

### [A Victoria without woodland birds?](#)

A 15-year study across northern and central Victoria has shown that about two-thirds of bird species - including lorikeets, pardalotes, thornbills and honeyeaters - have declined dramatically in distribution and numbers.

Did you know 2010 will be the [International Year of Biodiversity](#) as designated by the UN.

## The In2science Team

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