



Newsletter

Term 2 - 2009

Action required on:	Closing date	Done
NZASE subscription for 2009	Overdue – see website	
Biology exam	Order now	

Please circulate to all staff and return to:

Staff							
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From the President

Winter has been long this year but I hope you all are staying warm and especially well. And many congratulations to the organisers of Physikos, ChemEd and BEANZ, these were all highly successful conferences. I was very impressed by the range of activities and speakers.

Next year is SciCon, running from the 4th – 7th July in Nelson. I hope that many of you can come and that Nelson will turn on its famously sunny weather during this time.

The alignment process has caused a lot of anxiety over the last few months. Standards have been written for Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics at Level One and matrices for Levels Two and Three so that there is now a sense of direction in some subjects. However, there are still unanswered questions about certain standards and I'll attempt to answer some of these.

What is happening to the 189xx series of Unit Standards?

At the moment, we are not sure. The writing group has presented many submissions asking that they be kept but have not had any definite answers yet. At the moment NZQA and MoE are consulting on a proposal that 20 credits towards Level One NCEA can come from standards at below curriculum level 6 (just as 20 credits towards Level Two and Three NCEA can come from Level One and Two respectively). There will be literacy and numeracy standards developed for this purpose, but these may not include the 189xx standards.

We are worried that these will be removed so we are planning for this eventuality. We will be facilitating the development of Achievement level tasks for the new internal standards that, if passed, can count towards NCEA Level One as well as the NZASE Certificate of Science.

What is happening to the Human Biology standards?

We are not sure of this either. The biologists and the writing group have been working very hard to retain Human Biology standards at Level 1 and to ask that they be developed at Levels 2 and 3. Again we haven't had much success from our numerous submissions.

However, all matrices can now have more than 24 credits so the biologists have developed a suite of standards at Level 1, many of which can be assessed in a Human Biology context. Schools can still run both Biology and Human Biology courses concurrently if they wish.

What is happening to Science standards at Levels 2 and 3?

Sciences were given a special dispensation from the strict "no duplication" requirement, but for Level 1 only. Most of Science Level 2 and 3 standards overlap with standards from Physics, Chemistry and Biology and are also not at the correct curriculum level, except for Planet Earth and Beyond ones.

However, the matrices at Level 2 and 3 for Physics, Chemistry and Biology will contain standards that will be accessible for Science students, and so Level 2 and 3 Sciences courses can still be run. NZASE will also facilitate the development of tasks for such standards.

Also, the writing group was asked to develop standards for the Planet Earth and Beyond strand with the same credit value as standards for the other Sciences. This means that Planet Earth and Beyond standards now have plenty of substance in them. It is proposed that they form the basis of a new subject called Earth and Space Science. They can also be taken as part of a Science course.

Hopefully this answers some people's concerns. If there are any questions that you wish to have specifically answered email us at nzase@confer.co.nz.

Enjoy the rest of your holidays

Jenny Pollock

ATTENTION BIOLOGY TEACHERS

Now available for ordering:



'2008 NCEA Level 3 Biology Mock Examination'

and

'Resource CD' containing questions from the 04, 05, 06 & 07 Examinations

Biology Educators Association of New Zealand (BEANZ) is once again providing a Mock Examination package of four NCEA Level 3 'Mock Examination papers' (one for each externally assessed Achievement Standard: B3.3 *DNA/Gene expression*; B3.4 *Animal Behaviour & Plant Response*; B3.5 *Evolution* and B3.7 *Human Evolution*).

The quality and presentation of the booklets will match NZQA standards. The files are set as a *WORD.doc* so that the school logo can be added as well as formatted to suit your school examination policies.

The 'Resource CD' package contains 68 questions from past mock Examination papers. It is intended for schools that have not previously purchased these exams and want a bank of questions to be used for formative assessments, tests and student worksheets during the year.

The cost of the NCEA Level 3 Biology Achievement Standards package:

2008 Mock Examination (on CD). \$ 70.00 (includes GST + P & P).

Resource CD \$120.00 (includes GST + P & P).

Both CDs \$160.00 (includes GST + P & P).

TO ORDER PLEASE FAX OR EMAIL DETAILS.

Fax number: **(07) 838 4712** (Attention: Margaret Drummond enquiries phone (07) 858 5171)

Email: **wmier@waikato.ac.nz**

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News flashes:

Astronomy Resources

Ngawhetu resources would like to draw your attention to the fact that a new, New Zealand based, facility has come along for Astronomy resources, aiming at educators and students alike. It is accessible through the website www.ngawhetu.com.

Modules are available on a variety of topics, and many more are available soon. Our flagship is the EBook on the Solar System, a comprehensive and up-to-date resource, with lots of interactive content, which is available for a site license fee. Most of the resources on offer however are free of charge and can be run directly from the website, or downloaded for local installation.

We firmly believe that astronomy is an excellent subject to generate an interest in sciences in general among young people and that it could help to reverse the worrying trend of a decline in such interests as is being reported in various countries. Our incentive is to support educators and students with quality, up-to-date and web based resources for the study of astronomy, typically at High school level, for use in schools, in the home, in community education programmes, etc.

We also maintain and expand a Glossary on Astronomical terms, that is hyperlinked from our resources, and that can be used in other astronomy programmes as well, both through hyperlinks and through a search facility.

Ngā Whetū Resources.

International Climate change conference:

The first international teachers' conference Inspiring Climate Education, ICE09 will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, October 12-14, 2009. And there are still some spots available.

The conference aims at promoting:

- Interdisciplinary teaching
- Cooperation between educational institutions and private enterprises
- Incorporating climate change into existing curriculum
- Students and teachers to take action

The objectives of the conference are:

- To attract attention on teaching current climate change
- To collect, qualify and disseminate teaching materials via the international homepage www.cop15.dk
- To exchange, inspire and develop best practice
- To contribute to international cooperation and network

The conference will attract around 200 international participants and is open to/invites lower and upper secondary school teachers, education researchers, civil servants and government officials, lecturers from teacher training colleges and universities with experience or interest in teaching climate change.

If you are interested, see details on the NZASE website www.nzase.org.nz

NZIPES: NZIP are committed to providing a quality, affordable service for all physics teachers in New Zealand.

We no longer sell any physical copies of our resources. All our resources are now available online. In order to access our resources please go to www.nzip.org.nz/es and click on the Register Online link.

The NZIPES subscription of \$100 per annum (which only covers the current calendar year) gives you access to:

- Y12 and 13 2009 examination papers
- Y12 and 13 Examination papers from each of the past eight years
- 2.7 2009 assessment (fully moderated to meet NZQA requirements)
- 2.7 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 assessments (fully moderated to meet NZQA requirements)
- Neat Zippy V (an enormous collection of great resources)
- Physics Teachers Guide
- 3.1 (90774) – four tasks all fully moderated to meet NZQA requirements
- A wide range of unit standard resources
- Knowledge, Skills and Applications in Y12 Physics
- 9 AC demonstrations
- Neat Zippy IV
- A new moderated 2.1 (90252) task enables teachers to assess students across a range of practical experiments rather than in a “one-off” situation.
- Other “shared” resources from fellow teachers

We have now completed our transition to a hosted service called Scholaris (an extremely advanced online learning environment)—this is being supported by NewEraIT and Microsoft; we appreciate their support.

Please also note that the \$100 subscription fee DOES NOT provide you with membership of our umbrella organisation NZIP. If you want to join NZIP please refer to the membership forms on the website www.nzip.org.nz.

Student success in Brain Bee Challenge

Students from Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Wellington proved their worth in the annual Brain Bee Challenge at The University of Auckland yesterday, winning both the individual and team challenges.

Kate Burgess was awarded first place in the individual competition, and together with Kimberley Low, Emily Hayward, and Avantika Singh, also won the team challenge. Kate will now go on to represent the North Island in a National New Zealand and Australian Brain Bee Challenge in early 2010.

Second place in the individual competition went to Robert Zhang of Auckland Grammar School, and third place to Ryan Lim-Yip of Massey High School. In the team event, St Cuthbert's College won second place, Epsom Girls Grammar School third and Onehunga High School fourth.

The annual competition saw Year 11 secondary students tested on their knowledge of the brain. Questions ranged from anatomy and neurochemistry to those covering emotions, intelligence, and brain diseases. Students also visited active neuroscience laboratories, and heard from leading neuroscientist Professor Richard Faull about the excitement and challenges of the human brain.

More than 160 students from 42 secondary schools around the North Island took part in the event. The excitement and tension built throughout the day as individual students and teams competed in a series of elimination rounds and finally answered sudden-death tie-breaker questions.

For more on this event visit our website www.nzase.org.nz

BAYERBOOST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME:

2009 BAYERBoost Scholarships now open

BAYERBoost is an environmental scholarship scheme aimed at giving senior secondary school and undergraduate tertiary students experience in environmental research or restoration during their summer break while at the same time providing financial support to them for further study. It is funded by Bayer NZ and administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The scheme is open to tertiary undergraduate students and Year 12/13 school students who are engaged in study at a New Zealand academic institution. Applicants must be either a New Zealand citizen, a permanent New Zealand resident or have a permanent humanitarian visa. Ideally, applicants will be studying environmental sciences or related subjects, and be intending to continue their study in this area.

The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Encourage and promote research *in, about* and *for* the environment
- Provide students with the opportunity to broaden their experience in research or action for the environment
- Enable students to gain experience in working with an accredited organisation involved in environmental research or rehabilitation.

We will be awarding 6 scholarships. Each scholarship will be worth:

- \$6,000 for a tertiary student who will be required to work for 12 weeks over the summer vacation,
- \$5,000 for a school student who will be required to work for 10 weeks, and
- \$3,000 for a Year 12 student who will be required to work for 6 weeks.

Scholarships will be awarded on a contestable basis.

Interested students should contact an organisation which could host them for the stated period and establish a project for their scholarship. This need not be a separate, discrete piece of work; they may simply join a team already working on a particular project. A list of possible host organisations are available on the BayerBoost website www.BAYERBoost.co.nz. This list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive, and students may well find other organisations which would be acceptable as hosts and come up with their own ideas for projects.

The scholarship guidelines, application form and academic reference form will also be available from the BAYERBoost website. Please note that an application will only be considered if it is accompanied by the necessary documentation (as stated in the guidelines), which includes a project proposal. Two academic references are required and must be sent directly to the Royal Society by the referees. The entire application must be **received** at the Royal Society of New Zealand, 4 Halswell Street, PO Box 598, Wellington by 5.00pm Tuesday 30 September 2009. No late applications will be accepted.

If you require any further information, please email BAYERBoost@rsnz.org or telephone Debbie Woodhall on 04 470 5762 or debbie.woodhall@rsnz.org

Also visit our website for more information on:

CLL WRITERS' AWARDS

New Zealand writers of non-fiction books are invited to apply for grants worth \$35,000 each in this year's Copyright Licensing Ltd (CLL) Writers' Awards.

The CLL Writers' Awards - among the highest monetary prizes for works of non-fiction available in New Zealand - have been running since 2002. They are financed from copyright licensing revenue received by CLL on behalf of authors and publishers. They enable New Zealand writers to devote time to specific non-fiction projects.