

NASA SPECIALIST JOINS VSSEC TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND PUBLIC LECTURE



Geoffrey Bruce, Technical Director of R&D of the Educational Technology team at NASA Ames will join Carol Oliver, Assistant Director, Australian Centre for Astrobiology, at the On-line Resources Teacher PD at VSSEC on the 25th May.

Geoffrey and Carol helped to develop "NASA's Virtual Field Trip", an interactive program that allows students to get an insiders look at geologists working in the field and how this work is supporting the missions to Mars. Teachers attending the PD will get an in-depth look at the Virtual Fieldtrip, including the lesson plans and support material.



For members of the public interested in the search for life beyond Earth Carol and Geoffrey will give a free Public Talk at VSSEC on Thursday 24th May 6:30 – 7:30. For more details about the professional development program and the public talk please visit our website www.vssec.vic.edu.au

COSMOS MAGAZINE



COSMOS is an Australian magazine that explores science as natural part of culture, covering it from many angles: art, design, travel, interviews, humour, history and opinion. At the 2006 Bell Magazine Awards COSMOS won Magazine of the Year, Best Website (for Cosmos Online) and Editor of the Year (for a second consecutive year).

COSMOS also produces excellent teacher's notes to accompany each issue for subscribers.

The latest issue of Cosmos explores the origins of life on Earth with Seth Shostak trekking to outback Australia on the hunt for 3 billion year old stromatolites. You can also follow in his footsteps and search for the origins of life on Earth and life in outer space with the bonus LifeLab DVD produced in conjunction with the Australian Centre for Astrobiology (ACA). Also in this issue, Paul Davies contemplates a universe just right for life, and Tim Dean computes the probability there is intelligent life in our own galactic neighbourhood – and much, much more.

Thanks to COSMOS magazine all teachers attending the On-line Resources Teacher Professional Development Program at VSSEC on the 25th May will receive a free copy of COSMOS including the teacher's notes.

EDUCATION WEEK

Education Week will be celebrated from 6-12 May 2007. VSSEC would like to welcome teachers to the Centre on 7th May 9:00 – 6:00 to see the Mission to Mars in action and meet some of our university and industry partners. Please indicate your intention to attend by contacting bookings@vssec.vic.edu.au

SCIENCE SUPPLY DONATES WATER PURIFICATION UNIT



VSSEC would like to thank Science Supply Australia for the donation of a water purification unit. This will be

used to produce the distilled water used in a wide range of scientific experiments. It will also show students how astronauts living in a space station would process grey water to produce drinking water, something which is very topical with our current water restrictions!



SCIENCEWORKS SPACE EXHIBITION ENDS SOON.....



The Space exhibition at Scienceworks will close on 29th April. This exhibition gives visitors the opportunity to really understand and appreciate the complexity and excitement of the tasks involved in space exploration and evokes a sense of wonder above and beyond our own planet Earth.

Scienceworks has produced an education kit to support the Space exhibition. The kit contains a range of school-based activities as well as activities centered on a visit to the exhibition for students in Years 3-8. The kit can be downloaded free from http://scienceworks.museum.vic.gov.au/education/cr_space.asp

7TH AUSTRALIAN SPACE SCIENCE CONFERENCE



The 7th Australian Space Science Conference (ASSC) will be held in Sydney 24th – 27th September. This will be the first ASSC meeting jointly sponsored and organised by the National Committee for Space Science (NCSS) and the National Space Society of Australia (NSSA). The ASSC welcomes space scientists, engineers, educators, industry and government. For further details and abstract guidelines please go to <http://www.nssa.com.au/ocs/index.php?cf=8>

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SPACE SCHOOL



The Australian International Space School (AISS) is a five day residential program for Year 11 students. This years AISS will be held in Canberra from 12th – 17th July.

Resident astronaut will be NASA mission specialist Jim Reilly, who will have just returned to earth after his latest shuttle mission to the International Space Station. The AISS educational program highlights Australia's role in space science and astronomy, using scientists, engineers and specialists in these fields of study.

40 Year 11 students will be selected to attend AISS from all over Australia and 40 students have been invited from overseas. AISS supplies a souvenir shirt, large laminated group photograph, printed materials, model rocket kits, and all meals, transport and accommodation once you arrive in Canberra. For more information and an application form please go to <http://www.spaceschool.sa.edu.au/aiss/aiss.htm>

COMPETITION WINNERS



The correct answer to “Which International Year was celebrated in 1957?” was the International Geophysical Year. Congratulations to the first 4 correct entrants

Daniel Hayle - Wanganui Park SC
Ken Trollope - Vermont SC
Ivan Moore - Mowbray College
Jane Coyle - Marian College

Each of these teachers received a prize pack containing a DVD, posters, 3D glasses and other small gift items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teacher PD: Astronomy/Astrophysics	Wed 2 nd May 9:30 – 3:00
Public Lecture: Rob Hollow, Australian Telescope National Facility	Wed 2 nd May 6:30 – 8:00
Education Week Teacher Open Session	Mon 7 th May 12:00 – 6:00
Public Lecture: Carol Oliver, Australian Centre for Astrobiology Geoffrey Bruce, NASA	Thurs 24 th May 6:30 – 7:30
Teacher PD: Online Resources Carol Oliver, Australian Centre for Astrobiology Geoffrey Bruce, NASA	Fri 25 th May 9:30 – 3:00
Teacher PD: Chemical Analysis	Mon 3 rd Dec 9:30 – 3:30

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