



The Science Teachers' Association NSW Inc. Annual General Meeting

Monday 23 June 2025 at the STANSW K-10 Conference

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM Macquarie University and virtually via zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome, apologies and proxies

In-person attendees: Lauren McKnight (Chair), Lesley Gough, Annie Martin, Jaqueline McCarthy, Ken Baumgarner, Margaret Shepherd, Catriona Chaikin, Zoe Stephens, Heather Bunting, Kritsti Stret, Kim Lightfoot, Shirley Casper, Chavi Srivastava, Suzanne Williams.

Online attendees: Catriona Chaikin, Genevieve Firmer, Bronwyn Tregenza, Amy Ayres (from 4.45pm).

Apologies: Julie Rogers, Joshua Westerway, Kathryn Newton.

Ex Officio: Irena Tasevska, Visnja Aw, Annie Muggleton, Anne Forbes, Erin Munn, Joshua Botto.

2. Motion: To ratify the 2025 Science Teachers Association NSW Council and Executive

President: Amy Ayres

Vice President: Lauren McKnight

Treasurer: Jacqueline McCarthy

Council Members: Ken Baumgarner, Lesley Gough, Genevieve Firmer, Annie Martin, Kathryn Newton, Julie Rogers, Joshua Westerway.

Strategic Appointment: Catriona Chaikin.

Motion Proposed: Jacqueline McCarthy

Seconded: Annie Martin

In Favour: All in Favour

Abstain: Anne Forbes

Against: Nil

3. Motion: To Accept the Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting

Motion Proposed: Jacqueline McCarthy

Seconded: Ken Baumgarner

In Favour: Marg, Lesley, Erin, Lauren

Abstain: Those not in attendance of the 2024 meeting.

Against: Nil

4. Annual Report for 2024 STANSW Financial Year

President Report: Lauren McKnight presented the 2024 President Report, on behalf of Amy Ayres:

2024 has been a year of growth, connection, and advocacy for the Science Teachers Association of New South Wales (STANSW). As a community led by passionate educators, we continue to uphold our mission to advance science education through professional learning, networking, and a strong voice for teachers.

This year, STANSW expanded its professional learning program, reaching more teachers across the state through both in-person and virtual events. Our sessions have supported teachers at all stages of their careers, offering practical strategies, curriculum insights, and inspiration. Notably, we saw increased engagement from primary educators - a testament to our commitment to strengthening science education from the early years through to Stage 6.

Our membership base also continued to grow in 2024, driven by the value members find in our resources, collegiality, and shared purpose. This strong foundation has positioned us to launch new initiatives in 2025, including a critical thinking pilot program, a suite of STANSW-hosted webinars, and a growing repository of classroom ready resources. STANSW remains a respected voice in science education advocacy. We were actively involved in consultations around the new Stage 6 science syllabuses, collaborating with NESA and other key stakeholders to ensure teacher perspectives are central to syllabus refinement. Our advocacy also extended through strengthened partnerships that champion the needs of teachers in policy and curriculum development.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our STANSW Council members, executive team, staff and volunteers who contributed to our vision in 2024. As we look ahead, we are energised by the possibilities. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and educators who make our work possible - your time, insight, and passion continue to drive real impact. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected science education community in NSW.

Treasurers Report. Jacqueline McCarthy presented the 2024 Treasurer's report, on behalf of outgoing Treasurer Julie Rogers.

Financial Overview

In 2024, we have experienced an increase in operating revenue, primarily driven by a rise in professional learning attendance and sponsorship, alongside stable membership numbers. This growth is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our members and the effective programs we have implemented. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and partners, whose support has been pivotal in facilitating our conferences, events, and the Young Scientist Program.

Independent Audit Report

I am also pleased to report that TINWORTH & Co Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers has once again provided their Qualified Opinion through an Independent Audit Report to the members of the Science Teachers Association of New South Wales Incorporated. Their thorough review and assessment of our financial statements ensure that we maintain transparency and accountability in our financial practices. This independent verification reinforces our commitment to sound financial management and assures our members that STANSW is operating effectively and responsibly.

Scholarships Awarded

This year, we proudly awarded two Rosemary Haffner Memorial Scholarships and one Jim Sturgis Memorial Scholarship to regional teachers throughout NSW. These scholarships exemplify our dedication to supporting regional and remote educators, providing them with valuable opportunities for professional growth and development. We believe that investing in our educators is essential for fostering excellence in science education across the state.

Investments in Infrastructure

Due to our strong financial position, we made significant investments in a new membership management system and website. This upgrade will enhance our ability to support members effectively and improve operational efficiency. The new website features a streamlined customer experience for renewing memberships and purchasing event tickets, along with a growing resource library that includes recorded webinars and teaching materials for our members. These enhancements are designed to provide better service and valuable resources to our community of science educators.

Staffing and Future Focus

We also increased our staffing capacity, which is reflected in the rise in salaries. This strategic decision positions us well for future challenges and opportunities. While 2024 has laid a strong foundation, we recognise the changing landscape of professional learning and the implications of NESA accreditation changes. These factors present financial risks for STANSW, underscoring the importance of listening to our members' needs, diversifying our offerings, and ensuring that we maintain a clear value proposition for both members and science educators across NSW.

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their continued engagement and support of STANSW. Your involvement is crucial to our success and sustainability. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our Finance Officer, Anne Muggleton, for her unwavering dedication and meticulous work in managing our day-to-day financial operations and reporting.

5. Special Resolution: To amend clause 6.27 of the Science Teachers' Association NSW Inc. constitution to add:

“The position of Office Bearers for the coming year will be appointed by the Council from amongst the incoming Councillors at the last Council meeting held before the 1st day of January each year, or at any time a vacancy arises. Any Office Bearer position (President, Vice-President, Treasurer) may be held jointly by two councilors who shall share the responsibilities and duties of the role. Each co-holder of the office bearer role must independently meet the qualifications for holding office as described in the constitution.”

Lauren McKnight (Chair) presented the rationale for the proposed change to the constitution. The proposed special resolution aims to distribute responsibilities amongst STANSW volunteer councillors, allow for increased succession planning, and encourage participation in the executive team.

Motion Proposed: Margaret Shepherd

Seconded: Lesley Gough

In Favour: All in Favour

Abstain: Anne Forbes

Against: Nil

6. Motion: To Appoint Tinworth and Co as the auditors of the 2025 STANSW financial accounts.

Motion Proposed: Ken Baumgarner

Seconded: Jacqueline McCarthy

In Favour: All

Abstain: Anne Forbes

Against: nil

Meeting Close time: 4.56pm.

Science Teachers Association of NSW Inc.

www.stansw.asn.au