

Classroom MasterChefs showcase skills at CONASTA 60



Teachers enjoying the Primary Industry Science activity presented by PICSE at CONASTA 60

Classroom “MasterChefs” showcased their skills at this year’s CONASTA 60.

Science teachers from across Australia travelled to Darwin for the three day conference, where they participated in a number of workshops including PICSE’s Antipasto of Science.

Here, teachers took part in a culinary adventure of primary industries and cooked their way through team challenges.

Teachers became experts on each industry, presented their industry inspired recipes and then offered their findings and antipasto treats to the rest of the group.

The activity was set up like a MasterChef kitchen, with a pantry where teachers

were able to experience the excitement of working with food, peers and towards a challenge.

The aim of the activity was to highlight the many different primary industries that are involved in making food products, and the relevance and importance of future food and fibre security.

Teachers will receive a PICSE Cookbook Resource that details feature recipes designed individually for teachers, adolescents, and primary students, as well as outlining the importance of each supporting industry towards food and fibre security for the future.

For more information or to obtain these and many more resources go to www.picse.net.



..... From the Director

PICSE’s National Advisory Board

Following the PICSE Think Tank in Canberra (21st June), the views presented and discussed are being distilled into an Outcomes Paper, which will include key strategies to inform thinking about the future human capacity issues relating to Australia’s future food security.

This Paper will be considered at the next meeting of PICSE’s National Advisory Board and will form the basis of developing further strategies to attract more bright young minds to careers in agricultural science and food security.

The Board will also consider ways in which PICSE can continue to build aspirations for young people in low socioeconomic and regional areas, to access careers in primary industry.

“The Board has a number of passionate and unique people from varied walks of life, making it well placed to raise PICSE’s profile around the nation,” said Professor Alan Robson (Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia).

“PICSE’s unique and successful model builds relationships between primary industries, universities, teachers and students. It increases agricultural productivity by encouraging more young people to enter science careers that lead to innovation and development for the primary industry sector.”



Prof Alan Robson (Chair, National Advisory Board) with PICSE students and staff in Canberra

The National Advisory Board members include:

- **Professor Alan Robson**, AM CitWA; Chairman,
- **Ms Vanessa Goss**; General Manager Business Services and Company Secretary of Horticulture Australia Limited,
- **Professor Lyn Beazley**, AO FTSE; Chief Scientist of Western Australia,

- **Mr Stephan Hendriks**; Manager, Leadership and Organisational Development, Woolworths Ltd,
- **Mr Arthur Blewitt**; Chief Executive Officer, AgriFood Skills,
- **Mr Peter Russo**; Chief Executive Officer, of the Australian Science Teachers Association.

Associate Professor David Russell



PICSE expands its horizons



Matthew Kleinig presenting at the PICSE Think Tank in Canberra

The recent Think Tank in Canberra hosted several firsts for PICSE.

As part of the event, a number of prestigious new PICSE awards were announced including

Student Travel Award and Science Education Officer Professional Development Award.

The awards are the direct outcome of a new three-year sponsorship agreement

with Dow AgroSciences, which will see their direct financial support and in-kind support more than double.

The Think Tank also saw PICSE alumni, Matthew Kleinig, being offered the opportunity to attend the 2011 Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship program.

The awards reflect how PICSE continues to contribute to the new workforce of educated, skilled and talented young professionals.

In his presentation, “Professional Agriculture – A Matter of Supply and Demand”, Professor Jim Pratley highlighted the significant shortfall in supply and reinforced the need to attract the ‘best and brightest’.

A common theme that emerged from the Think Tank was the potential for greater industry engagement with students during their university studies.

The role of PICSE in facilitating this interaction with industry will form part of PICSE National Advisory Board discussions in the development of a five-year strategy, due for release early in 2012.

Vic Dobos



From New South Wales

UNE hosts scholarship event

The University of New England recently hosted a unique PICSE scholarship event.

For many of the 27 students attending the event it was a reunion with fellow scholarship participants.

For others – applicants in the next scholarship round – it was a chance to meet the former participants and gain a taste of what they will experience in December this year.

A new applicant in the industry placement, Morgan, said having lived all his life on a property he still wanted to find out what tertiary study options were available in agricultural science.

He said PICSE gave him “a great insight into advances in farming – including the use of advanced technology such as GPS”.

Throughout the day students were able to gain an insight into the current research and technology that UNE Precision Agriculture Research Group (PARG) has to offer.



Olivia and Sarah at the UNE PICSE Reunion event

Also during the day students participated in a hands-on experience, completing the basic techniques used in helminthology (fecal egg count, larval culture and differentiation).

Students were exposed to the various primary industries and science based courses that are available at UNE, as well as the scholarships on offer.

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