

Dear STEM HoD/Teachers,

I hope your term is going as well as it can, and your work and personal life has not been too Covid affected.

This email contains some important STEM updates across the system and the state

- **Read further down for details on most of these points:**

- [\*\*The STEM Lending library\*\*](#) will be fully operational out of the Fr John Wall Library throughout the rest of the term. Requests can come through me or via the catalogues (linked above). It may take longer to get kits etc. to you at the moment.
- **It takes a SPARK STEM Conference** - 2nd September at St Brendan Shaw College, Devonport. Organisation for the conference is well underway and this promises to be a wonderful celebration of STEM for schools in the North of the state. Below is an invitation to present at the conference.
- **Northern Tasmania Invention Convention** - 1st Term School holidays - The Questacon Invention Convention is a 3-day innovation experience for secondary students aged 14-18. I attended the Hobart event last year and can highly recommend it for your students. See below and for more (up to date) details.
- **Seafood Industry Teacher Capacity Building Event** - Fri 8th April, Southern Tasmania - This is an excellent opportunity for Marine, Science or Primary teachers to attend a day of learning about the many seafood industries in Tasmania and the Science and Ecology behind their work. Also hear about the potential for excursions/incursions and industry support in this space. See below for more information and the Expression of Interest form.
- [\*\*ACMI Game Builder\*\*](#) - This is an excellent free online resource for anyone teaching computer gamemaking. Catering for teachers new to gamemaking through to experienced teachers, it is a great complement to game coding - well worth checking out!

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## Invitation to Present at the 2022 Tasmanian It Takes a Spark Conference

We are looking for teachers, students, organisations and universities interested in presenting STEM workshops at the [2022 Tasmanian It Takes a Spark Conference occurring at St Brendan-Shaw College](#), Devonport on Sept 2 2022

The conference is unique in that it brings together students (Year 4 - 10) and their teachers to co-learn and co-lead STEM activities and workshops. We have been running these conferences around Australia since 2017 and they are extraordinary events where both students and teachers are inspired by the possibilities of STEM.

The conference has 4 types of sessions

- Digidesign: 40 min hands-on workshops for students (Year 4 - 10) and teachers
- Problem Solver Sessions: 80 min design challenges that lead students and teachers through the design process
- STEAM Expo: Hands-on Activities that will last 10-15 mins during a 45 min rotation where teachers and students will move around the Expo
- Teacher Mini-Masterclass: 40 min hands-on masterclass on a topic essential for teachers

If you are interested in presenting at the 2022 conference please send me an email and I can send you the submission forms. Check out the website for more information and last year's program (<https://spark-educonferences.com.au/> )

I look forward to hearing from you!

Adrian

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Conference Organiser

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## **Northern Tasmanian Invention Convention (27-29 April)**

Questacon are still working towards delivering an in-person regional Invention Convention in Northern Tasmania (27-29 April) and are currently speaking to a couple of venues about their capacity to host this event in a COVID-safe way. [A draft outline of the three day in-person program is attached to give you a sense of what we are planning.](#) As with all of their activities, they are also preparing a digital alternative should the COVID situation intensify again over the coming months and are once again unable to travel, though they are of course very hopeful that this won't be necessary!

## **Seafood Industry Capacity Building Day**

In keeping with the focus on core learning until the end of Week 5, we have been able to change the date of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seafood Industry Teacher Capacity Building Event to Friday 8 April 2022.

We now invite [Expressions of Interest](#) from primary, secondary and senior-secondary teachers across Tasmania (due Sunday 20 March). If you have already submitted an EOI, we will keep this current.

If you attended the event in 2021 we would appreciate it if you could please forward this invitation on to a colleague. If you were unable to attend the event in 2021, or you have come to know about our program during the year, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact me if you have any questions,  
Jennifer

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