



Science & Mathematics network of Australian university educators (**SaMnet**)

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Introduction

The SaMnet project, funded by the ALTC/OLT, began in the latter half of 2011 with the aim to develop 100 leaders of change in university science and mathematics education around Australia. SaMnet currently supports 25+ action-learning projects designed to foster changes in pedagogy. The breadth crosses many disciplines. In just one, chemistry for example, there are 8 projects ranging from improving chemistry demonstrations in lectures across all three years of a program to implementing inquiry-based labs more widely.

What does SaMnet do?

Project teams are supported by evidence from communities of practice in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). These communities are being consolidated around four themes that have been identified by consensus across the SaMnet's new national network:

National standards

SaMnet builds on existing disciplinary and regional ties and draws on the constituency of the Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (ACSME, formerly the UniServe Science Conference). Network members are collaborating to liaise with senior academic administrators to identify, develop, and publicise modes of refereed SoTL publication that will enable teaching-focused academics to advance within the traditional reward structures of science. Such opportunities for speaking with a collective voice are intended to enable appropriate and consistent reward structures to sustain the network, which in turn supports improvements in teaching. In doing so, SaMnet has a role in facilitating collaboration between the separate science discipline networks. They are:

- Vision and Innovation in Biology Education (**VIBEnet**)

- Physics Education Network (**PEN**)

- Australian Mathematical Sciences Learning & Teaching Network (**AMSLaTNet**)

New media and ICT

- Chemistry Discipline Network (**Chemnet**)

- Collaborative University Biomedical Education Network (**CUBEnet**)

Leadership development

Who is involved?

The SaMnet HQ crew

Manju Sharma – Chief Coordinator

Will Rifkin – Executive Manager

Stephanie Beames – Creative input & operational insight for SaMnet's executive team.

Alexandra Yeung – providing expertise in networking and organisation.

Matthew Hill – Website and resources.

Waki Wohoro – Analysis of E-mail correspondence for SaMnet.

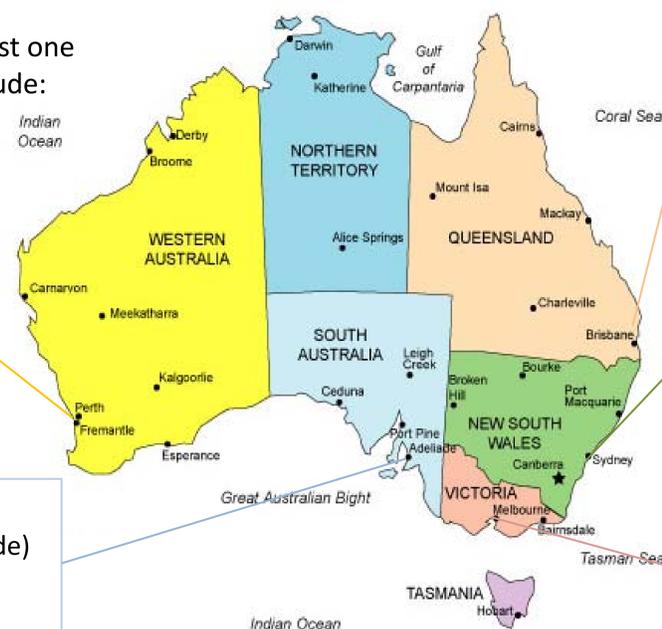
Helen Georgiou – Outreach to academics

Who is involved?

The **SaMnet Scholars** in just one discipline, **Chemistry**, include:

David Brown (Curtin)
Daniel Southam (Curtin)

Joe Shapter (Flinders)
Natalie Williamson (UAde)
Greg Metha (UAde)
Simon Pyke (UAde)



Madeleine Schultz (QUT)
Wendy Loughlin (Griffith)

Simon Bedford (UOW)
Glennys O'Brien (UOW)
Toby Hudson (USYD)
Chiara Neto (USYD)
Michela Simone (USYD)
Siegbert Schmid (USYD)
Adam Bridgeman (USYD)

Stefan Huth (La Trobe)
Ian Potter (La Trobe)

Who is involved?

Steering Committee

Sue Jones (UTas)

Cristina Varsavsky (Monash)

Andrea Crampton (CSU)

Marjan Zadnik (Curtin)

Brian Yates (UTas)

Liz Johnson (La Trobe)

Kelly Matthews (UQ)

Simon Pyke (UAde)

Upcoming SaMnet activities

2012	2013
SaMnet writing workshop 1 (16 July 2012)	Leadership workshops (February 2013)
Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (Sept 2012) • Presentations by SaMnet Scholars • National meeting for SaMnet Scholars	SaMnet writing workshop 2 (July 2013)
• Case studies completed by SaMnet Scholars	• Case studies completed by SaMnet Scholars continued
• Skype meetings around project themes	• Skype meetings around project themes continued

How to get involved?

Contact SaMnet by email (samnetaustralia@gmail.com) or visit the website (www.samnet.edu.au).

Sustaining your network?

A national network can enable science to 'speak with one voice' on standards and enrolment, represent expertise in curriculum review and renewal, provide an avenue for dissemination of effective teaching practices, and support publication and reward structures. How should we sustain such a network in the longer term?