



## **QEST President Report, 2021 AGM**

This past year we continue to be challenged by the experience of constant change and adaptation to deliver effective science education, as well as support our peers across the state and country. I am very proud of the manner QEST members are operating under pandemic circumstances – supporting each other and maintaining professionalism in the workplace. Never take for granted your ability to be flexible, helpful, professional and polite towards others.

In the absence of opportunity for face-to-face training, the QEST team sought alternative professional development, networking opportunities and support for members across Queensland. ConQEST partners offered exclusive online training opportunities and special product offers to assist our members in their roles. We are particularly grateful for the support from Doug Bail, Stuart Lewis, Dr Gurion Ang, Steve Garrett and Mark Bourke. Our hope was to provide opportunity for members and corporate partners to network and further professional relationships, sharing product information in a manner that would assist both parties long term – and I feel we achieved this.

Despite the external challenges, our QEST representatives have successfully led the way for change in the recognition of our role and how we deliver support for members in the absence of face to face training. Thank you to everyone who has jumped onboard to assist representatives in their roles by providing job role information, sharing technical knowledge, offering to host events, giving feedback and sending notes of gratitude.

Our membership continues to grow, and the QEST team continue to stretch themselves professionally, learning new ways to administrate, communicate and operate. Although we hoped to continue virtual workshops in 2021, the start to the school year had members and volunteers alike stretched in the demands in their roles. All going well with the world, ConQEST21 will be held during the second week of September school holidays, at the Sunshine Coast University. The ConQEST Organising team has lined up some exciting workshops and keynote speakers for this year's theme "Sustainable Science". Contingency plans will be put in place for virtual training should there be mandatory lockdowns that prohibit the event from being held.

Next year, ConQEST22 will return to the University of Queensland Gatton Campus during the June-July holidays, where I look forward to a face-to-face AGM. The support that we receive from the staff at UQ is nothing short of exceptional. QEST members enjoy the ease of on campus accommodation away from the distractions of the city, and we have many topics to explore that did not eventuate in 2020.

QEST continues to be supported by Doug Bail and his team of programmers at Ciderhouse Tech through Website hosting and tailored programming of the QEST membership portal, which includes reporting features to assist volunteers in their roles. This support equates to a Platinum Sponsorship to our organisation, valued at over \$10,000. We are very grateful for this generous support.

In 2021-2022, our aim is to broaden our reach to Science Technicians throughout Queensland, empower member confidence in sharing their knowledge with their peers using different technologies, and to continue our professional partnerships in the technical and practical delivery of Science Education.

I personally wish to thank those who have assisted in QEST's management, maintaining professional relationships with science education organisations, creating resources, sharing information with peers, facilitated networking and hosting regional training events. It is an pleasure to represent and work with such a cohesive and dedicated team of volunteers.

*Nikki Bradford, QEST President 2014-2021*