



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Science and Training

# Questacon

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE  
2005-06 A Year of High Energy and Achievement



**Questacon**  
The National Science and Technology Centre



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education,  
Science and Training**

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2005-06: a year of high energy and achievement

**Questacon**

The National Science and Technology Centre

## Our Vision -

A better future for all Australians through engagement with science and innovation

### Our Goals are to:

- Create interactive and inspirational experiences to increase science awareness in all Australians
- Communicate the role of leading edge science and technology in shaping Australia's future
- Build partnerships to develop our national role in communicating science
- Promote and enhance the quality of science and technology learning
- Contribute to the promotion of Australia's science, education and innovation capability
- Build a high performing, responsive and sustainable Questacon.

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# Minister's Introduction

Australia's National Science and Technology Centre - Questacon is one of the nation's iconic facilities and has brought the wonder of science to millions of young Australians.

The approach of making science fun and informative has proven to be successful – as shown by the enduring popularity of the centre among young people, schools and families.

The Australian Government has continued to show strong support for Questacon with \$11.887m in 2006-07, and an additional commitment of \$15.3m over the next four years for essential upgrades.

It is crucial to Australia's continuing health and prosperity as a nation that all Australians, especially students, their parents and teachers become aware of the importance of science and technology and their options to participate and contribute.

The 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* marked an important milestone for the world's largest and longest running education outreach programme. For 21 years the partnership of the Shell Companies in Australia, The Australian National University and Questacon has seen the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* travel throughout Australia. The team of young science communicators who travel with the *Science Circus* have

been inspiring and educating school students, their parents, teachers and communities about science in rural and remote regions. Communities from around Australia, including Indigenous Australians, have delighted in the opportunity to participate in the *Science Circus* and in the other equally inspirational education outreach programmes that Questacon offers.

Congratulations to Questacon for another outstanding year of continuing to instil a passion for science and learning in many people from young children to grandparents.



The Hon Julie Bishop MP

**Minister for Education, Science and Training**



## Chairman's Message

I have great pleasure in acknowledging that the year in review has been another year of thriving activity and success in all areas of Questacon's business, reflected in increased audiences and revenue.

Among the highlights of the year was the six millionth visitor to the centre in Canberra. In February 2006, Questacon won the Australian Tourism Award for Significant Tourist Attraction.

A 21 year milestone was celebrated in June for the *Shell Questacon Science Circus*. The partnership between Questacon, The Australian National University and the Shell Companies in Australia has been exceptional in its endurance and impact – 21 years as the world's largest and longest running outreach programme, engaging up to 100 000 Australians annually. I warmly welcome the continuing support from the partners, which guarantees the programme travels Australia-wide for another three years. A commemorative publication *Making a Difference – 21 Years of the Shell Questacon Science Circus* was launched at a celebration at Parliament House to mark the occasion.

Questacon has pioneered approaches to science and technology education designed to fascinate, enthuse and motivate its audiences. In December *Questacon ScienceLines* was launched to bring a range of innovative science education projects to Indigenous communities. The projects have been developed in cooperation with Indigenous communities and schools.

Growing audiences each year have prompted the need to look at options for expanding Questacon – the building, the facilities, the programmes and the experiences. Options include more gallery space for public exhibitions, more space for programme delivery, outreach development and exhibition prototyping and testing and an outdoor science park to exhibit interactive art and science.

The year ahead is an exciting time for Questacon as it focuses on how best to increase its influence, how to continue to entertain and stimulate its current audience, as well as how to reach new audiences.

On behalf of the Advisory Council, I am delighted to welcome our new Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP at a very exciting period in Questacon's development.

I also take this opportunity to thank our valued partners. Questacon continues to build relationships with science-based organisations, governments and the business community as a means of helping Questacon to raise the profile of science and technology and increase awareness in the community, particularly among young Australians, of the relevance of science to the prosperity of Australia.

Thanks also to our dedicated Questacon staff, who are central to the success of Questacon and help us to deliver science with a winning formula – educational, entertaining, interactive, fun!

Leon Kempler OAM  
Questacon Advisory Council Chairman



## Director's Report

I am pleased to report that Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre has had yet another year of high energy and achievement across the organisation. Our visitation remains at a record high level, our membership base continues to grow rapidly and we have been developing a range of exciting new partnerships enabling us to deliver more programmes across Australia.

Questacon exists to engage, inspire and motivate young Australians, helping in the development of positive attitudes to the science and technology so vital to the future of the country. We do this in Canberra and across Australia, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas, with interactive hands-on exhibits and exciting face to face presentations. We are constantly seeking to develop strategic and enabling partnerships to enable us to do more of this important work and to ensure that Questacon remains not only fun but also relevant to broader community needs.

Our work with corporate partners has been recognised with the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* partnership between the Shell Companies in Australia, The Australian National University and Questacon having won the *Australian Financial Review Magazine Corporate Partnership Award* for an outstanding, long-term partnership. Questacon was also short-listed for the *Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships*.

We are grateful for the long-term support of Shell and are excited by the addition of a new corporate partnership with Tenix. The *Tenix Questacon Maths Squad* was launched in May 2005 and we are confident of positive results in the critical area of maths education.

Questacon continues to enjoy the benefits of a close working relationship with the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and significant support is forthcoming in our corporate and programme areas. Additional funding has been provided to allow Questacon to further develop our Indigenous education programmes.

Questacon's standing within the science centre community, at home and abroad, remains at a very high level. Science centres around the world look to us for advice and support. We are frequently invited to participate in international conferences and workshops as well as welcoming many international delegations to Canberra. Questacon is a sector leader in studying the personal, educational, societal, economic and political impacts of science centres.

Questacon is currently looking at a range of development options that will allow us to expand our services and activities for our visitors, members and stakeholders across Australia. We are looking to a bright future with confidence and enthusiasm.

Graham Durant

Professor Graham Durant  
Director



Year in Review



## Highlights 2005-06

- Total visitors to Questacon in Canberra since 1988 reached six million in October 2005.
- Questacon Canberra visitor satisfaction rating 97% – an all time high.
- Questacon memberships increased by 20%.
- Australian Government allocated \$15.3m over four years for capital upgrades and exhibition renewals.
- Australian Government allocated \$1m to examine options for extending Questacon.
- Visitors to [www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au) increased by 39.2%.
- Questacon won the 2006 Australian Tourism Award for Significant Tourist Attraction.
- Questacon volunteer, Gail Kerr, won the 2006 ACT Volunteer of the Year award.
- People attending one of Questacon's various outreach programmes increased by 33%.
- *Questacon ScienceLines*, developed with Indigenous communities, was launched in December 2005.
- *Tenix Questacon Maths Squad* greatly expanded its reach with visits to 139 schools in five states and territories.
- *Shell Questacon Science Circus* celebrated 21 years as the most extensive and longest running touring science centre outreach programme in the world.
- The Shell Companies in Australia and The Australian National University announced their continued support of the *Science Circus* through to 2009.
- The Shell Companies in Australia, The Australian National University and Questacon partnership was announced as a finalist for the *Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships*.
- Australia Japan 2006 Year of Exchange Programme included the launch of Questacon exhibit and website *Innovation: A Showcase of Australia Japan Cooperation*.
- 95 000 people visited the renewed *NRMA RoadZone* road safety programme.







Achievements

## Achievements 2005-06

Total visitors	1 435 641 visitors to exhibitions and programmes.
Visitors to the centre	407 581 visitors to the centre in Canberra (2.2% increase on the previous year) including the six millionth visitor.
Visitors to Outreach programmes	328 051 visitors to Questacon outreach programmes (33% increase on the previous year). Every state and territory was visited by at least one outreach programme. Presentations were delivered in 1973 schools, that is 20% of all Australian schools, 10% of school students and 29% of non-capital city schools experienced outreach during the year.
Visitor satisfaction	97% of visitors surveyed rated satisfied or very satisfied with exhibitions and programmes (up from 92% in the previous year).
Travelling exhibitions	662 749 people visited a travelling exhibition. Eight exhibitions were located in 12 venues across Australia. International tours included venues in South Korea and China.
Staff	Questacon employed 232 staff in full-time, part-time or casual positions.
Volunteers	77 people volunteered a total of 11 016 hours.
School visitors	More than 106 000 school students from 1902 schools across Australia visited Questacon.
New exhibitions and programmes	<i>Questacon ScienceLines</i> <i>Innovation: A Showcase of Australia Japan Cooperation</i> - 2006 Australia Japan Year of Exchange.
Science shows	<i>The Excited Particles</i> performed 2235 shows for over 163 609 people.
Q by Night	19 000 students and teachers participated in <i>Q by Night</i> school visits.
Birthday parties	Questacon hosted over 380 birthday parties.
Q Club membership	3125 family and individual memberships with a total of 13 001 members (20% increase on the previous year).
Holiday programmes	2596 children participated in holiday programmes.
Workshops	Over 130 local and 440 teachers beyond Canberra attended professional development sessions.
Q shop	Following a record year in 2004-05, revenue was slightly down at \$1.2 million.
<a href="http://www.questacon.edu.au">www.questacon.edu.au</a>	1 986 093 visits to Questacon's websites (40% increase on the previous year).
Funding	Revenue rose to \$19.013 million (11% increase on the previous year), 42% from non-government sources – admissions, fees for programmes, touring exhibitions and services, Q Shop, sponsorships.







“ We all had a fantastic time and it’s something I’ll never forget. ”  
Talia Shepherd, 13, Chatswood, NSW

## Satisfaction with Questacon

Questacon has a customer service charter which underpins the relationship with customers. Questacon regularly surveys visitors and has a target of 90% satisfaction. Visitor satisfaction to outreach programmes is measured through exit surveys.

- Visitors to Questacon in Canberra — 97% satisfied or very satisfied
- Visitors to outreach programmes — 95% satisfied or very satisfied
- Exhibitions — 95% operational





# Questacon history





In September 1980, Questacon opened with 15 exhibits as a project of The Australian National University, in spare space in Ainslie Public School in Canberra, staffed entirely by volunteers.

This was Australia's first interactive science centre, dedicated to making science accessible and relevant to all. By the mid 1980s, the ground-breaking approach of this modest centre had achieved national and international recognition.

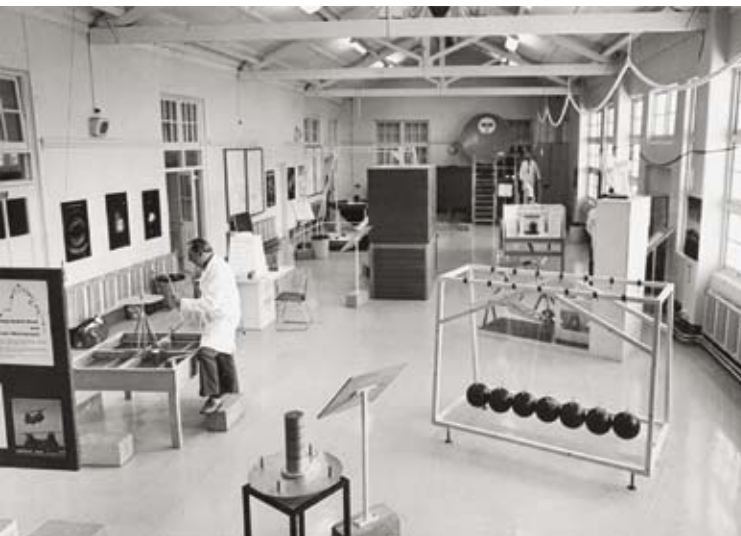
From its inception Questacon has had a strong national focus. In addition to the Canberra operation, Questacon has developed programmes for people far from Canberra, with particular focus on rural and remote communities. In 1985 the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* began the first of its tours to regional Australia, commencing a successful touring programme of exhibits and science shows.

In 1988, as part of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre was permanently established. The new building was jointly funded by the Japanese Government and business community and the Australian Government.

Questacon's website was launched in 1995 and it was one of the world's first science centre websites to create virtual online activities. It is a multi-award winning site that attracts almost two million online visitors annually.

Today Questacon is Australia's largest science centre and is among the world's leading science centres. Through interactive science exhibitions, travelling programmes, online content and science theatre, Questacon aims to be a national leader in popularising science and technology, presenting science as exciting, interesting and relevant. Through its entertaining approach, Questacon aims to encourage greater scientific literacy and student participation and retention in science Australia-wide.

Questacon is a distinctly branded business unit, within the structure of the Department of Education, Science and Training. Questacon has an advisory council comprising a chairman, Questacon's Director and seven members from the business, science and education communities, appointed by the Minister for Education, Science and Training. The Council advises on strategic direction.



# Questacon's people





“ The volunteer staff were excellent, very knowledgeable and friendly. We enjoyed our visit very much. ”

Jo Lees, Cairns, QLD

Questacon's modest beginnings, as a volunteer-run project, helped create a team who stand out for their enthusiasm, creativity and diversity. The Questacon team includes people with expertise in customer service, design, construction, acting, education, maintenance, marketing, finance, planning, IT, administration and science.

In 2005-06, Questacon employed 232 full-time, part-time or casual staff. Volunteers have remained an important part of the Questacon culture. Volunteer explainers work in the galleries providing additional science explanations to all visitors and running discovery trolleys. In 2005-06, 77 people volunteered their time at Questacon, totalling 11 016 hours.

One Questacon volunteer, Gail Kerr, won an ACT Volunteer of the Year award in 2006.

“ Thanks – your staff are wonderful and have the patience of saints. ”

Janine Guymer, Shepparton, VIC







Questacon Canberra

The centre in Canberra has seven exhibition galleries and over 200 hands-on exhibits, which are researched, developed, designed and built in-house. Exhibitions are frequently changed to provide new experiences. Outreach programmes, science talks and performances are also developed in-house. Over 1 435 641 people experienced Questacon in 2005-06 through visits to the centre in Canberra, visiting a travelling exhibition or outreach programme.

### Questacon Exhibitions in Canberra

- *SideShow Alley* – explores the science behind the fun - the physics, the physiology and psychology employed by sideshow alley rides.
- *Cybercity* – focuses on communications technologies such as mobile phones.
- *Sea Chest Secret* – explores environmental science, marine biology, maritime history and archaeology, art, navigation, botany and life at sea.
- *SportsQuest* - explores the science of sport through full-body, interactive exhibits.
- *Weather Watch* – looks at how forecasters predict the weather and why there are seasons.
- *Awesome Earth* – deals with the forces that shape the earth through cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, thunder and lightning.
- *Wavelength* – looks at how our ears detect sound waves and our eyes detect light waves.
- *Colour Your Life* – delves into the technology of colour printing and reproduction.
- *Mini Q fun for 0-6 year olds* – recognises the importance of interactive learning experiences for children up to six years old.
- An expanded *Mini Q*, with a space lab, will open in October 2006.





“ We love coming here. It's great that you change your exhibitions regularly. The music show was great. We really enjoyed the planets talk. All the gallery staff are really great. Congratulations to all. ”

D Johnston, Hurstbridge, VIC

- *Strike a Chord - the science of music* was launched in May 2005 and comprises 21 exhibits. *Strike a Chord* brings together a broad range of disciplines to explore the:
  - Physics of sound and musical instruments (acoustics)
  - Physiology of hearing and singing
  - Psychology and sociology of music
  - Music composition.
- The hands-on exhibits – recording, composing, replaying and manipulating sound and music – allow visitors to explore the properties of sound such as pitch, volume and wavelength. *Strike a Chord* will commence touring other venues in 2007.



“ I am always excited about coming, I come once every year, your service is fantastic. ”  
Hannah Veal, Toowoomba, QLD

## Theatre Performances

*The Excited Particles*, Questacon's professional theatre troupe, perform a number of spectacular science shows in Questacon's theatres every day. Performances, packed with stunts and gags and audience participation, explore scientific facts, theories and discoveries. Show content, developed by the *Excited Particles*, applies directly to Questacon exhibits.

During the year the *Excited Particles* performed 2235 shows and entertained over 163 609 people with performances both topical and diverse, from bird flu to chillies.

## Science Shows

- Balloonatic
- Music
- Liquid Nitrogen
- Rocket Science
- Natural Disasters
- Sideshow
- Boom Crash Boing
- Captain Evil
- Eaten Alive





## Events

A number of special events, launches and celebrations were held at Questacon in 2005-06.

- Launch of *Questacon ScienceLines*, an innovative approach to Indigenous science education.
- Launch of exhibit and website *Innovation: A Showcase of Australia Japan Cooperation* to celebrate the Australia Japan 2006 Year of Exchange.
- Launch of *SportsQuest*, an exhibition that lets visitors test their athletic ability and learn about the physics of sport.
- Questacon Family Christmas Celebration, an evening of fun and festivities for local disadvantaged families.
- Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) Family Evening at Questacon, raising awareness of Questacon within DEST.
- 21st Birthday Celebrations for the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* at Parliament House, Canberra.

Events were also held in cooperation with government agencies.

- Launch of the Australian Dinosaur website for the Department of Environment and Heritage.
- Launch of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission publication *Safe Toys for Kids*.
- Strike A World Chord, celebrating Harmony Day, in conjunction with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.
- *Physics, the Universe and Everything* celebrated the International Year of Physics, an event staged by Questacon and The Australian National University.





“ The highlight for all the children is that it is all hands on and they love the shop – goods are child-appropriate and affordable. ”

H Bamford, Teacher, Violet Town, VIC

### Q Shop

The Questacon shop almost matched the previous year's record revenue performance taking \$1.2 million. The average spend increased 5%.

Questacon's branded product range expanded over the year and some product lines are now available in other Australian museums and science centres.

Q Shop remains one of the industry's best performing retail outlets and products sold extend the Questacon educational experience back into homes and schools.



# Questacon Building





“ On behalf of the Deafblind Association (NSW) I would like to thank your staff for their help with our group, having excellent facilities and displays. ”

Narelle Bennett DBA Secretary, Strathfield, NSW

The white Questacon building is turning green. Its large glass foyer is flooded with natural light and heat. A highly efficient heating and cooling system maintains optimal temperatures all year round and has state-of-the-art building management, fire and security systems. Eight thousand hours per annum are spent in cleaning the building.

Questacon serves several functions. Internally the design deals with exhibits, with people and with technical requirements. Externally the building presents a public place within the Parliamentary Triangle. The distinctive feature of the building is a huge central drum and a massive spiral ramp connects the exhibition galleries.

More than \$15 million will be spent over the next four years on building improvements, including upgrades to theatres, lifts, public galleries, exterior science courts, flooring and lighting.

## Ecological footprint

Where possible Questacon has adopted procedures to minimise waste and reduce consumption of natural resources across its operations. Questacon has implemented an environmental management system (EMS) including water and energy usage minimisation, environmental consideration in purchasing and contract negotiation and increased recycling practices.

Over two years the EMS achieved 14001:1996 ISO certification in August 2005. This included environmental additions in request for tender documents, energy management strategies, such as exterior light upgrade and the use of high efficiency fittings, and an upgrade to energy efficient lighting in public galleries. The result is a reduction in energy usage, despite increases in staff and visitor numbers and opening hours. In addition, Questacon increased the use of green energy from 15-20%, increased recycling initiatives, uses 80% recycled Australian paper and sets all printer default settings to duplex.

Questacon's EMS has introduced a customised, online environmental legal obligations directory and material safety data sheet database. This will help ensure Questacon is up to date with changes in environmental policy and chemical usage guidelines and help Questacon achieve the current ISO standard 14001:2004.

# Questacon fun

Story and pictures: Chris Canham

**I**F SCIENCE and fun are your things, then Questacon might be the ticket for you this summer break. Boasting more than 200 exhibits to bend the mind and body, Questacon is all about educating the young, or the young at heart, in the ways of modern science.

The centre attracts about 300,000 people each year and with staff on hand to help and guide you toward the best learning experience, Questacon is a popular option for those looking for something a little left of centre.

■ social@canberratimes.com.au



Doris and Eddie Lat



PHOTO ABOUT: Amy Bar...



Learning fun: Clare Spicer-Brown, from Queensland, visited the Wollongong Science Planetarium's exhibition From Outer Space to Inner Earth. Picture: KE

# Holiday fun for the kids

FROM cute and furry friends to science and story time, children have the opportunity to enjoy a great range of school holiday activities at Ashfield and Haberfield libraries.

All activities are free, although bookings are essential for all sessions.

Questacon Science Squad presents Slime and Liquid Nitrogen today at 11am.

It is for children aged five to 12 years and will be in meeting room 2, level 2, Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield. To book call 9716 1810.

You can meet native animals up close with St George Zoomobile at 2pm tomorrow. Zoomobile is for children eight to 12 years and will be at the Michael Maher Room, Haberfield Library, 78 Dalhousie St, Haberfield. To book call 9798 0843.

Children from three to six can celebrate the Chinese New Year with storyteller The Bronwyn Vaughan's *Meow, The Storyteller's Cat*, at 2pm on Monday at meeting room 2, level 2, Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield. Call 9716 1810.

# Universe the best playground

By ALEXIS COOPER

CHILDREN will be able to get up close and personal with the

The travelling Questacon exhibition aims to engage children in learning through fun, interactive games and toys.

kids don't even these things exist because they're in from all the time," she s

"They see fish life on TV, but they don't le live so deep that th

Dorothy Brown fr land brings her gr to the centre ever said this year's exh one of the best. "I th time they learn thi

Centre Heywood on is a earn and me.

# The magic touch

One of Canberra's favourite attractions continues to astound

**Q**uestacon's PR Manager, Kate Thomas, remembers going to the original Questacon as a school child in the 1980s, when it was tucked away at the back of Ainslie Public School. "It was a me, working here now, all the kids' faces... The questacon program is in half of the request... the Japanese government the other half and in September of our Bicentennial year, 1988, the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, opened the new and vastly improved Questacon on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. Since then, Questacon has been in danger of being...

major gallery will be opening in February 2007. When it does, the exhibition currently in that

gallery, entitled 'Strike a Chord - The Science of Music', will start travelling through Asia. An exhibition about predators, 'Eat Alive', is travelling around Australia at the moment. "In fact, 60 per cent of what we do is send outreach programs all around Australia", says Thomas.

Exhibitions also travel to New Zealand, Shanghai, Hawaii, South Korea and other far-flung spots on the map, no doubt enthusing others about the wonders they will see when they finally make the trip either over the ditch or down under. What will they, or anyone else

hair trying to take the relen. The Mini Q g and safe envi challenges an for the very lit with, not to : chairs for grate example of a N is water play, and effect. Chi in front of 1 and shown how a levers can creat channels, making in different directi. Older children favourites at Quest free fall exhibit is them, and by Thor cool": the queues ; coaster simulator

# Making smart moves in science

## Career outreach program

DEVONPORT'S Imaginarium Science Centre staff members recommend you plan ahead and book now for Questacon's Smart Moves program next month.

On March 17, the Imaginarium will host Questacon's Smart Moves: A Travelling Outreach program promoting cutting edge ideas and

program. If you're creative, original and want to set yourself up for a good future, Smart Moves can help you find out about cutting edge careers in science, engineering and technology, discover some of the unbelievable science happening today.

It will also help you become an entrepreneur by coming up with business ideas, or at least make you think about

ional science and innovation, and jam pack as much as they can into each show.

The event is free. Bookings are required.





“ Well done! We belong to the Q Club and visited Questacon yesterday with visitors from interstate. Your people are very professional, friendly and knowledgeable and all activities are age appropriate. ”

Justine, Charlotte and Mason Murphy, Canberra

During 2005-06 Questacon participated in several tourism industry travel shows, hosting meetings and events for the National Capital Attractions Association and Australian Capital Tourism.

Questacon exhibited and performed *Spectacular Science* demonstrations at the Canberra Carnivale Expo in Martin Place, Sydney to promote Canberra as a tourist destination. Questacon attended the Australian Tourism Exchange in Adelaide.

Questacon coordinated the rebranding and marketing of the '3 in Fun' ticket. The '3 in Fun' ticket provides entry to Questacon, the Australian Institute of Sport and Cockington Green Gardens.

Extensive schools marketing was undertaken to attract school students from around Australia to Canberra. Questacon, in cooperation with other national attractions, conducted direct briefings to teachers to highlight the educational content of programmes run by national institutions in Canberra.

Several targeted advertising and public relations campaigns, promoting Questacon and its outreach programmes, aired on local, national and international television, including Channel Seven's Sunrise and Singapore's travel programme. Questacon received extensive and regular press and electronic media coverage, including coverage on education, children's entertainment, science and technology, tourism and general news programmes.

In 2005-06 Questacon featured in 568 articles and received 430 seconds of radio or TV airtime.

*Strike a Chord* was promoted to schools through a competition for school students to design and build their own musical instrument. The team with the winning entry travelled to Southern Cross Ten studios to make a rock video with their musical creation.

*Sports Force*, a joint Questacon promotion with the National Museum of Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Australian War Memorial was launched in March 2006 prior to the Commonwealth Games. *Sports Force* promotes the role of sport in shaping Australia's identity.

*Q Club* memberships increased nearly 20% during 2005-06, to 13 001 members and 3125 memberships. Questacon membership provides year round entry, access to special events and reciprocal visiting rights with participating science centres and museums around Australia.



# Volcanoes

How do some volcanoes form mountains?

- 1. Push the knob down and across to point A to mount the volcano.
- 2. SCREW down the knob up and down between points B and C.
- 3. Watch how "waves of lava" (the red strips) build a mountain.



Some mountains form when lava flows out from volcanic vents. When lava is stored deep underground, it is called magma. Once the magma travels up and out through the volcano's vent,



Questacon Travelling Exhibitions



“ Thanks for the professional inspiring group of people to educate and inspire our children in science and discovery. ”

Jennifer Vicig, Coconut Island State School, QLD

Questacon provides touring exhibitions to a range of smaller regional venues across Australia. During 2005-06, eight exhibitions were installed in 12 venues across the country and were visited by 662 749 people. International tours for the Department of Education Science and Training's Australian Education International included venues in South Korea and China.

*Earth Quest – Outer Space to Inner Earth* continued in the second year of its Visions of Australia funded tour of regional Australia, visiting the Imaginarium Science Centre in Devonport, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) in Hobart, the Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium and the Albury Regional Museum. The exhibition continues to be popular, breaking records for monthly school group visits at TMAG in September and October 2005.

*Mathamazing*, a collection of games, activities and brainteasers designed to introduce the fun, power and potential of maths, was at the Imaginarium Science Centre from July 2005 to March 2006. This is part of a five year exhibition loan agreement, before moving to Scienceworks in Melbourne from April to October 2006.

*Eaten Alive – The World of Predators*, explores the amazing range of techniques predators use to find and capture prey. This was hosted by the Queensland Museum, Southbank between July and October 2005, the Newcastle Regional Museum from November 2005 to April 2006 before moving to Scitech in Perth from May to October 2006.

*Sea Chest Secret – Unlock the Maritime Mystery* spent July 2005 at the Mingara Recreation Club on the NSW Central Coast, then had a successful season at the National Wool Museum in Geelong from May to June 2006. This was followed by the Pine Rivers Heritage Museum in Kurwongbah, Queensland from May to July 2006.

*Terrorsaurus*, an exhibition of six life-like robotic dinosaurs, will spend 12 months, from April 2006, at the Imaginarium Science Centre in Northern Tasmania.

*Burrara Gathering – Sharing Indigenous Knowledge*, explores the traditional technology of the Burarra people of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. This has been hosted by the Indigenous Cultural Centre in the Queensland Museum, Southbank since December 2005 and will remain until April 2007.



Questacon Exhibition Production



Questacon Exhibition Services (QES) conceive, design and build intriguing and inspiring exhibitions. QES staff have years of experience in building durable travelling exhibitions that can withstand millions of hands and millions of kilometres of freight by road, air and sea.

QES is also engaged by Australian and overseas companies to design and build customised exhibits. QES has been involved in developing education materials, science shows and telecasting for distance education broadcasts in rural Australia and the United States.

During the year, QES projects included:

- ANU Robot
- Questacon foyer science-art exhibits
- *Mini Q* extension (space lab)
- *Imagination Factory – Invent and Play* (due to open 2007)
- *Innovation: A Showcase of Australia Japan Cooperation* (a multimedia kiosk about collaborations between Australian and Japanese scientists)
- Designing outdoor science-art sculptures, such as *Rock Music* and *Einstein Sculpture* and installing Tim Wetherell's sculpture *The Astronomer*
- Completion of *NRMA RoadZone* 'buggy' exhibits and *Backseat Science*

- Installation of Ed Tannenbaum's *Recollections IV* and reconfiguration of Global Imagination's *Magic Planet*
- *Measurement* exhibition (due to open 2008)
- *Human Body* exhibition (due to open 2008-09).

As well as new exhibitions, QES rebuild, redesign and reinstall existing exhibitions. In 2005-06, this included:

- Retrofitting *SportsQuest* to celebrate the Commonwealth Games along with the Australian War Memorial, the Australian Institute of Sport and the National Museum of Australia
- Refreshing *Terrorsaurus* with newly-developed multimedia kiosks and updated graphics
- Refurbishing and building new exhibits for *Mathamazing* and the *Shell Questacon Science Circus*
- Reproduction of the *Science on the Move* exhibits.



FACTS

EVIDENCE


I OWE YOU DE HIKKEN

Questacon

making science relevant

# Questacon Outreach Overview



As the National Science and Technology Centre, Questacon has a commitment to take the Questacon experience Australia-wide, with particular emphasis on reaching Australians in communities in regional, rural and remote areas. To do this, Questacon has developed a thriving outreach programme that has grown in diversity and reach each year.

More frequent visits to regional and remote areas have been made possible by successful partnerships with corporate Australia and additional support from the Australian Government.

In 2005-06, more than 328 000 people participated in Questacon's outreach programmes, an increase of 33.6% over the previous year. Outreach visited more than 1900 schools, in 850 communities in every state and territory - an average of more than 890 students per day enjoyed the Questacon experience in their own communities.

## Questacon Science Squad

The *Questacon Science Squad* is a team of trained science communicators who travel to schools throughout Sydney. The *Science Squad* aims to improve attitudes to science, increase scientific literacy and student retention rates in science courses and to address a shortage of trained science communicators in Sydney schools.

From their base at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney, the *Science Squad* reached more than 28 000 Sydney school students and teachers in 197 schools in 2005-06.

Highlights during the year were The Greenhouse Effect Show and workshop at the Warringah Council World Environment Day Youth Expo and a web-stream project. This gave students access to demonstrations delivered through the Open Training and Education Network of the NSW Department of Education.

In June, the *Science Squad* presented several 30-second segments on Channel Seven's nationally broadcast children's television programme *It's Academic*, for broadcast in August 2006. The *Science Squad* appeared in 28 episodes of Channel Seven's children's television programme *The Big Arvo*.

## Questacon StarLabs

*StarLabs* are portable, inflatable planetaria which bring the wonder of astronomy to thousands of students in their own schools and communities. In 2005-06, 16 126 students visited *StarLabs* at 335 schools in Melbourne, Brisbane, Wollongong and Sydney.

“ The younger students have become more enthusiastic about science and the rave reviews continued for weeks. ”

Tatiana Anesbury, Burra Community School, SA

## Questacon Smart Moves

*Questacon Smart Moves* began in July 2001 and is funded by the Australian Government's initiative – Backing Australia's Ability – Building our Future through Science and Innovation. *Smart Moves* uses a combination of multi-media in-school presentations by young science graduates, an interactive website and an intensive week-long programme called the *Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention*.

The purpose of the *Smart Moves* touring programme is to inform regional and rural secondary students about innovation, entrepreneurship, science, technology and engineering and to provide a snapshot of cutting-edge science, to inspire young Australians to pursue opportunities in science, maths, engineering and technology.

Since 2002 *Smart Moves* has visited over 1350 schools and approximately 318 000 students across Australia. In 2005-06 *Smart Moves* entertained and informed more than 82 000 students in 371 schools.





## Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention

The *Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention* brings together innovative and entrepreneurial young Australians and provides the opportunity for them to network with similar young people and established entrepreneurs and to develop entrepreneurial skills to further their ideas.

Run over five days, the *Invention Convention* includes seminars on networking, resources, marketing, exporting, money management, business skills, entrepreneurship and intellectual property.

In July, 30 inventive secondary students from all over Australia attended the second annual *Invention Convention* in Canberra. Samantha Guinn, a year 10 student from Beacon Hill in NSW, appeared on ABC TV's *New Inventor's* for her inflatable cushion designed to aid mobility.







Indigenous Outreach



“ Your visit was a real highlight of the semester. The way you got the entire community coming in to watch was a credit to the team. You have certainly created an interest in the scientific, with many students continuing to talk about the various activities. Never has the whole community been able to participate in an educational experience like Questacon. The ongoing consequences of a common educational experience with their children cannot be overstated. I have been teaching in the Territory for nearly a decade now, and your visit stands out as one of the best. ”

Kerry Kasmira, Ukaka School, NT

Questacon's Indigenous outreach programmes, specifically developed with, and for, Indigenous communities in remote areas, aim to develop scientific literacy in Indigenous communities and increase Indigenous student retention rates for science and maths courses. Many Indigenous communities have limited access to quality science and technology education and resources, especially in remote areas. Over 6500 students and teachers from 217 schools participated in a variety of Indigenous outreach projects in 2005-06.

Indigenous outreach programme science communicators undertake cross-cultural training and develop educational materials in consultation with the communities. Programme formats are tailored according to location.

With support from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) the main project for 2006 was the *Science and Indigenous Knowledge Online*

project. The *Questacon ScienceLines* team worked closely with communities in Burringurrah Western Australia, Bowraville NSW, Badu Island and Arukun in Queensland.

DEST funded interactive science experiences at the 2005-06 CrocFestivals at Thursday Island, Halls Creek, Geraldton, Port Augusta, Swan Hill, Moree and Alice Springs.

CrocFestivals tour regional and remote communities, providing cultural, vocational and educational activities for school children. About 4000 students from 179 schools were involved.

*Burarra Gathering Online* won the South Australian Premier's Award for Educational Software.





NRMA RoadZone



“ ...it was one of the best demonstrations of good teaching that I have seen in a number of years. ”  
Wayne Bacon, Walcha Central School, NSW

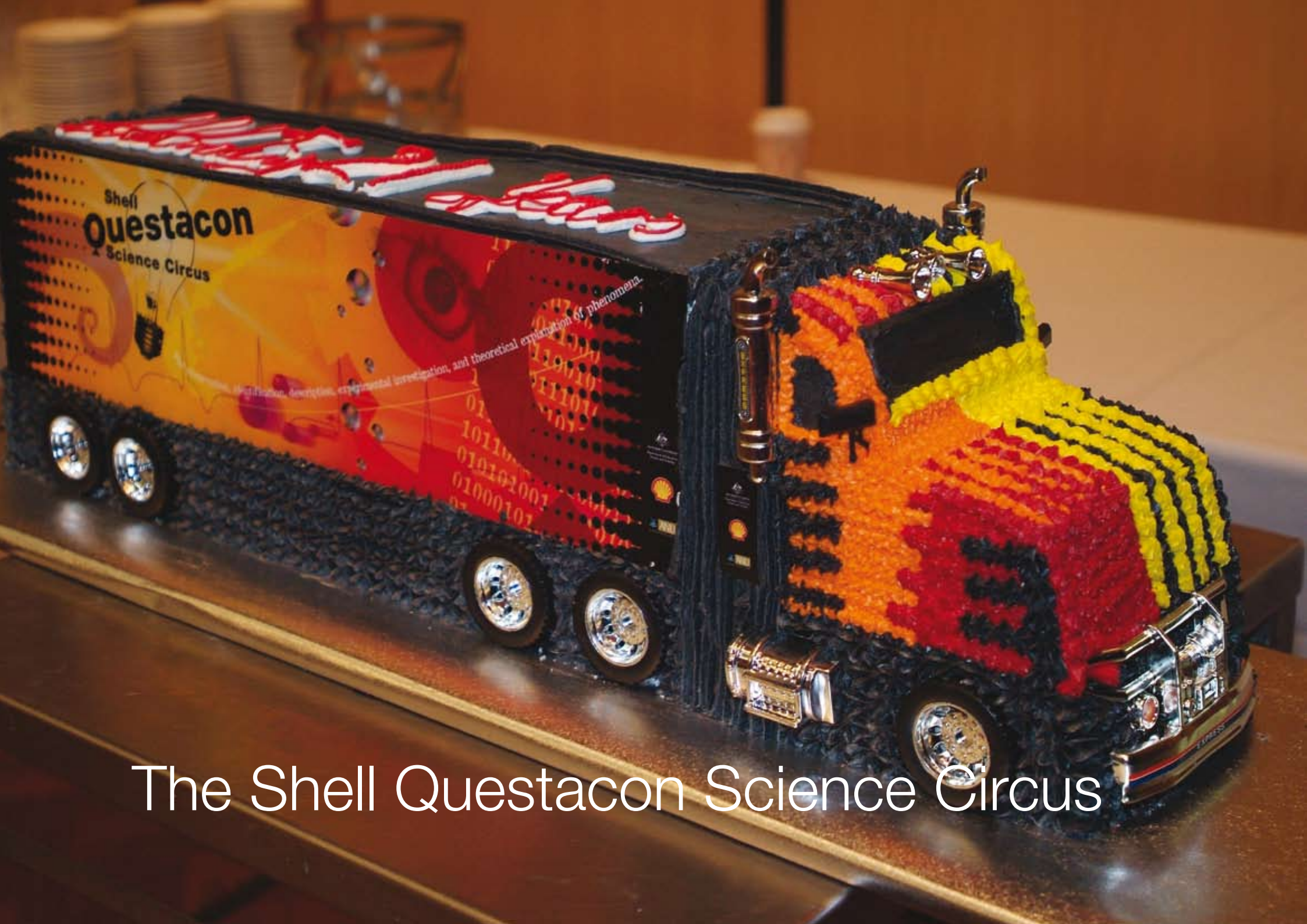
## NRMA RoadZone

Questacon has partnered with NRMA Motoring + Services to develop and tour 20 interactive exhibits, a school's programme and website to highlight road hazards and risks for pedestrians, cyclists and passengers.

Aimed at nine to 14 year olds, visitors learn about the influence of peers in decision making, the effects of alcohol and the dangers of distractions while driving. During the year, 95 512 students from 175 schools visited *NRMA RoadZone*.







The Shell Questacon Science Circus



“ ...totally entertained by the enthusiasm of the young people running the shows. We learnt lots about different parts of the brain and scientific myths...”

Home of Learning

The *Shell Questacon Science Circus* is a portable science centre, transported in a colourful truck, staffed by high energy science graduates, which tours regional, rural and remote communities for 18-20 weeks each year. The *Science Circus* is a joint initiative of the Shell Companies in Australia, The Australian National University (ANU) and Questacon.

A component of the *Science Circus* is a Graduate Diploma in Science Communication, which 14 to 16 graduates complete annually.

In June the *Shell Questacon Science Circus* celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary as the world's largest and longest running education outreach programme. Shell and ANU will continue to support the *Science Circus* to December 2009.

The partnership between the Shell Companies in Australia, The Australian National University and Questacon was announced as a finalist for the *Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships*.

In the past year the *Science Circus* team toured the Pilbara in Western Australia, south eastern NSW and north eastern Victoria, where CSIRO staff joined the tour as guest presenters. Audience numbers for the year were 75 198.







The Tenix Questacon Maths Squad



“ ...the maths show is the first that our kids have ever participated in and they loved it. ”

Mount Isa School of the Air, QLD

The *Tenix Questacon Maths Squad* aims to increase numeracy by positively influencing attitudes to maths and highlighting the broad application and relevance of maths in everyday life and travels to schools and community events in local, regional and remote areas.

The *Maths Squad* presenters deliver challenging, hands-on puzzles and lively presentations to students from kindergarten to year 12. Activities are grouped into curriculum bands and cover topics including space, logic, measurement, number and operation, chance and concepts behind algebra.

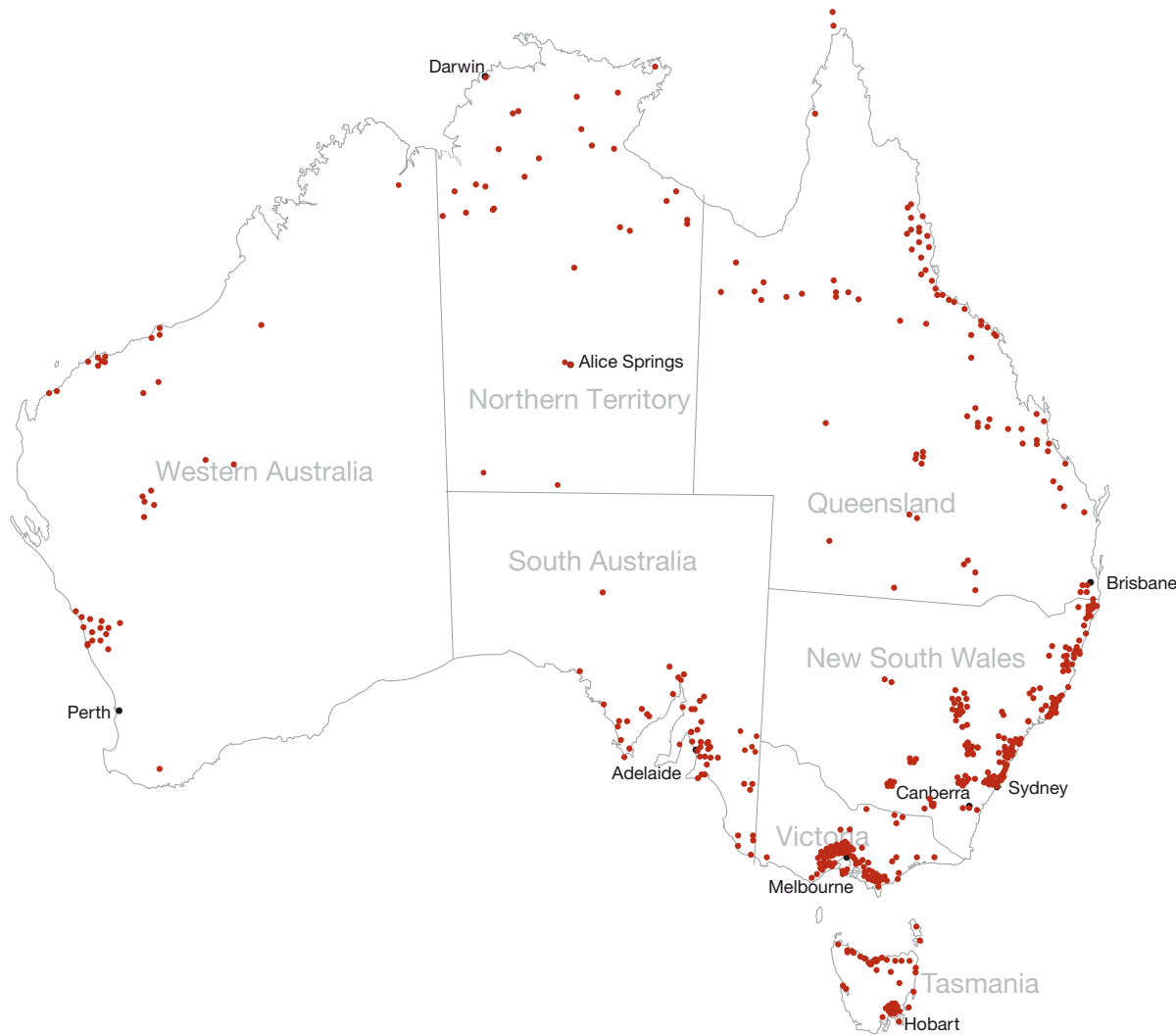
The financial support from Tenix Pty Ltd has substantially increased the reach and influence of the *Maths Squad* programme. In 2005-06, 23 290 students, from 139 schools in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT experienced in-school workshops and presentations about mathematics. Over 90% of the *Maths Squad* participants are primary and junior secondary students.

The *Maths Squad* also runs professional development workshops, in hands-on mathematics, for teachers to use in their own classrooms.

With Questacon's Indigenous outreach programme, the *Maths Squad* developed a tailor-made maths programme for the annual CrocFestivals. The *Maths Squad* ran specialised mathematical workshops with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.



# Outreach Impact



## Outreach visitor numbers

Outreach programme	Number of visitors	Number of schools visited
Shell Questacon Science Circus	75 198	539
Questacon Smart Moves	82 436	371
StarLab	16 126	335
Questacon ScienceLines	6 547	217
Questacon Science Squad	28 942	197
NRMA Roadzone	95 512	175
Tenix Questacon Maths Squad	23 290	139
<b>Total</b>	<b>328 051</b>	<b>1 973</b>

## NRMA Road Zone

Alstonville	Corindi	Junee	Port-	Walcha
Armidale	Diamond-	Kapooka	Macquarie	Wauchope
Ashmont	Beach	Kelso	San Remo	Whian Whian
Bangalow	Dorrigo	Kentucky	Sofala	Wingham
Bathurst	Dunoon	Killarney Vale	Stratheden	Wollongbar
Beebangera	Eglington	Kingstown	Tacoma	Wollongong
Beechwood	Ellangowan	Leeton	Tarcutta	Wolombi
Bilbul	Empire Bay	Lisarow	Taree	Woongarah
Black Springs	Forster	Lismore	Terrigal	Woy Woy
Bonville	Ganmain	Lithgow	The Entrance	Wyoming
Byabarra	Ghinni Ghinni	Lockhart	Tinonee	Wyong
Casino	Glenreagh	Long Jetty	Toormina	Wyong Creek
Central-	Glouster	Macksville	Trageagle	Wyrallah
Mangrove	Gorokan	Marrar	Tuggerah	Yenda
Chittaway Bay	Gosford	Meadow Flat	Tuncurry	Yoogali
Coffs Harbour	Griffith	Mount George	Upper-	
Coleambally	Guyra	Mummulgum	Lansdowne	
Collingullie	Hanwood	Nana Glen	Uralla	
Coolamon	Harrington	Niagara Park	Urunga	
Cooperbrook	Henty	North Haven	Wagga-	
Coraki	Hillston	Perthville	Wagga	

## Tenix Questacon Maths Squad

Bowing	Cloncurry	Hughenden	Richmond	Warragul
Bungendore	Cowwarr	Julia Creek	Sale	Yallourn
Canberra	Dajarra	Maffra	Townsville	Yinnar
Cammooweal	Darnum	Morewell	Heatly	Yinnar South
Charters-	Heyfield	Mount Isa	Trafalgar	
Towers	Hobart	Pentland	Traralgon	
Churchill	Homestead	Queanbeyan	Tyres	

## Questacon at CrocFestivals

Alice Springs	Halls Creek	Moree	Thursday-
Derby	Katherine	Port Augusta	Island
Geraldton	Kempsey	Swan Hill	Weipa



## Questacon Smart Moves

Abergowrie	Coober Pedy	Katoomba	Mt Nelson	Somerset
Aberfoyle Park	Coolah	Keith	Mudgee	Springwood
Croydon	Cowell	Kempsey	Murray Bridge	St George
Alice Springs	Cowra	Kempsey West	Muswellbrook	St Helens
Alpha	Cressy	Kimba	Naracoorte	St Marys
Aramac	Cummins	King Island	Narara	Strathlybn
Ardrossan	Cunnamulla	Kingston	Narramine	Streaky Bay
Armidale	Darwin	Kurri Kurri	New Norfolk	Surat
Atherton	Deloraine	Lake Munmorah	New Town	Swan Reach
Ayr	Devonport	Lambton	Newcastle	Tambo
Babinda	Dimbulah	Lameroo	Nhulunbuy/Gove	Tannum Sands
Bachelor	Driver-Darwin	Latrobe	Nubeena	Tanunda
Balaklava	Dubbo	Launceston	Nuriootpa	Taree
Baralaba	Dunedoo	Kings Meadow	Nyngan	Tennant Creek
Barcaldine	Dungog	Mowbray Heights	Oberon	The Entrance
Bateau Bay	Dysart	Newstead	Orange	Thuringowa
Bathurst	Edmonton	Norwood	Parkes	Townsville
Belmont	Eidsvold	Prospect	Paruna	Kirwan
Biloela	Elliston	Riverside	Peak Hill	Triangie
Birdwood	Emerald	Rocherlea	Penguin	Triabunna
Blackall	Eudunda	Leura	Penola	Trundle
Blackheath	Exeter	Lilydale	Peterborough	Tullamore
Blackwater	Flinders Island	Lithgow	Pialba	Tumby Bay
Blaxland	Forbes	Lock	Hervy-Bay	Tuncurry
Blayney	Forster	Longreach	Poatina	Ulverstone
Booragul	Gayndah	Loxton	Port Augusta	Urala
Bordertown	Dungog	Lucindale	Port Lincoln	Victor Harbour
Bowen	Geilston Bay	Mackay	Port Macquarie	Waikerie
Broadmeadow	George Town	Malanda	Port Pirie	Waicha
Bundaberg	Gilgandra	Gladstone	Portland	Wallsend
Burnie	Gladstone	Mannum	Proserpine	Wallumbilla
Burra	Glenden	Mareeba	Queenstown	Waratah
Cairns	Burra	Gloucester	Quilpie	Warners Bay
Cairns-Smithfield	Cairns	Goolwa	Quirindi	Warren
Calen	Cairns-Smithfield	Gordonvale	Quorn	Warrimoo
Campbell Town	Calen	Gosford	Ravenshoe	Wauchope
Cape Barron-Island	Campbell Town	Grenfell	Renmark	Wellington
Ceduna	Cape Barron-Island	Gulgong	Richmond	West Wallsend
Cessnock	Ceduna	Heatherbrae	Rockhampton	West Wyalong
Cessnock West	Cessnock	Herberton	Roma	Whyalla
Charleville	Cessnock West	Hobart	Rosebery	Wingham
Charters Towers	Charleville	Home Hill	Rosedale	Winnaleah
Childers	Charters Towers	Hounville	Roxby Downs	Winton
Clare	Childers	Hughenden	Rutherford	Wudinna
Claremont	Clare	Imanpa	Salamander Bay	Wynyard
Clermont	Claremont	Ingham	Sarina	Wyong
Cleve	Clermont	Innisfail	Scone	Yankalilla
Cloncurry	Cleve	Kandos	Scottsdale	Yeppoon
Cobar	Cloncurry	Kapunda	Sheffield	Yolla
Condoblin	Cobar	Karoonda	Singleton	Yulara
	Condoblin	Katherine	Mt Larcom	

## ScienceLines

Amanbij	Gascoyne	Mataranka	Pigeon Hole	Warrego
Arukun	Geraldton	Marble Bar	Pine Creek	Wugularr
Badu Island	Jigalong	Minyerri	Redlynch	Yalgoo
Barunga	Jilkminggan-	Mullewa	Robinson River	Yandeyarra
Borroloola	Junction	Ngukurr	Rockhampton-	Yarralin
Bowraville	Kalkaringi	Ngurawaana	Downs	Yulga Jinna
Bulla	Karalundi	Nullagine	Sandstone	
Bulman	Kiana	Onslow	Timber Creek	
Burringurrah	Lajamanu	Pannawonica	Urapunga	
Cue	Manyallaluk	Pia	Wadjari	

## Shell Questacon Science Circus

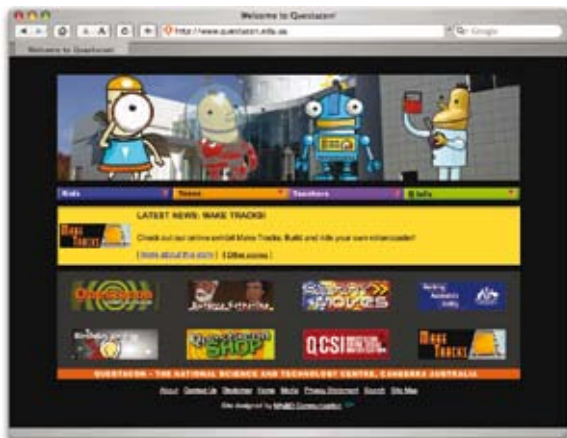
Alberton	Cowes	Korumburra	Nagambie	St Leonards
Alexandra	Coorow	Kalbarri	Nambrook	Stratford
Avenel	Dampier	Karalundi	Newborough	Swaifs Creek
Badgingarra	Denham	Karratha	Newcomb	Tardun
Bairnsdale	Drouin	Lake Tyers Beach	Newtown	Three Springs
Bannockburn	Drouin East	Leongatha	Newman	Tom Price
Bluff Point	Drysdale	Leopold	Northampton	Tallaroo
Beeac	Eneabba	Lethbridge	Omeo	Tarwin Lower
Bellbrae	Elliminyt	Lindenow	Orbost	Tooborac
Belmont	Ellinbank	Little River	Paynesville	Trafalgar
Beveridge	Geraldton	Longford	Portarlington	Traralgon
Birregurra	Garfield	Longwood	Puckapunyal	Tyabb
Boolarra	Geelong	Lorne	Pyalong	Wallington
Broadford	Glengarry	Maffra	Paraburdoo	Warragul
Bruthen	Gormandale	Meenyan	Perenjori	Wonthaggi
Cann River	Grovedale	Moe	Port Hedland	Wurruk
Carnamah	Hastings	Mornington	Queenscliff	Waggrakine
Carnarvon	Heyfield	Morwell	Rye	Wickham
Cervantes	Highton	Mt Eliza	Rangeway	Yuna
Cobains	Highton	Meekatharra	Roebourne	Yea
Colac	Inverleigh	Mingenew	South Hedland	
Corinella	Kilmore	Morawa	Sale	
Corio	Kinglake West	Mullewa	Seymour	

## Questacon Science Squad

Abbotsford	Canterbury	Frenchs Forest	Macquarie Fields	Rose Bay
Allambie Heights	Carlingford	Gladesville	Malabar	Rosehill
Anandale	Carlton	Glenfield	Manly	Rosemeadow
Arcadia	Carnes Hill	Gordon	Marayong	Roseville
Arncliffe	Castle Hill	Granville	Maroubra	Ryde
Artarmon	Casula	Greenacre	Marrickville	Sadler
Ashbury	Cecil Hills	Greystanes	Matraville	Sefton
Ashfield	Chatswood	Gymea	Merrylands	Coogee South
Avalon Beach	Chester Hill	Harris Park	Mortdale	Springwood
Balmain East	Collaroy	Heathcote	Mosman	St Andrews
Bankstown	Collaroy Plateau	Hoxton Park	Mount Druitt Village	St Clair
Bankstown West	Cromer	Kareela	Narellan	St Ives
Bardwell Park	Darlinghurst	Kellyville	Narrabeen	Summer Hill
Beacon Hill	Dee Why	Kensington	Newport	Sutherland
Bellevue Hill	Double Bay	Killara	North Ryde	Sydney
Bexley	Dover Heights	Killarney Heights	North Sydney	Sylvania Heights
Bexley North	Drummoyne	Kingsgrove	Cromer North	Tahmoor
Birrong	Dulwich Hill	Kirrawee	Orchard Hills	Toongabbie
Blacktown	Earlwood	Kogarah	Padstow	Vaucluse
Blakehurst	Eastwood	Kurrajong Hills	Pagewood	Waverley
Bondi Junction	Enfield	Lakemba	Panania	Wentworthville
Bonnyrigg	Engadine	Lane Cove	Parramatta	West Pennant Hills
Brighton Le Sands	Enmore	Lawson	Pennant Hills	West Ryde
Bringelly	Epping	Leichhardt	Penshurst	Westmead
Bronte	Ermington	Lewisham	Petersham	Willoughby
Brooklyn	Erskineville	Lindfield	Plumpton	Windsor
Buxton	Fairfield	Liverpool	Pymble	Winston Hills
Camden	Faulconbridge	Lucas Heights	Randwick	Wisemans Ferry
Campbelltown South	Five Dock	Lugarno	Richmond	Woollahra
Camperdown	Forestville	Lurnea	Riverwood	Yagoona
Campsie	Freemans Reach	Macarthur Square	Rockdale	

# Questacon website

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Questacon is a national leader in designing, developing and delivering interactive exhibitions and programmes to showcase the relevance of science and technology. The web-based educational materials are developed to complement and supplement Questacon exhibitions and allow students and teachers to expand on their Questacon experience.

Almost two million people visited Questacon's websites in 2005-06, a 40% increase over the previous year.

## TryScience

Questacon collaborated with IBM TryScience ([www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org)) to produce an online fieldtrip to Questacon. After a quick tour of the building, visitors can interact with an exhibit called *Sniff a Snack*, where a Tasmanian devil searches for a meal of road kill.

## QCSI

*Questacon: Crime Scene Investigation* (QCSI) is a multi-user online role playing game on the *Questacon Smart Moves* website. QCSI was played at the 2005 Canberra Games Festival and has been featured as a USA Today *Hotsite*. QCSI was the subject of a mini-workshop at the *Museums and the Web 2006* international conference in Albuquerque, USA and featured in *ASTC Dimensions* (July-August, 2006).

Players form a forensics team to investigate a possible homicide at Questacon. Team members share information about the crime scene via a text chat window.

## NRMA RoadZone

The *NRMA RoadZone* ([www.roadzone.org](http://www.roadzone.org)) website features two exhibit previews, *Stopping Distance* and *Three Second Rules* and an interactive QuickTime Virtual Reality Tour.

## Podcasting and RSS Feeds

Questacon has released six television advertisements as video podcasts. They are available via a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed directly from the Questacon website and from the iTunes Music Store. Questacon's media releases are available via an automatic RSS feed.



Questacon International



Questacon plays a leading role in international forums and research and links to international science centre networks to develop strong partnerships to allow the exchange of ideas and to promote Australian science, education and innovation.

Questacon hosted a consultation programme, led by a team of eminent science centre leaders, under the auspices of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the USA-based peak body for science centres around the world.

This team met with Questacon staff to address key changes and challenges, including developing the centre's national role, engaging visitors in frontier science and emerging communication technologies.

Questacon staff participated in annual conferences of the European, Asia Pacific and ASTC networks of science centres and museums.

Questacon is steering the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Science Centre Impact Project, which is examining best practice approaches of science centres.

Questacon is coordinating participation by science centres across the Asia Pacific region in a global initiative to raise awareness of the science of climate change and global warming.

In partnership with Australian Education International, Questacon's *Science on the Move* exhibition was a popular attraction at the Shanghai Science Festival. This exhibition was the centre-piece of the Australian Education International *Study in Australia* programme at the 2005 Korea Science Festival, and attracted 34 400 visitors in eight days, and significant media publicity for Questacon as a global leader in science communication.

As part of the Australian Government's International Science Linkages initiative, Questacon developed an exhibit and website *Innovation: A Showcase of Australia Japan Cooperation* with support from Miraikan, Japan's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation. The exhibit, first showcased at the Aichi World Expo in 2005, is touring Australian and Japanese venues, promoting science and technology cooperation as part of the 2006 Australia Japan Year of Exchange.



# Questacon Partners

## Sponsors



## Strategic Partners





Questacon continues to strengthen relationships with science-based organisations and the business community. These partnerships help Questacon deliver the message that science is fundamental to Australia's future success. Corporate partnerships enable more Australians, even in the remotest parts of the country, to access and participate in Questacon science and technology experiences.

Questacon facilitates the work of the National Partnership of Australian Science Centres, Museums and Science Education Centres. The group, known as the National Science Partnership, met in May 2006 to progress a number of specific cooperative projects including the Working Together on Water Education Report, Parents as Partners in Learning Science initiative and International Polar Year. This coalition was formed in 2005 to provide a national framework for cooperation and aims to increase science engagement, learning and literacy and to raise the profile of science centres and their contribution to national policy agendas.

Questacon has played a key role in the Australian Government's Coordination Committee on Science and Technology (CCST), establishing a Science Education and Awareness Working Group to map current initiatives across agencies, to identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination, including promoting science careers.

Questacon has a long-standing relationship with The Australian National University (ANU) Centre for Public Awareness of Science in the training of professional science communicators. A partnership with ANU Research School of Engineering and Information Services is developing a robotic guide to interact with and track Questacon visitors.

Questacon, as a member of the National Capital Attractions Association, supports the National Capital Education Tourism Project. This project markets the educational programmes of Questacon and other Canberra attractions, to teachers and students across Australia. Questacon partnered with the NSW Department of Education's Open Training Network to trial a video-streamed physics demonstration for secondary school students.

“ Never has science been so much fun... ”  
Jabiru Area School, NT

















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**Questacon**

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