



2025

ORGANISED BY
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
SCIENCE TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



SA'S LARGEST **SCIENCE** COMPETITION



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Named in honour of Sir Mark Oliphant, the Oliphant Science Awards hold a long and prestigious history in South Australia. Since their inception in 1981, the Awards have continuously grown and they now boast entries from over 3000 students – making the Awards the largest science competition in Australia.

Foreword

On behalf of the South Australian Science Teachers Association (SASTA), I am delighted to invite you to partner with us in supporting the 2025 Oliphant Science Awards.

In 2024, the Oliphant Science Awards once again provided an engaging platform for South Australian students to showcase their curiosity, innovation, and dedication to science and technology. Our mission is to inspire and nurture the next generation of science professionals through unique, hands-on learning experiences that spark excitement and creativity.

The Oliphant Science Awards remains South Australia's largest student science competition, with 3,505 students registering 2,615 projects in 2024. Our most popular categories included Posters, with 519 projects submitted, followed closely by the ever-creative Models & Inventions and a notable increase in participation in the Photography category.

Following the successful launch of the Citizen Science category for class groups in 2023, this category continued to thrive in 2024, drawing enthusiastic participation and collaborative efforts from schools across the state. We look forward to seeing even greater engagement in this area as students continue to explore the impact of their contributions to real-world scientific research.

We were proud to partner again with Science Alive! to host the Oliphant Science Awards onsite competition and Open Day in 2024. This collaboration brought exposure to nearly 22,000 attendees over three days, showcasing students' work to a broader audience and inspiring new schools to become involved. Our Virtual Open Day project gallery also continued to see success, allowing students' projects to be viewed statewide, along with engaging blogs from students and teachers that shared valuable insights and experiences.

Planning for the 2025 Oliphant Science Awards is well underway, with exciting themes for students to explore. This year, students can engage with topics like DNA as nature's secret code, conservation efforts, energy innovations, and sports technology. Themes also include plant and animal communication, food preservation, and the future of space exploration, inspiring meaningful engagement with the evolving landscape of science.

With the continued growth of the Awards, we seek sponsorships to help us achieve our vision and expand the reach of South Australia's most exciting science competition. Partnering with the Oliphant Science Awards offers sponsors a unique opportunity to connect with students, educators, families, and the wider community, fostering a positive association with supporting youth in STEM.

In 2025, we are also placing a strong emphasis on supporting regional schools and expanding our reach to engage more students across South Australia. We recognise the immense talent and enthusiasm in these communities and are committed to providing greater opportunities for regional schools to participate in the Oliphant Science Awards. By doing so, we aim to inspire students in all corners of the state and celebrate their unique contributions to science and technology.

Our events span over five months and engage more than 3,000 students, teachers, and their networks. We would be delighted to have your support and, in return, will ensure your sponsorship is recognised and your profile is elevated through a range of platforms.

We invite you to explore our sponsorship opportunities and consider joining us in promoting and celebrating young scientific minds. Custom packages are also available to suit your budget and vision.

Thank you for considering your support of the Oliphant Science Awards – South Australia's largest and most prestigious student science competition.

Dina Matheson

SASTA President



Your opportunity to be involved in South Australia's largest science competition...

About the Oliphant Science Awards

Open to students from Reception through to Year 12, the Oliphant Science Awards offer a wide array of categories to cater to diverse abilities and interests. Participants can choose from ten categories, including **Citizen Science, Crystal Investigations, Games, Models & Inventions, Multimedia, Photography, Posters, Programming, Apps & Robotics, Science Writing, and Scientific Inquiry.**

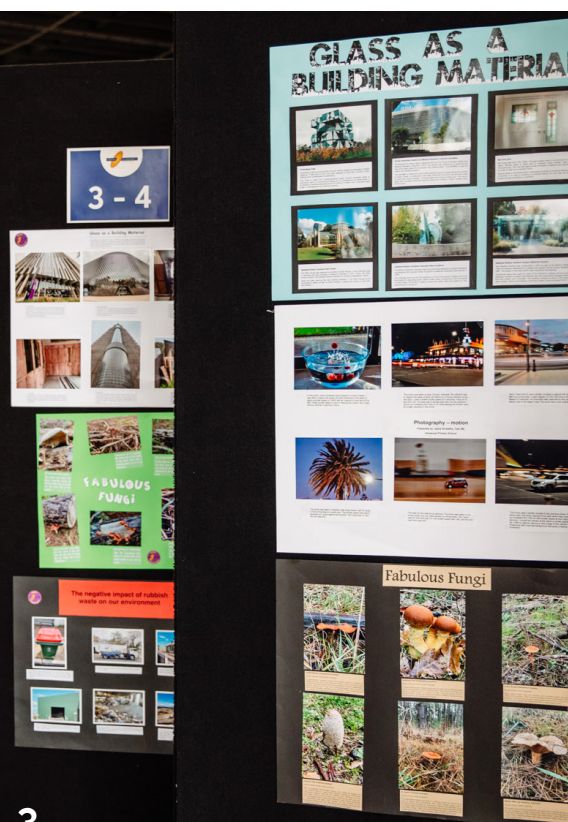
This diverse selection ensures inclusivity, welcoming students regardless of gender, culture, socio-economic background, age, or school location. The competition aligns with the Australian Curriculum standards and supports participation as individuals, groups, or class teams.

At the heart of the competition is the coveted Oliphant Trophy, crafted by Sir Mark Oliphant himself in 1981, awarded to the entry with the most outstanding science content. Beyond the prestige of the trophy, students are recognised with cash prizes for first, second, and third places in each category. **The South Australian Young Scientist Awards, sponsored by the Department for Education, and the Emerging Talent Award by Rowe Scientific** for both R-6 and 7-12 students, further celebrate and reward excellence. Many participants receive both category and sponsor prizes, highlighting the exceptional quality of entries.

The Awards inspire students to:

- Conduct and report on scientific investigations;
- Present and share their work with a wider audience;
- Explore and develop their skills, talents, and creativity;
- Complete projects independently or collaboratively;
- Engage deeply with scientific and technological discovery;
- Enhance their understanding of science-related careers.

Ultimately, the Oliphant Science Awards encourage students to immerse themselves in science and technology. The process fosters critical skills such as observation, prediction, and communication while expanding scientific knowledge across various domains. Participation generates discussion and learning that empower students to make informed decisions about the environment, research, society, and their own health and wellbeing.



Did you know?

Each year the Oliphant Science Awards has a range of categories which students can address via Photography, Posters and Science Writing.

Some of these titles have been introduced so that students can utilise the National Science Week theme. The other categories being Crystal Investigations, Games, Models & Inventions, Multimedia, Programming, Apps & Robotics and Scientific Inquiry do not have specific category titles attached to them so the students choose their own individual titles.

For our Photography, Poster and Science Writing categories our Oliphant Science Awards Committee each year determines a number of specific project titles for the student project.

We welcome title suggestions each year from our sponsors.

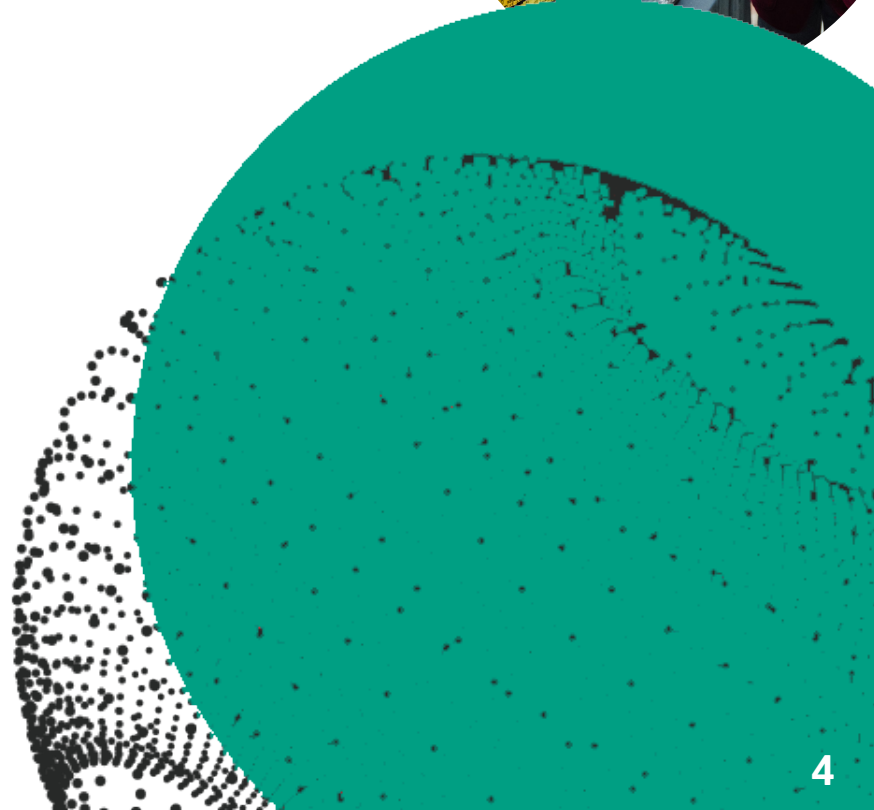
To give you an idea of this year's selected titles head to our project category information via our website:

www.oliphantscienceawards.com.au

Supporting the Oliphant Science Awards

Coordinating and managing a competition for over 3,000 students is a significant undertaking, but it is a task we are passionate about! Our aim is to grow, innovate, and maintain the high standard of excellence that defines the Oliphant Science Awards—and to do so, we need your support. Here are some compelling reasons why partnering with the Oliphant Science Awards is a must:

- 1. Australia's Largest Student Science Competition:** The Oliphant Science Awards attract over 3,000 student entries annually, making it the largest competition of its kind in the country. Open to all South Australian students from Reception to Year 12 across Department, Catholic, and Independent schools, the Awards see participation from over 125 schools each year.
- 2. Hands-on Sponsorship Opportunities:** Sponsorship allows your business to be actively involved. Collaborate with us to choose topics and themes that align with your mission, inspire students to engage with important subjects, participate as a judge, and present your sponsored award at the Presentation Ceremony.
- 3. Comprehensive Digital Promotion:** Your organisation can be promoted through SASTA's extensive digital marketing channels, including our monthly e-news sent to over 3,500 subscribers, blog posts, and the SASTA Newsletter and Journal. We are open to additional ideas to tailor your sponsorship experience to best suit your goals.
- 4. Social Media Reach:** SASTA's social media presence includes more than 2,000 Facebook followers, 1,300 Twitter followers, and a growing Instagram account. The Oliphant Science Awards Facebook page also continues to expand, providing further reach for sponsor promotions.
- 5. Engagement in High-Profile Events:** The Awards span over five months and include a series of key public events, such as the Open Day in August at Science Alive! and the Presentation Ceremony in October. Some prizes are also presented at school assemblies post-ceremony. Sponsors have the flexibility to be involved in as many aspects as they wish.



Sponsorship Opportunities

The benefits of being involved are highlighted below:

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	CATEGORY NAMING RIGHTS					
	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	IN-KIND SPONSOR	
	\$11,000	\$5,500	\$2,750	\$2,310	\$1,375	
PRE-EVENT PUBLICITY						
Oliphant Science Awards website: Logo on website	✓	✓	✓	✓	name only	name only
Awards poster: Logo	✓	✓	✓	✓		
SASTA e-news/newsletter advertisement (Provided by sponsor)	✓					
Social media promotion	✓	✓	✓			
Naming rights of one of the nine categories (chosen by sponsor - name and logo promoted in any communications including the competition categories e.g. website and Information Booklet)			✓			
JUDGING DAY & OPEN DAY EVENT						
Sponsor table or display (provided by sponsor)	✓					
Sponsor logo on display (provided by SASTA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
External banners or pull-ups (provided by sponsor)	✓	✓				
Sponsor prizes awarded	up to 6	4	3	2	1	to be negotiated
Sponsor prize selection (by sponsor representative)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRESENTATION CEREMONY						
Banner on stage	✓	✓	✓			
Acknowledgement by speakers & powerpoint	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Presentation of sponsor prize on stage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full page advertisement in A5 presentation book	✓	✓				
1/2 page advertisement in A5 presentation book			✓			
1/3 page advertisement in A5 presentation book				✓		
Logo in presentation booklet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speech on stage	✓	✓				
AFTER PRESENTATION CEREMONY						
Post event report	✓					
Certificate & photos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* GST inclusive

In-kind sponsorship could include annual memberships, subscriptions or science experiences for prize-winning students

How will your funds be utilised?

Each year, our dedicated team strives to deliver excellence in the Oliphant Science Awards. Your sponsorship will help us enhance and expand the competition through the following key investment priorities:

- **Award Participation:** We aim to increase student participation from a wide range of schools, including those with limited budgets, regional schools, and first-time participants. Sponsorship would enable us to subsidise entry fees to encourage broader participation, especially from schools with acknowledged disadvantages.
- **Judging Improvements:** Each year, nearly 100 volunteer judges dedicate thousands of collective hours to evaluate student entries. To enhance the objectivity of this process, we are developing comprehensive training packages for less experienced judges and refining our judging rubrics.
- **Website and Social Media Presence:** Strengthening our online profile is essential for connecting with students, teachers, and the wider community. We plan to expand our reach on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, while also investing in website upgrades to enhance usability and support the competition's online components.
- **Publicity:** We want to broaden our advertising efforts to ensure that all students and teachers are aware of the opportunities offered by the Oliphant Science Awards to enrich student learning in science.
- **Open Day Enhancements:** We strive to continuously improve our Open Day experience by showcasing winning entries, making displays more interactive, and hosting engaging “come and try” activities for students.
- **Prizes:** With over 3,000 students participating across nine categories, there is a need for a variety of prizes to acknowledge their hard work and achievements. Your support helps us introduce new and meaningful prizes.
- **Event Support:** As a membership-driven association, financial resources can be limited. Sponsorship assists us with essential operational costs such as printing, venue hire, catering, postage, courier services, and other logistical needs.

Your contribution ensures that we can continue to innovate, grow, and provide exceptional opportunities for students across South Australia.



Sir Mark Oliphant

The South Australian Science Teachers Association has been privileged to have had Sir Mark Oliphant as our Patron for the SASTA Oliphant Science Awards since their inception in 1981.

Like many of the recipients of these awards, Sir Mark was born in South Australia and received his primary and secondary education in state schools here. An outstanding student, Sir Mark investigated a number of career pathways and eventually settled on the pursuit of science at the University of Adelaide. Sir Mark showed a love of tinkering and invention from an early age, and it was in the science laboratories in Adelaide that he started to make his own scientific apparatus. He was to become one of the leaders in the design and construction of revolutionary apparatus, including particle accelerators used to investigate the structure and interactions of the nuclei of atoms.



In 1927 a scholarship took Sir Mark to the famous Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, UK where he worked with Lord Rutherford, who was a pioneer in atomic physics.

Together with other great scientists including Fermi, Lawrence and Oppenheimer, Sir Mark created the brave new world of nuclear physics. His expertise in this area was to lead Sir Mark to the Manhattan Project in America and to his participation in the development of the first atomic bomb.

Sir Mark was always a champion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and in 1937 accepted his first professorship as head of the Physics Department at Birmingham University where he was to continue to push the boundaries of knowledge of nuclear physics. In this year he was elected as a 'Fellow of the Royal Society'.

In 1955 Sir Mark's reputation as scientist, research director and administrator were well established in the scientific community. This, together with his declared interest in establishing world class educational research facilities in Australia, led Sir Mark back to Australia at the request of the Government. In this year he founded the Research School of Physical Sciences at the newly established Australian National University in Canberra.

In the years after retirement from academic life, Sir Mark became a household name in South Australia where he gave distinguished service as our State Governor from 1971 to 1976.

A clear demonstration of his ongoing support of science and science education was provided to the science community in our state when Sir Mark agreed, in 1981, to lend his name as patron of the SASTA Oliphant Science Awards.

Sir Mark's legacy will live on in many ways, not least through the thousands of students and teachers who participate in these awards annually. Of special significance is that Sir Mark, through his love of tinkering and invention, made the perpetual Oliphant Trophy himself.

Did you know?

Sir Mark personally designed and crafted the titanium metal perpetual trophy that the annual winning student holds for one year. The trophy is then exchanged for an engraved medal at the following year's Award Ceremony.



About the South Australian Science Teachers Association

The South Australian Science Teachers Association (SASTA) is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and collaborative community that empowers science educators. Our mission is to provide educators with the resources, professional development, and networks they need to excel in their teaching practice, ultimately inspiring the next generation of scientific thinkers.

SASTA's vision is to build an empowered community of educators where continuous learning, collaboration, and professional growth inspire teaching that sparks curiosity and passion for science in every classroom. This vision drives our efforts to ensure that all educators, regardless of their background or school location, feel supported and connected.

Our strength lies in our members—science teachers and laboratory officers—and the many dedicated educators who volunteer their time to support the association's initiatives. With approximately 500 members across all education sectors and year levels in South Australia, SASTA is well-positioned to advocate for the teaching of science and the professional growth of teachers.

SASTA upholds core values that define our approach:

- **Community:** We build a supportive network where shared learning and collaboration empower educators.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in the transformative power of working together, sharing knowledge, and fostering best practices.
- **Continuous Learning:** We are committed to lifelong learning, enabling teachers to grow and excel.
- **Creativity:** We embrace innovation and new ideas to inspire curiosity and critical thinking in students.

Our partnerships with educational authorities, businesses, industries, and the tertiary sector allow us to develop programs and resources that reflect the role of science in the wider community. SASTA greatly values the support and sponsorship from these partners and appreciates their shared commitment to effective science education and professional development.



Thank you for considering this proposal and if you would like any further information or clarification of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the SASTA office by telephone on 8354 0006 or email kate@sasta.asn.au

We look forward to working with you,
The Oliphant Science Awards Team

