

29 January, 2014

Dear Principal

ATSE Wonder of Science

I am writing to invite your school to participate in the 2014 ATSE Wonder of Science program for your region.

ATSE Wonder of Science develops passion and enthusiasm for science and technology in students in Years 6 – 9. Students are challenged and inspired through completion of a project, with the opportunity to participate in a culminating conference where they engage in the process of scientific investigation and experience scientific critique through peer review.

A key benefit of the Wonder of Science program is that the student research project is embedded in the teaching and learning program and aligned to the Australian Curriculum. The program, which is supported by Young Science Ambassadors (university PhD students) and industry and university partnerships, strongly aligns with Department of Education, Training and Employment's focus on *Engaged partners*.

The Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is one of Australia's four learned academies and includes many of Australia's leading scientists and engineers in its membership. ATSE is taking a leadership position to help ensure the future development of Australian students in STEM related areas.

At a time when the demand for STEM skills and knowledge in the workforce is increasing, Industry groups report that students in our schools and universities are not acquiring the STEM skills needed. Additionally International studies like the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) show that Australia's performance is stagnant.

ATSE's Queensland Division has developed the Wonder of Science program to support Queensland schools to address the decline in student engagement and achievement in science and STEM related studies.

Following a successful pilot of the Wonder of Science program in Far North Queensland, the program was extended into the North, Central, and Darling Downs South West regions in 2013. There has been extraordinary enthusiasm for Wonder of Science from both teachers and students and the standard of work presented at the regional conferences very high.

The students learned a lot about science through completion and presentation of their projects to demonstrate that Wonder of Science is making a difference for students in regional and rural Queensland.

Further information will be available on the program's website www.wonderofscience.com.au and Program Manager, Robyn Bull is available to answer any queries (Mob: 0410 265 404 or by email: robyn.bull@qut.edu.au).

We highly value the opportunity to work with teachers and students at your school on this program and invite you to please complete the attached nomination form and email it to Robyn Bull robyn.bull@qut.edu.au as soon as possible so that a Young Science Ambassador can be allocated to your school and implementation plans for the region can commence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Dunlop', written in a cursive style.

Professor Gordon Dunlop
ATSE Queensland Division