

Recipients of the TechNet Australia National Excellence Award for Tertiary Technical Staff (NEATTS)



2018 NEATTS – Carey Burke

Technical Assistant – Palaeontology, College of Science and Engineering Flinders University

Carey Burke is a Technical Assistant overseeing the palaeontology preparation laboratory and associated field work logistics at Flinders University. He leads the preparation and conservation of fossils, their replication through moulding and casting and coordinates and trains volunteers. His reputation is as the enthusiastic and down-to-Earth go-to person for any/all technical matters. Colleagues describe him as “the Chief Encourager” and “the only member of our lab who is functionally irreplaceable.”

Between 2013 and 2018, the Flinders' palaeontology group grew from 10 to 30+ members, and moved into new facilities Carey played the leading role in adapting operations to make the most of these changes and set up one of the [finest palaeontology preparation labs in Australasia](#). Carey created high-quality, fossil replicas to provide audiences with a tangible connection to Australian palaeontology and convey his enthusiasm, unique perspective, and considerable knowledge about Australia's fossil and living animals to people of all ages. Carey dramatically broadened the "Bone Box" program to include most schools within the Adelaide region as well as many in regional South Australia. He helped develop changes to the basic "Bone Box" concept which improved engagement with older students. He has presented to hundreds of school groups and his efforts have been acknowledged by the SA Museum and the Science Teachers Association.

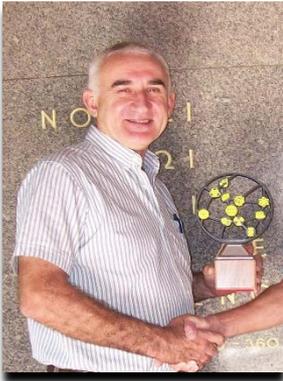
Carey developed a novel way to collect and process 30 million year old marsupial fossils from hard limestone using a combination of dilute acid solution and mechanical preparation techniques. Fossil preparation techniques he has developed have subsequently been applied to other extremely fragile fossil sites like the 370 million year old fish fossils from Gogo, Western Australia. He has also devised new ways to process tons of fossiliferous sediment from cave deposits. Carey has actively sought out other fossil preparators and undertook a visit to major palaeontological institutions in the USA to learn about techniques and approaches. He is also very active within the Flinders University Palaeontology Society, both in terms of organising events and by contributing articles.



2016 NEATTS - Roza Dimeska Professional Officer, SMAH - Technical Services University of Wollongong

Roza Dimeski is a technician in the Technical Services team supporting the School of Chemistry within the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health at UoW. Her primary role is to provide teaching support for undergraduate organic chemistry classes plus WHS support for her team, the students and their inductions. She is known for her engaging, cheery disposition, hard work, dedication and compelling passion for good student outcomes and bettering the working environment.

Roza has an enviable success rate in securing funds for projects. She acted as Chief Investigator on a collaborative Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant which successfully streamlined the School of Chemistry's laboratory safety induction process with an innovative, online, animated and gamified approach. It has since been adapted for use by staff and researchers as well. Since introduction, there have been measurably reduced lab WHS incidents. Roza and her collaborators have been nominated for an Australian Institute of Training and Development Excellence Award and the 2016 NSCA National Safety Awards of Excellence.



2015 NEATTS - John Moore **Senior Technical Officer/Safety & Health Representative** **The University of Western Australia**

John Moore is the Deputy Manager of the Mechanical Workshop in the School of Physics at UWA. He has had major input into all research activity undertaken by the School of Physics for over more than three decades including design, construction, commissioning, project management and championing health and safety. He has significantly aided researchers in Gravitational Wave Detection, Atomic - Molecular & Surface Physics, Bio-Magnetics, Frequency Standards & Metrology, Gravity Gradiometry, Astronomy & Astrophysics plus Oil & Gas. As a precision machinist, he was heavily involved in the building of a resonant bar gravity wave detector at UWA.

In 2015 he received a University Safety Recognition Award for being instrumental in implementing and improving safety systems for the School of Physics including the remote Research Gravitational Facility at Gingin. He is also closely involved with the UWA's Cryogenic Liquid Helium production facility.

In 2012, John coordinated an international team of engineers involved in the design and construction of a state of the art robotic observatory housing the [Zadko Telescope](#), WA's largest. In 2012 he was also awarded a prestigious [Australian Federal Government Endeavour Executive Fellowship](#) to visit engineering and research facilities in France and the USA in order to bring new technical skills to Australia in the field of telescope optics and maintenance.

John is well known for his mentoring of junior staff and is very well respected by students and academic researchers at UWA for his collegial manner, enthusiasm, dedication and creativity for finding optimal solutions. He has continued to acquire new skills in niche areas critical to the research projects in Physics.



2014 NEATTS - Rekha Joshi **Senior Technical Manager, Faculty of Science** **Macquarie University**

Rekha is well known for her inspirational leadership, contagious positive energy, knowledge and tenacity. Her career at Macquarie began as a Biological Sciences technician more than 20 years ago and gradually progressed to her role as Senior Technical Manager.

She was nominated for the NEATTS by her staff for the outstanding way she has pulled together a disparate and diverse group of technical teams into a single cohesive active unit with improved profile amongst academic staff, researchers, students, executives and

outreach participants alike.

Rekha has spearheaded dozens of projects to facilitate best practice laboratory operation and safety. This recently included transitioning to the GHS system of chemical safety standards. In 2014 she and her tech team received a significant teaching grant for instigating a pilot [introductory laboratory course](#) ahead of the first semester to inculcate key lab skills for those that did not study science at HSC level; for those needing to gain confidence in their technical lab skills.