

Recipients of the Annual TechNet

National Excellence Award for Tertiary Technical Staff (NEATTS)



2022 NEATTS – Matthew Jackson

Senior Technical Officer (Paramedicine)

Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences

University of Southern Queensland

Matthew looks after six technical labs in the Paramedicine program at USQ and keeps all the practical classes functioning on a day-to-day basis. That includes responsibility for all simulation hardware/software, related to practical skills/scenario development for all three cohorts of paramedicine students.

Matt was nominated for going above and beyond his established role by bridging between his Technical Services role and the academic team, proactively liaising with them to improve the pedagogy. Matt provides excellent technical support to hundreds of students in formal labs and tutorials and after-hours practical labs where the students practice their skills.

He has developed:

- Multi Casualty Incident resources, environmental props – tunnels fabricated in collaboration with the Engineering technical team.
- Reusable wound moulage – simulating infection and impalement with foreign body.

Matthew mentors permanent and casual staff and helps them to understand and use various equipment. He is the resident fixit person, solving all technical issues such as failed WiFi, software crashes and broken manikins. His peers and academic colleagues state that without Matthew's efforts maintaining high student satisfaction/engagement in the program would be impossible.

His consolatory and affable nature has reduced stress amongst the team on many occasions. He is patient with teaching staff and always amenable. He takes on and provides feedback in a respectful professional manner. His commitment and self-discipline are an example to the entire team. Matt continues to develop an extensive network of contacts within the technical/simulation sector.

Matthew actively engages with minority and disadvantaged groups. He aided development of the Student Practice Rooms to provide accessible training opportunities outside normal teaching hours and to engage and facilitate opportunities for all students.



2019 NEATTS – Maureen Connell

Senior Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Technical Services (Health)

Griffith University

Maureen Connell manages the Nursing Practice Laboratory at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Griffith's Nathan Campus. Maureen was awarded the NEATTS for her leadership of the laboratory technical team, for strengths in her management practice that have seen service delivery improvements while also enhancing cohesion within her team, for her innovative efforts to introduce new moulage techniques and improve simulation experiences for student learning, and for positive engagement with internal and external stakeholders.

Maureen's peers recognise her dedication to ensure students have the most realistic experience possible during simulations. She has lifted the performance of her technical team to her exacting standards of service delivery. The internal culture of the workplace benefited from her enthusiasm, inclusiveness and kindness and have fostered a sense of harmony within the team, whose positive attitude flows through to other staff and students.

Maureen has also earned particular recognition for engaging widely, with positive benefit to the School of Nursing and Midwifery – working with academics to develop the best possible learning scenarios, engaging with students, interacting cordially with laboratory service providers, and keeping in touch with discipline developments. Maureen's excellence in accommodating external visitors has led to an admirable record of increased requests for visits of the labs under her management.

Maureen's inventiveness has had an impact beyond her own laboratories. After trialling new techniques to make versatile and durable silicone wounds for simulations, Maureen shared her knowledge with other staff and this innovation has been adopted at all three of Griffith University's nursing campuses.



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

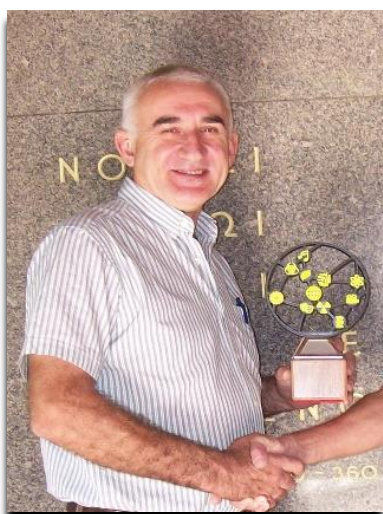
cave deposits. Carey has actively sought out other fossil preparators and undertook a visit to major palaeontological institutions in the USA to learn about techniques and approaches. He is also very active within the Flinders University Palaeontology Society, both in terms of organising events and by 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 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.