



THE RUTH DIRCKS ASTA SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND CONASTA

Information Sheet

Background

The Ruth Dircks Scholarship is an initiative designed to promote the attendance and participation of Australian teachers at CONASTA each year.

Ruth Dircks is a Life Member of the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) and a Past President of ASTA. She has been a very strong supporter of the Association and still attends the annual conference of ASTA (CONASTA) regularly.

In 2002, Ruth was the inaugural winner of the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools and was awarded \$35,000. Ruth generously donated this money to ASTA for the provision of an annual scholarship to CONASTA. ASTA named this scholarship the *Ruth Dircks ASTA Scholarships to CONASTA* in her honour.

Each year up to three teachers are supported to attend CONASTA, wherever it may be held in Australia. **The teachers' registration costs are funded through this scholarship.**

Criteria for selection

Applicants must comply with the following criteria to be judged eligible for this award:

1. Reside outside the regional area in which CONASTA is being held that year (approximately 200km radius)
2. Have not attended more than two CONASTA's previously.
3. Be a financial member of a State or Territory Science Teachers Association.

Selection

Applicants must complete an Application Form (available at <http://asta.edu.au/awards/ruthdircks>) and return it to conasta@asta.edu.au by the closing date specified on the form. Applications will be assessed by a selection panel that includes Ruth Dircks, the CEO of ASTA and at least two members of the ASTA Executive. Applicants are assessed according to their answers to three key questions:

1. What involvement have you had, and what involvement do you currently have with your State/Territory Science Teachers Association, and/or other ASTA programs or initiatives?
2. How would you personally benefit from this CONASTA experience?
3. How would you use this experience to benefit your wider networks ie: colleagues, peers, students?

Closing date for applications is 11 May 2018.

Promotion

The scholarships are publicised on the ASTA website, in the ASTA journal *Teaching Science* and through the State/Territory Science Teacher Associations. The Ruth Dircks scholarship winners are announced and presented at a plenary session of CONASTA. The winners are asked to write a brief article for the edition of the *Teaching Science* journal published after CONASTA each year.

Questions

Any questions can be sent to conasta@asta.edu.au or (02) 6282 9377.