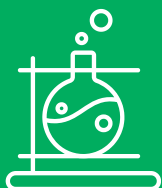
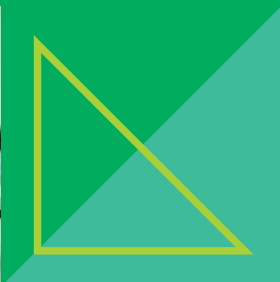




Junior
Science
Olympiad

2025

Australian Junior Science Olympiad Team



AUSTRALIAN
SCIENCE
INNOVATIONS

CONTENTS

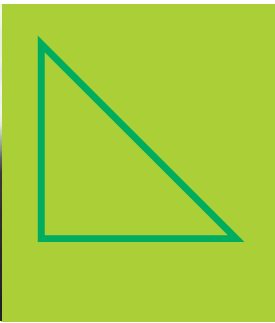
Order of Proceedings 3

Congratulations 4

Program Support 5

Team Members

- Sonasha Abhayagunaratne 6
- Zitong Jamie Hao 7
- Felix Lee 8
- Cameron Wong 9
- Chenhan Luke Xie 10
- Max Xu 11



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Acknowledgement of Country

Master of Ceremonies

Vanessa Kates, Executive Director
Australian Science Innovations

Welcome Address

Michelle Tea, Deputy Chair
Australian Science Innovations

Guest Speaker

The Hon. Emily Jane Suvaal
Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and
Small Business, NSW Government

Program Team

Suren Mendis
Junior Science Olympiad Co-Program Director

Team Announcement

Thank You & Close

Light Refreshments



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

Although our team cannot travel overseas for this year's International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO), this moment still stands as a significant milestone in your journey as young scientists. The opportunity to represent Australia—whether in person or in spirit—reflects years of hard work, curiosity, and an enduring passion for discovery.

The IJSO is far more than a competition; it is a celebration of learning, perseverance, and international friendship through science. Even from afar, you remain part of this global community of bright young minds, united by a shared love of inquiry and innovation.

The challenges of recent years have shown that science transcends borders and that curiosity continues to thrive, even when circumstances change. Your success in being selected for an IJSO team should encourage you to aspire to join the International Olympiads sometime in the future.

On behalf of everyone at ASI, I extend my warmest congratulations to our IJSO team for their dedication, adaptability, and commitment to excellence. I also commend their enthusiastic mentors, and the families and schools who supported them. May this experience inspire you to pursue your scientific dreams with even greater determination and to continue exploring the wonders of the natural world.

Associate Professor Stella Clark AM
Chair, Australian Science Innovations

THANK YOU

This program would not be possible without the immense work and dedication of Co-Program Directors, Dr Tammy Humphrey and Suren Mendis, along with their team of teachers, tutors and support staff.



OUR PATRON

We are honoured to have Emeritus Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE FACE FRSN as the Patron of Australian Science Innovations.

Professor Chubb has supported and inspired our Science Olympians for many years, as well as contributing significantly to the advancement of science education in Australia.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Thank you 3M for your ongoing support of the Junior Science Olympiad program.



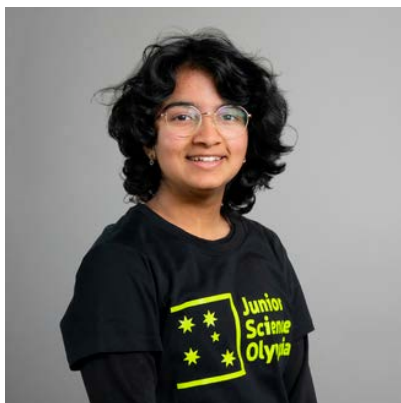
Thank you to Stile for providing the online teaching platform to support the Junior Science Olympiad program.



Scan this QR code to visit the ASI website and find out how you can help...

SONASHA ABHAYAGUNARATNE

Baulkham Hills High School, NSW



"I consider myself an academic person with a particular interest in science, as I enjoy how it explains things you cannot see, revealing the inner workings of our world, be it the earth, the universe, or our own bodies," Sonasha shared.

"Out of school, I do drama, martial arts, and Japanese, studying for JLPT language proficiency exams. I play the bass clarinet in two school bands, am in my school Oztag team, and do indoor climbing."

"I am also passionate about the student-run school magazine, which I lead."

Sonasha admires women, "who were pioneers in their fields, and paved the way for other generations, such as Julia Gillard, Australia's first female prime minister. My early love for history also led me to read about and admire historical figures such as Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie."

At Spring School, Sonasha enjoyed learning new things, meeting like-minded people with a shared interest in science and making new friends. She was also excited to experience the facilities, especially the labs.

"I find it inspiring that science is a testament to the collective work of thousands."



ZITONG JAMIE HAO

James Ruse Agricultural High School, NSW



"I love all types of science but especially physics because it's fascinating how many things there are we don't know and it feels cool to try to discover a truth that is larger than us, like with relativity and quantum physics," Jamie explained.

"I also love how chemistry and biology try to solve real-world problems to help people with diseases by treating them with medicine or discovering other things to help them. I also love mathematics and

the cool ways it can sometimes manifest in science, such as in chemistry and especially formulae in physics."

"Other than these things, in my spare time I like to play the piano and the saxophone, especially improvised or modern jazz because it feels like you get to invent your own rules. I also like playing chess because of the number of possibilities and how each game is unique, as well as playing 'Breath of The Wild' (Zelda) because of its 3D open-world style and how free you are to explore everything without limits."



It is Jamie's second time being invited to attend the Junior Science Olympiad Spring School, and he was very excited to be involved again.

"...it's fascinating how many things there are we don't know and it feels cool to try to discover a truth that is larger than us..."

FELIX LEE

Barker College, NSW



Meet Felix, a year 10 student at Barker College.

"I primarily focus on chemistry and physics as the two main disciplines of science," Felix shared.

"I enjoy extracurricular activities that primarily involve music, as well as debating, mock trial, and some leadership activities."

"My role model is probably one of the most famous scientists that I have always looked up to, such as Einstein or Newton, who put years and years of work to search for something that might not even exist, and they achieved great things through their persistence."

At Spring School, Felix enjoyed, "making friends and improving his scientific skills the most."

"I enjoy science because I am able to investigate many observations and interesting things that happen in nature."



CAMERON WONG

Scotch College Hawthorn, VIC



“My love for science started at a very young age - when I was very young, I had a great passion for astronomy and chemistry which continues to the present day.”

“I read extensively about astronomy whenever I can and two years ago, I visited Kennedy Space Center as part of a school trip.”

“As for my role models, they are definitely my parents. They work tirelessly throughout the week to give me a better life and I am endlessly grateful for that.”

“Other than science, I wholeheartedly enjoy music. My love for music started very early in my life and I play 3 instruments to a high level - piano, clarinet and saxophone. I also take interest in Music Theory.”



It is Cameron's second time at Spring School. He enjoyed meeting new like-minded peers and friends and learning from industry experts.

“My love for science started at a very young age... which continues to the present day.”

CHENHAN LUKE XIE

James Ruse Agricultural High School, NSW



“Likely physics, because it is less memorisation and more understanding based. It's also studies the fundamentals behind our universe, what it is and why it behaves as such, which appears really interesting to me since the universe is nothing but simple. Chemistry is a close second,” Luke explained about his favourite science discipline.

“I think Newton inventing calculus just to justify his physics was really cool.”

Luke is encouraged by his family to explore science, “My mom is good at physics, and my dad in general likes me to try new things. If not for them, I would not have known Junior Science Olympiad existed at all.”

Outside of science, Luke says, “I play badminton and enjoy video games.”

“When something goes unexpected, I remember that science does not miraculously break, and the laws of physics still apply.

Following this, there must have been an identifiable error somewhere, which can then be located and fixed.”



MAX XU

James Ruse Agricultural High School, NSW



“In my experience, I have always favoured the STEM subjects over the humanities, which I admit is not much of a point of difference. Nevertheless, maths and science have simply come easier to me, and it was easier to excel in a school setting at these subjects,” Max told us.

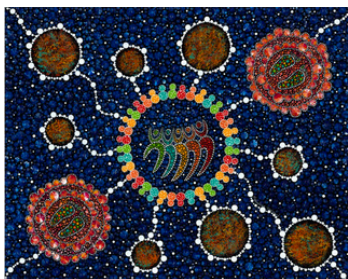
“In science in particular, my favourite part is learning how the world works - whether it be being able to predict the motion of a projectile, understand that matter is made of tiny atoms, or interpret pedigree charts, each area of science is fascinating - not only in how it explains everyday phenomena that I don't even think about, but also the elaborate theories, the inherent imagination and sense of wonder which comes from the endless pursuit of knowledge which we call science.”

“Outside of school, I frequently play basketball and soccer and sometimes piano. I have also started going to the gym.”

At Spring School, Max looked forward to more learning opportunities in science, which he embraced.



“My favourite part is learning how the world works... each area of science is fascinating!”



Reach for the Stars (and beyond)

Sarah Richards is a Ngiyampaa woman whose lineage and experiences shape her unique artistic narrative. You can learn more about Sarah at Marrawuy Journeys: www.mjourneys.com.au

Acknowledgement of country

We wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land we work on, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We wish to acknowledge the Gadigal people as traditional custodians of the land we meet on, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the Sydney region.

We recognise their connection to Country and their important role as Australia's very first scientists – observing, experimenting and documenting the world around them for many thousands of years.

Thank you for attending the ceremony!

To hear about the positive impact of ASI programs, please follow us on social media and sign up to the newsletter on our website.



@auscienceinnovations



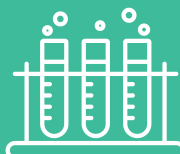
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