

CV of Tamara Swain (preferred name Tiki)

Referees

Steven Mushin, Ecological Systems Designer / Green Technology, CERES
ph 0402 149 814

Genevieve Wadham, line manager, Visitor Programs, Scienceworks
ph 03 9392 4819

Tarni James, series producer, *Carbon Cops*, Grundy Television / Fremantle Media
ph 0411 395 156

Sarah Brooker, Science in Public
ph 0413 332 489

Educational background and qualifications

B.Sc Curtin University of Technology (major in Applied Physics, strengths in Computer Science)

Non-assessed participation in the Diploma of Museum Studies

Year 12 TEE in Art, Literature, Chemistry, Geography, Maths II and III, Physics

Senior First Aid and Remote Area First Aid certificates, St Johns Ambulance

Additional private training in bush skills such as survival, snake handling, and tracking

Recent relevant work experience

October 2007 to present Green Technology Coordinator, CERES

Duties including project management, budgets, team and volunteer management, information collection and preparation, data management, responding to public queries on green tech projects at CERES, and preparations for future green tech projects. Currently the green tech at CERES is mostly focused on sustainable water, however it's expected to shift focus to climate change during this year.

August 2007 to present and January 2006 – November 2006 Presenter, Scienceworks

Duties including developing and running childrens' science-craft activities, presenting education science shows on a range of science topics, presenting public shows and demonstrations, performing in the Lightning Room / High Voltage Theatre, and providing visitor assistance. Managers Murphy Peoples, Genevieve Wadham and Elizabeth Stark.

November 2006 – March 2007 Science researcher, December Films

Researcher and numbers girl / fact checker for the environmental science TV show *Carbon Cops*, co produced with Grundy Television and the ABC. Series producer Tarni James of Grundy TV and executive producers Tony Wright and Steven Amezdros of December Films.

July 2005 – ongoing *Freelance science communicator*

Projects including

- Project brief translation for Cunningham Martyn Design's exhibition tender for one gallery of the China Science and Technology Museum in Beijing. The project brief was written in science, and I helped turn it into something non-science-trained designers could read and imagine.
- Helping organise the ASRP / Australian Synchrotron Project Users Workshop, held December 5-6 at Melbourne University. I was attached to the Synchrotron Project for this task, under communications manager Stefanie Pearce.
- Writing media releases and backgrounds for the company Science in Public led by Niall Byrne. Tasks included backgrounds for the Prime Minister' Science Prize awardees, writing media releases for events and issues during Science Week, and preparing backgrounds and drafting releases for winners of some of the 2005 Eureka Prizes, among others. My most recent task for them was assisting with the communications contract for the Australian Institute of Physics.

May 2005 – January 2006 and November 2006 – ongoing *Scienceworks volunteer*

Duties including helping with childrens' science-craft activities, providing visitor assistance

Dec 2003 - April 2005 *Communications Systems Operator, Fire and Emergency Services Authority W.A.* Duties included:

- Answering 000 fire calls and handling public emergencies (resourcing and dispatch)
- Answering State Emergency Service calls, ensuring that the general public's problems were dealt with wherever possible
- Answering general enquiries calls to do with the day to day work of Operations
- Managing the controlling station of a metropolitan and country radio network

2002-2003 *Community friends group representative (volunteer) to the Environmental Liaison Advisory Group of the Town of Victoria Park Council (within the Perth metro area, W.A)*

This group held representatives of the major environmental interests in the town - bushland, water catchment, animal rescue, the Urban Weed Council among others - and two councillors with relevant experience and interests. We met monthly to consider environmental issues in the town and what projects the council should be considering, such as the CCC accreditation process or the reduction of plastic bags. We also were kept informed of the progress Council's Infrastructure/Parks Management were making in the joint metropolitan council recycling station being built, with the opportunity to feed back environmental issues we felt might arise. In particular I represented the interests of Hillview Terrace Bushland, and I did the original legwork preparing possible plant lists for a campaign to encourage gardeners to plant local natives to cut down on water and fertiliser use. This campaign was run after my time in ELAG.

March 2002 - Dec 2003 *Freelance science communicator and technical writer.* Projects included:

- Preparation of the "Ancient and Unusual" self-guided walk for school students on ancient plants and plant evolution for Kings Park and Botanic Garden, W.A.
- Checking and layout preparation for the Year 11 Physics Problems set book for the

Science Teachers Association of W.A.

- Research and development for a new interactive schools programme in science and maths for Bubblemania
- Initial preparation for schools programmes for the (then unopened) Gravity Discovery Centre in Gingin, W.A.

2000 - 2004 *Science and mathematics tutor for girls in years 10-12*

February 1999 - January 2005 *Volunteer Guide at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens*, duties including:

- Leading interstate and international tourists on guided walks on several topics
- Leading school groups on individually tailored/structured guided walks
- Staffing the Park's Information Centre
- Preparation of training and further education materials for other Guides

January 1996 - December 1999 *Schools Liaison Officer, Department of Applied Physics, Curtin University of Technology*, duties including

- Preparation of department newsletter
- Answering school student queries about the course and career paths
- Presence at careers expos
- Organising, running and delivering school tours of the Department and its research groups, including interactive lab demonstrations on topics such as fluorescence, electromagnetism, liquid nitrogen, light and sound or whatever the teacher wanted
- Managing and redeveloping library displays on physics topics that were circulated through school libraries
- Managing and helping redevelop promotional brochures
- Arranging visits to schools to talk about physics and science careers and perform demonstrations

1995 - 1998 *Casual science demonstrator and presenter, Physics Roadshow*

- Part of a team presenting physics-based demonstrations in schools tagged as having many underprivileged students who were not reaching their potential. The aim was to promote interest in science and physics from years 8 to 12, be that to assist the 12s with concepts in the university entrance exams or to encourage the 8-10s to turn up to class and not truant or anything else that the teachers felt would assist them.
- Logistical tasks involved gear management and selection, set-up in a range of venues (whatever the school had provided us with on the day), training and assisting other casual presenters for individual demonstrations, teacher liaison.
- Presenting tasks included class management, topic presentations/demos, running hands-on sessions, discussing and presenting safety issues, writing and running problem-solving thought puzzles, writing/developing scripts.

February 1993 - January 2000 *Volunteer producer, production assistant and presenter, Curtin University Radio 6NR*, duties including

- Choosing talent, interviewing and editing interviews for broadcast

- Preparing music and other material for broadcast
- Taking competition, talkback and general enquiry phone calls for music shows, special interest shows and talks shows
- Training other volunteers

Recent relevant publications

- *Extraordinary Plants*, co-authored with Palenque Blair and photographer Damon Annison. A cross between a field guide and a coffee table book showcasing and highlighting plants of the W.A. coastal sand plains, discussing their uses and cultural history along with their scientific interest.
- Cover illustrations for *Gynaezine* numbers 1, 2 and 3 in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. Illustrations were botanical drawings of local plants.

Computer packages and software I'm familiar with

Microsoft Office and Word, Wordpad, StarOffice, vi, Netscape, Mozilla, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Lynx, Mutt, various webmail clients, Outlook Express, Frontpage. I'm familiar with and comfortable in both Unix / Linux environments and Windows / Dos environments, both text-based and GUI-based. I can write HTML code.

Hobbies, interests, other skills

Local ecologies and environment, plants and gardening, native birds and animals, primitive skills (e.g. survival, tracking, toolmaking), climate and weather, theatre and drama, backstage work, costuming, sewing and clothing design, drawing, painting, the science-art interface, music, singing, dancing, martial arts (particularly Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Aikido), travel, languages, vegetarian cooking, science fiction/fantasy, radio, cryptography and codes, Linux/Unix, photography.

Contact details

Phone: (03) 9399 4701 or 0429 86 57 24
Email: aerious@lostrealm.com
Mail: PO Box 2052, Altona East, Vic 3025 Australia.