

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 4, 26 February 2008

Having trouble reading this email? Read it on the web at <http://www.acsso.org.au/AED080226.pdf>
Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at letters@acsso.org.au

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In this edition we continue our round-up of education events making news at the commencement of the school year; and also repeat a new resource item from late last year which you may have missed at that busy time of year. These articles include:

- [2020 Summit - how schools can get involved beforehand \(1 item\)](#)
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AUSTRALIA 2020 SUMMIT

Pre-summit Summit Opportunities for Schools

Schools are being invited to become involved in the Australia 2020 Summit before it is held in Canberra in April.

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard said every primary and secondary school in the country could host its own School Summit in the weeks before the Canberra Summit.

Schools can register at <http://www.australia2020.gov.au> to host a summit any time from March 17 to April 6

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RESEARCH

Children's well-being in primary school: pupil and school effects

Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning, London

Young children's behaviour often improves markedly during their primary school years if they do well in English at age 7, new UK research suggests.

Researchers who tracked more than 2,000 children between the ages of 8 and 10 found that those who had made a good start in English became much less likely to get involved in antisocial activities such as bullying. Pupils who were good at maths at age 7 but struggled with English showed fewer improvements in behaviour during their junior school years.

Dr Leslie Gutman, the study's principal author, said: "This does not necessarily mean that we will see an improvement in children's behaviour by enhancing key stage 1 English scores. It could be more complicated than that. It may be that aspects of development associated with English proficiency, such as communication skills and sociability, promote positive behaviour."

Although there was no evident association between good grades in maths and improved behaviour, children who did well in maths at 7 generally had stronger feelings of control, more confidence in their scholastic abilities, and less depression.

Dr Gutman and Professor Leon Feinstein, of the Institute of Education, University of London, also found that most children appear to enjoy their primary school years and do not get involved in bullying or other antisocial activities. "We believe this is a significant finding given the widespread concerns about the quality of children's lives in the UK today," they say.

Read more at <http://www.learningbenefits.net/Publications/ResRepIntros/ResRep25intro.htm>

Reducing class size 'not a cost-effective way to improve pupil performance'

Institute of Education, University of London, 25 February 2008

Reducing school class sizes in an attempt to raise pupil achievement is a waste of money for all but the youngest children, according to one of the country's leading teacher-educators.

Cutting class size by 30 per cent gives children the equivalent of four extra months of learning per year but costs around £20,000 per class per year, says Professor Dylan William, deputy director of the Institute of Education, London.

By contrast, he calculates that "formative assessment", a tried-and-tested approach to assessing and responding to children's learning needs, can provide eight extra months of educational development for only £2,000 per classroom per year. "It can therefore be 20 times as cost-effective as reducing class size in terms of pupil achievement," he will tell the annual Chartered London Teachers Conference later today.

"Smaller classes do confer a benefit if pupils are unruly, because fewer pupils in a class means less disruption. But as long as pupils are well-behaved, then what you can do with a class of 20 is generally possible with a class of 30. Smaller classes can also be more cost-effective for five to seven-year-olds, but research suggests the class size needs to be reduced to 15 or less."

Professor William says that investments in ICT have also shown a poor return. However, international studies have confirmed that formative assessment can double the speed of pupil learning.

Read more at http://ioewebserver.ioe.ac.uk/ioe/cms/get.asp?cid=1397&1397_1=18281

How Has School Productivity Changed in Australia?

ANU Research School of Social Sciences, February

The literacy and numeracy performance of Australian school children is no better than it was in the 1960s and 1970s, according to new research from The Australian National University.

The research, by ANU economists Dr Andrew Leigh and Dr Chris Ryan, tracked long-run changes in test scores by comparing the performance of successive cohorts of school children on the same tests.

"Over the past three to four decades, neither literacy nor numeracy have improved, and may even have declined slightly", said Dr Ryan.

Download the media release at

<http://rsss.anu.edu.au/documents/School%20Productivity%20Media%20Release-final.pdf>

Download the report at <http://econrsss.anu.edu.au/~aleigh/pdf/SchoolProductivity.pdf>

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HOT TOPIC: STUDENT RETENTION & LEAVING AGE

NSW school leaving age set to be 16

Murray Trembath, Liverpool Leader, 31 January 2008

Increasing the school leaving age to 16 was designed to "protect the vulnerable and stop kids falling through the cracks," Premier Morris Iemma said yesterday.

He visited Grays Point Public School to promote the change, which will take effect from next year after legislation is enacted.

The State Government will defer a decision on whether to increase the school leaving age even further, to 17 or 18, until after community consultation.

Mr Iemma said he had an "open mind" on the question.

While driving out to Sutherland Shire, he listened to criticism of the change from radio talkback callers, who told of successful careers despite leaving school early.

Mr Iemma said that, while they were "great success stories" and should not be undervalued, they had occurred in a different time and economy.

Many of the jobs these callers had obtained upon leaving school no longer existed.

"I say to them: `This is not just about keeping kids at school for the sake of keeping them at school.'

"It is about equipping them with skills and training."

Mr Iemma said, at present, 5500 students left school in NSW each year at the age of 15 with no School Certificate and no skills or training.

A significant proportion of them had no job waiting.

"When you start off like that, your chances of getting a job when you are 20 or 18 are even less," he said.

ACT Govt considers raising school leaving age

ABC News online, 31 January 2008

The ACT Government says it is considering raising the school leaving age from 15 to 16 years.

The New South Wales Government has announced that it will go ahead with legislation to change its school leaving age later this year.

The ACT and Northern Territory would be the only two jurisdictions to continue to have a leaving age of 15.

ACT Education Minister Andrew Barr says it is something that has been considered by the Government's Skills Commission.

"What we need to ensure in this debate though is that it doesn't just become solely focused on staying at school, that we need to look at the range of different education pathways," he said.

Mr Barr says 90 per cent of ACT students finish their schooling but there is always room to improve.

"Perhaps considering measures such as raising the compulsory leaving age would enable us to address, effectively the remaining 10 per cent of the student population who aren't completing year 12 or an equivalent vocational education and training level," he said.

Senior student retention rates slipping

Sydney Morning Herald, February 7 2008

The federal opposition has demanded state governments be held to account after figures revealed senior school retention rates have slipped in recent years.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Yearbook reveals a slow but steady drop in the number of students continuing from year 10 to year 12. The overall number of full-time and part-time students continuing to year 12 fell from 81.3 per cent in 2002 to 79.2 per cent in 2006, the ABS data showed.

Analysed over a longer period, the statistics show senior school retention rates are now roughly back to where they were in 1999, after peaking in 2002.

As part of his "education revolution", Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has said he wants to lift retention rates to the point where eventually nine out of 12 children finish year 12.

Opposition education spokesman Tony Smith said Mr Rudd needed to pull state Labor administrations into line for presiding over the decline in retention rates. "If Kevin Rudd is serious about ensuring nine out of 10 students finish year 12 then he must pull the states into line for their role in failing to keep students in school," he told AAP.

Read more at <http://news.smh.com.au/senior-student-retention-rates-slipping/20080207-1qtu.html>

OPINION

Making schools relevant for all is the big challenge

Greg Whitby - Sydney Morning Herald January 31, 2008

The conversation about schools is always a little depressing at this time of the year. The general theme of the back-to-school period is the rising costs of education, as well as the usual scoring and ranking of students.

An alien visitor might think the places which we earthlings call "schools" are merely expensive sorting centres where our children are separated into winners and losers.

I am not attacking our assessment system - which serves its purpose with admirable efficiency - but I do think the preoccupation with it actually obscures the big challenges we are facing in teaching. The development of relevant schooling for all children is much more deserving of debate than the comparative scores of a few bright kids on various league tables of limited validity.

The State Government's plan to raise the minimum school leaving age from 15 to 16 is a positive step if it opens the door to continual learning for students, which equips them for 21st-century life and careers. But compelling students to stay at school longer won't work if we don't make schooling more relevant.

Do we see our schools simply as places which prepare our children for the workforce? Are they there to train young people to be compliant and docile, or even industrious and serious-minded? Are there more complex, but very important, reasons for the large investment our society makes in education? And if so, what are they?

Read more at <http://www.acsso.org.au/whitby080226.pdf>

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STUDENT VOICES

Secondary Student Newspaper Going National in April

To coincide with 2008 Youth Week celebrations in April, S-press student newspaper will begin delivering 80,000 copies each month to more than 3000 secondary schools, youth centres and teen hot spots right across the country.

Having been embraced by teenagers in Victoria, Tasmania and Northern Territory since its first issue five years ago, S-press' national move will virtually quadruple the newspaper's circulation and readership.

This full-colour publication covers key aspect of teen life, including youth news, education, sport and social events. It includes a new look After School section, containing vital career and higher education information, plus an entertainment and lifestyle section.

Most importantly, S-press serves as a vehicle for teenagers to express their voice and creativity, with much of the newspaper's content derived from students themselves through letters to the editor, articles, creative writing and CD and film reviews.

S-press Managing Editor Grant Quarry says more than one million secondary school students across metropolitan and regional Australia will now have a newspaper devoted to their interests.

"Teenagers are often left out of mainstream media, so we are committed to producing a publication that highlights their positive achievements and contributions to society, as well as exploring issues that are important and relevant to them."

Read more at <http://www.spress.com.au>

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WEB RESOURCES

The Stupid Country: How Australia is Dismantling Public Education

Read the Book - and Visit the Website.

"It is now six months since the launch of The Stupid Country - how Australia is dismantling public education in Sydney last August. The book has gone well and has received over half a dozen reviews in various publications.

"Jane and I have had various requests for information, speaking engagements etc and we believe there is a need for a 'resource bank' of news, articles and research on the issues we and so many other people raise. The change of government has certainly not lessened interest in the things we all talk about.

"Accordingly we have set up a simple website <http://www.thestupidcountry.com> - the site is self-explanatory and it is updated very frequently.

"We hope that you enjoy it and let others know about it. It will include more features as we get our minds around the technology.

"Thank you in anticipation for your interest."

Chris Bonnor and Jane Caro

Return of Radio National's Fortnightly Education Report

Edpod, Radio National's fortnightly online education report returned to action on 31 January 2008.

Each podcast features two or three stories focusing on current issues in education in Australia, made available for individual download as mp3 files or as a free subscription feed to be downloaded automatically with your podcasting software of choice.

The first edition for 2008 includes an interview with the new head of the Government's national curriculum board, Professor Barry McGaw with a reaction to the plan from the new President of the Australian Education Union, Angelo Gavrielatos.

Richard Aedy also speaks with Dr Ilana Snyder about her new book 'The Literacy Wars: why teaching children to read and write is a battle ground in Australia.'

The 14 February edition features Frank Chalk, a pseudonym for a UK teacher who became a blogger and then the author of *It's Your Time You're Wasting*, and a profile of The Cape York Institute, led by Noel Pearson, and its quest to "get great teachers into remote schools".

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/edpod>

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HOT TOPIC: TEACHER SUPPLY

Foreign teachers head to regional WA

ABC January 31, 2008

Teachers from overseas are being posted at schools in rural areas throughout Western Australia for the start of the school year.

During a recruitment drive late last year to the United Kingdom, 200 teachers expressed an interest in relocating to WA.

Twenty teachers from Britain, Scotland, South Africa and Canada will start next week in rural and regional schools, with another 28 confirmed to start in the middle of the year.

The Education Department says there is a shortfall of 134 teachers, but the State School Teachers Union of Western Australia warns there could be as many as 600 vacancies.

Allan Baglaich from the Education Department says the teachers recruited from overseas will be based throughout regional WA for at least two years.

"They've already completed an induction program with us so most of them are heading out to their districts I hope as we speak," he said.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/31/2151148.htm>

Cyber teaching for Goldfields students

ABC News - Tue Jan 29, 2008

Some students in the Goldfields will be taught via video and phone conferencing when classes resume next week.

The shortage of teachers means students in the Goldfields will be taught some subjects via video and phone conferencing when classes resume.

Remote teaching technologies were introduced last year when the Eastern Goldfields College did not have a geography teacher and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School could not offer certain maths and science classes.

The Goldfields Education Director, Larry Hamilton, says he will not know which subjects will be taught using video and phone conferencing until he speaks to the principals of the affected schools this week.

He says while he would prefer face-to-face teaching, the tight labour market is making it difficult to attract teachers.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/29/2149154.htm>

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008

Geoscience Australia and the International Year

2008 was proclaimed the International Year of Planet Earth by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. This celebration aims to bring together the international knowledge base of geoscience and demonstrate new and exciting ways in which Earth sciences can help meet future challenges.

This international endeavour has an exciting and diverse scientific program, with 10 relevant themes identified. Many of Geoscience Australia's research activities are aligned with these themes.

By contributing to these research themes, Geoscience Australia is committed to enhancing the International knowledge base of geoscience, aiding in the effective decision-making about planet Earth's resources and health.

For activity details: <http://www.ga.gov.au/about/event/IYPEhome.jsp>

Australian Climate Policy a "Death Sentence"

Rosslyn Beeby Canberra Times, 2 February 2008

The Rudd Government's climate change policy has already been overtaken by new science and will impose a "death sentence" on Australia unless urgently updated, say the authors of a new report.

Former Victorian government adviser Phillip Sutton and David Spratt, founder of climate change group CarbonEquity, say the Government's policy lacks scientific depth and has been cobbled together from reports now surpassed by new data on the rate and scale of global warming.

In a hard-hitting report for Friends of the Earth Australia, they claim the Government's commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 locks Australia into supporting a dangerous 3 degree rise in global temperature and is based on a United Nations report 12 years out of date.

The Melbourne-based policy analysts also cast doubt on the scope and relevance of the climate change review being conducted for the Federal Government by Australian National University economist Professor Ross Garnaut.

Read more at <http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/news/local/general/report-attacks-climate-policy/1174418.html>

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AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

Queensland Schools to help children with social skills

By Darrell Giles Sunday Mail January 19, 2008 11:00pm

State Education Minister Rod Welford has blasted parents for failing to socially educate their children and has ordered teachers to pick up the slack.

Mr Welford said today's teenagers were the most "under-parented generation in our history" and dramatic changes were needed to stem bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, depression and other youth behavioural problems.

Announcing a controversial "social and emotional" education strategy to start in state schools this year, Mr Welford said teachers would be asked to play a bigger parental role.

"Parents have dropped the ball," Mr Welford said. "No one wants to admit it, but as a society we have outsourced child-raising in ways where kids are missing out on learning those basic skills of life."

The minister, who has a 21-year-old daughter, wants educators to help schoolchildren cope with anxiety, failure and bad behaviour - lessons, he says, many no longer get at home.

But the Queensland Teachers' Union yesterday slammed the idea, saying teachers should not be expected to replace parents.

"Schools should not be seen as the easy fix to this problem," said union president Steve Ryan.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,23077311-952,00.html?from=mostpop>

NSW schools 'most efficient'

The Australian, 31 January

A Productivity Commission Report has confirmed NSW has the most efficient school system in Australia, said Education Minister John Della Bosca.

The minister today welcomed the release of the Productivity Commission Report on Government Services, which he said had highlighted NSW's positive education outcomes and its lowest-in-the-nation administration costs.

"Our literacy and numeracy skills are well above the national benchmark, demonstrating NSW students have solid foundations for schooling and life," the minister said.

"NSW's out-of-school administration costs were the lowest in the nation and have increased by only \$13 per student in five years.

"This means we've got the balance right, the vast majority of our funding is directed to quality teaching and learning facilities, not wasted in bureaucracy."

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23136543-26103,00.html>

SA: New Child Protection Curriculum Rolled Out

School children will learn how to protect themselves from abuse and harm through a new Keeping Safe child protection program to be introduced in the State's schools and preschools this year.

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith says around 10,000 State school teachers have been trained in the program, which is the first update of the child protection curriculum in more than 20 years.

"Teacher training and the involvement of parents are fundamental to the program's successful introduction in schools and preschools," Dr Lomax-Smith says. "Every teacher who delivers the program must undergo training before it is taught in the classroom.

"Many schools and preschools will be holding special information sessions for parents before they introduce the program. A parent information package also has been developed.

"Teaching children how to recognise and protect themselves from abuse is one of the most challenging jobs of teachers and parents, but also one of the most important.

Schools and parents need to work together to give our children the ability to keep themselves safe.

Read more at <http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=2708>

Good Results for ACT Students

Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, today welcomed the results of a national report showing ACT students performing strongly in science, numeracy, reading and writing.

Mr Barr said the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS) 2008 showed the ACT education system to be among the best in the country.

The 2008 ROGS highlighted a series of strong results for students over the period covered in the report.

Read more at

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.asp?media=3379§ion=56&title=Media%20Release&id=56>

ACT: Education Investment Highlighted in Report

Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, welcomed the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS) 2008 which shows the ACT Government is well above the national average when it comes to expenditure per public school student.

The report showed that in 2005-06, ACT Government expenditure per student in public schools was \$13,165, compared with the national average of \$11,243.

"The ACT Government is committed to high quality education for all students and since being elected in 2001 has increased the education budget by over 30%," Mr Barr said.

"In addition to this, we are currently investing over \$350 million in building new and upgrading every public school - the largest ever investment in education in the ACT."

Mr Barr said the figures also reflect the fact that ACT teachers are receiving the highest salaries in the country, which is helping to attract and retain the best teachers to the ACT public school system.

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.asp?media=3378§ion=56&title=Media%20Release&id=56>

ACT: Self-Congratulation on School Results Ignores Real Problems

There was an orgy of self-congratulation by the ACT Government following the publication of national school results last week. In the extravagance, some irksome realities were ignored.

The Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services shows that the ACT has a high quality school system by national and international standards. We have the highest average results in the nation in literacy and numeracy in the primary and early secondary years and we have the highest retention rates to Year 12.

The ACT also has amongst the highest average results internationally for 15-year olds in reading, mathematics and science. The proportion of students achieving at unsatisfactory levels is significant, but relatively low.

The Chief Minister and the Minister for Education quite rightly lauded these results. However, they ignored another central message of the 2007 and 2008 Report on Government Services - the ACT has a highly inequitable school system.

The Reports reveal a large achievement gap, some would say, chasm, in school results between rich and poor in our community.

More than half of ACT students from low income families are below the OECD average in reading, mathematics and science compared to less than 30 per cent of all students. For example, 53 per cent of low income students are below the OECD average in reading compared to 26 per cent of all students. In science, 55 per cent of low income students are below the OECD average compared to 29 per cent of all students.

Read more at <http://soscanberra.com/act-issues/self-congratulation-on-school-results-ignores-real-problems>

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

National Walk to School Day

2 May 2008

Australia's childhood obesity epidemic has two principal causes: lack of physical activity and poor diet. Regular walking is the best and easiest way for children and parents and carers to have an active and healthy lifestyle.

National Walk Safely To School Day (WSTSD) aims to promote better health and cleaner air. It is sponsored by the Commonwealth Government and supported by all State and Territory Governments, the national public school parents and citizens council (ACSSO) and the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA).

All primary schools throughout Australia will receive a kit of posters, stickers and further information shortly after Easter. This year we are asking all Councils and school P&Cs to get together to help fund and host healthy breakfasts at their local primary schools to help promote WSTSD.

Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM, Australia's leading nutritionist, has recommended a wide range of items which would best comprise a healthy breakfast. We estimate an average breakfast will cost about \$3 per child; for example, an apple and/or a pear, a cheese stick, a pack of sultanas, a bottle of water and a pack of Up and Go.

Woolworths Supermarkets will supply participating schools with apples and pears at a price well below the regular price. They will also be promoting the event nationally in their catalogues, in-store radio advertisements and on their check-out screens.

Read more at <http://www.walk.com.au>

Council of Education Facility Planners International Conference

Radical Learnings: Abandonment & Regeneration, 28-30 May, Melbourne

This conference will explore how our education facility designs could respond to the challenges of new education pedagogies, ideas of environmental sustainability and the desire for a greater integration of schools with their local communities.

Read more at <http://australasia.cefpi.org/>

MS Readathon

1-30 June

MS Australia is encouraging children to have fun reading to change the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) by taking part in the annual MS Readathon.

Each working day five people are diagnosed with MS, a disease that affects the body's central nervous system producing symptoms such as blurred vision, loss of balance, pins and needles and speech difficulties. With no known cause or cure for MS, this annual event has become one of the largest fundraisers for MS Australia.

Each year the MS Readathon inspires children to help people living with MS by collecting sponsorship from family and friends for the books they read in the month of June. All participants who complete receive a Certificate and reading rewards.

Children are encouraged to race to register either via the MS Readathon website or a registration form from their local school or library. For more information, visit www.msreadathon.org.au or call the State/Territory office on 1300 677 323.

Parent groups in schools can

Encourage members who enjoy public speaking to become a Community Representative and visit schools in their local area. See information below for details on how to apply.
Encourage the school's families to register for the 2008 MS Readathon.
Circulate MS Readathon information in your newsletters and electronic bulletins.

Read more at <http://www.msreadathon.org.au>

National Conference for Teachers of English Literacy

Stories, Places, Spaces - Literacy & Identity, 6-9 July, Adelaide Convention Centre

The Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE) and the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) are hosting the next national conference to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from Sunday 6 July to Wednesday 9 July 2008.

Read more at <http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au>

AASE/ AJCPTA National Conference 2008

Quality Curriculum for All, 19-20 September, Fremantle

The education of students with diverse learning needs is the business of all teachers.

This conference provides the opportunity for primary and secondary teachers from all learning areas as well as educational specialist personnel to engage in active dialogue with international, national and state speakers about education research and classroom practice that assists a wide range of students with disabilities, learning disabilities as well as learning difficulties.

The Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations and the Department of Science, Education and Training are providing an additional stream at the Conference with the incorporation of Values Education.

The programme will provide specific information on numeracy, mathematics in special education, programs for students with autism, quality curriculum for students with diverse learning needs, as well as values education.

Read more at <http://www.gemspl.com.au/aase/>

International Research Conference on Service-learning and Community Engagement

The Scholarship of Engagement: Dimensions of Reciprocal Partnerships, 25-28 October, New Orleans, USA

Tulane University's Center for Public Service and the International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement.

This conference will explore the variety of partnerships that flourish in educational institutions and their communities through service-learning courses, community-based research projects, and student-led multi-curricular activities.

The contributions of a variety of research approaches in building and sustaining such partnerships will be emphasized.

The conference brings together scholars and practitioners to discuss research topics in the study of service-learning and community engagement.

Read more at <http://www.researchslce.org/2008conference.html>

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REMINDERS

15-17 March - ASCD Conference - New Orleans, USA - <http://www.ascd.org/annualconference>

4-5 April - Switch to Green Conference & Expo - Canberra - <http://www.switchtogreen.unaa.org.au>

21 April-16 May - Boys, Engagement, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying & Learning - Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney - <http://www.radii.org/aben>

Entries Close 2 May - Australian Museum Eureka Science Prizes - <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

3-6 June - International Conference on Learning - Chicago, USA - <http://www.LearningConference.com>

26-28 June - World Education Forum SA International Conference - Adelaide - <http://www.infront.com.au/evt/wef/>

9-12 July - Environmental Education Up The Track - Darwin - <http://www.cdu.edu.au/ehs/AAEE/>

25-27 July - NSW Federation of Parents & Citizens Associations State Conference - Albury - <http://www.pandc.org.au/>

27-29 August - Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia Conference - Melbourne

10-12 September - World Conference on Mental Health Promotion - Melbourne - <http://www.margins2mainstream.com/>

20-21 October - ACSSO National Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.acsso.org.au>

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RESOURCES

Announcing a New Range of Free Student Diaries for 2009

A new range of free Student Diaries is being launched to assist secondary schools in their forward planning for 2009. The diaries are customised to your school, and will carry a personalised cover - designed by one of your students, who is then automatically entered into a nationwide cover artwork competition

These diary ranges are produced by Academy Publishing, who have been actively involved in the education sector in Australia for the past seven years, and have produced secondary and tertiary sector diaries in New Zealand for many more years.

For more information and contact details: <http://academypublishing.com.au/>

Fundraising Directory - www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au Also: www.fetesandfestivals.com.au

Drug Awareness Website - www.drugawareness.com.au/

Australian Schools Directory - www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au

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