

# AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 8, 25 March 2008

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**Welcome to Edition Eight for 2008. Features include:**

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## **HOT TOPIC: EDUCATION IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET**

### **ACSSO Chief on ABC Radio National's EdPod**

The Honourable Terry Aulich, Executive Director of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, was the featured guest on EdPod, ABC Radio National's education podcast series, on 13 March.

Mr Aulich discussed with presenter Richard Aedy a range of programs that will come under scrutiny in the lead-up to the Federal Budget in May, in the process giving an insight into where education policy development and funding focus in this country might be heading.

Download the audio in MP3 format at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/edpod/stories/2008/2188661.htm>

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### **Labor to wipe Howard education slate clean**

***Herald Sun, 11 March 2008 (from AAP)***

Literacy and numeracy programs introduced by the Howard government are likely to make way for Labor's education agenda.

Education Minister Julia Gillard says Labor's planned programs will take priority over the "ineffective" schemes of the former coalition government.

"In education we wanted to make huge new investments and when it comes to current programs and schemes we were always going to look to do better," she told ABC Radio today.

"We believe many of the Howard government programs were ineffective.

"We can't afford to be funding ineffective programs. We want to make sure every education dollar counts."

Up to \$400 million of programs, introduced by the coalition, may go under Rudd government cost-cutting measures.

That includes the \$700 voucher scheme for literacy and numeracy tuition, summer schools for teachers and grants for schools improving literacy performance as well as the flags and values education program.

Ms Gillard said the government believed there may be better ways to encourage literacy and numeracy development.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23355275-29277,00.html>

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## **\$400M cuts to education: so much for Rudd's 'Revolution'**

*The Hon Tony Smith MP, Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training, 11 March*

Australian states will be allowed to slide back to low standards and failure in our schools if Kevin Rudd scraps \$400 million in programmes to lift standards in our schools, the Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training, Tony Smith MP, said today.

Mr Smith said despite Kevin Rudd's rhetoric about an 'education revolution' it appears his first moves will involve cutting \$700 tuition vouchers for students, professional development for teachers and reward schemes for schools who improve their literacy and numeracy results.

"Kevin Rudd promised Australian parents and schools an education revolution but all this has meant so far is cutting more than \$1 billion in funding to schools," Mr Smith said.

"The Coalition introduced these programmes because the states were failing and parents were concerned that school literacy and numeracy standards weren't up to scratch."

Read more at

[http://www.liberal.org.au/info/news/detail/20080311\\_400McutstoeducationsomuchforRuddsRevolution.php](http://www.liberal.org.au/info/news/detail/20080311_400McutstoeducationsomuchforRuddsRevolution.php)

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## **FAMILY-SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BUREAU**

**APC President welcomes Family/School Community Partnerships Bureau**

*Caz Bosch - President, Australian Parents Council, 18 February*

The President of the Australian Parents Council (APC), Ms Caz Bosch, has today applauded the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard, that the Rudd Government will provide \$800,000 to fund the establishment of a Family/School Community Partnerships Bureau.

"This announcement is a significant first step along the path of building a partnership approach into the culture of Australia's schools", Ms Bosch said.

"The evidence is clear that when parents and teachers work together great things happen in terms of the personal, social and academic development of young Australians", Ms Bosch added.

According to Ms Bosch, APC is looking forward to working with the Australian Council of State Schools Organisation and Ms Gillard's department to develop the Bureau and get many good things happening for the parents of Australia's 3.3 million school students, their teachers and school leaders.

Read more at <http://www.austparents.edu.au/downloads/2008/Response.pdf>

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## RESEARCH

### Staff in Australia's Schools 2007

The SIAS project, undertaken by the Australian Council for Educational Research in collaboration with the Australia College of Educators, gathered information from over 13,000 secondary and primary school teachers and leaders across the country.

It aimed to address key gaps in the data available to characterise the teaching profession to support workforce planning.

The project's findings and recommendations are presented in two components: the Staff in Australia's Schools data survey; and a report on Teacher Workforce Data and Planning Processes in Australia.

Download abstracts, reports and additional information at [http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school\\_education/publications\\_resources/profiles/sias2007](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/sias2007)

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### Few want to be principal

*Caroline Milburn The Age, March 17, 2008*

Most new school leaders do not feel well prepared to do their job and two-thirds of Australia's principals believe teacher pay structures are not effective in keeping good staff.

The snapshot of the nation's school workforce reveals high levels of dissatisfaction with two areas considered crucial in lifting student results: leadership quality and the ability to attract the brightest minds to teaching.

Only 10% of teachers and 20% of deputy principals intend to apply for jobs as school heads within the next three years, according to findings from the Staff in Australia's Schools survey, a nationwide study commissioned by the Federal Government.

Heavy workloads and the difficulty in balancing work and family demands were teachers' main reasons for not wanting to be principals. The survey revealed secondary school principals spend an average of 59 hours a week on school-related activities, while primary principals spend an average of 55 hours.

Dr Phillip McKenzie, the survey's project leader, says the reluctance of deputy principals to apply for the top job in schools posed a big problem for policy-makers.

"It is worrying that among deputies - those closest to the demands of the job - so few want to be principals. There's a message there about role overload," says Dr McKenzie, a research director at the Australian Council for Educational Research.

"And there are large levels of dissatisfaction among principals and teachers about the current pay structure for teachers. These findings add weight to calls for a restructuring of school leadership and salary structures."

The survey canvassed the views of more than 13,000 primary and secondary teachers and school leaders working in government and independent schools last year.

Its findings about the poor quality of leadership preparation are reinforced by another study released by the government in January, the Australian section of the OECD Improving School Leadership Report.

The study concluded Australia did not have a consistent or co-ordinated national framework for training school leaders.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/few-want-to-be-principal/2008/03/14/1205472087253.html>

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## **HOT TOPIC: FUNDING**

### **Letter to the Editor**

*In response to our item on 18 March*

"Re the Gillard deal ... does the public know that private schools do not need to inform State or Federal bodies of their other incomes from assets such as commercial real estate, share portfolios, shopping centres and other wealth they have ... and they still get public money and capital works funding support ... shouldn't they be made to declare their full set of assets and incomes if they are receiving public monies???"

Wouldn't these facts make for an interesting media article in relation to Labor trying to set a level playing field?

Private schools in WA get 24% of what it costs to educate a child in a govt school ... regardless of assets and other unknown income."

(Name & Address Supplied) WA

*Do you have a view on this or any other item in the Digest? Is there something about education in Australia you want to get off your chest? Send us your comments, retorts, questions and answers at [letters@acssso.org.au](mailto:letters@acssso.org.au).*

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## **Socioeconomic Status of public schools**

*Transcript of Lateline (ABC) interview, Tony Jones and Julia Gillard, 18 March 2008*

TONY JONES: Now will your new plan to extend the socioeconomic status funding system to public schools and specifically that plan, require additional funds for public schools?

JULIA GILLARD: We want to have a conversation with our States and Territories colleagues about additional resources for disadvantaged schools. We recognise that we need to do more. It's something we want to talk to them about in the lead up to the schools funding agreement at the end of the year. And I'm sure every Australian would say that they don't want to see kids left behind, and we know from the international testing data, from lots of other information available to us in this country that there are too many kids and too many schools who are left behind.

TONY JONES: So specifically, will you be freeing up new funds to deal with that, or will you be just redistributing the current pool of funding?

JULIA GILLARD: Tony, we're going to have a conversation about additional resources. The States and Territories want to combat disadvantage in education, as well. We've made it very clear that we've got a set of guarantees for the next school funding agreement. We've guaranteed to non Government schools to the Independent and Catholic school sectors that the SES model will be used, that the funding maintained and funding guaranteed status will continue, that the indexation arrangements will continue and we will make sure that we deliver on each of those election promises. But beyond that, we want to have a conversation with the States and Territories about what else we can be doing to look at disadvantage.

TONY JONES: Are you talking about additional funding from the Federal Government?

JULIA GILLARD: Yes, Tony, we're talking about a conversation with the States and Territories in the lead up to the schools agreement at the end of the year which would be about additional resources to help combat disadvantage in education.

Read more at

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard/Releases/SocioeconomicStatusofpublicschools.htm>

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## **TERTIARY EDUCATION**

### **You get the universities you are willing to pay for**

*The Age, March 17, 2008*

The Rudd Government is not the first to talk of an education revolution. It is time to lay the foundations of a university system that will endure.

Revolutions supposedly usher in fundamental change: they are major upheavals in the order of things. That being so, the Rudd Government's much vaunted "education revolution" seems to be a misnomer, especially with regard to universities.

So far, apart from insisting it will keep its election promises to abolish full-fee places for Australian students, offer more undergraduate scholarships and more places for maths and science students, the Government has undertaken little that is specific.

But the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, who is also Education Minister, evidently accepts that a revolution cannot be built on rhetoric alone.

Last week Ms Gillard announced a year-long, comprehensive review of higher education, which presumably will fill in the detail that has been lacking. The blueprint for revolution, when it arrives in the form of the review panel's final report, is to concern itself with access to universities, with the delivery of funding and student services, and with the quality of teaching and research.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/editorial/you-get-the-universities-you-are-willing-to-pay-for/2008/03/16/1205602190368.html>

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### **Cost of uni no barrier, study finds**

*Farrah Tomazin, The Age March 18, 2008*

Teenagers from poor families are not deterred from going to university, despite the increasing costs, a new study has found.

But the sons of blue collar workers are less likely to study at tertiary level as their family income rises, partly because they have seen their fathers do well without a degree.

As the Federal Government moves to examine student access to higher education as part of a sweeping review of the sector, a Melbourne University analysis has challenged the notion that fee hikes over the last 10 years have discouraged students of low socio-economic status.

Instead, school results are the most influential factor in university attendance, the study suggests, with figures showing that a higher percentage of poor students attended university in 2001 and 2006 than in 1991 and 1996, despite the growth in costs.

Pro vice-chancellor (teaching, learning and equity) Susan Elliott said factors such as the aspirations of teenagers from low socio-economic backgrounds, and the opportunities they get at school, had more of an impact on university attendance than costs of getting a degree.

"If we're going to make a difference to students attending university, we need to be better at enabling students to do well at school," Professor Elliott said.

"When we saw free education during the Whitlam years, we didn't see much bigger uptakes of education from lower socio-economic groups.

"So we've done the experiment multiple times in higher education and not seen the changes one would expect if cost alone was a factor."

The report, by Melbourne University research fellow Andrew Norton, used census data to analyse university attendance by socio-economic status.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/education-news/cost-of-uni-no-barrier-study-finds/2008/03/17/1205602291228.html>

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## **AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES**

### **NSW parents mull school leaving age**

*ABC Online, 17 March*

The New South Wales Government's proposal to raise the minimum school leaving age from 15 to 16 will be discussed today during a summit in Sydney.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show retention rates for students in year 10 and 12 have been on a downward slide over the last two years.

The Government says raising the leaving age will ensure students have a greater opportunity to reach their potential.

The president of the Parents and Citizens Federation, Dianne Giblin, says the key to raising the leaving age is to keep students engaged.

"[We need to] ensure that a young person stays interested by offering them appropriate curriculum," she said.

"A curriculum that is connected to their learning and connected to what's relevant to them, so that these young people are engaged in something that's relevant and will support them in their future."

Ms Giblin says research proves staying at school to the age of 16 improves life outcomes.

Read more at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/03/17/2191045.htm>

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### **NSW: You're out: long suspensions from school rise**

*Anna Patty Sydney Morning Herald March 17, 2008*

NSW school principals are suspending one in 50 students for a week or more, mostly for physical violence and persistent misbehaviour, data shows.

NSW Department of Education figures to be published today show the number of long suspensions has increased by more than 2000 in the past three years. Last year there were 13,406 suspensions for at least five days, compared with 12,326 in 2006.

Most occurred in the Hunter and Central Coast region (2627) followed by south-western Sydney (2366) and the North Coast (1629). The NSW Minister for Education, John Della Bosca, said school principals were taking tougher action earlier, reducing the need to expel as many students for bad behaviour. Last year 187 students were expelled for misbehaviour, compared with 221 in 2006 and 243 in 2005.

However, the total number of expulsions, including those for unsatisfactory school participation, rose from 299 to 308 last year. "Bad behaviour won't be tolerated, and a small minority will not be allowed to disrupt the learning of the vast majority of hard-working students," Mr Della Bosca said.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/youre-out-long-suspensions-from-school-rise/2008/03/16/1205602195086.html>

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## **VIC: Victorian Teacher of the Year 08**

*Herald-Sun, 18 March*

### **Nominations close 23 May 2008**

Friends, parents, teachers and principals. The Herald Sun is proud to present the 2008 Victorian Teacher of the Year Awards.

Now in their 15th year, the Awards recognise excellence, commitment, innovation and leadership in teaching.

The Awards are open to qualified teachers in the Victoria state, Catholic and independent school systems. The preschool award is open to all qualified preschool teachers in State Government - funded preschool programs.

Award winners will be announced at a gala dinner on August 29, 2008.

Full details and nomination forms at [http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/files/hwt\\_toty\\_app\\_form\\_1.pdf](http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/files/hwt_toty_app_form_1.pdf)

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## **VIC: Elite girls' school cadet ban 'sexist'**

*Deborah Gough, The Age March 16, 2008*

An elite girls' school has been accused of sexual discrimination by its own students after banning its army cadet program.

Angry MacRobertson Girls' School students who participated in the cadet program say they were aware several teachers were openly hostile to their involvement, with one student alleging the 30 cadets were compared to "Hitler Youth".

MacRobertson Girls' High School principal Jane Garvey informed the cadets that the program would cease at the end of the year after a school council decision in November.

The girls allege that the ban is sexual discrimination as it prevents them from continuing in the cadet program with brother school, Melbourne High School.

The girls, dressed in military attire, would participate in drills at Melbourne High and attend skills camps.

Year 12 student and cadet under officer Bridget Pianta said some teachers objected to girls taking part in any military activity. "You would think that with a school's ethos that girls can do anything that boys can that they would be encouraging it, especially something that encourages leadership in girls," she said.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/elite-girls-school-cadet-ban-sexist/2008/03/15/1205472164043.html>

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## **VIC: More Help for Growing Number of Refugee Students**

A pilot homework program, more transition programs and purpose-built relocatables to provide more English language classes are among a raft of new initiatives to further support students from refugee backgrounds.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike announced this additional support for Victoria's newly arrived refugee students at the launch of a resource for schools Strengthening Outcomes - Refugee Students in Government Schools.

"This resource will ensure schools and teachers are aware of the range of resources available to help refugee students settle into school and remain engaged with education" Ms Pike said.

"Many of these students have often experienced extreme personal hardship and severely disrupted schooling before arriving and we want to make sure they feel very welcome in their new schools here in Victoria", she said.

Ms Pike also said the \$4.5 million package includes:

- \$2.8 million to fund purpose-built relocatables so intensive English language classes can be conducted closer to where the students live;
- An additional \$1.1 million to fund 15 extra transition programs and extend 33 existing programs at schools with refugee students who have experienced disrupted schooling;
- A \$200,000 Out of School Hours Learning Support Program pilot for students from refugee backgrounds in Melbourne's western suburbs; and
- 100 tertiary scholarships for teachers to increase the number of fully-qualified ESL teachers in government schools.

Read more at

[http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/domino/Web\\_Notes/newmedia.nsf/bc348d5912436a9cca256cfc0082d800/b ea2021df50a15deca25741600769169!OpenDocument](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/newmedia.nsf/bc348d5912436a9cca256cfc0082d800/b ea2021df50a15deca25741600769169!OpenDocument)

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## **TAS: Learning more about schools**

*Hobart Mercury, Editorial March 01, 2008*

Education Minister David Bartlett always promised a dialogue with Tasmanians about the school system. From the moment he became minister nearly two years ago, he made a show of consulting with parents, students and teachers.

Now, after much public debate on the state's literacy and numeracy problems and the need for a clearer picture of how schools are performing, he has made a commitment to share more detailed information with the public, information previously only available to the Education Department.

On Thursday Mr Bartlett said he would release a comprehensive report on school performance every year. The data and analysis would allow parents to track the achievements of their school and make some comparisons with similar schools. He said it would also give people a better view of the whole system, with all its successes and faults.

He was quick to emphasise that this would not involve publishing "simplistic league tables" that could be used to rank schools and stereotype or stigmatise them.

The announcement was made at a forum organised by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one of many groups concerned about Tasmania's skills shortage and rates of literacy and numeracy in every age group.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/mercury/story/0,22884,23297941-5006549,00.html>

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## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008**

### **Being the 'lucky country' won't save us from climate change**

*Kenneth Davidson, The Age March 20, 2008*

The Rudd Government must resist pressure to delay action on emissions.

The central message of Donald Horne's classic book from 1964, *The Lucky Country*, was that for the most part, the Australian political and business establishment was populated by second-raters whose mistakes were covered up by Australia's abundance of natural resources.

In less well-endowed countries, equivalent mistakes would be exposed and those responsible would find their leadership roles terminated.

In this country the squeaky wheel gets the oil and usually does so on the flimsiest of arguments. Hence tax expenditure on negative gearing for rental housing now totals \$3.5 billion a year on the grounds that it adds to the stock of rental housing. It has ignited a speculative boom in established homes financed by local banks borrowing overseas. This has crowded out first-home buyers and added to Australia's unsustainable \$600 billion of foreign debt.

The only thing this activity has created is a housing bubble, which is likely to burst very soon when the cost of mortgages increases as the supply of cheap foreign deposits dries up as a result of the subprime crisis in the US. Servicing this foreign debt will push up domestic interest rates irrespective of the Reserve Bank's activities.

The Rudd Government is facing a series of hard choices that can't be put off until after the next election in the hope that, in line with past experience of the lucky country, circumstances will emerge that will obviate the need for choices or bury the consequences.

The Howard government hoped the consequences of climate change would be a problem for the next generation, not this one, and it could then pretend to be addressing the issue while buying off the big greenhouse gas emitters. One of Australia's biggest squeaky wheels is the National Generators Forum, the peak lobby for coal-fired electricity generators, which produce 35% of Australia's emissions. The Howard government promised these and other large emitters that, under the Coalition Emission Trading Scheme, they would be issued with free emission certificates whereas other emitters would be required to buy a licence.

The draft Garnaut report into climate change said the scheme should be as broad as possible. The whole point of it is to change relative prices between goods, services and processes to better reflect their impact on the environment to discourage those with high emissions and encourage those that generate low or zero emissions.

Read more at

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/kennethdavidson/2008/03/19/1205602477342.html>

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## RESOURCES

### School Market Place

"School Market Place is a trading place for Australian Schools and Australian business. It's free for schools. Currently, School Market Place has 6,558 schools listed. Nearly all state and public schools across the country have a login and the private sector is growing. At the years end, all Australian schools will have a login and most New Zealand Schools will have one too. This will bring the total beyond 10, 000 schools.

A subscription to School Market will open up a whole new market to schools and places that you've never heard of.

School Market Place removes the time consuming task of sourcing quotes and pricing for school products. No more waiting for sales people to call you back. No more waiting for the fax machine to become more reliable. No more phone "tag".

Once your submission request is sent, your quotes will come from School Market Place businesses providing you with a competitive quotes and pricing.

No more chasing things up! Wait for the business to come to you!"

Read more at <http://schoolmarketplace.com.au/>

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## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### Learning Conference 08

*3-6 June 2008, University of Illinois, Chicago, USA*

The International Conference on Learning is for any person with an interest in, and concern for, education at any of its level - from early childhood, to schools, to higher education - and lifelong learning in any of its sites, from home to school to university to the workplace.

In 2008, the Conference will address a range of critically important themes relating to education today.

Main speakers will include some of the world's leading thinkers in the field of education, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners.

Read more at <http://l08.cgpublisher.com/>

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### Paris International Conference on Education, Economy & Society

*17-19 July 2008, Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel, France*

This conference is intended to be a forum, discussion and networking place for academics, researchers, professionals, administrators, educational leaders, policy makers and industry representatives interested in Education.

All areas of Education are invited, as well as economic, political, cultural and social themes relating to

Education.

The languages of the conference will be English and French.

Read more at <http://education-conferences.org/default.aspx>

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## **Australian Computers in Education Conference 2008**

*9 September-2 October 2008, National Convention Centre, Canberra*

ACEC'08 is the biennial conference of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE).

The ACEC conference is hosted by the Computer Education Group of a member state or territory after a bidding process.

The Computer Education Group of the Australian Capital Territory (CEGACT) in partnership with ACT Catholic and Independent Teacher Librarians Network (CITL) are hosting ACEC'08.

Read more at <http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

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## **Australian International Education Conference**

*7-10 October 2008, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre*

The AIEC 2008 Call for Sessions is now open, closing 28 April

For full information on the procedures and details of the conference theme, please review the guidelines.

Read more at <http://www.idp.com/aiec/>

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## **REMINDERS**

31 March HP Education website competition closes -

<http://h20426.www2.hp.com/solutions/edu/au/en/>

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

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9-10 April - ACOSS Conference - Melbourne - <http://www.acoss.org.au/Events.aspx?displayID=1>

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14 April - entries close for National Youth Week National Talent Competitions -

<http://www.youthweek.com>

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16-18 April - Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) Curriculum Conference - Brisbane -

<http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=10763>

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

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2 May - National Walk to School Day - <http://www.walk.com.au>

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2 May - entries close for Australian Museum Eureka Science Prizes -

<http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

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2 May - entries close for AEU Rosemary Richards Award - <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Women/RRichards.html>

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28-30 May - Council of Education Facility Planners International Conference - Melbourne - <http://australasia.cefpi.org/>

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1-30 June - MS Readathon - <http://www.msreadathon.org.au>

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2 June - entries close for Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards - <http://www.dorothea.com.au/>

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

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

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28 June - Early Childhood Teachers Association National Conference - Brisbane - [http://www.ecta.org.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=17](http://www.ecta.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=17)

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6-9 July - National Conference for Teachers of English Literacy - Adelaide - <http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au>

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

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

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

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

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19-20 September - AASE/AJCPTA National Conference - Fremantle - <http://www.gemspl.com.au/aase/>

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30 September-3 October - National History Teachers' Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.qhta.com.au/conferences.htm>

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1-3 October - VETnetwork Australia National Conference - Sydney - [http://www.vetnetwork.org.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=47](http://www.vetnetwork.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=47)

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

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25-28 October - International Research Conference on Service-learning and Community Engagement - New Orleans - <http://www.researchslce.org/2008conference.html>

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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/>

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Fundraising Directory - [www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au](http://www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au) Also: [www.fetesandfestivals.com.au](http://www.fetesandfestivals.com.au)

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Drug Awareness Website - [www.drugawareness.com.au/](http://www.drugawareness.com.au/)  
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Australian Schools Directory - [www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au](http://www.australianschoolsdirectory.com.au)  
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