

# AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 10, 15 April 2008

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Do you know of an event or resource that schools should know about? Email us at [letters@acsso.org.au](mailto:letters@acsso.org.au)

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## **FAMILY-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Celebrating a Decade of Achievement: Victoria's Festival for Healthy Living**

#### *Creative Arts for Mental Health and Connecting Communities*

On Monday 14 April, representations from Victoria's Education and Health departments joined teachers, parents, students and community organisations, from across Victoria and elsewhere in Australia, to celebrate the outstanding work and extraordinary contribution of Harry Gelber and his team from the Royal Children's Hospital via the Festival for Healthy Living initiative.

This event marks a decade of unique achievement working with schools, students, families and community, building strong active partnerships with schools and school clusters, using creative and performing arts to engage young people in ways that strengthen their resilience, team-work, coping and problem solving skills and connect them and their families more strongly with their entire community.

A critically important ingredient of Harry's team's success is that they work as facilitators and resources with interested school clusters and their communities, to help these communities to realise their own vision, develop their own approach, and design events that best reflect the context and dynamics of their own community. So every project is unique, its processes and outcomes owned and shaped by the community, built upon the engagement, enthusiasm and innate talents and abilities of all of the young people themselves.

Their approach and concept is strongly founded in research - which shows a clear correlation between students feeling a sense of belonging at school, and developing protective factors against mental illness.

And they commit to working with and assisting those schools and clusters over a three year period, because what they are working to achieve is not an isolated event or a discrete program - but to assist in a process of cultural change in each community, in ways that are sustainable and evolutionary. The positive experiences which children, teachers, parents and families experience gain from initial participation fuels their commitment to continue and build on this in subsequent years, in ways that change their whole outlook and how they interact as a community.

And through working with schools in clusters and in whole communities, young people who experience the sheer excitement and fulfillment of Festival engagement in primary schooling, want to and are able

to continue and deepen those benefits and outcomes into secondary schooling, engaging families and strengthening communities.

The Festival for Healthy Living provides a uniquely effective and proven model for all schools and communities, in Victoria and in all other parts of Australia. This shows an outstandingly successful means of building whole-community engagement, and what can be achieved through effective and sustainable family-school and community partnerships.

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

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## **OPINION**

### **Resources for our schools are crucial**

*Editorial, Adelaide Advertiser, March 17, 2008*

The Australian Primary Principals' Association makes sound arguments for a change in the way primary schools are resourced. Essentially it argues you get what you pay for; our level of public funding compared to the rest of the OECD is average and so is our students' performance.

Importantly the Association is not simply calling for an unquestioned across-the-board rise in overall funding. It is seeking a smarter approach, with more generous funding to the schools which need it most.

It is heartening that federal Education Minister Julia Gillard is willing to look at this very issue. She acknowledges that a "concerted effort" is needed to better help children from disadvantaged areas achieve their potential.

The Association also seeks parity funding with secondary schools. At the moment, primary schools get 77 cents in recurrent public funds for every \$1 spent on secondary schools. The most important years for a child's future development are the earliest - a point reinforced last year by Adelaide Thinker in Residence Fraser Mustard .

It therefore makes little sense to sideline innovative policy and adequate financing of primary schools and then expect secondary schools to play catch up. As the principals' association says, "it is a more efficient use of resources to tackle educational problems earlier rather than later during a child's schooling".

However in achieving this it is important that governments do not scrimp on their allocations to schools which rank higher in socio-economic status. No primary school student, whatever their background, should be deprived of their educational entitlement because their school is insufficiently resourced to help them achieve their potential.

If, as research shows, students from disadvantaged backgrounds need twice the level of resources to achieve parity with their peers, they should get it.

To do otherwise is to discriminate on the grounds of class or socio-economic status, and that should never be a feature of a modern and prosperous society.

Source: <http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,23386533-5006336,00.html>

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## **LABOR'S EDUCATION REVOLUTION**

### **Equity in the Education Revolution**

*Hon Julia Gillard MP, edited from speech given 3 April*

"An education revolution to create one of the most highly educated and skilled nations on Earth." This was the mandate that Kevin Rudd asked the Australian people for on November 24 last year - and they gave it.

It's a mandate for change that places education - in fact all aspects of our human capital - at the centre of the nation's economic and social investment priorities.

This makes it an exciting time to be involved in the formation of education policy.

The new Government will not ignore Australia's human capital needs. A new era of collaborative reform is being initiated. Traditional priorities and modes of service delivery won't do. New priorities are being set and new flexible ways of delivering services are being explored.

In the view of the Rudd Labor Government, education and training are the keys to Australia's future.

This is because in a global economy hungry for knowledge and skills, the nations that succeed will be those with the highest concentrations of education, skills, innovation and workforce participation. In other words, the future will belong to the nations with the best human capital and the most inclusive societies.

It's no coincidence that, in addition to being Minister for Education and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, I am also Minister for Social Inclusion.

It's because each of these areas is linked to the question of how we become a more prosperous nation without jettisoning the values of fairness and equal opportunity that made us what we are.

They're about harnessing our human capital in the most effective way to create the sort of future we want. Equity is important to our education and training systems in so many ways. It is of course an important moral issue for our country.

A nation that thinks of itself as essentially egalitarian can't sit by idly while those from disadvantaged backgrounds are denied the life opportunities that come from higher education - things like higher incomes, career progression, intellectual fulfillment and self-knowledge.

Studies show that education is one of the strongest guarantees of individual prosperity, social mobility and economic security.

Read entire speech at

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

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## **Delivering Australia's First National Curriculum**

*Hon Julia Gillard MP, 14 April 2008*

Minister for Education, Julia Gillard today confirmed the membership of the National Curriculum Board, which will see a national curriculum be delivered within three years.

As promised, the new National Curriculum Board is comprised of representatives from each of the States and Territories, and three representatives from the Catholic and Independent sectors.

The Board will oversee the development of a rigorous, world-class national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, starting with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history.

The Board will draw together the best programs from each State and Territory into a single curriculum to ensure every child has access to the highest quality learning programs to lift achievement and drive up school retention rates. The timetable will see:

- The National Curriculum Board hold its first meeting on 23 April 2008;
- The Board start consultations on the development of a national curriculum by mid this year;
- The secretariat and governance arrangements for the National Curriculum Board be established by 1 January 2009;
- A national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12 be developed by 2010, starting with English, mathematics, the sciences and history, and underpinned by a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy; and
- A national curriculum publicly available and which can start to be delivered in all jurisdictions from January 2011.

The announcement follows last month's historic COAG agreement that for the first time set out a productivity and participation agenda that spans early childhood to adulthood.

Australians have been debating the merits of a national curriculum for the last 30 years. Until now, however, no Australian government has been able to produce a plan on how to deliver it.

Today, the Rudd Labor Government in co-operation with the State and Territories has announced such a plan, which will see a national curriculum being delivered within three years. About 340,000 Australians move interstate each year, including 80,000 school-aged students. Working families who move their children interstate will be delighted with today's agreement.

It will contribute to creating a modern Australia, with a workforce that will benefit from being educated by a world-class national curriculum. The COAG Working Group on the Productivity Agenda will work closely with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), and the Catholic and Independent schools sectors on the development of the national curriculum over the coming years.

### **Membership of the National Curriculum Board**

Professor Barry McGaw	Chair
Mr Tony Mackay	Deputy Chair
Tom Alegounarias	New South Wales representative
Mr John Firth	Victorian representative
Mr Kim Bannikoff	Queensland representative
Professor Bill Loudon	Western Australian representative
Ms Helen Wildash	South Australian representative
Mr David Hanlon	Tasmanian representative
Ms Rita Henry	Northern Territory representative
Ms Janet Davy	Australian Capital Territory representative
Mr Garry LeDuff	Non-government sector
Dr Brian Croke	Non-government sector
Professor Marie Emmitt	Non-government sector

Source:

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

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## **Scholarships will give disadvantaged a competitive edge**

*Hon Julie Gillard MP, 7 April 2008*

Higher education stakeholders will be given a say on how the Australian Government can best roll out the Scholarships for a Competitive Future initiative - a commitment to double the number of Commonwealth Scholarships for undergraduate students by 2012, benefiting those most in need.

Acting Prime Minister Julia Gillard today released a discussion paper on the initiative, inviting comment from higher education providers, peak bodies, and state and territory education bodies.

The new scholarships outlined in the paper will assist students from low socio-economic backgrounds, especially those from regional and remote areas and Indigenous students, giving all eligible Australians an opportunity to gain a first class education.

The Scholarships for a Competitive Future initiative includes two key components:

- The new National Priority Scholarships - to assist students to undertake courses in priority areas such as medicine and engineering.
- The new National Accommodation Scholarships - to help students relocate to another state and enroll in courses not available near their home.

Getting to university can be very tough for some people, and these scholarships will provide much needed support.

The Rudd Government wants to make sure that, through our universities, we educate young Australians to ensure they have the skills to make Australia a more productive and prosperous nation.

The Government is also encouraging the participation of students from disadvantaged groups in higher education through its support of the new National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education at the University of South Australia. \$630,000 will be provided in establishment costs and \$590,000 annually in operating costs.

The Centre will implement and research best practice in social inclusion at university, and act as a national repository of funding initiatives and programmes.

The closing date for submissions to the scholarships discussion paper is COB 1 May 2008.

Download the paper at

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher\\_education/policy\\_issues\\_reviews/key\\_issues/scholarship/Scholarships\\_Competitive\\_Future.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/scholarship/Scholarships_Competitive_Future.htm)

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## **Supporting Geography in Our Schools**

*Hon Julia Gillard MP 7 April 2008*

The Minister for Education has today announced sponsorship funding of \$12,000 to support the Australian team at the 2008 International Geography Olympiad in Tunisia in August 2008.

The Minister has also today released a new study which will contribute to improving the teaching of geography in schools across the country. Australian involvement in the 2008 Olympiad will demonstrate the quality of the geographical skills and understandings of Australia's top geography students in an international setting.

It is important that students in Australian primary and secondary schools have access to high quality education in geography. The Rudd Government is committed to the development of national curriculum in geography.

The Government is establishing the National Curriculum Board to develop a rigorous, world-class curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12. After initially focusing on English, mathematics, the sciences and history, this will include geography and languages.

A Study into the Teaching of Geography in Years 3-10, funded by the Australian Government and completed by Erebus International, maps State and Territory syllabus and curriculum documents. It also includes interviews with staff in key organisations, and provides a sample national Years 3-10 geography curriculum framework to stimulate further discussion.

The findings highlight teacher concern that content, rigour and skills were lost when geography, along with history and other areas of learning, were absorbed into the broader Studies of Society and the Environment curriculum grouping.

Download the study at

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school\\_education/publications\\_resources/profiles/Study\\_into\\_teaching\\_geography.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/Study_into_teaching_geography.htm)

Information on Australia's participation in the 2008 Geography Olympiad is available at

<http://www.rgsq.gil.com.au/olympC.htm>

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## **Government funds new Chair in Australian Literature**

*Hon Julie Gillard MP 9 April 2008*

The Minister for Education has today announced that the Rudd Government will fund a new Chair in Australian Literature to be established at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

The Australian Government will provide \$1.5 million towards the initiative which will re-invigorate the study of Australian literature at university, in our schools and throughout the community.

Though a number of universities submitted impressive proposals, the six member selection panel unanimously found the University of Western Australia to be the strongest candidate.

UWA's proposed strategies to promote Australian literature both nationally and internationally as well as the support of the Western Australian Government were identified as strengths in the application.

As the University's application noted, UWA has pioneered and remained constantly committed to the teaching and research of Australian literacy studies and is today at the forefront in this field.

The University of Western Australia is to be congratulated on its achievement. The University of Western Australia has been recognised for its long-standing commitment to the promotion of literature and culture in the community. The decision follows a competitive process which was open to all Australian universities.

The Government sought a university that could best demonstrate its commitment to Australian literature and was best placed to further promote scholarship in Australian literature. Funding has been drawn from the Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund which is aimed at promoting diversification of the higher education sector.

Source:

<http://mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/gillard/releases/governmentfundsnewchairinaustralianliterature.htm>

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## **RESEARCH**

### **Early maths experiences key to future participation**

*Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education*

Poor experiences in junior secondary maths classes are resulting in too few students taking up higher mathematics in later years, according to a new report released today by the Minister for Education.

The Maths? Why Not? report was prepared by the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers and the University of New England with funding of \$57,400 from the Australian Government.

The report highlights key factors that deter students from studying higher level maths in senior secondary years including students' experience of junior secondary maths, perceptions of their own maths ability, and a poor understanding of career options in the field.

Another key factor is the large number of secondary teachers who are teaching maths even though this is outside their training and expertise.

More than one-quarter of our junior secondary maths teachers have not even completed one year of university study in maths, making it difficult to engage students in a potentially demanding subject.

To ensure Australia's productivity and competitiveness in the global knowledge economy, this trend must be reversed. We must ensure that an interest in maths is inspired in our youth who will provide the skills vital for our nation's future wellbeing.

To encourage more people to study maths at university, from 2009 the Rudd Government will halve the HECS fees for new maths students while they are studying and then halve the HECS repayments of maths graduates if they take up work in a relevant maths occupation, particularly teaching.

The Rudd Government's new National Curriculum Board will also play a key role in responding to the report's finding that overcrowded maths curricula hinder school students' learning of maths.

The Board will oversee the development of a world-class curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, starting with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history.

Download the report at

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school\\_education/publications\\_resources/profiles/maths\\_why\\_not](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/maths_why_not)

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## **TEACHING & LEARNING**

### **Teachers learn from the future**

Teaching Australia today released a scenario book Teaching for Uncertain Futures, about possible futures for teaching in Australia through to the year 2030.

Teaching for Uncertain Futures is the work of teachers and principals from around Australia who were involved in a national scenario building project, the Open Book Scenarios, supported by Teaching Australia in partnership with the Neville Freeman Agency. The central question of the project was "What will the Australian teaching profession have to do to be successful in 2030?"

"It is a truism that today's world is complex and uncertain," Fran Hinton, Teaching Australia Chief Executive said. "Scenario building provides an exciting tool that schools can use to step away from the here and now, see the future in different ways and consider quality teaching in terms of future needs."

As Oliver Freeman, Director of the Neville Freeman Agency explained, "Scenario-building doesn't set out to predict the future, but to identify the significant factors that affect the way the future will unfold. The idea is to prompt people to think differently about how they work and to take broader approaches to planning. "

The Open Book scenario builders created four quite different alternate worlds for 2030. They found that important aspects of teaching and the teacher's role - optimism and commitment, motivating students, skilled use of technologies, close community partnerships and collegiality, among others - remain constant across quite different imagined futures.

Teaching for Uncertain futures provides a catalyst for schools to plan and reflect on how they can best prepare students for the future. It is a great starting point to heighten awareness of future influences and to explore ways in which the teaching profession can maximise the opportunities of the future, for students and for the nation.

"Schools might be interested in using the book in the context of the Australia 2020 Summit in April," Fran Hinton suggested.

Teaching Australia will build on the Open Book Scenarios initiative by supporting professional learning opportunities and activities for schools and school communities.

Read more at <http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au>

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## **Wanted: creative, insightful graduate, with a touch of dissent**

***Steven Schwartz***

The Federal Government has called for an "education revolution" aimed at making the Australian workforce "the most skilled in the world".

To achieve this, universities will have to supply business and government with skilled graduates. But there is a problem: the skills required for employment today are not necessarily those that will be needed in the future.

Students leaving university this year will retire around 2050. We don't know what the world will look like in 2015, let alone 2050. All we can be sure of is that the world will change.

Of course, universities will continue to educate people in accounting, IT, medicine and other professions.

But the skills required of graduates are not just the narrow vocational ones that go along with these professions how to keep accounts, work computers or draw a blood sample.

I believe the traits that are in short supply are foresight, constructive dissent and creativity.

Read more at <http://canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/opinion/wanted-creative-insightful-graduate-with-a-touch-of-dissent/1221300.html>

*Steven Schwartz is vice-chancellor of Macquarie University, Sydney.*

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## **HEALTHY LIVING**

### **Secondhand Smoke a Risk for Children Worldwide**

Parents worldwide are doing little to protect their children from exposure to secondhand smoke, according to a study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Exposure to secondhand smoke has been extensively shown to increase the risk for numerous illnesses and premature death. The household study, conducted in 31 countries, found that 82 percent of parents who smoked reported smoking around their children. Measurements of nicotine levels from household air and children's hair samples also indicated high exposure to secondhand smoke among those living with a smoker.

The study is among the first to demonstrate that secondhand smoke is a global concern, particularly for children.

It was published on February 28 in the online version of the American Journal of Public Health and will appear in the journal's April 2008 print edition.

Read more at

[http://www.jhsph.edu/publichealthnews/press\\_releases/2008/wipfli\\_secondhand\\_smoke.html](http://www.jhsph.edu/publichealthnews/press_releases/2008/wipfli_secondhand_smoke.html)

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

### **UNESCO Courier Newsletter focuses on the International Year**

"Manage the unavoidable to avoid the unmanageable - that's where we are at according to Italian climatologist Filippo Giorgi.

"Even the most optimistic forecasts indicate that we will need twice the amount of our planet's natural resources by 2050, estimates Mathis Wackernackel, the inventor of the ecological footprint, a new measuring unit that helps calculate the necessary surface to respond to the needs of a person according to his lifestyle.

"Climate change endangers peace, declares Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, in this issue of the Courier devoted to the International Year of Planet Earth that aims at taking advantage of the knowledge of the 400 000 specialists in Earth sciences.

Read more at [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=41977&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=41977&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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## **Bird Population in Rapid Decline**

*Vince Morello, Canberra Times 10 April 2008 (AAP)*

Almost 75% of Australia's migratory and resident shorebirds have disappeared over the past 25 years, a study has revealed.

Around 2 million migratory birds, from 36 species, are currently gathering around Broome in Western Australia before making a 10,000 km annual journey to their northern hemisphere breeding grounds.

A large-scale aerial survey of eastern Australia by researchers from the University of NSW shows migratory shorebird populations were once much larger and have plunged by 73% between 1983 and 2006.

During that same period, the populations of Australia's 15 resident shorebird species have dropped by 81%, according to the study published in the scientific journal Biological Conservation.

The author of the report, Professor Richard Kingsford, said the bird populations were in decline because their habitats were disappearing in Australia, South-East Asia, China and Russia.

Read more at <http://earthfrenzyradio.blogspot.com/2008/04/shorebird-populations-collapse.html>

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## **CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

## **Back to School 2008**

Now in its 6th successful year of operation, the Education Foundation's "Back to School" initiative is the nation's biggest celebration of public schools and the inclusive values-driven learning and development experiences they provide for today's young people and tomorrow's citizens.

Everyone who has gone on to a fulfilling career knows that our public schools are well worth celebrating and supporting. A fantastic way to show your appreciation is to go back to your school, spend the time to tell your story and share your insights with staff, students and parents.

Students and teachers love to hear from people who went to their school. As a graduate of the public school system, you can add real value by sharing your experiences, your ideas and give young students a living perspective on life beyond the school. Your journey can help fuel their ambitions and give them the confidence to find their own way forward at a crucial time of their lives.

Back to School also encourages schools and teachers to keep in touch with their graduates, and let them know that their achievements are valued and celebrated by their school and its community.

Find out more how you can get involved in this great initiative at <http://www.backtoschool.org.au>

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## **CONASTA 2008 - Annual Conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association**

*6-9 July 2008, Griffith University Gold Coast Campus, QLD*

ASTA invites you to enjoy the wonderful Queensland winter weather and 'Surf the wave of change' as we explore together the conference themes of:

- Inquiry-based learning
- Developing scientific literacy
- Effective use of ICTL's in the science classroom
- Sustainability

Read more at <http://www.asta.edu.au>

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## **National Science Week**

*16-24 August 2008*

The Australian Science Teachers' Association (ASTA) is currently preparing the 2008 National Science Week Resource Book Planet Earth - Planet of Change and the 2008 Schools Kit.

The Kit will be distributed in May 2008 to all schools across Australia including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools and selected TAFEs that offer high school certificate programs.

Read more at <http://www.asta.edu.au>

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## **Frontline Leadership: Maximising Potential**

*Professional Development Network 12th Annual School Leaders' Conference*

*28-29 August 2008, Sofitel, Gold Coast*

Frontline Leadership: Maximising Potential, offers a unique opportunity to connect frontline perspectives on leadership with the best practice from leaders in the field today. It is about:

- Maximising value to your Principalship by supporting you and your leadership teams
- Maximising the potential of your students, teachers, staff and community
- Addressing the leadership challenges of effective and sustainable leadership
- Creating a connected and meaningful work environment

An impressive line up of thought provoking keynote speakers is balanced in equal measure by workshop presentations led by eminent educational leaders and practitioners.

The conference aims to make a tangible difference to your leadership practices. Bring your leadership team and unlock your school's full potential!

Read more at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/education/centre-leadership-management-education/events/leadership-conference-2008>

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## REMINDERS

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, 9, 16 May - Marketing Seminars for Schools - Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney - <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/schoolsseminar>

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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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14-15 May - National Conference on Children & Young People with Disability and their Families - Melbourne - <http://www.nds.org.au/conferences/CYF2008/home.htm>

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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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11-12 June - National Conference on Climate Change - Canberra - <http://www.manningclark.org.au/events/conference2008/index.html>

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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/AEE/>

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17-19 July - International Conference on Education, Economy & Society - Paris, France -

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

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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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31 July-1 August - Isolated Children's Parents Association Annual Conference - Hobart -  
<http://www.icpa.com.au/Conference.asp>

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18-31 August - ANTSEL Video Online Conference - <http://www.cybertext.net.au/antssel2008.htm>

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27-29 August - Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia Conference - Melbourne -  
<http://www.spera.edu.au>

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9 September-2 October - Australian Computers in Education Conference - Canberra -  
<http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

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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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7-10 October - Australian International Education Conference - Brisbane - <http://www.idp.com/aiec/>

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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, USA - <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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