

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION DIGEST

Volume 2 Number 22, 8 July 2008

Having trouble reading this email? Read it on the web at <http://www.acsso.org.au/AED080708.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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HOT TOPIC: REPEATING SCHOOL

Letter to the Editor

Save our kids; save our money

As a school counsellor and parent, I have been alarmed for a number of years by the continuing practice of students being repeated. This is a practice that continues across our nation and internationally and at rates that aren't readily

ade public by educational authorities.

The research on this practice has been clear for a long time (which is a rare occurrence in itself in the education field). The practice of repeating students has been roundly discredited.

Attached is a relevant article written by Dr Helen McGrath of Deakin Uni for the WA Primary Principals Association journal WORDS in 2006 and a link to a piece about it in The Sydney Morning Herald. Worth reading.

Not only is it a costly business (the cost of an extra year at school). It is more alarmingly negative in its effect on the student in the first year of the repeat and this negative effect just increases as the years go on.

That is, it costs a lot of money for a noticeably harmful result for the student.

What constitutes 'educational malpractice' if this doesn't?!

In Queensland, it's seen as a 'school-based' decision, and not too big an issue. I believe it's a big enough issue if only one child is being negatively affected. Multiply it out by the likely numbers and we're looking at big dollars and a big personal, social and ethical issue.

So why do we allow this to continue?

Aren't governments always looking for extra money to apply to areas of real need in our schools and to add to our social capital as a society?

Schools need to ensure that they are implementing 'best practice' as well as they can. Awareness raising is required as is active engagement with research. The public needs to be able to rely on the 'professionals' to know this and to act on it.

There are other and much better alternatives which, if funding is required, could be resourced by the savings made from not repeating!

Groups such as ACSSO can help us all in this regard. Perhaps ACSSO could have a Guideline or articles on this topic (and others) on their website for the information of all interested parties.

Check out your school's and educational authority's policy and practice regarding repeating students before the process begins for the next bunch of students to have this done to them.

Be informed and don't let it happen to a kid near you!

[name & address supplied]

The idea of having a collection of articles and viewpoints on this (and other Hot Topics) is a good one. ACSSO has done something similar in the past - leading directly to the creation of some of our very popular specialist websites such Languages Education in Australia, Ensemble - Music Education in Australia and Values Education Australia. Usually what makes this work is when we get a variety of strong opinions - that which makes a Topic Hot. On the basis of the preceding letter, and the following articles, is there something you can add regarding the pros and cons of repeating school? Email us at letters@acssso.org.au.

Repeating school has no benefit: study

Sydney Morning Herald, 30 August 2006 (AAP)

Making a student repeat a level at school has no benefit and in fact may do more harm, Australian research shows. The study, by Deakin University's Dr Helen McGrath, also found students who repeated a year were 20 to 50 per cent more likely to drop out, compared to similar students who progressed.

Dr McGrath reviewed dozens of studies by academics in Australia and the United States over the past 75 years comparing the outcomes for students with specific needs who were either held back or allowed to progress.

She said those studies failed to support the popular assumption among teachers and parents that repeating a year helped a student's academic performance.

"There may be an occasional student who is the exception, but for most students providing them with more of what didn't work for them the first time around is an exercise in futility," she said. "In fact, repeating a year confirms to a student that they have failed.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/National/Repeating-school-has-no-benefit-study/2006/08/30/1156816936042.html>

To Repeat or Not to Repeat?

Dr Helen McGrath

Introduction

Over the last 75 years a pool of research-based knowledge about the effects on students of repeating a year level has been accumulating. It now overwhelmingly indicates that there are neither academic nor social advantages for the majority of students who repeat a year of their schooling.

There is probably no other educational issue on which the research evidence is so unequivocal. There is also no other educational issue where there is such a huge gap between what the research says and the practices that schools continue to adopt.

Paradoxically this discrepancy between evidence and practice has never been more apparent than in recent times when evidence-based approaches are being strongly promoted by educational systems across Australia

The practice of students' repeating a year level is widely accepted in Australian schools but there are few statistics available on rates of repeating. Kenny (1991) has estimated that approximately 14% - 18% of all Australian students repeat a year, especially in the first four years of schooling.

Reviews of research and three key statistical meta-analyses (Holmes, 1989; Holmes & Matthews, 1984; Jimerson, 2001; Shepard & Smith, 1990) have provided the most important information about the effects of year level repetition. The conclusions from nearly all of these studies are clear-cut and unanimous: repeating a year does not improve academic performance, social competency or general behaviour for students at either the primary or secondary level.

On the contrary it creates low self-esteem and a negative attitude to school and places students at risk of further failure, increased anti-social behaviour and dropping out of school.

Read more at <http://www.valuesineducation.org.au/opinion.htm>

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DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Cheap school computer option still leaves a funding gap

Maralyn Parker, Daily Telegraph, 2 July 2008

THE NSW Government is going to spend its education revolution money on laptop, not desktop computers.

And Year 9 to Year 12 students will be given theirs to take home, according to a briefing paper released yesterday by the NSW Secondary Principals' Council.

But to make the federal plan work, the state needs to spend another \$3 for every \$1 of federal funds injected.

Currently the NSW Department of Education and Training is the largest user of Information and Communications Technology in Australia.

It maintains 195,000 computers in 2400 different physical locations. It downloads 25 terabytes of new content and processes about 45 million emails every month.

It already spends about \$208 million a year on computers in schools and that does not include professional development, power and other costs.

To give all Year 9 to 12 students a laptop, the number of computers in NSW public schools will have to double - to about 395,000.

Laptops are the cheap option, as schools won't need extra classroom space to accommodate them - and if NSW can bulk buy at \$500 a laptop, the other \$500 can go towards costs.

But even so there are huge extra costs on top of the \$1000 per student offered by the federal government.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,23953005-5001030,00.html>

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OPINION

Equality in education is a dying concept

Kenneth Davidson, The Age, 3 July 2008

The Rudd Government has picked up where Howard left off.

THE education revolution promised by Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard during last year's election campaign wasn't meant to be taken seriously.

According to international comparisons by the OECD, the outstanding characteristic of the Australian education system is that it rates very highly in terms of efficiency as measured by overall literacy and numeracy skills (fourth out of 30 countries) but rather poorly in terms of equity (18th out of 30 countries).

The Rudd Government's education policy is a seamless continuation of the policies of the Howard government. In 2006, the then education minister, Julie Bishop, said the education debate had "moved on from questions of resourcing. The new frontier in education reform in Australia is about teacher quality and curriculum ... ideologues who have hijacked school curriculums are experimenting with the education of our young people from a comfortable position of unaccountability, safe within the education bureaucracies".

This was "dog whistle" politics, reminiscent of the \$20 million "run for cover" campaign in 2000 designed to drive people into private health insurance.

But is Bishop's comment any different to the statement by Education Minister Julia Gillard in a speech to the Association of Independent Schools in May: "I believe it is time we got beyond the public versus private debate that has blighted our education debates for so long and replaced it with a debate about the quality of education and how we can guarantee every child, no matter how rich or how poor, gets the best education possible."

While Gillard isn't as crass as Bishop, the message is designed to skate over an inconvenient truth - the poorest can get an education that approximates to that of the rest of the community only if the state schools on which they depend are properly resourced, thereby making these schools an attractive alternative to the children of the middle-class. The creation of a two-tier health system is bad enough; the creation of a two-tier education system is incompatible with a modern, multicultural society.

But like Bishop, Gillard plays down resourcing and exclusivity as the key factors behind parents choosing private education.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/equality-in-education-is-a-dying-concept-20080702-30o1.html?page=-1>

The other education revolution

Maralyn Parker, Daily Telegraph, July 02, 2008

THIS will shock Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard. The public versus private debate she tried to kill off by declaring it dead has just exploded with renewed fervour.

Some of the best minds among public school supporters met in the NSW State Library on Saturday for their own 2020 Education Summit. Its sole purpose was to discuss how to fight the growing divide between Australia's public and private schools.

Heads of principal and parent groups, researchers, policy writers, teacher union officials, university professors and public school student leaders gathered to put their prodigious minds together. This is the first widely combined effort by those affected by the growing poverty of public schools to do something about public policy.

As one of the organisers, author of *The Stupid Country* Chris Bonnor, pointed out - Kevin Rudd's April 2020 summit brushed aside or ignored critical emerging issues about education.

Education was not even a separate topic for discussion. I was invited to the Saturday summit which was held to help fill the gaps.

Several speakers traced the growth of the public private divide from the mid 1970s. Each federal government since has compounded the problem.

It is an arrangement developed through default without public debate or consultation. Private school sectors have increasingly exploited the chaos.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,23953005-5001030,00.html>

Community looks closely at the cost of Jewish education

Naomi Levin, Australian Jewish News, 3 July 2008

WITH the cost of good quality Jewish education rising all the time, some of the Jewish community's largest donors have started working behind-the-scenes on strategies to provide effective Jewish education.

The Australian Jewish Funders (AJF), an organisation that provides philanthropists with an opportunity to network and discuss effective ways to donate funds, held a recent retreat with Jewish education funding as its objective.

The retreat was organised before Mount Scopus College principal Rabbi James Kennard warned last week that the increasing cost of Jewish schooling -- led by salary increases for teachers -- was making the provision of Jewish education challenging.

The AJF made Jewish education the focus of its May retreat, after Sam Lipski, chief executive of the Pratt Foundation and a member of the AJF, called the issue "the elephant in the room".

Read more at <http://www.ajn.com.au/news/news.asp?pgID=5779>

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TERTIARY EDUCATION

Uni cheats outsource to India

Asher Moses, Sydney Morning Herald, July 3, 2008

Computer Science students are farming out their coursework to cheap programmers in countries like India and university staff admit they are powerless to detect and prevent it.

Internet sites such as RentACoder and Kasamba provide an international marketplace connecting businesses in need of computer programming help with low-cost coders around the world.

But dishonest students have already seized on the outsourcing trend to avoid doing homework.

Typically, assignments are put out to tender on the internet sites and coders bid to complete them. Students can pay anywhere from under \$100 to several hundred dollars, depending on the amount of work required.

The practice isn't limited to programming. Various well-established sites already sell students essays and other written work.

But with code, which is far more black and white than the written word, it's far harder to spot outsourcing.

"I think it's a growing issue as a form of misconduct that universities are going to have to take seriously and at the moment our defences are weak," said David Wilson, associate dean of teaching and learning for information technology at the University of Technology, Sydney.

"We're aware that it happens and we're catching some people but I think that's the tip of the iceberg."

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/07/03/1214950908513.html>

Students cashless - and homeless

News.com, July 02, 2008 (AAP)

HUNDREDS of students at Melbourne University are homeless because of rising living costs.

Victoria's most distinguished institution says 440 of its students are effectively homeless and have to resort to staying with relatives or friends because they cannot afford their own place, The Age newspaper reports.

The revelations are likely to put pressure on the Federal Government to boost income support for tertiary students, with the head of the government's higher education review signalling an overhaul of schemes such as youth allowance and Austudy amid complaints they are either too hard to qualify for or are insufficient to live on, the paper says.

Figures reveal that an average teaching student in a share house will face costs of almost \$100,000 over the next four years, including yearly costs of \$5000 for accommodation, \$5000 for groceries, \$1600 for transport and \$5000 for HECS tuition costs.

Read more at <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23956327-29277,00.html>

CLASSROOM DYNAMICS

Aromatherapy and music to help Australian students

ABC Radio Australia Jul 2, 2008

A small outback school in South Australia has gone to great lengths to get schoolboys to do better in class.

Students have been allowed to repaint their rooms, adopt aromatherapy and play their music on Ipods while doing classwork - and it's having the desired effects.

Liz Bawden is just one of the teachers at Streaky Bay Area School who rather than banning Ipods, is encouraging her students to bring them into the classroom to help them learn.

While the fishing town on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula may be isolated - with more than 700 kilometres of outback roads between it and Adelaide - school principal Chris Roberts is determined that they should lead from afar.

So to try and turn around the trend of boys doing less well academically than their female peers, the school has tried playing Mozart, using soothing colours, and even aromatherapy.

Principal Chris Roberts says they've also reduced the emphasis on essay writing and increased the use of computer technology so the boys are more interested in learning.

He says something as simple as changing the lighting and colours of the classrooms has made an enormous difference.

Read more at <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/programguide/stories/200807/s2291894.htm>

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HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Troubled children a myth?

Adele Horin, Sydney Morning Herald, June 30, 2008

Children are just as well-adjusted as their counterparts of 20 years ago and, if anything, better behaved and less anxious - at least to their parents. But teachers appear to have a different view.

Research published today by the Australian Institute of Family Studies compares two studies of children two decades apart, and found that, in both the 1980s and the first decade of this century, the "great majority" of young children were happily adjusted.

Despite fears that modern life is producing a generation of badly behaved or anxious children, today's parents are even more relaxed and less worried about their children's progress than were parents in the past.

"Very few toddlers and children were reported as showing clear signs of behaviour problems," say the study's authors, Diana Smart and Ann Sanson. They say today's parents may be more tolerant and understanding of, or less bothered by, challenging behaviour than parents in the 1980s.

The studies, in 1988 and in 2005, each involved thousands of six- and seven-year-old children. Researchers asked parents and teachers parallel questions about the children's behaviour and temperament.

Parents of children aged two to three were also asked similar questions in both studies.

Taken together, the studies provide a rare opportunity to test the common assumption that children in the 21st century are faring worse than yesteryear's children, the authors say.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/parenting/troubled-children-a-myth/2008/06/29/1214677850298.html>

Read the Media Release from Insitute of Family Studies at <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/media/media080630a.html>

Listen to the report's authors at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2008/2286788.htm>

\$25m plan to test health of preschoolers

Louise Hal, Sun Herald June 29, 2008

A COMPREHENSIVE medical check-up program to ensure children can hear their teacher and see the blackboard, before they start school, will begin from Tuesday.

Four-year-olds will have their sight, hearing, teeth and developmental abilities measured by a GP, practice nurse or child health nurse in a \$25 million federal scheme attempting to pick up learning difficulties and behaviour problems early.

Height and weight will also be measured as part of the Government's promise to tackle rocketing rates of obesity. If a child's body mass index is too high, parents will be encouraged to refer them for further medical help.

Tests will be conducted when children get their immunisations. The Government hopes that, by the beginning of the next school year, all children entering kindergarten - about 225,000 - will have been checked. Tests are not mandatory.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the Healthy Kids Check would help parents to instil healthy habits such as exercise, proper nutrition and good behaviour in their children.

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/health/25m-plan-to-test-health-of-preschoolers/2008/06/28/1214472835783.html>

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SEXUALISATION OF CHILDREN

MPs balk at rules on sexualisation

Stephanie Peatling, Julian Lee and Yuko Narushima, Sydney Morning Herald, June 27, 2008

Children are increasingly exposed to highly sexualised images, a Senate committee has found - but it has stopped short of calling for tougher government regulation, which has angered parent groups.

The issue has been thrown into the spotlight by controversies such as the publication of photos of the 15-year-old Disney star Miley Cyrus topless in the magazine Vanity Fair.

Although the committee rejected tighter standards on what television and advertisers can show, it recommended a national sex education program as a way to teach children about healthy relationships and to help them "deconstruct" sexualised images.

It singled out raunchy music videos and toys such as Bratz dolls, but said "it is the primary responsibility of parents to make decisions about what their children see, hear, read or purchase.

"These parental decisions can have a significant impact on the market for sexualising products and services."

The committee has also suggested that television networks consider a dedicated children's channel and that publishers of magazines such as Dolly and Girlfriend investigate putting content warnings on covers.

Parenting groups were angry the committee did not take a tougher position.

"The reliance on industry bodies to fix most of the issues is misplaced. If these bodies were willing to take effective steps to address the issues they would have done so by now," the vice-president of Young Media Australia, Elizabeth Handsley, said.

The professor of public ethics at Charles Sturt University, Clive Hamilton, said: "The report fails to understand or reflect the level of community concern about the ways in which children are being sexualised by the media and advertisers and has largely ignored the evidence of harm presented to the inquiry by psychologists and other experts working with children."

Read more at <http://www.smh.com.au/news/parenting/mps-baulk-at-rules-on-sexualisation/2008/06/26/1214472722046.html>

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2008

A global warning

Tim Flannery The Age, 6 July 2008

ROSS GARNAUT'S 500-page draft report presents a clear picture of possible future climate impacts on Australia, and what should be done about them. Yet so diabolically complex is the issue that Garnaut's team has had insufficient time to complete the economic modelling required to determine targets for carbon emissions, trajectories for emissions reduction, or recommendations on a carbon price. For this we'll have to wait until late August, when the supplementary draft report is to be published.

In his preamble, Garnaut makes a strong moral case as to why Australia should act now. Our economy has ridden high on the wave of development sweeping Asia, yet it is that very development that is accelerating climate change. Furthermore, many nations (mostly in Europe) have acted before us, and Australians have never been in a better economic position to pay the costs of emissions abatement, nor to assist those less well off to adjust to the changes. Exempting industries from the scheme would be catastrophic, he says, the only exceptions being industries that sell into a global market and which face competitors that do not yet pay for their emissions. But even here, he argues, the concessions must be rigorously assessed and absolutely minimal.

Garnaut is at his most persuasive when he argues that quick, effective action is urgently required, and that delays will only magnify the risks we face, as well as making action far more expensive. As he says, we should have acted years ago, and the Opposition wish to delay the carbon trading scheme to perfect it harks back to failed policy: the truth is that the issue is so complex, yet so urgent, that we have no choice but to learn on the job.

Read more at <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/a-global-warning-20080705-3274.html?page=-1>

Tim Flannery is chairman of the Copenhagen Climate Council, a professor at Macquarie University and Australian vice-chairman of the Climate Group.

Greening the nation's future

Canberra Times Editorial 5/07/2008

Any attempts to delay the introduction of effective measures to reduce the risk of climate change in Australia to more acceptable levels will ultimately be self-defeating, from both an environmental and an economic viewpoint. Which is why the Federal Government needs to adopt a "well designed, broadly based" emissions trading system (that includes transport) from 2010, and why it needs to go even further on its pledge to cut greenhouse gases by 60 per cent by 2050.

That, in essence, is the message contained in Ross Garnaut's draft report on climate change, issued yesterday. While it is a theme likely to be opposed or undermined by vested interests and those politicians with an eye to the populist main chance, it is further confirmation, if any were needed, that the consequences of not acting decisively to mitigate the dangerously high levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere could be to condemn Australia to a dry, barren future.

The level of public interest in Professor Garnaut's draft report has been extraordinarily high, due more to the way an emissions trading system might impinge on the price of transport fuel in Australia and that has already soared over the past year because of increased world demand than to any overriding environmental or economic concerns.

The Garnaut-preferred scheme will be similar to the so-called cap-and-trade model implemented by the European Union, and will generate "substantial amounts of revenue" if all of the permits are sold. It will cover more than 70 per cent of the country's emissions though not all the greenhouse gases produced by the country's farmers, at least initially.

Exactly what effect such an emissions trading system can have on petrol, diesel and coal-generated electricity prices is still unclear and will remain so until Treasury completes its economic modelling, but they are expected to rise sufficiently for families (particularly low-income families) to require compensation. Garnaut suggests either tax cuts or social security adjustments to avoid the more regressive effects of higher energy prices.

Read more at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/greening-the-nations-future/804962.aspx>

AWARDS & PRIZES

Treasurer Launches New Community Treasurer's Awards

Hon Wayne Swan MP, 2 July 2008

Today I launched a very important new initiative, the Westpac Community Treasurer's Awards.

The awards are to recognise the unpaid work of honorary treasurers in our community groups and in the wider Australian community.

The awards are the first of their kind in Australia and I am very proud to have had the privilege of launching them today.

The valuable work of community treasurers enriches the lives of many Australians - and it's work that often goes unrecognised.

In many instances they are the backbone of the local bushfire unit, the footy club or the surf life saving club and their efforts deserve to be heralded.

Their tireless efforts keeping the books means local sports participants or community volunteers can get on with what they are doing knowing the back office functions are being taken care of.

These new awards will also help highlight the importance of financial literacy, which is an important life skill for everyone.

Nominations close on 10 September 2008.

Read more at

<http://www.westpac.com.au/internet/publish.nsf/content/WIWCHC%20Westpac%20Community%20Treasurers%20Awards>

2008 Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators & Science Awards

Applications close 14 July 2008.

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is proud to be a sponsor of the 2008 Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators and Science Awards.

These annual awards are run by the Bureau of Rural Sciences and are for young people (18-35 years) working or studying in an agricultural, fisheries, forestry, food or natural resource industry.

Winners will receive up to \$20 000 each to explore an emerging scientific issue or innovative activity over a 12 month period. One winner will also be recommended to receive the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Award, valued at an additional \$30 000, to advance their research outcomes and career.

We are hoping for some strong entries from the animal welfare sector because as the conference has revealed there are some terrific young scientists doing amazing work to improve welfare across multiple industries and sectors.

Projects can relate to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and natural resource management industries, and funding may be used for a research project, an industry visit, further study into a specific area or attending a conference.

Applications close 14 July 2008.

Read more at <http://www.daff.gov.au/brs/science-awards>

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CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Biennial National Conference - Association of Women Educators

Choices, Chances & Opportunities - Women and girls in the 21st Century

1-3 October 2008 - Cairns, Queensland

The conference theme reflects the three focus areas of the Association:

- Education as a career path for women
- Issues affecting the quality of education available to girls
- Societal attitudes and actions which perpetuate a stereotypical view of women and create a barrier to the full participation of women in education and in society generally

Further details and Registration: <http://www.awe.asn.au/conferences/cairns08/index.php>

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REMI NDERS

9-11 July - Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference - Melbourne -
<http://www.aifconference08.com/>

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

10-12 July - Outdoor Education Association of Queensland State Conference - Rockhampton -
<http://www.oeq.org.au/events.asp>

11-12 July - Working in Partnership Conference - Hobart - <http://www.workinginpartnerships.com.au/>

17-19 July - International Conference on Education, Economy & Society - Paris, France -
<http://education-conferences.org/default.aspx>

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

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

16-24 August - National Science Week - <http://www.asta.edu.au>

18-20 August - Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies Conference - Sydney -
<http://www.acwa08.com/>

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

23-27 August - Association for Teacher Education in Europe Annual Conference - Brussels, Belgium -
<http://www.atee2008.be/>

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

28-29 August - Professional Development Network School Leaders' Conference - Gold Coast -
<http://www.griffith.edu.au/education/centre-leadership-management-education/events/leadership-conference-2008>

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

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

18-20 September - English Australia Conference - Canberra - <http://www.eaconference.com.au/>

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

24-25 September - Scottish Learning Festival - Glasgow, Scotland -
<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/slf/index.asp>

29 September-2 October 2008 - Australian Computers in Education Conference - Canberra -
<http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

30 September-2 October - ACEL International Conference - Melbourne -
<http://www.acec2008.info/default2.asp?orgid=1&suborgid=12>

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

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

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

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

22-25 October - Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference - Saratoga Springs, USA -
<http://fie.engrng.pitt.edu/fie2008/>

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

24-26 November - International Conference on Distance Education - Santo Domingo, Dominican
Republic -
<http://www.icde.org/oslo/icde.nsf/id/05C3211E27B0737DC12573E100405E7F?OpenDocument>

7-11 December - World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education - Melbourne -
<http://www.wipce2008.com/>

8-12 December - International Consortium for Experiential Learning - Sydney -
<http://www.education.uts.edu.au/icel/index.html>

4-7 January - Hawaii International Conference on Education - Honolulu, USA -
<http://www.hiceducation.org/>

18-21 January - Summer School For Australian Teachers - Canberra -
<http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich/>

15-18 April - International Outdoor Education Research Conference - Beechworth, Vic -
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/oent/research_conf_2009.htm
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RESOURCES

Learning for Leadership

Learning for Leadership by Michelle Anderson and Christine Cawsey, published by ACER Press was launched by ACER's chief executive Professor Geoff Masters on 12 May.

Part of the Educational Leadership Dialogues series, Learning for Leadership explores how school principals can initiate and maintain programs and practices to develop the leadership potential of teachers in their school.

It explains the theory behind the concept of educational leadership and then it tells the story of a school much admired for its leadership development. Together, the research and the case study present a strong argument for the introduction of similar programs in schools throughout Australia.

The book can be purchased through ACER Press online at www.acerpress.com.au or contact customer service on 1800 338 402 or via email on sales@acer.edu.au

Educational Experience

Educational Experience began its operations in Newcastle NSW in 1977 and today is Australia's leading supplier of educational resources and equipment to child care centres, preschools, OOSHs and primary schools. We remain dedicated to the supply of creative and practical ideas to help children learn and develop and are the Teacher's choice for variety, quality and customer service.

At present Educational Experience's product range consists of over 8,500 product lines showcased in our annual Teachers Catalogue. Our speedy delivery is recognised as being the most efficient and reliable service offered in the industry. The products sold by Educational Experience are sourced from Australian suppliers where possible or imported from reputable international suppliers. To ensure all our products are of the highest quality and meet safety standards, our suppliers must show product compliance testing to Australian standards.

To view our product range please visit www.edex.com.au

Educational Experience initiated our generous Toys and More fundraiser to help Australian children's education. Early childhood centres and schools who participate in this fundraiser, are rewarded with a credit voucher valued at 20% of the total value ordered by parents and friends and may qualify for additional resources. For more information please visit www.toysandmore.com.au

Educational Experience remains committed to the educational needs of all Australian children.

Educational Experience, PO Box 860, Newcastle NSW 2300

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

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