



## Monthly e-Newsletter – July 2007

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### EDITORIAL

Thanks to several people who have given me some good feedback about the newsletter.

As always, ideas and content for the newsletter are welcome, as is your feedback. Subject to space and relevance to members, the newsletter can run notices about job vacancies and upcoming events.

### LOCALS MAKE GOOD

Those of you who pitched up to the 2006 AAIR Forum may have attended the presentation by Martin Carroll and Josie Palermo (AAIR Vice-Prez). It won best presentation. It's good to hear that an enhanced version of the paper was presented at this year's AIR conference in the US where it was awarded Best Visual Presentation. When it comes to spotting quality, gee we're good, aren't we?

The citation is: Carroll, M. and Palermo, J. (2007). Increasing National Capability for Quality Higher Education – the case of the Sultanate of Oman.

Unfortunately it's behind a password on the AIR website. However, the earlier version presented at Coffs Harbour last year is sitting with other presentations on the AAIR website, right here: <http://www.aair.org.au/2006Papers/index.html>

### ATEM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – NSW BRANCH: FACULTY & SCHOOL MANAGER'S FORUM

The Forum's focus is practical aspects of planning for and managing change at Faculty and School level and measuring outcomes for effective performance evaluation.

Presentations include: Alliance through Change; Is There a Workforce Crisis Looming? ; Performance Measurement Against Strategic Objectives; A Case Study in Change Management at CSU.

#### **Forum Outcomes include:**

- To acquire knowledge & skills on managing & planning for change at the Faculty and School level
- To discuss workforce planning issues
- To acquire knowledge & skills on measuring outcomes for effective performance evaluation

Speakers include **Darlene Sebalj** (PhD student, Uni of Newcastle, looking at research admin & large scale change); **Jan Ryan**, College Manager, College of Business, UWS; **Ivan Skaines**, Manager, Strategic Planning and Review, Office of Planning & Quality, UWS, and AAIR President; **Robert Doubleday**, Exec Officer, Faculty of Arts, CSU.

**Venue: University of Technology, Sydney**

**Date: Friday 3 August 2007**

**Time: 9.00 am – 4.30 pm**

More information:

<http://www.atem.org.au/assets/FMForum3August2007electronic.pdf>

#### **AAIR Committee members**

**President:** Ivan Skaines, University of Western Sydney

**Immediate Past President:** Wendy Marchment, Griffith University

**Vice President:** Josephine Palermo, Deakin University

**Hon Secretary:** Dean Ward, Edith Cowan University

**Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary:**  
Marian Mahat, Monash University

#### **General Committee:**

Bruce Guthrie, Graduate Careers Australia

Don Johnston, Southern Cross University

Dave Marr, Australian National University

Andrea Matulick, University of South Australia

Rob Sheehan, Sharp Words Editing & Writing Services (Victoria)

**AAIR website:** <http://www.aair.org.au/>

# AAIR 2007 Forum

## CHANGE, EVIDENCE & IMPLEMENTATION: IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

**When: 28-30 November**

**Where: Crown Plaza, Darling Harbour, Sydney**

**Program details and registration information:**

<http://www.aair.org.au/Forum2007/Index.html>

### **Latest news from Ivan Skaines**

Planning for the 2007 AAIR Sydney Forum continues to go well.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we have now received abstracts for more than 50 papers including proposals from Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Korea, China and the USA. The abstracts are currently being reviewed for inclusion in the program and authors will be notified of the outcomes of their abstracts this week.

At this stage we are planning several SIGS/Workshops on Wednesday, 28 November. Topics include the DEST, Data Warehouse and Survey Special Interest Groups and workshops on KPIs and benchmarking for community engagement, strategy development, AUQA round 2 audits, student engagement and developing an Australian Graduate Survey database.

Planning is also beginning for the 2008 AAIR Forum to be held in late November 2008 and on 20 July I am attending a meeting with the Committee hosting the Forum.

If you have any questions about the Forum please do not hesitate to contact Helen Angelakis or myself at the University of Western Sydney on 02 9678 7808.

**The 2007 AAIR Forum hosted by the University of Western Sydney.**

**The 2007 Forum is sponsored by Graduate Careers Australia**

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### **Regulating the Quality of Cross-Border Education**

The Asia Pacific Quality Network APQN and UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development have produced a toolkit called *Regulating the Quality of Cross-Border Education*. It's here:  
[http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual\\_library/other\\_reports/unesco-apqn\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.apqn.org/files/virtual_library/other_reports/unesco-apqn_toolkit.pdf)

There is a PowerPoint presentation available. It provides an overview of the Toolkit and its uses and was prepared by Wong Wai Sum, Exec Director of the Hong Kong Joint Quality Review Committee, and Tony Davies from Education New Zealand. The slide show is accessible here:  
[http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/apeid/workshops/9th\\_convention/tony-powerpoint-APQN\\_Crossborder\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/apeid/workshops/9th_convention/tony-powerpoint-APQN_Crossborder_Toolkit.pdf)

## **PLACES TO GO – THINGS TO DO**

### **TAKING ON THE VET FUTURE**

An NCVET Research Forum is coming to a city near you in August or September. The Forums all share the same title: Supporting VET providers in building capability for the future. Presenters are all linked up with the Consortium Research Program (<http://www.consortiumresearchprogram.net.au/>) which is getting the evidence together to guide VET workforce change. VET is facing transformation in the near future so this research program is just what the doctor ordered. Different members of the Consortium are presenting at the various forums – program details are here: [http://www.ncver.edu.au/files/SupportingVETprovidersforum\\_Program.pdf](http://www.ncver.edu.au/files/SupportingVETprovidersforum_Program.pdf)

### **21ST CENTURY CURRICULUM: TAKING BEARINGS**

The Curriculum Corporation is running its 14<sup>th</sup> annual shindig in Sydney on 12 and 13 November. It's really important for universities to get to close grips with what's going on in schools. Someone you know should be going to this. Details here: <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/conference/2007/>

### **UNISERVE SCIENCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The national UniServe Conference is a three day event held annually at Sydney Uni. Uniserve promotes high quality research into science learning and teaching at university level. This year the conference runs from 26 - 28 September 2007. Day 1 enables discipline groups to meet and share issues of current importance. Days 2 & 3, the Symposium, provide a platform for presenting and developing high quality research in tertiary science teaching and learning. <http://science.uniserve.edu.au/workshop/conference.html>

### **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON E-LEARNING: TOWARDS A SCIENCE OF EDUCATION**

The Knowledge Design Forum is a research group in the Globalism Institute at RMIT. The Forum is hosting this symposium in Melbourne from 9-11 December. It's an eclectic program and it spans the education sectors. The key questions to be addressed at the symposium are about the nature of learning using digital media and tools. Program details are here: <http://ls7.cgpublisher.com/>

## **GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE, LOCALLY ENGAGED: HIGHER EDUCATION AND REGIONS**

It's an OECD international conference, and it's in Valencia, Spain, from 19-21 September.

This conference will seek to explore that notion that is taking firmer hold – the third stream, or the third task – universities have a big role to play in the economic, social and cultural development of the regions they serve.

Measuring the impact of the university's engagement is a hard ask. There's a session on just that on the final day. All conference details here: <http://www.cfp.upv.es/oecd/inicio/>

### **WRITING FOR THE WEB WORKSHOP**

Writing for the web is a task falling into the laps of everyone who sits down at work. Let me tell you – it's not the same as the writing tasks you grew up with unless you are under 20 years of age. It poses different demands and the readership behaves in an entirely unruly manner.

So Vision Australia – who better? – is offering this workshop in a bunch of capital cities from late July to early October. More info here: <http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/info.aspx?page=1652>

### **QUALITY IN POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE: RESEARCH EDUCATION IN THE NEW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

Early days on this one – not until 17-18 April 2008, in Adelaide. Submission of papers by 15 October 2007. Basic website here, but watch this space: <http://www.qpr.edu.au/2008/>

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### **AN NZ RETROSPECTIVE**

So often you have to scabble around for time series data, and work with it in various formats. The NZ Ministry of Science and Technology has very sensibly produced a compendium of stats on R&D performance for the ten years 1994-2004.

Good job. Should be more of it. You can download it here: <http://b07.cgpublisher.com/welcome.html>

## IT IS WRITTEN

### Studying lecturers studying their students

Janet Gregory finished her PhD thesis at Swinburne last year – the title of her thesis is: *Maintaining competence: a grounded theory explaining the response of university lecturers to the mix of local and international students.*

According to the Swinburne website, Janet is Senior Lecturer, Human Resource Management & Organisation Studies, and Deputy Academic Leader (Assurance of Learning) – Management & Entrepreneurship in the Faculty of Business and Entrepreneurship. And I think she has written a really useful thesis that looks at the needs of lecturers in terms of identity and personal integrity. Interesting implications for those with quality and academic development briefs. Download her dissertation here:

<http://adt.caul.edu.au/homesearch/find/?recordid=137317&format=main>

### Essays to graze by

A little collection of short essays on higher ed by Philip Altbach, Director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College. He starts with a topical issue, does a riff and comes to a few conclusions. Download all 35 essays in one online tome called *International Higher Education: Reflections on Policy and Practice*. It's on my desktop so I can graze when I'm in one of Chris Patten's slow lanes. Chew the cud here: [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/soe/cihe/publications/](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/publications/)

(Also at this website is a document called *International Higher Education Finance: An Annotated Bibliography*. This isn't my cup of tea, but if it's yours, go for it: [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/soe/cihe/publications/pub\\_pdf/Marcucci-DBJ\\_2007\\_Final\\_bib.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/publications/pub_pdf/Marcucci-DBJ_2007_Final_bib.pdf))

### All the gloss on quality

You never know what you'll find under the next rock. Here you have international analytic glossary of issues related to quality in higher education. Prepared for the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education, you can access it here: <http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/glossary/#a>

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

### 1. Rightness of way

Ethics in human research gets a run from time to time, usually when things go awry. But there's a lot of careful work done in universities to make sure that the research is careful and caring. The NH&MRC has been busy of late sprucing up the ethical review regime. Its Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) teamed up with the old AVCC to produce a new *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*; a replacement for the 1999 version. Issued in March, the new statement is a lot clearer about expectations: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm>

Tony Abbott, Australia's Health Minister, asked AHEC to let him know about the kinds of tough issues Human Research Ethics Committees have to tangle with. AHEC has just released *Challenging Ethical Issues in Contemporary Research on Human Beings* – it's not an easy job sorting through the merits of competing claims and doing it transparently. Worth your time: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/ethics/human/ahec/projects/reports.htm>

### 2. Fast track

The UK Higher Education Academy published in May 2007 *Accelerated learning programmes: a review of quality, extent and demand*. It reports on pilots at three UK universities trialing student support for knocking over a three year undergrad degree in just two. Thumbs up. Interesting to read about all the variations by which a student could finish faster – there are lots more options than the summer semester. Tick them off yourself: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/research/Accelerated\\_learning\\_programmes\\_1.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/research/Accelerated_learning_programmes_1.pdf)

### 3. Slow lane

From accelerated learning to being stuck in first. Chris Patten – yes, He of Hong Kong, and now Chancellor of both Newcastle and Oxford universities – had a vigorous slap at all parties on government funding of universities. The Guardian was pleased to publish his verbal blows. Read all about it: <http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/comment/story/0,,2085535,00.html>

#### 4. Holding up the traffic

This must be one of the higher education world's most loved websites. The Higher Education Regulation Review Group (with an acronym that sounds like something that would interest an otolaryngologist - HERRG) maintains an open invitation on its website for university staff to contact with them suggestions for how to lessen the regulatory burden. Go on. Let off some steam. The phone number is 020 7925 6814 – just whack the codes in front and get it all off your chest. Or visit the website:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/hegateway/hereform/improvingregulation/index.cfm>

#### 5. Point duty at Melbourne Uni

Ex-politicians have a liking for pointing out what needs to be done around the place. In Barry Jones' case, it is a duty to point out what's up, or down. Jones delivered one in a series of Dean's lectures earlier this year at Melbourne Uni's Faculty of Education. The lecture - Education: Creativity, values, equity and changes in society – is downloadable as a podcast:

<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/news/lectures/index.html>

(You can download the brochure that lists upcoming public lectures in the Dean's series. Of interest to the HE folk around Melbourne Town are scheduled inaugural professorial lectures by Richard James and Simon Marginson in September and October respectively. The brochure is here: [http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/news/lectures/pdf/DLS\\_Brochure\\_2007.pdf](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/news/lectures/pdf/DLS_Brochure_2007.pdf))

#### 6. Point duty at Sydney Uni

The Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at Sydney Uni also has a public lecture series. There is a great array of topics covered in past lectures, which are listed here: <http://www.rihss.usyd.edu.au/events/past/index.shtml>

I've checked out two of them:

- RQF, 'Impact' and You: A forum for researchers in the humanities, arts and social sciences – there's a PowerPoint presentation to download
- Democracy and the 'entrepreneurial' university: visioning the university in the age of globalisation – which you can listen to as a podcast.

#### 7. Bologna

The European Universities Association had a do in Lisbon in late March – the EUA's 4<sup>th</sup> annual convention was titled 'Europe's universities beyond 2010 - diversity with a common purpose'. Most of the keynotes, and workshop presentations are available at the EUA website. A few too many PowerPoint shows for my liking. We still need to write things down, people. A slide is not an argument.

Anyway, they're here:

<http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=358> And as befits the anything Bologna, the diversity of topics is a wonderful thing – from research to quality to governance.

#### 8. More Bologna

You may have missed the London Communiqué issued by Europe's Education Ministers on 23 May in which they noted that another Bologna Process would be needed after 2010. The Communiqué covers a lot of ground in just seven pages – it's basically a political restatement of 'Trends in Higher Education from the Perspective of Institutions', which you'll find at the EUA Convention website just mentioned.

One of the priorities the Communiqué notes is in data collection. Drop in here:

[http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user\\_upload/files/newsletter/London\\_Communique.pdf](http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/newsletter/London_Communique.pdf)

#### 9. Academic editors in a wild frenzy

Well, they're mildly excited. Why? At last, some common sense about copyright and journal articles.

To quote the blurb: 'In an effort to create a more balanced understanding of the actual rights policies in place at most journals, and in the hope of tempering the often overheated rhetoric regarding the role of copyright in scholarly communication, three organisations ... representing the international scholarly publishing community issued a White Paper on the academic use of journal content. Read it to find out what gives editors their jollies – just three pages:

[http://www.pspcentral.org/publications/author\\_publisher\\_rights.pdf](http://www.pspcentral.org/publications/author_publisher_rights.pdf)

## 10. The knowledge commons

The OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation has just published *Giving knowledge for free: the emergence of open educational resources*. It puts up the arguments for academics and institutions to share educational resources – for free. As the report notes: '... much of the learning materials were locked up behind passwords within proprietary systems, unreachable for outsiders. The open educational resource (OER) movement aims to break down such barriers and to encourage and enable freely sharing content.'

Copyright issues features too. OER is going to be nipping away at our heels for some time to come, I suspect. The report is here:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/7/38654317.pdf>

## 11. We count

The Australian Academy of Science set up the National Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research in Australia. The Review's report is called *Mathematics and statistics: Critical skills for Australia's future*. The report reckons that the number of maths and stats students and lecturers at Australian universities is critically low and the shine has gone off maths in schools as well.

The report makes a pretty sound argument for developing this skills base on a sustainable basis. And it offers some solutions to boot. Here 'tis:

<http://www.review.ms.unimelb.edu.au/FullReport2006.pdf>

## 12. We speak

Things are just as crook in foreign language education in Australia. The Group of Eight universities has released a paper – 'Languages in Crisis' – that explores the parlous position of foreign languages. It, too, comes up with some solutions in a very snappy 11 pages.

The paper makes the obvious point that Australia just isn't capitalising on the language skills of migrants. Report is here:

<http://www.go8.edu.au/policy/papers/2007/Go8%20Languages%20in%20Crisis%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf>

## 13. A newsletter by any other name ...

The Backing Australia's Future Newsletter was a handy way of keeping up to speed on what government was thinking and doing. The newsletter has been renamed. Not it's the Backing Australia's Future - Realising Our Potential Newsletter. Obviously didn't consult the Style Guide on Short Titles for that one. Anyway, if you haven't signed up for it – now in its 26<sup>th</sup> edition, which is full of Budget PR – just go here: [http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher\\_education/realising\\_our\\_potential\\_newsletter](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/realising_our_potential_newsletter)

## 14. HECS for TAFE

The Commonwealth Budget took a first step towards introducing HECS into VET. The Treasury issued a Working Paper in April which presents the economic case for the policy. The paper is called *HECS for TAFE: the case for extending income contingent loans to the vocational education and training sector*. Download it here:

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=&ContentID=1252>

## 15. In NZ, the plan comes first

There are pretty remarkable changes afoot in tertiary education in New Zealand. In December 2006 the government announced a wide-ranging reform proposal that affects universities, vocational training providers, and adult and community education. That broad plan, called the Tertiary Education Strategy 2007-2012 is here:

<http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/standard.aspx?id=1183>

One of the changes to watch is the shift from government running a funding system, to government agreeing a three year plan with individual tertiary education providers. Then comes the funding. Light touch regulation, heavy on performance measurement and future funding hinges on performance. The approach also wants the sector to see itself as a network, not a group of competitors. The three year plans are called Investment Plans and you can read more about how they will work in the Investment Guidance 2008-2010, issued in April: [http://www.tec.govt.nz/upload/downloads/Invstmnt-guidance-website\(v2\).pdf](http://www.tec.govt.nz/upload/downloads/Invstmnt-guidance-website(v2).pdf)