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Shaped or Shaping?

WA Secondary Education
Leaders Conference:

*responding to the
national agenda*

13th-15th June, 2010

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Shaped or Shaping:

WA Secondary School Leadership

responding to the national agenda

Welcome to the inaugural Secondary School Leaders Conference 2010. WASSEA, AISWA and CaSPA representatives have formed a combined conference committee which heralds a new era in cooperation between the Government, Catholic and Independent education sectors in WA. Our sincere thanks to the organising committee for their efforts and the quality of the program they have put together.

Across sectors, we face similar issues. We hope that this conference will create a better understanding between the sectors so that we are able to learn from each other and support 'common ground' in responding to issues arising from the Rudd Government's National Agenda. As a combined group of experienced educators we should have a 'voice' in shaping future education direction.

The conference program showcases nationally recognised speakers as well as a variety of high profile speakers from Western Australia. The keynote program is complemented by a collection of workshops that explore current national and state education issues, and provide the opportunity for interaction and sharing between and across the different sectors.

Members from the different education sectors have worked together to create a diverse and stimulating conference that will engage all participants. Shaped or Shaping: responding to the national agenda highlights the national agenda and unpicks in detail the issues that affect all schools. For too long we have worked in isolation; it is time to take this opportunity to network and learn from each other.

Rob Nairn
President - WASSEA



Eleanor Hughes
Conference Convenor

Alison Woodman
Conference MC



Speakers & Guests



Liz Furler



Allan Blagaich



Prof. Mike Gaffney



Dr. Peter Hill



Sheree Vertigan



Dr. Peter Dingle

General Information

Venue

This year's conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Perth.

The Hyatt Regency Perth Hotel, 99 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA



Accommodation

Please ensure you indicate on your registration form your preferred room type, dates you wish to stay and whether you're booking a private room or sharing with another delegate.

For shared accommodation, please contact the person with whom you would prefer to share in order to coordinate your intentions prior to completing your Registration Form.

Parking

Day Parking (15 hour Maximum) is available in the Wilson Car Park, entry off Terrace Rd on the river side of the hotel. \$10 per car prepaid. Bookings via the Registration Form.

Resident Parking (24 hours) is available under the hotel entering over the concierge driveway and down through the boom gate. \$20 per day, prepaid. Bookings via the Registration Form.

Conference Dinner

Features a two course meal, drinks and entertainment.

Special Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary needs, please indicate your requirements on the Registration Form.

How to Register

Step One

Choose the components of the conference for which you wish to register.

Step Two

Complete your registration form and fax/scan and email to Events WA.

Step Three

Follow up with one of the payment options outlined on the Registration Form.

School Executive Teams wishing to rotate individuals over the days of the conference are able to do so via one (1) full registration. This only applies to Conference Packages 'A' and 'B'.

Please note that satchels and all name-based outputs will be in the name of the registered school. Shared satchels may be returned to the Registration Desk at the end of each day for the person attending the next day.

Confirmed Registrations

Registrations will be confirmed by reply EMAIL. Please contact Events WA if you do NOT receive confirmation of your registration.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations of attendance must be made in writing to Events WA. A full refund, less cancellation fee of \$100, will be issued on cancellations received by the Conference Organisers before 2nd June, 2010. No refunds after 2nd June, 2010 will be granted. Substitute participants may be made at any time after conferring with Events WA.

Program: Sunday 13th

10:00 - 10:30 Registration and Coffee

10:30 - 12:30 Country Delegates' Forum - chaired by Gary Downsborough

Session 1: Revving Up Hedland - Carolyn Cook

This session is about the transformation of Hedland Senior High School from being in crisis and needing high levels of intervention to a school that is performing better than like schools, constantly improving and has a positive outlook.

Session 2: Moderation for Rural and Remote Schools - Steve Donatti

Session 3: DET Directions for Country Schools - Colin Pettit

This session will provide updates on DET directions for country schools including new regions, professional development and funding.

12:30 - 01:30 LUNCH

01:30 - 03:00 Preconference Workshop A: Collaborations in WA

*Chaired by Jenny Firth including presentations by Mark Brookes and Tracy Griffiths
Schools are moving from the traditional competitive model to collaborative models to meet the challenges of providing choice within schools. Hear about the journeys of two collaborations and the challenges they have overcome to provide innovative solutions in curriculum delivery.*

Preconference Workshop B: Independent Public Schools

Chaired by Rob Nairn

Debate still remains around the creation of Independent Public Schools with 34 commencing in 2009 and the probability of a significant increase in the number of schools during 2010. Will this work in our Regional Schools? Two Principals from Independent Public Schools will share their experiences, discuss the processes that they went through and outline the benefits to their school community.

03:00 - 04:00 AFTERNOON TEA

WASSEA AGM

03:30 - 05:30 Wooldridges Welcome Reception

The logo for Wooldridges, featuring the name in a white, cursive script font on a black rectangular background with a thin yellow border.

Program: Monday 14th



07:00 - 08:00 B&H AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE BREAKFAST

07:15

Resilience: Reduce Your Stress and Increase Your Productivity
- Dr Peter Dingle

While stress is a natural mechanism that motivates us and equips us to avoid danger, stress levels have spiralled out of control and become a serious health issue. Substantial research now shows that stress and its effects can be significantly reduced through changes to our lifestyle, diet, environment and in the way we think.

In this program you will learn to create ways to manage and use stress to your advantage. With an integrated approach through Diet, Environment, Attitude and Lifestyle (the DEAL) Dr Peter Dingle will provide you with immediate steps to reduce distress and the impact it has on health.

08:00 - 08:30 Registration and Coffee

08:30 - 09:00

Conference Opening

Welcome to Country - presented by students from Balga Senior High School

Minister's Address

09:00 - 10:00

Keynote Address: The National Education Reform Agenda - Liz Furler

There have been significant changes at the national level in the education sector. Today the education agenda is more "centre stage" in political debate, and education policy is now firmly linked to Australia's economic and social future. Machinery for policy making, program planning and delivery has changed at the national level. The industry sector is more complex and competitive and will become more so following the review of funding for Australian schooling. Liz's presentation will touch on the implications of these changes for principals and their peak bodies. Her presentation will set the scene for the subsequent workshops and presentations.

10:15 - 11:00

MORNING TEA

11:00 - 12:30

Keynote Address: The Australian Curriculum - Dr Peter Hill

The development of the national curriculum and other matters relating to ACARA's work.

12:30 - 01:30

LUNCH

01:30 - 02:30

Keynote Address: Standards – who needs standards! - Sheree Vertigan and Fiona Forbes

Standards have always existed in a contestable space. The profession believes that they should be by the profession for the profession. Governments typically want standards for the purpose of accreditation by the employer and potentially for promotion and remuneration. There have been several attempts to write standards by the profession but for some reason they never receive the final tick off and again they are back on the agenda for AITSL. Do we need them, do we want them and if the answer is yes what are we going to do about them? This session will be an interactive session where you will be asked to explore some of the standards documentation currently being considered to determine how it scopes your reality.

02:30 - 02:45

AFTERNOON TEA

02:45 - 03:30

Keynote Address: An Introduction to the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership - Allan Blagaich

This session will address the influence and implications of a national teaching and school leadership body.

END OF PROGRAM

07:00 - 07:30

Conference Pre-Dinner Drinks

07:30 - 11:30

Conference Dinner

Program: Tuesday 15th

08:00 - 08:30 **Registration and Coffee**

08:30 - 09:30 **Welcome**

Keynote Panel: Responding to the National Agenda

- Sharyn O'Neill - Director General, DET
- Valerie Gould - Executive Director, AISWA
- Mary Retel - Deputy Director, CEO WA

09:30 - 10:15 **Keynote Address: Leading Learning and the National Agenda - Prof. Mike Gaffney**

Australian school educators are facing unparalleled demands and opportunities for leading learning. The national agenda covering testing, reporting, curriculum, teaching standards, digital technologies and school buildings represents a complex mix of pressure and support from governments affecting their work. At the same time, leading principals and teachers around Australia are remaining focussed on the fundamentals of their profession - providing valued learning opportunities that are carefully aligned with the talents, needs, interests, aspirations and life circumstances of their students. In his address, Mike will overview key elements of the national agenda and how these are being used successfully to enhance student learning in schools across Australia.

This address will be followed by facilitated group discussions on issues on the national agenda including:

- Testing, reporting and the My School website
- The new Australian Curriculum
- Teacher/School Leader standards
- Year 7 students in secondary schools
- The compulsory nature of exams, and
- Staffing the future.

Facilitators will collect responses to the issues. These will be used to synthesise a 'conference' response which will be presented by Mike and the facilitator team.

10:15 - 11:00 **MORNING TEA**

11:00 - 11:45 **Facilitated Workshops**

A: National Agenda

B: The New Australian Curriculum

C: Teacher / Leader Standards

D: Testing, Reporting and the 'My School' Website

E: Year 7 Students in Secondary Schools

F: Compulsory Nature of Exams

G: Staffing the Future

11:55 - 12:55 **Concurrent Workshops: Projects that Work in Schools**

Concurrent Workshop A: Accentuate the Positive: Geelong Grammar School's Positive Education Journey - Charles Scudamore

Parents, teachers and students all want schools to teach more than academic achievement. They also want schools to teach creativity, resilience, optimism, the understanding of character strengths and social awareness. But is this what schools are really doing? Are government initiatives allowing schools to adopt policies that consider the overall wellbeing of students? Does our current system of schooling prepare students to engage with life's challenges? With increased pressure on students to perform academically and socially it appears that a curriculum driven agenda overlooks student wellbeing, despite the fact that increases in overall student wellbeing are likely to produce increases in the capacity to learn.

Positive Education offers an evidence-based approach to education founded on the scientific movement of Positive Psychology, which suggests that there are better ways to approach teaching and learning. In this seminar I will highlight the integrated model of Positive Education based on a set of skills that seeks to redefine the structure of the traditional school to one that focuses on the science of students and staff strengths to create an enabling community.

Program: Tuesday 15th

11:55 - 12:55
(cont...)

Concurrent Workshop B: National Issues - a view from the isolation of the Principal's Chair - Rev Andrew Symes

So often Principals and teachers feel at the mercy of various decisions made by governments, departments and Boards and so this workshop examines international and national movements including national testing, movements towards independent governance, curriculum change with a view of analysing the impact on local schools and what can be done by the local principal to respond to these challenges.

Concurrent Workshop C: The Soundway to Improving the Literacy in Students at Educational Risk - Jamie Long

The Soundway is a direct instruction strategy that has remarkable success in improving the literacy of Indigenous students and students from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds at Balga SHS. Aimed at improving reading, writing, spelling and memory retention the program has improved reading ages of all students involved from 2 to 4 years over the 10-15 week program.

Concurrent Workshop D: F1 Schools Technology Challenge - Arun D'Souza

The Re-Engineering Australia Foundation [REA] is a not for profit organisation that seeks to promote the field of engineering and science as a career path for young Australians. The Foundation is a direct response to the skills shortage in the areas of engineering and manufacturing in Australia, and one that hopes to inspire young people to consider it as a career that is not only in demand, but is exciting, fulfilling and rewarding.

One of the key tools of promoting engineering and science is through the use of technology, and engaging students to use that technology, their innovation and their knowledge to participate in a competition - The F1 in Schools Technology Challenge. The "Challenge" brings teams of students to work together in creating model Formula 1 racing vehicles - a stepping stone to understanding the many facets of engineering, science and manufacturing, and the diverse career paths that may lay ahead.

Concurrent Workshop E: Chart / Instructional Intelligence Programs - Stephen Spice & Helen Egeberg

This session will outline how Stephen and Helen have implemented a Whole School Teaching and Learning Professional Development Program within their respective schools, one a DET school and the other an Independent School. The aim of both programs is to create a culture shift in the school and to make a difference in the area of student learning through improving classroom practice.

Key components include the ability to be strategic and able to develop a shared vision and common language and beliefs. They will also share how they have developed layers of supported teacher leadership that builds the capacity of every teacher and provides pathways for professional growth and understanding.

Concurrent Workshop F: Effecting Real Sustainable Change in the Classroom - Janette Gee, John Hogan & Cheryl Bettridge

Looking at the 'BIG PICTURE' - making a difference one student at a time. Learn about the Big Picture Design for Schools and the journey that the Yule Brook community has taken to become a Big Picture inspired school. What is Big Picture? The Big Picture Learning design is a dynamic approach to learning, doing, and thinking that has been changing the lives of students, educators, and entire communities since 1995. It has now spread to over 60 schools in the USA and other countries are adopting the ideas. In Australia, in addition to Yule Brook College, there are 19 other schools that are Big Picture Education inspired.

01:05 - 01:35

Facilitated Workshops Feedback Session - Mike Gaffney

01:35 - 03:00

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