



## Monthly e-Newsletter – March, 2011

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### EDITORIAL OF SORTS

Last newsletter we had floods and Cyclone Yasi. The past few weeks have seen more devastation in our Pacific region with an earthquake in Christchurch on 22 February and now tens of thousands in Japan affected by the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit last Friday. My thoughts and sympathies go out to those affected.

And so to another newsletter .....

The relative quietness of many campuses over the previous few months is now broken by the buzzing and general excitement of students back for the start of semester. Whilst working at universities, I used to like this time of year, with all the extra 'energy' on-site. Although somehow, the students seemed to get younger each year.

So for a trip down memory lane, unfortunately not an Aussie version but still resonates, 'The Mindset List' for students born in 1992 is [here](#). It has been compiled every year since 1998 by Beloit College. Some of the entries are somewhat controversial and there's usually media articles around the time of the mindset released in August each year as per examples [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

### 2011 National Summer Data Policy Institute (USA)

**Opportunity for AAIR members  
Closing Date 22 March 2011**

The Institute is an intensive introduction to NSF and NCES datasets and research methodologies using large national data sources. Previous AAIR attendees have found the Institute to be a valuable experience.

Due to changes in contracts with the NCES and NSF, AAIR members now need to apply direct and will be peer reviewed along with all other applicants.

If accepted, the international attendee will receive US\$700 to help offset the costs of travel to the Institute. The payment of \$700 will be after the Institute concludes (and upon receipt of the attendee's travel receipts). AIR pays for room and meals for all attendees while they are at the Institute.

Further details on the AIR website at <http://www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=1803>

Anyone care to step up the task of an Aussie or Kiwi mindset version? Be careful with your naming as 'Mindset List' is trademarked. It seems that the co-authors, Tom McBride and Ron Nief, have a book due to be released this year and make many media appearances and talks throughout the year. Alternatively, send your suggestions for a modified list to me and a selection will appear in the next newsletter.

Feedback, comments, suggestions and contributions to the Newsletter are, as always, welcomed.

So, read on and sample the varied mix of items that follows. Enjoy....

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## PLACES TO GO – THINGS TO DO

For more events make sure you check out <http://aair.org.au/pages/events>

### **Data Quality 2011 Asia Pacific Congress 28-29 March 2011**

#### **Citigate Sebel, Sydney**

“Successful data quality requires the participation of most employees, not just a select few.” How true that is!

<http://www.dqasiapacific.com/>

### **Vision to Reality: Queensland's new education landscape**

**April 27-29, 2011**

#### **Brisbane**

The Queensland Studies Authority's 2011 conference for school leaders, teachers and education professionals.

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/11699.html>

### **Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) Conference**

**April 28-29, 2011**

#### **Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne**

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual AVETRA Conference has the theme Research in VET: Janus – Reflecting back, projecting forward'. See:

<http://avetra.org.au/annual-conference>

### **Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum**

**May 21-25, 2011**

#### **Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Ontario**

The plenary speakers have been announced for the AIR Forum. See:

<http://forum.airweb.org/2011/Pages/ParticipateAndLearn/Plenary.aspx>

### **Australian Quality Forum (AUQF)**

**29 June to 1 July 2011**

#### **Melbourne, Australia**

The forum theme is 'Demonstrating Quality'.

**Deadline** for submissions is 1 April 2011

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2011/>

### **European Survey Research Association (ESRA) Conference**

**18 to 22 July 2011-03-14**

#### **Lausanne, Switzerland**

Super keen on surveys? then maybe this conference is for you.

<http://survey methodology.eu/conferences/>

## **TEMC 2011**

**14-17 August 2011**

### **Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland**

The conference theme is Riding the Waves.

**Deadline** for abstract submissions is 5 April

<http://temc.org.au/>

### **Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) 2011 International Conference**

**31 August - 2 September 2011**

#### **Hilton Sydney**

Starting with workshops on 29 - 30 August, The conference theme is Evaluation and Influence.

**Deadline** for abstract submissions is 16 March.

April <http://www.aes2011.com.au/>

### **Seventh Annual National Symposium on Student Retention**

**October 31 - November 2, 2011**

#### **Charleston, South Carolina**

**Deadline** for proposals is 8 April.

### **2011 AAIR Annual Forum**

**9-11 November, 2011**

#### **Sea World, Gold Coast, Queensland**

Theme: IR: Let the Sunshine In

## **AAIR Forum 2010 Viewpoint**

One of our delightful international forum delegates, Dr Cay van der Merwe from South Africa, has related her experience at her first AAIR Forum. See

<http://www.aair.org.au/news/dr-cay-air-2010>

Cay is pictured below with Dr Josephine Palermo, AAIR President

I liked the caption Cay sent through for this photo: "Blonde and brunette walked into a hotel, brunette says "Welcome"..."



## **NEWSLETTER NOTES**

### **1. TEQSA Draft Legislation**

The Australian Government has released for public comment the draft of legislation establishing the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). This bill establishes TEQSA and a new national regulatory and quality assurance environment for Australian higher education.

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Policy/teqsa/Pages/LegislationReleased.aspx>

Opinion piece by Gavin Moodie [here](#).

### **2. VET Regulator Bill**

The [National Vocational Education and Training Regulator \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill](#) was introduced in the Senate on 10 February 2011.

The Senate jointly referred these Bills to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. The Committee will report to the Senate on 21 March 2011.

More information on the DEEWR website [here](#).

### **3. Study on the Quality of Teaching in VET**

Thanks to Gavin Moodie, one of the authors, for alerting me to this report.

The LH Martin Institute at the University of Melbourne has led a project that researches and makes recommendations on the factors that affect the quality of vocational education and training (VET) teaching. The project explored VET teacher qualifications and continuing professional development; the impact teaching has on the quality of the VET student experience and student outcomes; and how this can be evaluated. The project was funded by DEEWR and managed by the Australian College of Educators (ACE).

Further details and the full report are [here](#).

### **4. International student futures in Australia: a human rights perspective on moving forward to real action**

This is an Occasional Paper from The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA).

'International students have become a major political, social and economic issue in Australia. This paper reviews the background and proposes a number of steps that may help ameliorate the current situation. It argues that policy in the area has been poorly developed, and has not had a strong evidence base or the underpinning of appropriate research.'

[http://www.assa.edu.au/publications/occasional\\_papers/2010\\_No6.php](http://www.assa.edu.au/publications/occasional_papers/2010_No6.php)

### **5. Research in Higher Education Journal Latest Issue**

Research in Higher Education (RIHE) is the official peer-reviewed academic journal of AIR. The latest issue (Volume 52, #2, March 2011) is available and, if your institution subscribes to this Journal, you should be able to view the full articles on-line at

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/110234765238/>

### **6. Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees - early trend estimates, December quarter 2010**

This publication presents early estimates of apprentice and trainee commencements for the December 2010 quarter.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2347.html>

### **7. Review of the Survey of Employer Use and Views of the VET System: discussion paper**

The Survey of Employer Use and Views of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System is currently being reviewed by NCVER. This discussion paper is the first step in the review.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2349.html>

### **8. NCVER Report - Young People In Education And Training 2009**

More than 1.1 million or 76% of 15 to 19 year olds nationally attended school, vocational education and training (VET) or university in August 2009, according to this statistical report. The full publication and excel tables by state are available at:

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2339.html>

### **9. My School – Take 2**

The revamped [My School website](#) includes new features such as "an easy-to-use profile page with key facts and figures; financial information for each school; an indication of students' literacy and numeracy achievement as they progress through school; and students' NAPLAN performance over a number of years. It's still contentious as per various media articles [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

Stay tune for the [My Uni website](#).....

### **10. Building Better Kids**

The author talks of an obsession with education in America and the same may be said of Australia.

Article is [here](#)

## 11. More Rankings but Australia is 'top'

The principle purpose of the UNDP's Human Development Index is to show whether and where developing countries are improving or otherwise. For the UNDP's Worldwide Trends in the Human Development Index 1970-2010, Norway is now ranked No.2 in the world, with a composite score of 0.929, while Australia is ranked No.1 with a score of 0.938  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/trends/?source=cmailer>  
Lots of graphs and reports to view and even 'Do-It-Yourself Data Tables' at  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

## 12. Top-Down Versus Bottom- Up Paradigms of Undergraduate Business School Assurance of Learning Techniques

The latest AIR Professional File paper describes two models of assessment of undergraduate business learning in two similar universities located on the East Coast of the United States. Download it [here](#)

## 13. AARE 2010 Conference Proceedings

The Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) has released the proceedings from its 2010 conference.  
<http://www.aare.edu.au/10pap/abs10.htm>

## 14. International Student Barometer report

Universities Australia has released this commissioned report.  
<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/isb>

## 15. Australian Academy of Science Publication

The Australian Academy of Science produced a booklet in August 2010 entitled 'The Science of Climate Change: Questions and Answers'. It summarises our understanding of climate science. Unfortunately it received negligible media coverage. The booklet contains a really good mix of easy to read text, pictures, graphs and boxes highlighting certain questions within a small package. If you exclude the front & back pages and references, it's all done in 15 pages. One to look at if only for layout ideas for your next report. Well done AAS!!  
<http://www.science.org.au/policy/climatechange.html>

## 16. Enabling workforce development report

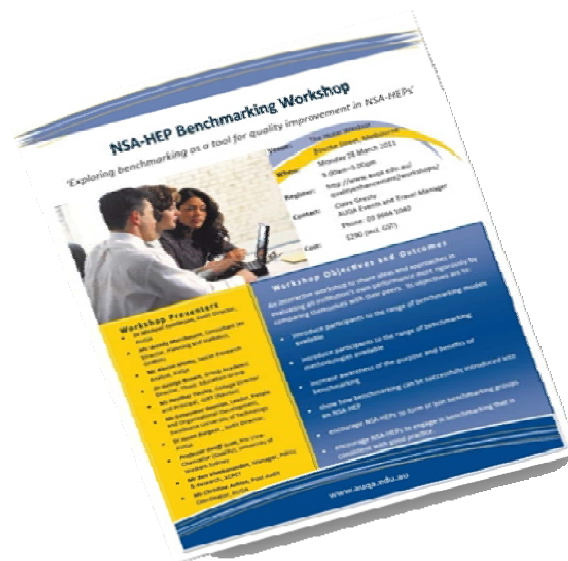
New research from the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG)\* provides a picture of how e-learning can help to overcome barriers to workforce development.  
Prepared by the University of Sydney's Workplace Research Centre, the [Enabling](#)

[workforce development](#) report investigates the impact of e-learning on workforce development in nine industry sectors funded and supported by the Australian Flexible Learning Framework ([Framework](#)).

Download the full report [Enabling workforce development: Insights from industries using e-learning](#)

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For more opportunities make sure you check out <http://www.aair.org.au/pages/training-development>



**Benchmarking Workshop for NSA-HEPs**  
**28 March 2011**  
**Hotel Windsor, Melbourne**  
**Time: 9.00am - 5.00pm**  
**Cost: \$290.00 (inc GST)**

This full day Benchmarking workshop is organised by the Australian Universities Quality Agency and tailored to non self-accrediting institutions (NSAIs) that have become or are intending to become approved higher education providers (HEPs) under the Commonwealth Higher Education Support Act 2003. The purpose of this workshop is to explore and discuss good practice in benchmarking. For further information and for the link to register go [here](#):

**AIR Webinars**  
**March-May 2011**  
**On-line**

AIR has announced a series of webinars. Check them out, (if you can cope with a very early start to the day).  
<http://www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=2188>

## NCVER 2011 Webinar Series How VET responds to changing skill demands

6 April 2011

This webinar will take a close look at key mechanisms of the VET system (including training packages and accredited courses) to find how VET is equipped to meet the changing needs of the modern workplace.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/webinar/2011.html>

## Assessment Training and Research Institute May 11-13, 2011

Tallahassee, Florida

The Assessment Training and Research Institute is designed for practitioners to develop/reinforce the skills for designing and managing the challenges of implementing assessment programs, processes, or projects. The theme for this 3rd Annual ATaRI is "The Reassessment Imperative in Closing the Loop". For further information see:

<http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?Assessment&ATaRI>

## Survey Sampling and Data Collection July 12-13, 2011

Brisbane

The Statistical Society of Australia (SSAI) is organising this short course. It is aimed at non-statisticians engaged in quantitative research, and statisticians that are specialized in other areas of statistics. Details at:

<http://www.statsoc.org.au/CPD24SurveySampling>

## Buzan's Mind Mapping® Various Dates and Places



Some of you will have heard me mention Buzan's Mind Mapping® in my workshops. Well, I've discovered there's training available in Australia and some of it quite soon. Check it out at: <http://www.buzan.com.au/training/index.html>

## Hippo Campus for Basic Statistics

Looking to brush up on your basic stats or just wanting an overview of the basics. Select Subject 'Statistics' at the Digital Media site HippoCampus.

<http://www.hippocampus.org/?tab=course>

## Annual Institute on Best Practices in Institutional Effectiveness

July 10-13, 2011

Baltimore, Maryland, USA

The focus of this year's institute is on the assessment of student learning. The Annual Institute on Best Practices in Institutional Effectiveness, sponsored by the Center for Applied Research, is a three-day, intensive training designed to help higher education institutions develop and follow effective strategies to accomplish institutional effectiveness at their institutions.

For further information go to <http://cpcc-cfar.com/> and select IE Institute.

## SHARE YOUR TIPS

### Visual Display Tools

Let's add our own to the tips from AIR colleagues as to Visual Display Tools that they use. See [here](#). Interesting that one has gone with video to try and reach academic staff with their reports. "Faculty are very busy, and most don't have time to read our reports."

Send your tips to [editor@aair.org.au](mailto:editor@aair.org.au)

## POSITIONS VACANT

### Research Performance Analysis Manager The University Of Sydney

Visit [www.sydney.edu.au/positions](http://www.sydney.edu.au/positions) and search by the reference number 257/0211 for more information and to apply.

Closing Date: 16 March 2011

### Manager, Institutional Research Charles Darwin University

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/pmd/vacancies.html>

Closing Date: 17 March 2011

### Senior Manager, Survey Services Centre RMIT

<http://yourcareer.rmit.edu.au/jobSearch.asp>

### Information Analyst

ANU

<http://jobs.anu.edu.au/Positions.aspx?pt=2>

Closing Date: 31 March 2011

### Survey Administrator

ANU

<http://jobs.anu.edu.au/Positions.aspx?pt=2>

Closing Date: 31 March 2011

Also check out the Opportunities page on the AAIR website

<http://www.aair.org.au/pages/opportunities>

## **FOR THE PODDIES, VODDIES AND BLOGGIES**

### **1. Five Inspiring TED Talks for Educators**

On the Mindshift website, Tina Barseghian, (a former editor of Edutopia and the mother of a grade-schooler) gives her view and synopsis of five inspiring TED talks for educators:

<http://mindshift.kqed.org/2011/02/five-inspiring-ted-talks/#more-7453>

### **2. 51<sup>st</sup> Boyer Lecture Series**

I know they happened late last year but perhaps you didn't catch up with them at the time like me. Professor Glyn Davis AC, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Melbourne presented the series of six lectures entitled 'The Republic of Learning: higher education transforms Australia'

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/boyerlectures/>

### **3. It's All Gone To The Dogs**

Don Watson's view of the demise of plain-speaking language has resonated with me for a number of years. "Have we taken 'managerial language' too far, to the point where it makes no sense? At the Perth Writers' Festival, author and former Keating speechwriter Don Watson sits down with philosopher AC Grayling to discuss how language is evolving at the expense of logic and clarity. Is the point of good language now to mask, misdirect and obscure? Is it time to bring back the teaching of Latin in schools?" If you only listen to the first 5 minutes it's worth it.

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/bigideas/stories/2010/03/29/2858725.htm>

## **REACTIONS?**

Interested in your reactions to the following article [Too Much Technology Erodes Trust](#)  
Are we over relying on email and video conferencing?

A related, similar article associated with the same research is [Relying too much on e-mail bad for business, study says](#)

Send your thoughts to [editor@aair.org.au](mailto:editor@aair.org.au)

## **DISTRACTIONS**

### **It's the Inequality, Stupid Eleven charts that explain everything that's wrong with America**

I thought these very visual graphs were quite well done in terms of the information they were conveying. Reasonably simple but effective.

<http://motherjones.com/politics/2011/02/income-inequality-in-america-chart-graph>

This reminds me of the winning Limerick by Trudy Bers in AIR's annual Limerick Contest

*There once was a graph – 3 dimensions  
That purported to tell of retention.  
But the data de jour  
Were very obscure.  
Keep it simple is our firm contention.*

Full results of the 2011 e-AIR Limerick Contest are [here](#)

## **LIGHT RELIEF**

There is no truth to the allegation that statisticians are mean. They are just your standard normal deviates.

Bumper sticker:

"Statisticians do it with 95% confidence!"

## **AAIR Committee – 2011**

### **President:**

Josie Palermo, Lecturer, School of Psychology, Deakin University

### **Vice President:**

Dave Marr, Special Projects Officer, Statistical Services, ANU

### **Treasurer:**

Jeff Holmes, Manager, Load Forecasting, QUT

### **Secretary:**

Dean Ward, Manager, Strategic Information Services, ECU

### **General Committee members:**

Mark Bazzacco, Director, Planning & Statistics, University of Canberra

Bruce Guthrie – Research Manager, Graduate Careers Australia

Don Johnston – Institutional Research Officer, Southern Cross University

Sally Nimon, Manager, Institutional Analytics, University of South Australia

Kathie Rabel, Manager, Institutional Analysis, Victoria University of Wellington

Deadline for submissions to the March AAIR e-Newsletter is Thursday 31 March 2011.  
Send to [editor@aair.org.au](mailto:editor@aair.org.au)

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