

Monthly e-Newsletter – June, 2011

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EDITORIAL OF SORTS

Performance indicators/rankings are in the news, whether it's the abolition of the ERA Journal rankings or DEEWR's proposed new indicators, including the University Experience Survey. Opinions are being expressed publicly and no doubt privately. Here are a just a few from The Australian:

- [UES need widening](#)
- [Drawbacks in proposed performance indicators](#)
- [Voices from the field speak out on rankings](#)
- [Debate rages over contentious ratings](#)

Whichever way things fall, there's certainly no lack of change currently and in the pipeline for AAIRies.

In case you missed them, DEEWR put a number of Information Sheets on their 'Advancing Quality in Higher Education' [website](#).



Let the Sunshine in

AAIR
Australasian Association for Institutional Research

2011 Annual Forum
9 – 11 November 2011
Sea World Resort, Gold Coast
www.air.org.au

**AAIR 2011 Annual Forum
Call for Abstracts
closes 28 June**

**Further details on page 4 and
on the Forum website [here](#)**

So how many people does this go out to? Well, there's currently 598 subscribers to the newsletter. Please send it onto your colleagues and others who may be interested in receiving it. The more the merrier!

Of the total subscribers, 135 are AAIR members. Please consider becoming a member of AAIR if you aren't already. It is claimable as a tax deduction and the 30th June looms. You can download a membership form [here](#)

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

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

Wendy Marchment
Editor
editor@air.org.au

PLACES TO GO – THINGS TO DO

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

If you have relevant events you would like posted please email them to info@aair.org.au

Research Forum – Is VET Worthwhile?

28 June 2011

UniSA, Adelaide

NCVER poses this question to leading researchers from four consortia, who have been exploring the value of VET for low-paid, disadvantaged, young and older workers over the last three years.

Details [here](#)

Financial Review Higher Education Conference 2011

28 to 29 June 2011

Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

The government is committed to increasing the country's productivity and many of its initiatives, from the NBN to the health and education agendas, are aimed at creating the basis for achieving greater productivity. In each of these there is an expectation that there will be a sufficient workforce with the right skills. The government has declared that it is bringing about an education revolution to ensure that access to education is available to all children and adults to create a highly skilled society.

The Conference will assess whether the government is doing enough to match its aspirations with action and funding. It will focus on the 2011 Budget, on the emerging tertiary sector and how it might work, on the emerging regulatory framework and on research and development.

Details [here](#)



Australian Quality Forum (AUQF)

29 June to 1 July 2011

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

The full program is now available on-line. Plenary speakers are Dr Steven Crow, Hon John Dawkins AO, Dr Carol Nicoll PSM and Professor Jane den Hollander.

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



AAMT-MERGA Conference

3 to 7 July 2011

Alice Springs, NT

A combined conference of The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) and the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA), organisations committed to the promotion of quality mathematics education. AAMT having a major focus on the interests of classroom teachers and MERGA from the perspective on researchers and teacher educators. 2011 marks the first time that these two organisations will hold a single conference together. This venture will build even stronger relationships between university researchers and classroom practitioners. The theme of the conference is 'Mathematics: Traditions and [New] Practices'.

Details [here](#)

Australian Teacher Education Association Conference

3 to 6 July 2011

Victoria University, Melbourne

The annual ATEA Conference provides a wonderful opportunity for those with an interest in teacher education to exchange ideas pertaining to research, practice and innovations in the fields of teacher education and professional learning.

The Conference theme reflects *Valuing Teacher Education: Policy, Perspectives and Partnerships* and the program will explore the following broad topic areas:

- Policy - Policy directions and evidence based accountability
- Perspectives - Teacher Education from different points of view
- Partnerships - Partnerships in Teacher Education

Further details [here](#)

AAIR Special Interest Group 3-5 August 2011 Canberra

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the AAIR SIG meetings 2011 in Canberra.

These meetings incorporate the AAIR special interest groups for 'Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence', for 'Load Management' and for 'DEEWR'.

The theme for this year's meetings is
'Capital Perspectives and Cool Ideas'.

Co-hosted by the Australian National University and the University of Canberra, the AAIR SIG will reflect both institutions as well as the national capital.

Our keynote speakers this year are Professor Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor and President ANU and Professor Stephen Parker, Vice-Chancellor and President UC

We can also now announce that representatives from DEEWR will attend the AAIR SIG to present the latest information on the demand driven funding system and CGS funding-related load management issues.

We are pleased to partner again with Altis Consulting as our main sponsors. I am sure many of you have gained from their expertise and/or attended their training programs.

The call for abstracts for papers/presentations and BI demonstrations is now open.

So it's time to put on your thinking beanies, scarves and gloves as we prepare to meet in Canberra this winter and share our 'Capital Perspectives and Cool Ideas'.

Registrations are open and the website is now available at

<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/aaair-sig>

Enquiries E aaair.sig@anu.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you there!

Fiona Sutherland
Chair, AAIR SIG 2011 Committee



HERDSA Conference

4 to 7 July 2011

Gold Coast, Queensland

The theme is '*Higher Education on the Edge*'.

Program highlights from the website are:

- The Welcome Reception and opening address from Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley
- Three great keynote addresses by Professor Ann Austin from the USA, Professor Paul Trowler from the UK and Dr Carol Nicoll from the ALTC
- Four symposia on key issues in the field one of which focuses on "Assuring Academic Standards" with input from TEQSA
- Interactive sessions including thirteen special interest round-tables designed to promote robust discussion - even argument!
- A lively Q&A panel session facilitated by higher education analyst & commentator, Dorothy Illing
- Showcases, workshops and posters featuring research and practice innovations
- An ALTC showcase stream
- Millennium Band at the conference dinner
- Balmy (?) July nights around the pool at the Radisson Resort.

<http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2011/>

Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (GenStat & ASReml)

12 to 15 July 2011

Palm Cove, Queensland

The Australasian GenStat Users Association Incorporated (AGUAI), in conjunction with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) will be hosting this inaugural conference.

<http://aasc2011.science.qld.gov.au/>

2011 Australian College of Educators (ACE) National Conference

13 to 15 July 2011

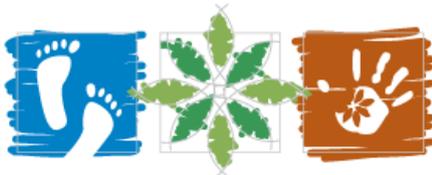
Sydney, NSW, Australia

The theme is 'Equity in education - Connecting for change'.

The aim is to give fresh consideration to equity in the current Australian education context and contribute to a robust equity framework for Australian education that can connect government, education institutions at all levels and communities.

The conference will explore key questions about equity in education that go to the heart of Australian education policy and help make the connections between policy, practice and research.

Details [here](#)



6th World Environmental Education Congress
EXPLORE EXPERIENCE EDUCATE
19 – 23 July 2011 | Brisbane, Australia

6th World Environmental Education Congress

19 to 23 July 2011

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

The 6th WEEC builds on a strong tradition of sharing the latest in environmental education theory, policy and practice and seeks to continue to share and build knowledge through a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector approach encompassing a diversity of disciplines and knowledges. The Congress, titled Explore, Experience, Educate, invites participants to explore and experience the world of environmental education.

<http://www.weec2011.org/>



Putting skills at the heart of the economy 2011 conference

21 July 2011

Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne

Skills Australia together with the nation's 11 Industry Skills Councils will be hosting a conference with the theme *Putting skills at the heart of the economy*.

Details [here](#)

2011 National VET Conference

4 to 5 August 2011

Brisbane

The 2011 National VET Conference will focus on 'Quality in VET' by exploring the key themes:

- Policy and Sustainable Business Practices
- Teaching, Learning and Innovation

Keynote speakers include: Neil Edwards CEO, TVET; John Dawkins, Chairman of a trifecta – AQFC, NQC and TVET; and Dianne Orr, who has just been appointed Acting Assistant Commissioner of ASQA

Details [here](#)



2011 AAIR Annual Forum 9-11 November, 2011 Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland

We invite you to submit an abstract for consideration in the 2011 AAIR Forum program. Abstracts will be reviewed and selected delegates will be invited to submit a full paper for presentation at the Forum. All papers will be subject to peer review.

Authors may submit their abstracts based on one of the following themes:

- When there's only so much sunshine each day – where should the light be shone?
- What's new under the sun? TEQSA, Demand Driven Funding, Performance Metrics, Base Funding Review, Research, International Demand;
- Before the sun rises over the Gold Coast, it's already a new day across the Tasman – lessons for both sides of the ditch;
- Looking into and seeing beyond the sunshine: using data without being blinded by it.

Early Bird Registration closing 18 August. Don't miss out – Register Now!.

Find out more about AAIR Forum 2011 - visit the Forum website via www.aair.org.au

For more information please contact the Forum Managers

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

1. Journal rankings ditched: the experts respond

The Australian government has dropped the contentious system of ranking academic journals and assessing academics based on their ability to publish in the top-ranked publications.

Previously, journals were ranked either A*, A, B or C.

The decision was announced as part of a review of the way the next Excellence of Research in Australia (ERA) exercise would be conducted by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Read the full article [here](#)



2. UK League Tables with a Difference

The Green League university tables are university rankings with a difference. They order institutions according to what they are doing to reduce their impact on the environment. Read the Guardian article [here](#). League table rankings are [here](#)

3. The power of analytics for public sector: Building analytics competency to accelerate outcomes

How many AAIRies can relate to some of these statements from this report from IBM Global Business Services?

“most organisations spend more time collecting and organizing data than analysing it.”

We need not just more relevant information, but to eliminate the irrelevant information that is reported.”

“The glut of data creates challenges in getting the potential value from massive amounts of data that organizations collect, store and manage.”

“Most organizations are more capable in descriptive analytics techniques, but less so in predictive techniques.”

Download the full report [here](#)

4. Collecting 'total' vocational education and training activity

In this position paper, NCVET's Managing Director, Dr Tom Karmel, argues that the submission of vocational education and training student data should be mandated as a condition of registration for all registered training organisations, including private providers.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2380.html>

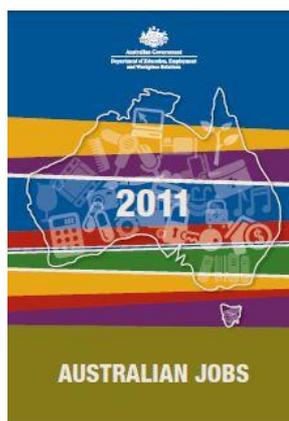
5. Students and courses 2009 Statistics

A snapshot of Australia's publicly funded vocational education and training (VET) sector for 2009 by individual training organisation. It includes information about students and student characteristics, and course enrolments by qualification level and field of education. Activity excluded from this publication includes fee-for-service activity, recreational courses, overseas delivery by Australian VET institutions, credit transfer and VET in schools.

“The publication of enrolment statistics is very useful, but it shouldn't be an item for celebration. Unfortunately it is for vocational education and training. For the first time the National Centre for Vocational Education Research is allowed to publish enrolment data for individual institutions” ... and so begins Gavin Moodie's article in The Australian available [here](#) where he mentions Tom Karmel's paper referred to above.

Have a look at the statistics for yourself at: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2354.html>

6. Australian Jobs 2011



Plenty of statistics in this report released by DEEWR and potentially some useful stuff for AAIRies in the environmental scanning sphere. The publication includes information about employment trends by region, occupation and industry, together with projected employment growth and job prospects.

Download the full report [here](#)

7. Year 12 has its benefits but it's not for everyone

Young people who complete Year 12 tend to make a more successful transition from school to work, but employment outcomes for those who complete an apprenticeship or traineeship are just as good.

New research released by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), examines data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), which tracks young people from the age of 15 to 25 as they move from school to work or further study.

<http://www.lsay.edu.au/publications/2370.html>

8. The impact of wages and the likelihood of employment on the probability of completing an apprenticeship or traineeship

Low training wages for trade apprentices are not a deal breaker when it comes to completing their apprenticeship.

New research released by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), examines data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), which tracks young people from the age of 15 to 25 as they move from school to work or further study. Research released by the NCVER finds that the payoff associated with becoming a qualified tradesperson is what encourages apprentices to finish their training, not how much they get paid as an apprentice.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2364.html>

9. Four Tips for Increasing First-Gen Student Yield

A new report from the Pell Institute suggests that without more students from low-income and working-class families earning bachelor's degrees, the United States will be unable to meet the Obama administration's college-completion goal. As demand for college education rises among lower-income families amid a troubled economy, and as the pressure mounts on completion rates, more institutions are beginning to assess their strategies for recruiting and retaining first-gen.

Sound familiar??

Four tips for boosting application rates are in this Academic Impressions article.

View it [here](#)

Thanks to Rob Sheehan for the following two items

10. IBSA Reports

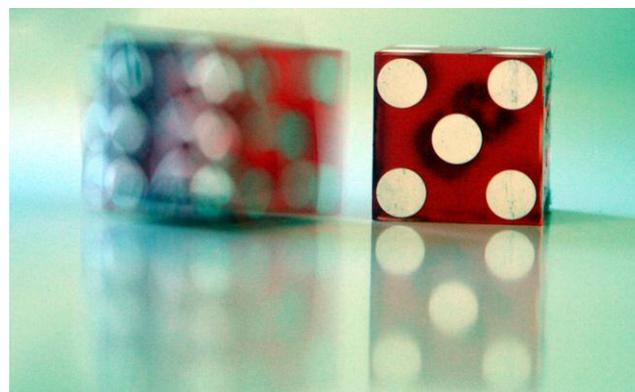
In April, [Innovation & Business Skills Australia](#) (IBSA) released a trio of reports on productivity issues. Each of them offers more than one lens through which to view the intersection between productivity and the role of education and training. The three reports are:

- 'Karpin Revisited: Leadership and Management Challenges in Australia' – yes, an update to an all-time Aussie classic
- 'Australian Cultural Imprints @ Work: 2010 and Beyond' – an assessment of how national cultural traits influence training uptake and skills utilisation
- 'Corporate Social Responsibility' – making the link between CSR and training/workforce development a little more explicit.:

Download them [here](#)

11. Big Data

Data junkies might enjoy the McKinsey and Co report, released in May, titled 'Big data: the next frontier for innovation, competition and productivity'. You'll need to go through a painless registration process to get access to it. Start [here](#)



12. Risk, Probability and How Brains Are Easily Misled

An article from Wired.com on how language is important when it comes to dealing with probabilities. Might give AAIRies some clues as to how to present those stats....

Read it [here](#)

13. Are Pi's days numbered?

After noting International Pi Day previously, this may daunt the Pi aficionados. "Some people have argued that Pi's days are numbered and that other tools, such as tau, could do its job more efficiently...."

Read the full article [here](#)

Thanks to Kathie Rabel for the following item

14. NZ Budget and Tertiary Education

The New Zealand budget was handed down in May with impacts on higher education and the tightening up of student loan conditions. Also mentioned is a new initiative for marketing of international education, which really is a mixture of current activity being brought together under a new crown agency. Read the media releases [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).



15. The Gonski review: finding a path through the school funding maze

As a five member panel headed by noted business figure and University of NSW chancellor David Gonski reaches the final stages of its review into the structure of school funding in Australia, lobbying by various interest groups and affected sectors is in overdrive.

The Gonski review represents an opportunity to reform a system that many see as fundamentally flawed. But with such an array of vested interests – many, like the independent school and Catholic sector, wielding significant political influence – can the panel genuinely hope to broker significant reform that is palatable, if not pleasing, to all involved?

Melbourne University Professor Jack Keating, Leader of the Education Policy and Leadership Unit within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, explains how the system works now and where it needs reform.

Read the full article [here](#)

16. Ugly font may improve learning

An article on a research study that found participants remembered information significantly better if it was in a font that was harder to read. The 'ugly font' was this one ie Comic Sans. One for part of your briefings/ reports AAIRies?

Read it [here](#)

AAIR e-Newsletter –June 2011

17. Ten of the best school-reform ideas from readers

Readers of [eSchool News](#) were asked to give suggestions for improving public education. From competency-based learning policies to more time for creativity. I really like this one “All legislators should be required to teach for one day in an elementary classroom.”
Read them all [here](#)

18. Statistics and Shuffling Cards

How many times must a pack of perfectly ordered playing cards be shuffled until its order is close to random? That depends on what shuffling method you use. Professor Persi Diaconis of Stanford University, a professional magician who changed career and became a mathematician and statistician, made a thorough study of shuffling. He found that, if you use the riffle shuffle (the usual way card players shuffle cards: cut off about half the pack and riffle the two packets together), it takes just 7 times! If you use the overhand shuffle (another popular method) it takes 2500 times!

This snippet is from The University of Melbourne Statistical Consulting Centre website.

See more [here](#)

RESOURCES



Joining the dots

Joining the Dots is a subscription-based service from ACER to assist in keeping informed about complex, significant issues in Australian higher education.

Individual subscriptions for 2011 are \$440.

Institutional/organisation subscriptions for 2011 are \$2,900.

<http://www.acer.edu.au/jtd>

Constructing an indicator system or scorecard for higher education.

What is the best way of developing an indicator system for higher education? This publication from UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) represents a methodological guide to help education planners realise an indicator project. It shows how to proceed by methodological steps, by establishing a clear link between the context in which an indicator system is based and its objectives.

Download it [here](#)

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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



GCA Survey Manager Information Forum 23 - 24 June 2011

Melbourne

Graduate Careers Australia (GCA) will be holding a two-day Survey Manager Information Forum. This is an opportunity for those of you who manage or work with the Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) to hear about AGS developments, plans, proposals, CEQ data analysis and to share ideas with your colleagues from around the country. For further details, please contact Darren Matthews Darren.Matthews@graduatecareers.edu.au



shaping tertiary education policy and practice

2011 Tertiary Education Policy Seminars: A new policy architecture for tertiary education 4 and 18 July, 1 and 8 August 2011

The Centre for the Study of Higher Education and the LH Martin Institute jointly present these seminars exploring current issues in Australian tertiary education:

Scrutiny and transparency: The new standards regime in tertiary education

4 July 2011 (Melbourne)

Into the ERA era. Why research in Australia will never be the same again

18 July 2011 (Melbourne)

Mutual protection or deadly enemies? Funding research and funding teaching

1 August (Melbourne)

Planning, chaos or organised anarchy; towards an integrated policy framework for tertiary education in Australia

8 August (Brisbane), 22 August (Perth), 5 September (Melbourne).

For further details and to register go [here](#)

The Ultimate in Assessment Validation 4, 12 and 18 July 2011

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane

This is a one day professional development workshop for VET practitioners offered by VELG Training. With the focus on validation and moderation as a continuous improvement strategy for your RTO, this workshop aims to support assessors at a grass roots level through the provision of practical validation tasks and templates while updating assessor knowledge and skill in the area of systematic validation. Continued development of trainer and assessor competence and VET knowledge and skill is a requirement of the AQTF Standard1, Element 1.4 (d).

Details [here](#)



The A-Z of Planning and Mapping Assessment

5, 13 July and 9 August 2011

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane

This VELG workshop walks trainers and assessors through the important processes of assessment planning, determining the assessment focus, designing assessment and understanding the dimensions of competency. The session will also explore the significance of mapping, understanding competent performance and reviewing assessment.

Designed specifically to support RTOs in continually developing VET knowledge and skill and trainer and assessor competence - AQTF Standard 1, Element 1.4 (d).

Details [here](#)

ABS Training

Don't forget that the Australian Bureau of Statistics offers a variety of statistics training throughout the year at different locations.

See the calendar [here](#)

POSITIONS VACANT

Also check out the Opportunities page on the AAIR website
<http://www.aair.org.au/pages/opportunities>
If you know of any relevant jobs and would like AAIR to advertise them, please email the text to info@aair.org.au

Data Analyst
HEW7
Quality, Information and Planning
Victoria University
Closes 21 June
Details [here](#)

Manager, Analysis and Development
Curtin University
HEW8
Closes 27 June
Details [here](#)

Business Manager
Institute for Land, Water and Society
HEW8
Charles Sturt University
Albury-Wodonga
Closes 3 July
Details [here](#)

Late Extra Newsletter Note



TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY
AND STANDARDS AGENCY

TEQSA – T & L Standards Discussion

The TEQSA Taskforce in the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, with the contribution of Professor Richard James and Dr Kerri-Lee Harris of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education, has prepared a think piece on the development of teaching and learning standards in Australian higher education.

This discussion paper is being released to encourage and seek the sector's thoughts and feedback, which will be passed to the Chair of the Higher Education Standards Panel for their consideration once they have been appointed.

Feedback to teqsa@deewr.gov.au
by Friday 22 July 2011.

AIR Forum 2011 Wrap-Up from the 2010 AAIR Forum Best Paper Recipient

By David Carroll, Senior Research Associate
Graduate Careers Australia

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the recent 2011 AIR Forum held in Toronto, Canada. The Forum theme promised a "passport to new ideas and better decisions" and anyone who attended could attest that there were new ideas aplenty at more than 350 concurrent sessions. In addition, Drs Richard Arum and Mark Milliron delivered challenging and thought-provoking plenary addresses to the receptive audience.

My presentation seemed to be well received with lots of interesting questions and suggestions tendered by the attendees. I found the Forum to be a valuable experience and recommend it to anyone wanting to be at the forefront of institutional research.



David Carroll at the 2011 AIR Forum

**What could you
have
contributed
to fill this
space?**

FOR THE PODDIES, VODDIES AND BLOGGIES

1. How Data Can Help Higher Education

Randy Swing is the Executive Director of the US Association for Institutional Research. Just on a year ago a short interview with Randy was posted on the website of the The Chronicle of Higher Education. It's called 'How Data Can Help Higher Education', and you can get to the audio here.

<http://chronicle.com/article/article-content/123736/>

2. Is maths a foreign language?

It may not be for AAIRies but for many it seems to be. This is an interesting discussion from ABC's Life Matters program.

'Is maths a foreign language for most of us? Jacqui Ramagge, from the University of Wollongong, wonders why that is when so much equal emphasis is placed on literacy and numeracy from an early age.

She's recently been involved with the 2011 Year of Mathematics celebrations at the University of Western Australia..

Audio available [here](#)



3. SWF 2011: The Spin Cycle

"Today's focus group will endeavour to exercise continuous engagement with a view to identifying the appropriate touch points moving forward. And to facilitate on-message communications at this point in time. In short, we will be wondering when we've crossed that line from plain-speaking to painful obsfucation."

So begins moderator Neil James, from the Plain English Foundation, as he sets up the premise for this enlightening and enlivening panel discussion from the 2011 Sydney Writers Festival. His guests are a politician, a finance journalist and an advertising guru.

Was there ever a golden age of clarity? James asks. Or is it just that The Spin Cycle is "getting faster and the detergent more corrosive"? Is the language of spin inevitable ... or can we contain it?

Video or audio available [here](#)

4. The Value in Vulnerability

An article from a Harvard Business School Faculty member's blog. Thomas J. DeLong is the Philip J. Stomberg Professor of Management Practice in the Organizational Behaviour area at Harvard Business School and the author of 'Flying Without a Net'. His research focuses on the challenges facing individuals and organisations in the process of change.

Read it [here](#)

5. Arthur Benjamin's formula for changing math education

In this short TED talk there's something to make AAIRies smile.

View the 3min video [here](#)

6. James Gleick: Bits and Bytes

Former 'New York Times' writer James Gleick (the man who popularised "the butterfly effect" in 'Chaos') has produced the definitive history of the age in which we live, 'The Information'. In Gleick's book 'Information' he speaks about the information "flood". He talks with Robyn Williams, presenter of ABC Science and ABC Radio National.

We are in a predicament where we have the ability to reach out and get facts easily. Although we may have access this does not necessarily bring with it knowledge. The gatekeepers of information are more important than ever, due to our reliance on these authorities for truth.

Video or audio available [here](#)

7. Big vs. Small BI: Size Really Doesn't Matter

This is an interesting article from Stephen Few's blog Visual Business Intelligence.

<http://www.perceptualedge.com/blog/?p=978>

So how are your dashboards getting along (read Senior Execs 'happy') out there in BI-land? I like this one from a 'Jag'. ;-)

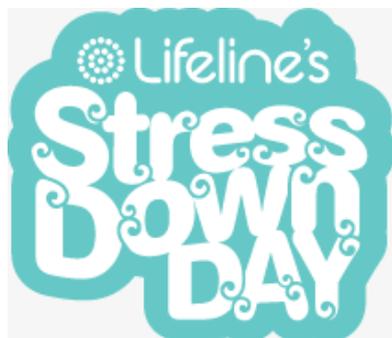


DISTRACTIONS

8 Ways to Buy More Happiness

If money can buy health and leisure and banish worry and toil, why is the effect of money on happiness so weak in studies? Simple: Most people are bad at spending, according to a paper published this month in the Journal of Consumer Psychology.

See the article [here](#)



National Stress Down Day 24 July 2011

Stressdown on 24/7 is a great day to do something for both yourself and a great cause. Do something relaxing to raise money for Lifeline's 24 hour telephone counselling line. <http://stressdownday2011.gofundraise.com.au/>

Unskilled and Unaware of It: How Difficulties in Recognizing One's Own Incompetence Lead to Inflated Self-Assessments

This is actually the title of a journal article by academics from Cornell University. Picked as one of the [5 Funniest Psychology Articles Ever](#). Download it [here](#).

Contig - A Maths game to play

How about turning off the screens at home and playing a few board games with the kids? Here is a simple one that will improve their maths skills and capability and possibly yours! It's from the Resources section of the USA's National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Instruction [here](#)

.....Addendum

I did declare a 'Screen Free Day' at home on the recent Queen's Birthday public holiday. NB: I have a 14 yo daughter who is into social media and a 12 yo son who is into computer games. It was very interesting how the day transpired. Generally, in a very positive way after the inevitable initial resistance. I suspect it did help that it was one of those sunny Brisbane winter days. Whilst we didn't play Contig, it's something I'll try for the next 'Screen Free Day'!!

LIGHT RELIEF

Typical Day in Institutional Research/ Effectiveness Offices

A humorous look at what happens in IR. Just imagine the USA acronyms are those relevant to you eg DEEWR, ERA, KPIs etc <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9mddzmRyng>

AND JUST REMEMBER...

A teacher that can be replaced by a machine should be.

If children have interest then education happens.

Arthur C Clarke

(Substitute the above for an IR context....)

The quotes come from a great TED talk [here](#)

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, Deputy Director: Reporting & Analytics, University of Canberra

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

Deadline for submissions to the July AAIR e-Newsletter is Monday 11 July 2011. Send items to editor@aaair.org.au

If you're about to change your contact details and still want to receive the Newsletter, please advise editor@aaair.org.au

To subscribe or unsubscribe email editor@aaair.org.au