

Monthly e-Newsletter – September, 2011

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EDITORIAL OF SORTS

A latish edition than I'd planned and shorter than usual due to there not being enough hours in the days for me lately. Why is it that moving seems to get harder as I get older, or is it just that with two kids there's more 'stuff'?

I'll be working at Deakin University from next Monday 3rd October, so hope to catch up with some of you down south.

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



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

**Australasian Association for
Institutional Research**

2011 Annual General Meeting

2.45 PM -3.00 PM

Friday 10th November, 2011

**Sea World Resort, Gold Coast,
Queensland**

Agenda

- 1. Election of Chairperson for the AGM**
- 2. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes of 2010 AGM**
- 4. President's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**
- 6. Planning for 2012 AAIR Forum**
- 7. General Business**
- 8. Next Meeting**
- 9. Closure**

**Dean Ward
Hon Secretary**

If you are unable to attend, you can submit a Proxy Form, which is downloadable from AAIR's Website or contact info@air.org.au

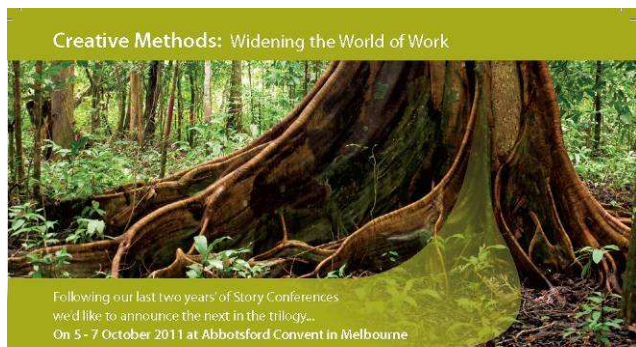
PLACES TO GO – THINGS TO DO

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



Partnerships for Research & Development Excellence Conference **4 to 5 October 2011** **Melbourne**

This conference will provide a platform for representatives from research institutes, universities and industry to discuss strategies to bridge the gap in research collaboration and boost the application of Australian research.
<http://www.researchtoindustry.com/>



"Imagination is more important than knowledge" Einstein

babelfishgroup
www.babelfishgroup.com

Creative Methods: Widening the World of Work Conference **5 to 7 October 2011** **Melbourne**

Want to learn new methods for change? Experiential and engaging, this year's Story Conference is the perfect conference to develop, expand and widen your capabilities as a manager, leader, community builder or change agent.
<http://www.thestoryconference.com.au>

3rd Annual MENA-AIR Conference 2011 **12 to 14 October 2011**

Cairo, Egypt

MENA-AIR is a professional organization operating in the Middle East and North Africa that aims to assist individuals in the institutional research profession in their pursuit to both share and to learn best practices in the profession by providing support for the professional development of its members.

The theme is Institutional Research in Changing Times.

<http://www.mena-air.org/MENA-AIR/3rd-mena-air-conference-cairo-2011>

Group Training National Conference **19 to 21 October 2011**

Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

Looking Ahead is the conference theme. Details [here](#)

2011 Conference: Assessing Higher Education Performance: Initiatives and Implications

20 to 21 October 2011

Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne

An International Symposium organised by the LH Martin Institute and the European Centre for the Strategic Management of Universities in the Framework of the Erasmus Mundus EU-Step Project. Details [here](#)

Data Governance 2011

25 to 27 October 2011

Sydney

This event will address your most pertinent issues relating to Data Governance across a breadth of industry sectors.

<http://www.data-governance.com.au>



11th Annual SEAIR Conference **2 to 4 November 2011**

Chiang Mai, Thailand

The theme is University Social Responsibility: Pathways to Excellence

<http://www.seair2011.org/index.php>

15th International Business Research Conference

21 to 23 November 2011

Mercure Hotel, Sydney

This 3-day annual international gathering intends to bring together academics and researchers from all over the world to exchange and share their knowledge, experiences and research results about all broad areas of Accounting, Banking, Finance, Economic, Management and Marketing. This annual meeting in Sydney is sponsored by the World Business Institute, Business Care Australia (Melbourne & New York) and eight refereed international journals.

Call for Papers closes 21 October 2011

<http://conferencebulletin.org/>

3rd Annual Vocational Education Summit

21 to 22 November 2011

Melbourne

IIR's 3rd Annual Vocational Education Summit brings together leading VET and HE industry professionals to discuss new initiatives for improvement throughout the vocational education sector

<http://www.iir.com.au/conferences/education/vocational-education-summit>

31st Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience

17 to 21 February 2012

San Antonio, Texas, United States

Attendees will share with and learn from each other the latest trends, initiatives, best practices, ideas, research, and assessment strategies focused on supporting student success in the first college year and beyond.

Organized by: The National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition

Deadline for proposals: 17 October 2011

<http://sc.edu/fye/annual/>

RosEvaluation Conference 2012

1 to 3 April 2012

**Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology,
Terre Haute, Indiana**

The RosEvaluation Conference 2012 will bring together those who are developing assessment and evaluation tools to share information and their expertise. The conference will emphasize concrete, effective, and efficient solutions to assessment and evaluation challenges

Deadline for proposals: 12 December 2011

Details [here](#)

AAIR e-Newsletter –September 2011



**Association for
Institutional Research**

Association for Institutional Research Forum 2 to 6 June 2012

New Orleans, Louisiana

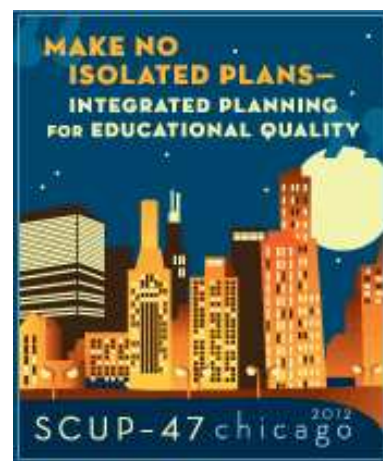
This Forum is AIR's annual four-day conference where more than 1,500 professionals meet to exchange information and ideas, learn the newest methods of institutional research, and network with thought leaders and colleagues.

Tracks for sessions are:

- Technology: Data Management, Warehousing, Internet, and Computers
- Analysis: Research Methods and Data Analysis
- Assessment: Accountability, Institutional Effectiveness, and Accreditation
- Resources: Faculty, Finance, and Facilities
- Students: Enrollment and Experience
- Collaboration: Communicating Inside and Outside the Institution

Deadline for proposals: 31 October 2011

Details [here](#)



Society for College and University Planning's Annual, International Conference & Idea Marketplace

7 to 11 July 2012

Chicago, IL, United States

The theme for SCUP-47 is 'Make No Isolated Plans-Integrated Planning for Educational Quality

Deadline for proposals: 1 October 2011

<http://www.scup.org/page/annualconf/47/call>

Have you registered for the 2011 AAIR Forum?

Keynote Speakers



Professor Sandra Harding
Vice Chancellor and President,
James Cook University

➤ [Learn More](#)



Dr Pamela Kinnear
Director of Policy,
Universities Australia

➤ [Learn More](#)

Pre Forum Workshops

Benchmarking in the Higher Education Sector

➤ [For more information](#)

New AAIRies Workshop

➤ [For more information](#)

Social Program

OFFICIAL WELCOME RECEPTION

Venue: Poolside, Sea World Resort

Date: Wednesday 9 November 2011

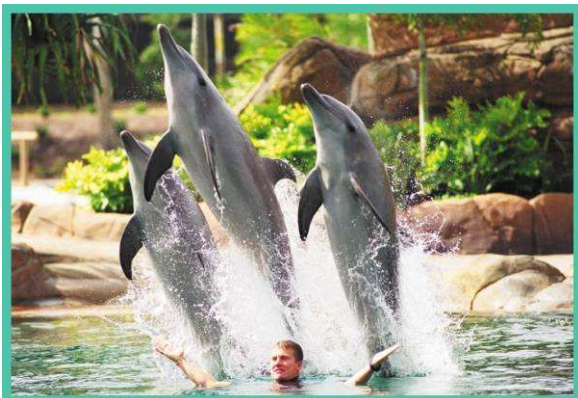
Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Dress: Smart Dress

Inclusive Event

Additional Tickets Cost: \$70.00 per person

➤ [Learn More](#)



FORUM DINNER

Venue: Dolphin Cove and the Paradise Room, Sea World Resort

Date: Thursday 10 November 2011

Time: 6.30pm – 11.30pm

Dress: Smart Dress

Inclusive Event

Additional Tickets Cost: \$140.00 per person

➤ [Learn More](#)

REGISTER NOW



By attending the Forum you will.....

1. Be inspired and motivated
2. Learn new ideas and practices to develop and grow
3. Have fun and recharge your batteries
4. Learn best practices from your peers
5. Gain strategies to produce real action for your institution



Major Sponsor



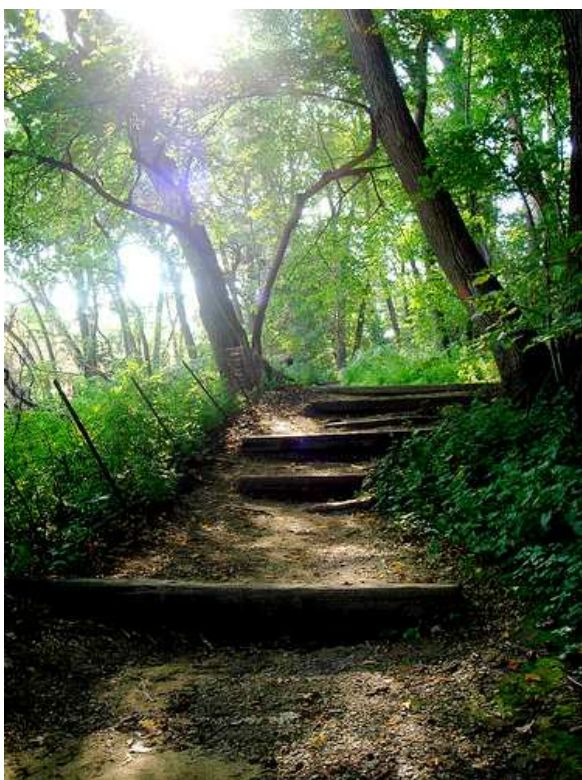
Australian Corporate Software

NEWSLETTER NOTES

1. Education at a glance 2011: OECD indicators

This publication offers a rich, comparable and up-to-date array of indicators that reflect a consensus among professionals on how to measure the current state of education internationally. The indicators provide information on the human and financial resources invested in education, on how education and learning systems operate and evolve, and on the returns to educational investments. The indicators are organised thematically, and each is accompanied by information on the policy context and the interpretation of the data.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/61/2/48631582.pdf>



2. Which paths work for which young people?

In this LSAY paper, the authors identify various educational paths involving school and post-school study and assess the effectiveness of these in relation to post-school outcomes at age 25 years. They use the 1995 cohort of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth and find that, for males, undertaking an apprenticeship after completing senior secondary and university are attractive paths. For females, the best path is that of university study, even for those with low academic orientation.

<http://www.lsay.edu.au/publications/2397.html>

3. Research in Higher Education Vol 52, #6

Research in Higher Education (RIHE) is the official peer-reviewed academic journal of AIR. RIHE is intended for those concerned with the functioning of postsecondary education, including two-year and four-year colleges, universities, and graduate and professional schools. Volume 52, #6, September 2011 is now available.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/0361-0365/52/6/>

4. AIR Professional File #121

Keeping Confidence In Data Over Time: Testing The Tenor Of Results From Repeat Administrations Of A Question Inventory (E. Boylan, Marywood University; 14pp; No 121) Summer 2011, is the latest AIR Professional File which may be downloaded [here](#)



Australian Council for Educational Research

5. Growth targets and students numbers in higher education

The Federal Government's higher education targets are likely to be very difficult to achieve unless Bachelor degree attainment of 25 to 34 year olds can increase at twice the rate of population growth, according to a research review paper by ACER Senior Research Fellow Dr Daniel Edwards.

In the fourth research briefing for the Joining the Dots series Dr Edwards examines the expansion of Australia's higher education sector and how this might affect student numbers.

<http://www.acer.edu.au/enews/2011/09/growth-targets-and-students-numbers-in-higher-education>

6. ACER Higher Education Update 8

ACER's Higher Education Update was released in August and is available [here](#)



7. Thinking about SES equity

An article by Professor Glyn Davis is available on the LH Martin Institute website [here](#).

8. ATEM Matters #41

ATEM publishes a member's newsletter 'ATEM Matters' three times per year. The latest edition is available [here](#)

Thanks to Rob Sheehan for the following three items



9. Working Together VET Report

Stephen Black and Keiko Yasukawa, from the Centre for Research in Learning and Change at UTS, have made a great start on sorting out our national confusion about concurrent delivery of language literacy and numeracy support in VET. If we really do want to get a handle on skills shortages, we need to get a handle on this. Their report, 'Working together: Integrated Language, Literacy and Numeracy Support in Vocational Education and Training' has a pretty good go at suggesting how to clear the fog. The report is here:

<http://www.rilc.uts.edu.au/pdfs/working-together-report.pdf>

10. US Community Colleges Program Survey

The US Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success has produced an interesting, and brief, survey of programs in US community colleges which seek to deliver basic skills (like language skills) alongside vocational programs. The title says it all really: 'Farther, faster: six promising programs show how career pathway bridges help basic skills students earn credentials that matter'. It's lurking here:

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/Farther-Faster.pdf>

11. Does further education benefit working adults?

New Zealand's Department of Labour and Statistics has released a neat little study called 'The labour market returns to further education for working adults'. We are usually treated to analyses of the private return that comes with the more years individuals spend in education. What's nice about this study is that it looks at the return that existing workers get when they complete a certificate or diploma. The outcomes are a bit equivocal, really. But I guess the kick may be that to stand still in terms of earnings in the old knowledge economy, you probably need to upskill. Worth a read.

Download it [here](#)



12. The Digital Revolution and Higher Education

As more students enrol in online courses, their educational value is perceived differently by college presidents and the general public. As online college courses have become increasingly prevalent, the general public and college presidents offer different assessments of their educational value. Just three-in-ten American adults (29%) say a course taken online provides an equal educational value to one taken in a classroom. By contrast, fully half of college presidents (51%) say online courses provide the same value.

More than three-quarters of the nation's colleges and universities now offer online classes, according to the survey of college presidents, and about one-in-four college graduates (23%) have taken a course online, according to the general public survey. Among those who have graduated in the past decade, the figure rises to 46%. Adults who have taken a course online have a somewhat more positive view of the value of this learning format: 39% say a course taken online provides the same educational value as one taken in person, a view shared by only 27% of those who have not taken an online course.

These findings are from a pair of Pew Research Center surveys conducted in spring 2011. One is a telephone survey taken among a nationally representative sample of 2,142 adults ages 18 and older. The other is an online survey, done in association with the Chronicle of Higher Education, among the presidents of 1,055 colleges and universities nationwide.

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/2011/08/28/the-digital-revolution-and-higher-education/1/>

13. Apprentice and trainee March quarter 2011 statistics

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has released the Australian apprentice and trainee statistics for the March quarter 2011.

In total, there were 458 900 apprentices and trainees in-training as at the end of March 2011, an increase of 5.3% from the previous year.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2386.html>



14. Understanding life satisfaction and the education puzzle

Although better income, wealth and health outcomes have been predicted by human capital theory for better educated people, increasingly international and Australian empirical evidence has found a negative relationship between higher education and subjective wellbeing instead, particularly for developed nations. This study uses Wave 9 of the HILDA survey data and an ordered logit model to estimate the partial effect of educational achievement on different life satisfactions in Australia and how this differs by age group. The authors find that the younger age group have relatively higher education but lower satisfaction level on average than the older age group. The relationship between education and life satisfaction level differs by age group. Either controlling other variables or not, we found that for the older age group, those with graduate diploma/graduate certificates, certificates or Year 11 or below are more satisfied with their lives on average when compared to those with university degrees, or Year 12 only. However, this is not the case anymore for the younger age group, where life satisfaction, especially with respect to finances, health and safety, increases with education.

https://guard.canberra.edu.au/natsem/index.php?mode=download&file_id=1194

15. Apprentice and trainee March quarter 2011 statistics

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<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2386.html>

Update on the Survey Manager Information Forum by Bruce Guthrie, GCA

The Survey Manager Information Forum (SMIF) 2011 was held on Monday and Tuesday, 18-19 July 2011 at Rydges Melbourne. It had been postponed from an earlier date due to the volcanic ash cloud which closed our airports in June.

The aim of this two day forum was to provide an opportunity for new and experienced Survey Managers to hear about and discuss recent changes to the Australian Graduate Survey (AGS), get a refresher on key aspects of the survey methodology and meet their colleagues from other institutions. There was a mix of presentations and sessions over the two days.

We had a few guest speakers, including Survey Reference Group (SRG) members Leone Nurbasari, David DeBellis and Phil Aungles, as well as Ross White from Hobsons (publishers of the Good Universities Guide).

The forum was a great success and feedback which we received from the attendees suggests that one national annual forum is the preferred format for the SMIF.



Above: David de Bellis, Flinders Uni and David Carroll, GCA



Above: Attendees at afternoon tea, Rydges Melbourne

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



Information Analyst

HEW7

Flinders University

Closes 27 September 2011

Details [here](#)

Senior Planning Analyst

HEW8

Australian National University

Closes 13 October 2011

Details [here](#)

FOR THE PODDIES, VODDIES AND BLOGGIES

1. Insights from research into apprenticeships

In this 30 minute podcast, Steve Davis talks with Tom Karmel, Erica Smith and Damian Oliver on insights from research into apprenticeships. Interested in the story behind the numbers, Tom discusses the findings from his work on individual completion rates that show occupation and employers; size matters, with the implication being that the relationship between employer and apprentice is critical. Erica talks about the all too often unspoken expectations of apprentices and employers & the psychological contract. She finds that writing down these expectations at the start of an apprenticeship does help all parties. Damian examines whether pre-apprenticeship programs deliver on their promise of improved retention rates and finds their impact varies by occupation and prior education level. Implications for policy-makers and training providers are drawn out throughout the podcast.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2431.html>



2. CATS: The nine lives of innovation

In the first of Griffith Business School's Global Insights Series event for 2011, internationally renowned author and filmmaker Professor Stephen Lundin, explained how to tap into your power of innovation and unleash it in every member of your organisation.

http://www3.griffith.edu.au/03/ertiki/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=30722

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

IDEAS for the Tertiary Education Sector

After a sold out session at the TEMC, ATEM is offering the acclaimed IDEAS (Innovation Development Early Assessment System) program again in six cities throughout our regions before the end of 2011!

The presenter for this workshop is Carol Harding. Carol is Deputy Director of the Australian Innovation Research Centre at UTAS, and an experienced university administrator.

Perth 6th October, Details [here](#)

Adelaide 19th October, Details [here](#)

Brisbane 3rd November, Details [here](#)

Melbourne 16th November, Details [here](#)

Sydney 30th November, Details [here](#)

Auckland 8th December, Details [here](#)

NCVER 2011 Webinar Series

Attrition in the trades: Does it really matter?

Wednesday 2 November 2011

2.00pm – 3.00pm AEST

Presenter: Dr Tom Karmel, National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Discussants: Professor Gerald Burke, Monash University and Professor Kostas Mavromaras, National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University

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

DISTRACTIONS

Australia Facebook Statistics

<http://www.socialbakers.com/facebook-statistics/australia>

Facebook Statistics by country

On Socialbakers.com you can find **daily updated** Facebook Statistics from over **200 different countries**. If you click on a country, you will be able to see Facebook statistics together with **demography** and a graph **in time**.

World Map



Dotmocracy

A different way to do large group decision-making.

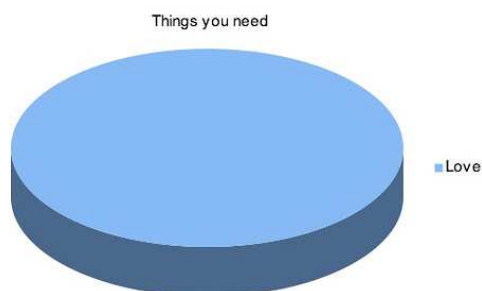
<http://www.dotmocracy.org/>



The Mrs Thatcher illusion

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/08/10/3290259.htm>

Important Statistic



LIGHT RELIEF

Grocery Store Wars

My 12yo son found this really funny as did I, and we're Star Wars fans. So I figure that's enough of a sample to pass it on.

May the force be with you...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVrlyEu6h_E

AND JUST REMEMBER...

True stability results when presumed order and presumed disorder are balanced. A truly stable system expects the unexpected, is prepared to be disrupted, waits to be transformed.

—Tom Robbins

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 October AAIR e-Newsletter is Monday 10 October 2011. Send items to editor@air.org.au

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

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