

e-Newsletter February-March 2012

What's in this edition?

Editorial of Sorts 1
 Help Wanted..... 1
 Places to Go, Things To Do2-5
 Newsletter Notes6-13
 For the Poddies, Voddies & Bloggies ... 14
 Resources 15
 Distractions..... 15-16
 Light Relief 16
 And Just Remember..... 16
 AAIR Committee listing..... 16

EDITORIAL OF SORTS

As I write this on International Womens' Day, having attended an event at Deakin Waterfront with inspiring speakers, it's of pause to reflect that according to the UN 66% of the world's work is done by women and yet women only own 1% of the world's property. So I take the liberty to refer you last year's talk at the National Press Club, at which the above figures were quoted, entitled '100 Years of Women's Struggle'. The speakers were Quentin Bryce, Kate Ellis, Julie McKay, Wendy McCarthy, Teresa Gambaro, Holly Ransom and Virginia Haussegger. The link to it is [here](#).

Never a dull moment in the sector with plenty happening. So much, that it's hard to find the time to fit it all in and... the time to compile this newsletter. So, apologies dear readers, for the later than planned release of this edition.

The [DIISRTE](#) discussions on Performance Measures took place in Sydney and Melbourne in late February. Here's a timely [article](#) questioning the validity of the CLA from UC, Berkeley appropriately entitled 'The Holy Grail of learning outcomes'. Although, it seemed we were very much on the same page about this at the Melbourne Forum.

**2012 AAIR FORUM –
SAVE THE DATES**

The 2012 Australasian Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) Forum will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Terrigal on the NSW Central Coast from Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 November 2012.

The 2012 Forum will focus on the business of AAIR, Institutional Research. Whether you work in data warehousing, surveys, forecasting, planning or any of the many roles undertaken by our members, the 2012 AAIR Forum will provide you the scope to lead the discussion from your perspective. Leading practitioners in the IR fields will discuss and help develop your ideas, confirming the Forum as the place that puts institutional research front and centre.



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

So, ...put your feet up, 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



Interconnected Tertiary Education Conference

28 to 29 March 2012

Docklands, Melbourne

2nd Annual Interconnected Tertiary Education
Improving cross-sectoral pathways & increasing participation in an era of reform

<http://www.nteu.org.au/library/view/id/2119>

Quality in Postgraduate Research

17 to 19 April 2012

Adelaide

QPR is a major international conference focused on research on doctoral education. It brings together educational researchers, postgraduate students, supervisors, academic developers, policy makers and postgraduate administrators.

Details [here](#)

New Zealand Vocational Education and Training (VET) Research Forum

18 to 19 April 2012

Wellington, NZ

Each year this forum brings together people from tertiary providers, ITOs, research agencies, industry, unions and government agencies who have an interest in working together to strengthen Vocational Education and Training (VET) through research.

This year's forum focuses on partnership. Working in partnership is critical to ensuring that research is done effectively and efficiently and that results have as much impact on the sector as possible.

Details [here](#)



INQAAHE 2012 Forum

17 to 18 April 2012

Melbourne

The INQAAHE Forum is open for members of INQAAHE and AfriQAN, ANQAHE, APQN, ASEAN, AQAAIW, AQAN, CAMES, CANQA, CANQATE, CEENQA, EAQAN, ENAEE, ENQA, ECA and RIACES –

The overarching theme of the Melbourne Forum is the future of external quality assurance as it may impact on developed as well as developing agencies.

Details [here](#)



Learning Analytics and Knowledge (LAK12)

29 April to 2 May 2012

Vancouver, Canada

For the world of higher education, learning analytics is gaining increasing momentum for its capacity to respond to and inform the dynamic and complex landscape that is 21st century education and learning. Learning analytics has a vast potential to address the many current concerns in higher education surrounding learning and the educational experience – such as lead indicators and predictive models for identifying students requiring additional learning support, reducing student attrition, measuring student graduate attributes, and developing scalable methods for enhancing teaching practice. Learning analytics capitalizes on the data intensive, technological base that supports contemporary formal and informal learning to extend capacity and understanding of learning processes in contemporary environments. It is of little surprise that the field of learning analytics is a rapidly expanding area of research and practice, drawing the attention of governments, foundations, and academics.

This conference provides the opportunity to consider these opportunities and challenges and the role learning analytics can play in both applied and theoretical contexts.

<http://lak12.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>



Base Funding for Higher Education Seminar 30 April 2012

Melbourne

The government is considering its policy response to the Bas Funding Review. The discussion about the Lomax-Smith report represent a once in a decade opportunity to revisit the basic principles and framework for higher education funding.

What is the purpose of public funding? What is a fair student contribution? Should it be the same across all disciplines? Does the Base Funding Review have all the answers? Will the proposed 60/40 split between public and private contributions hold up? How might changes to base funding influence other policy areas?

This one-day national seminar by CSHE will address these issues in light of the Lomax-Smith report as Government consults on its response in 2012.

Program and link to register [here](#)

Institutional Performance in Higher Education - Defining indicators of success & quality

15 to 16 May 2012

Melbourne

Impressive line-up of speakers for this conference which has a pre and post workshop. The conference will address:

- The implications of increased transparency and information for students and institutions
- Driving positive behaviours to lift institutional performance
- The role of multi-dimensional comparisons in enriching performance assessment
- Successful strategies for achieving quality and improvement in research, teaching and learning

<http://standardsinhighered.com/overview/>

The 10th Annual Higher Education Summit 21 to 22 May 2012

Melbourne

International keynote presentations from:

- Professor David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Nottingham, UK
- Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland
- Professor Carmel McNaught, Director & Professor of Learning Enhancement, The Chinese University, Hong Kong.

<http://www.highereducationsummit.com.au/>

Salford Analytics and Data Mining Conference

24 to 25 May 2012

San Diego, CA, USA

This conference is aimed at bringing together researchers, practitioners, and data mining enthusiasts to learn about data mining technology from practical and theoretical experts. Conference attendees can expect to exchange ideas and experiences focused on the practice of both data mining and real-world analysis of complex data.

The conference is preceded by an optional three days of software training.

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



Evaluating & Optimising

Social Inclusion in Tertiary Education

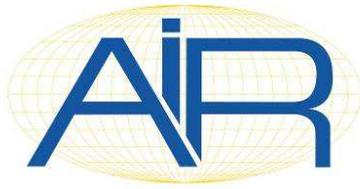
29 to 30 May 2012

Melbourne

The promo for this states "By attending this conference you will learn:

- Methods of evaluation for current classification, outcomes criteria and definitions within social inclusion
- How to best approach and successfully secure collaboration and partnership ventures between tertiary institutions and other affiliated bodies
- Methods of various pathway and transition models in tertiary education
- Tools for analysis of various internal social inclusion policy and project design
- Ways of better ensuring student participation and engagement"

<http://inclusionintertiaryed.com/>



**Association for
Institutional Research**

**Association for Institutional Research Forum
2 to 6 June 2012**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Against the backdrop of one of America's most unique and colourful cities, the Association for Institutional Research presents the 2012 annual conference. Known as the AIR Forum, this event is the world's largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields.

Details [here](#)

ICESIV



**Fourth International Conference on
Establishment Surveys**

11 to 14 June 2012

Montréal, Québec, Canada

Examples of topics include:

- Efficient Use of Administrative Data in Business Surveys
- Advances in Disclosure Protection
- Advances in Small Area Estimates, Managing Metadata
- The New Direction of Business Surveys
- Collecting Data Electronically from Businesses
- Updating Business Registers
- Sample Design Challenges
- Factors that Affect Establishment Survey Participation
- Generalized Survey Processing Systems - An Update
- Measuring Nonresponse Bias
- Issues of Multi-Mode Data Collection

Details [here](#)



**The 5th International Conference on
Educational Data Mining (EDM 2012)**

19 to 21 June 2012

Chania, Greece

The EDM 2012 conference is a leading international forum for high quality research that mines large data sets of educational data to answer educational research questions. These datasets may come from learning management systems, interactive learning environments, intelligent tutoring systems, or any system used in a learning context. EDM 2012 is a highly disciplinary conference that brings together researchers from computer science, machine learning and data mining, artificial intelligence in education, intelligent tutoring systems, education, learning sciences, psychometrics, statistics and cognitive psychology.

It's organised by the [International Educational Data Mining Society](#)

The theme of the EDM 2012 conference is "From Data to Information: Empowering Learning Environments and Settings".

<http://www.educationaldatamining.org/EDM2012/>

**The 32nd Annual International Symposium
on Forecasting**

24 to 27 June 2012

Boston, MA, USA

This symposium is presented by The International Institute of Forecasters.

[Deadline](#) for abstracts 16 March 2012

<http://forecasters.org/isf/index.html>

**EDULEARN12, 4th annual International
Conference on Education and New Learning
Technologies**

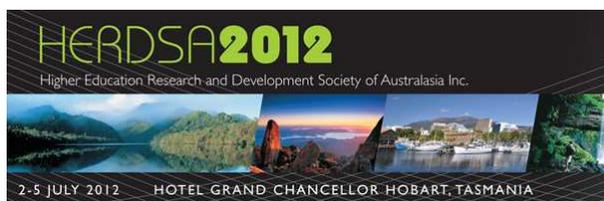
2 to 4 July 2012

Barcelona, Spain

EDULEARN12 is an International Forum for those who wish to present their projects and discuss the latest innovations and results in the field of New Technologies in Education, E-learning and methodologies applied to Education and Research.

[Deadline](#) for abstracts is 29 March 2012

<http://iated.org/edulearn12/>



HERDSA 2012: Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia 2 to 5 July 2012

Hobart, Tasmania

The main theme is Connections in Higher Education. Conference delegates will explore the policies, research, leadership and student outcomes we should be pursuing in higher education world-wide to establish and sustain our connections with the entire sector. The focus will be on the following sub-themes:

- * Creating and sustaining peer connections
- * Establishing community connections
- * Enriching interdisciplinary connections
- * Connections for student success
- * Connecting with research

<http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2012/>

RC33 Eighth International Conference on Social Science Methodology

9 to 13 July 2012

Sydney

RC33 is the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Logic and Methodology in Sociology. The focus of the conference is on innovations and current best practice in all aspects of social science research methodology

<http://conference.acspri.org.au/index.php/rc33/2012/index>



21st National VET Research Conference 'No Frills' 2012

11 to 13 July 2012

Adelaide

Co-hosted with TAFE SA, and held for the first time in Adelaide, this 21st anniversary conference will be an opportunity to celebrate, collaborate and connect.

Practitioners and researchers, especially early career VET researchers or those new to the VET sector, are invited to share their research and knowledge in a range of ways.

<http://www.nofrills.ncver.edu.au/>

36th TEM Conference 16 to 19 September 2012

Adelaide

The theme is
'The Right Blend:
Innovation and Transformation'.



This conference offers professional administrators and managers within the tertiary sector, including members of both the Association for Tertiary Education Management (ATEM) and the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA), an opportunity to explore innovative developments and new ideas around people, services, facilities and environment. Our focus will be ensuring positive outcomes for students as well as a productive working and learning environment for staff and our broader institution communities.

Deadline for papers/abstracts 30 March 2012
<http://temc.org.au/>

Australasian Higher Education Evaluation Forum (AHEEF)

8 to 10 October 2012

CQUniversity Rockhampton Campus

The forum theme for 2012 is " Embedding an internal evaluation culture "

Deadline for papers/abstracts 14 May 2012
Details [here](#)

2012 International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to- Reach Populations

31 October to 3 November 2012

New Orleans, Louisiana

The conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, policy analysts and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative concepts and techniques for surveying hard to reach populations.

Details [here](#)





1. Mapping Australian higher education - A Grattan report

Australia's higher education system is entering one of its most significant years in recent history. To meet a government goal of 40% of young Australian adults holding a bachelor's degree or above by 2025, restrictions on undergraduate student numbers have been lifted: public universities can now offer as many or as few places as they choose in almost any course.

Yet despite the system's importance to Australia's economy and society, it is often hard to know what is going on inside it. Mapping Australian higher education, the first report from Grattan Institute's Higher Education program, puts in one place facts, figures and analysis relevant to understanding institutions, students, and outcomes.

http://www.grattan.edu.au/pub_page/122_mapping_higher_education.html

2. Report on the Development of the University Experience Survey (UES)

This report, released in mid-February focuses on the development process and findings of the pilot study undertaken to construct and develop a new survey of university student experience. The UES is one of a number of initiatives being developed by the Australian Government to help ensure the ongoing improvement in the quality of teaching and learning in Australian universities.

Download it [here](#)

3. HEIMS Data Collection Newsletter February 2012

The February 2012 HEIMS newsletter is available. Stay tuned for further details on the long awaited review of the staff data collection.

Download it [here](#)

4. Measuring Student Experience: Relationships between Teaching Quality Instruments (TQI) and Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ)

Results of course experience questionnaires (CEQ) provide Australian tertiary institutions with valuable information on perceptions of their courses. Institutions also survey their students at subject level. This study aimed to determine the degree to which responses recorded on subject level Teaching Quality Indicators (TQI) are related to the CEQ, and whether TQI responses anticipate subsequent CEQ responses. This study found that TQIs at different institutions are not designed in a consistent manner and that only a small portion of the CEQ responses could be predicted by these TQI. The research established that course characteristics such as: the level of the degree, the Faculty and Department in which the course was taken, the course description, the industry and duties of those who have found employment after completing their course, all strongly influence the CEQ.

This report was prepared under the grant CG7-384 from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. The authors are Joe Hirschberg, Jenny Lye, Martin Davies & Carol Johnston.

<http://www.olt.gov.au/project-measuring-student-experience-melbourne-2007>



5. AUQF Proceedings 2011

It looks like the AUQF may be off the calendar with the demise of AUQA. Hopefully, there may be an equivalent event under TEQSA.

Meanwhile enjoy last year's AUQF proceedings. http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/publications/auqf_proceedings_2011.pdf

6. Learning Analytics Articles

EDUCAUSE's fall EQ issue has a strong focus on learning and analytics

Access it [here](#)

7. Learning Analytics: Ascilite 2011 Keynote

'Learning Analytics: Dream, Nightmare, or Fairy dust?' was the title of this keynote. You can see it and/or view the slides [here](#).

8. Research messages 2011

Research messages 2011 is a collection of summaries of research projects published by NCVER in 2011. The publication also has an overview essay that captures the themes and highlights from the research for the year, including:

- the initial education and training of young people and their pathways to employment
- apprenticeships and traineeships, with a particular focus on completions
- the ongoing education and training of the learner groups — namely older workers, people with a disability, low paid workers and the unemployed
- trends in the labour market, including labour mobility, skills mismatch and skills shortages
- the role of vocational education and training (VET) in innovation and workforce development
- methodological and measurement issues.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2453.html>



9. LSAY data release

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) program studies the progress of several groups of young Australians as they move from school into post-secondary education and work.

The cohort reports summarise the activity of young people up to a point in time. They are structured as a series of tables containing information on employment, education, study and work, and social indicators for each cohort from their first wave of collection up to the most recently collected data. The data presented can be filtered by demographic groups and downloaded into Excel. Young people are grouped by the first year of their survey wave, which is known as the cohort. There are five cohorts in the current LSAY series: Y95, Y98, Y03, Y06 and Y09. Updated reports for Y03 and Y06 are available survey data collected in 2010.

<http://www.lsay.edu.au/cohort/introduction.html>

10. Teachers' intentions to use national literacy and numeracy assessment data

The Australian Educational Researcher
Volume 38, Number 4, 433-447

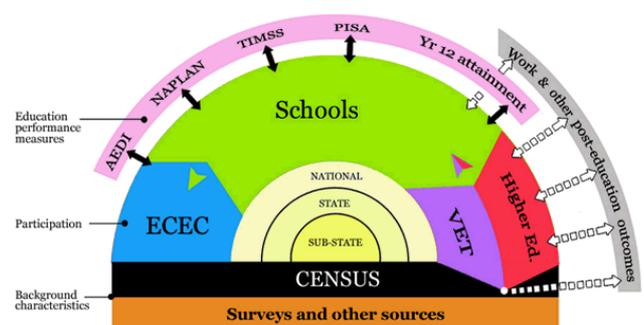
In recent years the educational policy environment has emphasised data-driven change. This has increased the expectation for school personnel to use statistical information to inform their programs and to improve teaching practices. Such data include system reports of student achievement tests and socio-economic profiles provided to schools by various state education departments' data services. This paper reports on a pilot study that explored factors affecting Mathematics and English teachers' intentions to engage with the statistical data their schools receive and to consider these data when making decisions about their teaching practices. It was found that most teachers perceived that such data identify weak students and some teachers (mostly mathematics teachers) thought that they can help to identify curriculum topics that need attention. Most teachers felt that the reports were not easy to understand. Confidence in dealing with statistical data was a problem for many teachers, but especially for English teachers.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/301m18564784567t/fulltext.pdf>

11. Australian Longitudinal Learning Database

A concept paper on the Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD) is available on the National Statistical Service website. The model being proposed by the ABS is represented by the diagram below.

See it [here](#)



12. Ten Business Intelligence Trends for 2012

A perspective from the Tableau software site.
<http://www.tableausoftware.com/about/blog/2011/12/10-business-intelligence-trends-2012-14964>

13. The Australian's 50 most influential in higher ed

Yes, any list is going to be contentious and I like the comment that appeared on the Oz website that it was brave to name only five current VCs.

Excerpt from Julie Hare's article 'Our Top 50 "most influential people" in higher education is meant to be forward-looking - those who will shape tertiary education this year and beyond. And in order to look forwards, sometimes you need to look back.'

The full list is as follows:

| | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Bruce Chapman | Researcher, consultant, reformer |
| 2 | Julia Gillard | Prime Minister |
| 3 | Glyn Davis | Vice-chancellor, University of Melbourne |
| 4 | Rob Oakeshott | Independent MP |
| 5 | Ian Chubb | Chief scientist |
| 6 | Simon Marginson | Professor of higher education |
| 7 | Denise Bradley | Consultant |
| 8 | Nitin Garg | Murdered ex-student |
| 9 | Kim Carr | Ex-Research Minister |
| 10 | Bruce Mackenzie | CEO, Holmesglen TAFE |
| 11 | Chris Evans | Tertiary Education Minister |
| 12 | Brian Schmidt | Nobel laureate, Professor of astrophysics |
| 13 | Greg Craven | Vice-chancellor, Australian Catholic University |
| 14 | Phil Baty | Rankings editor, Times Higher Education |
| 15 | Jane Lomax-Smith | Author, base funding review |
| 16 | John Dawkins | Zealous reformer |
| 17 | Peter Coaldrake | Vice-chancellor, Queensland University of Technology |
| 18 | Carol Nicoll | TEQSA chief |
| 19 | Bob Birrell | Immigration researcher |
| 20 | Fred Hilmer | Vice-chancellor, University of NSW |
| 21 | Margaret Sheil | Former head ARC |
| 22 | Milly Shanahan | First-year student |
| 23 | Richard James | Higher ed researcher |
| 24 | Robin Shreeve | CEO, Skills Australia |
| 25 | Kwong Lee Dow | Consultant |
| 26 | Chris Bowen | Immigration minister |
| 27 | Leesa Wheelahan | Vocational education researcher |
| 28 | Sandra Harding | Vice-chancellor, James Cook University |
| 29 | Gavin Moodie | Analyst and commentator |
| 30 | Michael Gallagher | Executive Director, Go8 |
| 31 | Peter Beattie | Former premier, Queensland |
| 32 | Rod Jones | CEO, Navitas |
| 33 | Alfred Nobel | Inventor and founder of the Nobel Prize |
| 34 | Mike Rann | Former premier, SA |

| | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 35 | Chris Eccles | Head, Premier and Cabinet, NSW |
| 36 | Graeme Hugo | Professor of demographics |
| 37 | Andrew Norton | Analyst and thinker |
| 38 | David Phillips | Adviser |
| 39 | Chuck Feeney | Philanthropist |
| 40 | Bruce Baird | Reviewer of international education |
| 41 | Michael Chaney | Chancellor, University of Western Australia, business |
| 42 | Tom Karmel | Managing director, National Centre for Vocational Education Research |
| 43 | Michael Knight | Reviewer of visas for international students |
| 44 | Geoffrey Garrett | Business dean |
| 45 | Phil Honeywood | Lobbyist, international education |
| 46 | Mary Kelly | Equity expert |
| 47 | Pablo Picasso | Dead painter |
| 48 | Robert French | Former federal court judge |
| 49 | Adam Spencer | Radio host |
| 50 | Claire Field | Head, ACPET |

You'll only be able to view the full articles, 'reasoning', and associated video interviews if you have an on-line subscription and there's been a fairly good 'University Offer' deal going recently. See the full details [here](#)

No 47 may look a little strange but here's the explanation "OK, so he's a dead artist. But in 1935 the priapic Spaniard painted a portrait of his lover, 17-year-old Marie-Therese Walter. The painting, *Jeune fille endormie*, disappeared from public view in 1941 then somehow turned up on the doorstep of the University of Sydney when an anonymous American donor with no connection to the institution handed it over on condition it be sold to support research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Last June it sold at Christie's in London for \$20 million - proving that philanthropy, art and science can make one hell of a difference."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/top50/2012/education#>





14. New Directions for Institutional Research Special Issue: Using Typological Approaches to Understand College Student Experiences and Outcomes

New Directions for Institutional Research (NDIR) is a quarterly sourcebook published by Jossey-Bass under the sponsorship and policies of AIR. Each NDIR issue focuses in detail on a specific topic relating to institutional research, planning, or higher education management in general.

View the latest issue [here](#)

15. Achieving the Dream: Data Notes

Data Notes, written by JBL Associates, is a bimonthly newsletter that presents data from Achieving the Dream's National Database. Each issue focuses on a topic related to student outcomes at the Achieving the Dream college.

Achieving the Dream is a national reform network dedicated to community college student success and completion; focused primarily on helping low-income students and students of color complete their education and obtain market-valued credentials.

The most recent issues on '*Finding Opportunities to Nudge Student Groups Over the Finish Line: Examining Students' Five-Year Progress*' and '*Start with Success in Sight: Early Predictors of Student Success*' may be of interest to AAIRies.

You'll find them [here](#)

16. Big Data's Arrival

New students are more likely to drop out of online colleges if they take full course loads than if they enrol part time, according to findings from a research project that is challenging conventional wisdom about student success.

This is an example of the use of predictive analytics on 3 million records.

Read the article [here](#)



17. Review of funding for schooling: The Gonski Report

As big for schools as the Bradley Review was for Higher Education. Both reports share some common threads including more \$\$.

Released to the public on 20 February 2012, this report on a review chaired by David Gonski, is the culmination of the first significant schools funding review since the Whitlam Government.

In 2010 the Australian Government commissioned a Review of Funding for Schooling. Chaired by David Gonski, the review panel received more than 7000 submissions, visited 39 schools and consulted 71 key education groups across Australia.

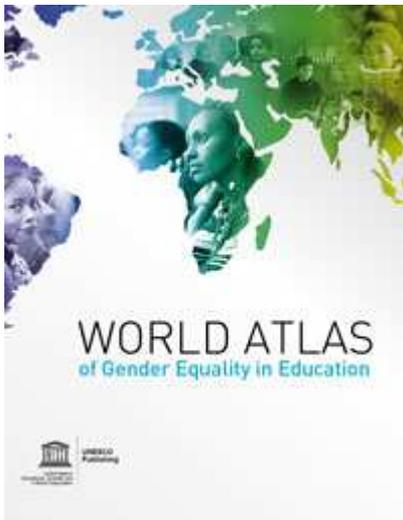
The Review Panel presented its final report to the Government in late 2011.

Expert panel members: David Gonski AC, Chair; Ken Boston AO; Kathryn Greiner AO; Carmen Lawrence; Bill Scales AO; Peter Tannock AM

The initial Government response may be found [here](#)

There's lots of commentary but the general consensus is probably summed up by "Strongly argued, thoroughly evidenced, and unlikely to succeed". <http://inside.org.au/gonski-review/>





18. World atlas of gender equality in education

To mark International Women's Day, UNESCO and the UIS have jointly released the World Atlas of Gender Equality in Education, which includes over 120 maps, charts and tables featuring a wide range of sex-disaggregated indicators.

The vivid presentation of information and analysis calls attention to persistent gender disparities and the need for greater focus on girls' education as a human right.

The atlas illustrates the educational pathways of girls and boys and the changes in gender disparities over time. It hones in on the gender impact of critical factors such as national wealth, geographic location, investment in education, and fields of study.

The print edition of the atlas will be accompanied by an online data mapping tool that enables users to track trends over time, adapt maps and export data. This eAtlas will be regularly updated with the latest available data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/unesco-gender-atlas-2012.aspx>

19. Lifting the lid on completion rates in the VET sector: how they are defined and derived

There is often confusion around how completion rates in the vocational education and training (VET) sector are calculated. This paper aims to 'lift the lid' on completion rates, explaining how they are defined and how they are calculated. Beyond this, the paper considers the value of completing a VET qualification, revealing that the pay-off varies for different groups of learners.

Download this NCVET publication [here](#)

20. Disruption: Coming Soon to a University Near You

An interesting article from the Forbes website. The line "As with any disruptive innovation, there will be winners and losers" may resonate with some of those bearing the harder reality edge of the new demand-driven funding model.

Read it [here](#)

21. National Press Club address: Glyn Davis on the quiet revolution in higher education

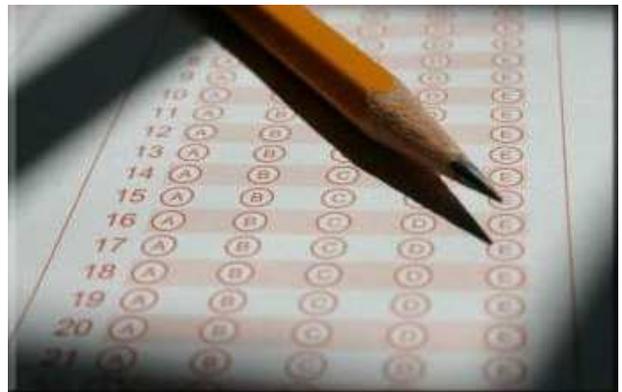
This was part of the Universities Australia conference but seats available were filled very quickly.

View the speech [here](#)

22. No room for short-sighted approach in our venerable institutions of learning

This Age Opinion article is an edited version of Professor Ed Byrne's (Monash Uni VC) annual speech to the business community. I liked this line "Rankings are a lot like political polling - they can be a useful indicator of performance and add an element of sporting competition, but trouble emerges if they become the central motivator of decision makers. Good research and good education will see us through, come what may."

Read it [here](#)



23. NAPLAN National Report 2011

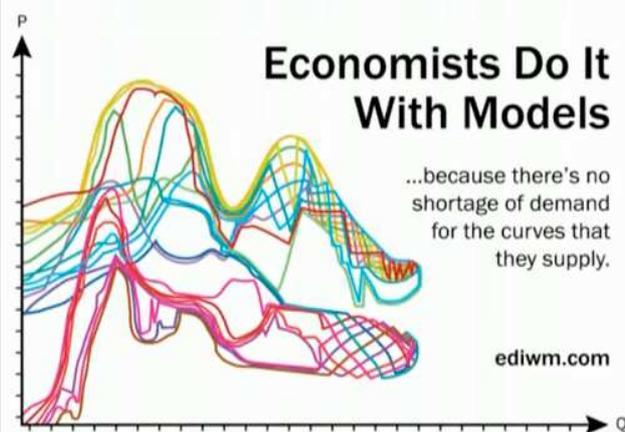
The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) report for 2011 has been released with interesting comparative data on demographic and student attributes.

Download it [here](#)

24. Institutional Dashboards: Navigational Tool for Colleges and Universities

The latest AIR Professional File is on Institutional Dashboards.

Download it [here](#)



25. Damned lies and economic modelling

One resolution this year is to spend more time trying to prevent lobby groups from using dodgy economic "modelling" to mislead my readers, states Ross Gittins of the National Times. Canberra has developed a bad case of modelling mania, but most of it is dubious. The less you know about modelling, the more it impresses you. Any day of the week you can hear politicians demanding to see the modelling behind some figure the government has produced (even if Treasury did a quick calculation on the back of an envelope). But the worst offenders are business interests, which pay big money to Canberra economic consultants to produce supposedly independent reports aimed at persuading governments to give them something, or at persuading the public to stop the government taking something from them.

AAIRies may well feel the same about certain 'statistics' that are used.

<http://apo.org.au/commentary/damned-lies-and-economic-modelling>

26. The use and abuse of economic modelling in Australia

A related article to the one above is at The Australia Institute.

<https://www.tai.org.au/index.php?q=node%2F19&pubid=950&act=display>

27. Assuring the quality of New Zealand universities

An article on the LH Martin Institute insights blog by Penny Fenwick & Dr Jan Cameron View it [here](#)

28. Deploying Intentional Staff Performance Metrics in Higher Education

Staff Metrics was the focus of a recent higher Ed impact edition. You can find the edition and the four articles [here](#)

29. Mixed-sector tertiary education: Research overview

This research overview by Gavin Moodie provides the key messages arising from two related projects investigating tertiary education institutions that have recently begun to offer tertiary programs outside the sector of their initial establishment and the sector of the majority of their enrolments. These are TAFE institutes offering higher education programs, universities offering vocational education programs and private providers offering both. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2468.html>

30. Seven insights for leading sustainable change in teaching and learning

Numerous change forces are currently impacting on Australian higher education leadership through technology, mass education, increased student diversity, sector growth, increased competition, changes to funding, changes in expectations and an increased focus on standards. This research was undertaken to determine 'what works' in terms of university leadership of teaching and learning in such a context. Drawing on the reflections, experience, knowledge and learning of leaders and staff in 22 Australian universities, as well as relevant literature, the research has determined seven insights on such leadership. These insights relate to: institutional strategic alignment; symbolic and fiscal support; workload management; the reduction of tensions; research and scholarship; coordinated support structures; and mechanisms to recognise and reward excellence.

This neat little resource was supported by an ALTC Leadership grant.

Project co-leaders:

Professor Marcia Devlin
Deakin University
(Lead institution)

Ms Georgia Smeal
QUT

Download it [here](#)



31. TEQSA issues risk list

TEQSA has released its Regulatory Risk Framework, which sets out TEQSA's policy and processes for identifying and assessing risk in the higher education sector.

Download it [here](#)

32. Job search experience, Australia, July 2011

This ABS publication presents information about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It is based on data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2011.

From July 2011, this publication also presents information about persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months, including steps taken to find work and difficulties in finding work. Further, the survey provides information about Owner Managers who started their current business in the previous 12 months including the reasons for starting or purchasing their business.

In addition, demographic information is provided for all of these groups.

Download it [here](#)

33. Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas: Robustness, Diversity Within Larger Areas and the New Geography Standard

Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA) summarise the socio-economic advantage and disadvantage of areas using information from the Census of Population and Housing. A new set of indexes are released after each Census, with the most recent being the SEIFA 2006 indexes released in March 2008. Since the latest release, the ABS has conducted additional research to increase understanding of the indexes and to make improvements for SEIFA 2011.

This ABS research paper has three main purposes: to explore the robustness of the SEIFA indexes to the influence of specific variables and areas; to investigate ways of representing the diversity of socio-economic characteristics within larger areas; and to explore the impact of the new geography standard on the indexes. The analysis in this paper is based on 2006 Census data.

The ABS has produced a number of papers which provide more general information about SEIFA. This paper seeks to build on this discussion of SEIFA, and the reader should consider the issues in this paper in conjunction with previous ABS publications on the subject.

Download it [here](#)

34. Learning And Work, Australia

This release presents results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Learning and Work survey, conducted from July 2010 to June 2011 as part of the ABS Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The survey collected data from individuals about their non-school qualification history including the level and field of each qualification and year of completion. Information was also collected on the impact of each qualification on a person's working life six months after completion and the relevance of the main field of study of each qualification to a person's current job. Another focus of the publication is the background characteristics of migrants, with data collected on Australian citizenship, language spoken at home, English proficiency, year of arrival, and level and field of highest non-school qualification before and after arrival in Australia. There are no time series data available as this is the first release of the topic. Download the report [here](#)

35. Teachers' intentions to use national literacy and numeracy assessment data

This article is from the Australian educational Researcher. The abstract as follows will resonate with AAIRies:

In recent years the educational policy environment has emphasised data-driven change. This has increased the expectation for school personnel to use statistical information to inform their programs and to improve teaching practices. Such data include system reports of student achievement tests and socio-economic profiles provided to schools by various state education departments' data services. This paper reports on a pilot study that explored factors affecting Mathematics and English teachers' intentions to engage with the statistical data their schools receive and to consider these data when making decisions about their teaching practices. It was found that most teachers perceived that such data identify weak students and some teachers (mostly mathematics teachers) thought that they can help to identify curriculum topics that need attention. Most teachers felt that the reports were not easy to understand. Confidence in dealing with statistical data was a problem for many teachers, but especially for English teachers.

View the article [here](#)

Thanks to Rob Sheehan for the following items:



36. Enterprise co-investment in training

Australia's eleven Industry Skills Council jointly commissioned ACIL Tasman to undertake An economic review of the Enterprise Based Productivity Places Program. It's a fascinating read for anyone involved in work-based education and training. And relevant reading, given that the SOP for the National Workforce Development Fund draws heavily on the lessons from, and the framework of the Enterprise Based Productivity Places Program. The link between productivity and workbased training is a theme throughout the review report, and one that RTOs need to up close and personal with. The report is available from [here](#).



37. Green and skilled

In December last, Dusseldorp Skills Forum released Gen Green Survey 2011: Australian apprentices & trainees experience of skills and sustainability in 2011. The report shares data from a survey conducted with a special group of folk – competitors in the 2008 and 2010 World Skills Australia National Competitions. The vocational relevance of sustainability skills is highlighted by data showing that, compared to the results of the 2008 Gen Green survey, 'the number of apprentices who think that at least some green skills are always practiced in their day to day work has more than doubled (up from 19% in 2008 to 45% in 2011) and that those who think it depends on work sites or clients is down from 22% in 2008 to 10% in 2011.' The full report is at the end of this url: <http://www.dsf.org.au/resources-and-research/392-gen-green-survey-2011>



38. Negotiating the neighbourhood

It's slipped off the radar a bit, but you'll recall that a few months ago Ken Henry was asked to put together a White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century. Before the White Paper comes the Issues Paper, released in December. There are several references to research, education, skills and training, with some specific questions posed in those arenas, such as:

- How can Australia promote flexibility in responding to structural change, including in areas such as innovation, business adaptability, labour mobility, education and training and capital market efficiency?
- How well positioned is Australia to connect productively with Asian countries in relation to innovation, research and development, including transfers and collaboration of knowledge and skills?

Submissions have closed and are available online. One from the Business Council of Australia notes that policy changes should, in part, focus on 'Lifting the capabilities of business and governments in Australia, including the capabilities of the workforce, to build mutually beneficial relationships with governments and businesses in Asia.' You can access the Issues Paper, and submissions, from the website of the Australia in the Asian Century Task Force: <http://asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au/>

39. VET elearning

Late last year, the Ministerial Council on Tertiary Education and Training spotted up \$11m for the 2012-2015 National Vocational Education and Training E-learning Strategy. It's a change of gear from the good old Australian Flexible Learning Framework – like co-investment approach for the National Workforce Development Fund, the new elearning strategy seeks collaborative partnerships with industry to push through to the benefits of elearning. The strategy sits [here](#).

FOR THE PODDIES, VODDIES AND BLOGGIES



1. John Bohannon: Dance vs. powerpoint, a modest proposal

The invention of PowerPoint Presentations was a creative breakthrough and significant power tool for presentations. It revolutionized the business world and pimped up every class room paper presentation. Many are using PPPs to visualize their ideas and make their speeches more comprehensible to their audience.

The inflationary and abusatory use of this presentations tool however, caused a contrary effect i.e. leading to a mix of contentless speeches and content overload slides.

John Bohannon is scientist and writer, and initiated the "Dance Your Ph.D." Contest. This wonderful idea makes the talk not only more interesting and understandable but you connect with the topic and react to the dance moves. Movement transcends language barriers through gestures, postures, and symbols. John Bohannon summed it up well when he said, "...if you are trying to give someone the big picture of a complex idea, to really capture its essence, the fewer words you use, the better...In fact, the ideal may be to use no words at all."

http://www.ted.com/talks/john_bohannon_dance_vs_powerpoint_a_modest_proposal.html

2. The future of higher learning; How do you nurture intellectual virtue in a market driven system?

What happens when the logic of markets are made central to higher education? And does the move to demand based funding necessarily spell the end of the idea of university as we know it? Radio National's Life Matters interviewed Simon Marginson, Professor of higher education at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Study of Higher Education and Steven Schwartz, Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University to answer these questions.

Listen to it [here](#)

AAIR e-Newsletter –February – March 2012

Interview with Leesa Wheelahan on 'Shaken not stirred? The development of one tertiary education sector in Australia'

In this 13 minute interview, Steve Davis talks with Leesa Wheelahan about the report 'Shaken not stirred? The development of one tertiary education sector in Australia'. This [report](#) examines universities that offer a small amount of VET and private providers that offer both VET and higher education, building on previous research examining TAFEs that offer higher education. This research suggests that mixed-sector and dual-sector providers are likely to become more important but they face specific challenges in the quality of their provision. While the sharp distinctions between VET and higher education are giving way to a more differentiated single tertiary education sector this is resulting in a more stratified and hierarchical structure as university providers become the 'comparator'.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2475.html>



3. Terence Tao on the Beauty of Prime Numbers

Former child prodigy Terence Tao has grown up to be one of the world's greatest living mathematicians. At 24 he became the youngest ever person appointed full professor at UCLA, and at the tender age of 31 he was awarded the maths world's highest honour, the Fields medal. Back in his childhood home of Australia, he visited the ANU to deliver this fascinating talk about one of his favourite subjects, prime numbers. View it [here](#)

RESOURCES

Good Practice Publications

AUA provides several publications to non-members including 'Mentoring - is it worth it?' and 'Can I quote you on that?' You'll be able to access many more if a member of AUA.

<http://www.aua.ac.uk/publications.aspx?Category=GoodPractice>



National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics

The demise of students studying maths and statistics has been in the news lately. Recently there was a national forum held in Canberra, 'Maths for the Future: Keep Australia Competitive'. This website was a UK initiative that came out of similar concerns in the UK.

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/>

Getting to know NCVER: A guide to NCVER's information resources

This guide provides a summary of NCVER's research and statistical resources: what they are, and where to access them.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2240.html>



10 Google search secrets

10 little-known facets of Google that are guaranteed to make even the most astute searcher a better searcher.

View them [here](#)

DISTRACTIONS

Lost on Campus

This is an application that assists in finding your way around campus. 27 Australian universities are now on it.

<http://lostoncampus.com.au/>

Pavan Sukhdev: Put a value on nature!

Various figures and graphs in this TED talk. Every day, we use materials from the earth without thinking, for free. But what if we had to pay for their true value: would it make us more careful about what we use and what we waste? Think of Pavan Sukhdev as nature's banker -- assessing the value of the Earth's assets. Eye-opening charts will make you think differently about the cost of air, water, trees ...

A banker by training, Pavan Sukhdev runs the numbers on greening up -- showing that green economies are an effective engine for creating jobs and creating wealth.

http://www.ted.com/talks/pavan_sukhdev_what_s_the_price_of_nature.html

Geraldine Brooks: Our Only Home

In dictionaries, definitions of home are various. It's both "a place of origin, a starting position" and "a goal or destination". It may also be "an environment offering security and happiness" or "the place where something is discovered, founded, developed or promoted. A source".

In the 2011 Boyer lecture series for ABC Radio National, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and journalist Geraldine Brooks examines each of these definitions. She revisits her "place of origin" - an ordinary Australian suburban childhood of the sixties and ponders the way it led to a "goal or destination", that is, her career as a foreign correspondent and then as a novelist.

In this, the first of four lectures, she investigates how her home in Australia is a place of discovery and a source of conviction about our responsibility to "our only home", this fragile and beleaguered planet. Afterwards, she is interviewed by the ABC's Geraldine Doogue and takes questions from the audience.

Watch or listen to it [here](#)

Numerology Doesn't Know the Score

Various ways of assigning numbers to events, people, and actions is an ancient parlour game, but let's not take it beyond that.

Article [here](#)

Life is Easy. Why do we make it so hard?

Something to think about and a good distraction if you feel the work-life balance just isn't there...

Jon is a farmer from northeastern Thailand. He founded the Pun Pun Center for Self-reliance, an organic farm outside Chiang Mai, with his wife Peggy Reents in 2003. Pun Pun doubles as a center for sustainable living and seed production, aiming to bring indigenous and rare seeds back into use. It regularly hosts training on simple techniques to live more sustainably. Outside of Pun Pun, Jo is a leader in bringing the natural building movement to Thailand, appearing as a spokesperson on dozens of publications and TV programs for the past 10 years. He continually strives to find easier ways for people to fulfil their basic needs.

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/TEDxDoiSuthep-Jon-Jandai-Life-i>

An Overview of Global Food Losses and Waste

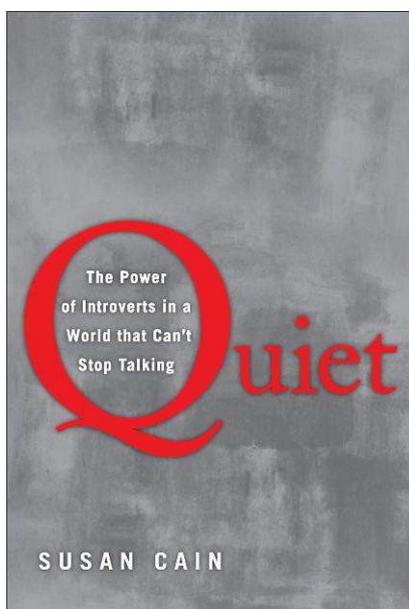
Alarming statistics in this report by Future Directions International. 'Almost one-third of food produced for human consumption—approximately 1.3 billion tonnes per year, which could feed the total global population of 7 billion—is either lost or wasted'.

Download the report [here](#)

Susan Cain: The power of introverts

Some quotes from this TedX talk. "Our schools and workplaces are designed for extroverts". "There is zero correlation between the best talker and the best ideas". "Why are we making introverts feel so guilty about wanting to go off by themselves some of the time?"

View this TedX talk [here](#) and/or read the book!



LIGHT RELIEF

Student Evals with 'Hitler'

A humorous perspective on student evaluations, Note that LEX is the University of Queensland's learner experience survey
<http://vimeo.com/16383734>

AND JUST REMEMBER...

Do not put your faith in what statistics say until you have carefully considered what they do not say.

William W. Watt

AAIR Committee – 2012

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 and Quality, 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 April - May 2012 AAIR e-Newsletter is Thursday 19 April 2012. 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 info@air.org.au

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