



Monthly e-Newsletter – February, 2011

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EDITORIAL OF SORTS

I can’t help but mention and reflect upon the fact that the start of 2011 has brought floods to huge parts of Australia, including many campuses and schools. The damage was extensive here in Queensland and elsewhere. Before and after photos which give a great visual are available [here](#). Around the same time there were major floods in Brazil and Sri Lanka. My thoughts and sympathies go out to those who have been affected. Whilst the damage has been quite devastating, it’s been wonderful to experience how community really comes together at these times. The volunteer effort has been, and continues to be incredible in Brisbane.

However, as I write people are slowly emerging to find out the destruction caused by Cyclone Yasi last night. With last year the [warmest on record](#) and [increased frequency](#) of more extreme weather events predicted by scientists, what actions might we as individuals make and/or to support, encourage or educate others to change or take action?

And so to my first AAIR e-Newsletter as editor... Sincere thanks to Dave for filling in with the last issue and to Rob for his words of wisdom.

Put this date in your diary NOW!

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

“IR: Let the Sunshine In”

This edition is a bit of a mix with mostly old, something new, a little ‘borrowed’ and the font still blue. I’m feeling my way so far in this new role so expect some changes as I ease into things.

Some releases from late last year that you may have missed in the Christmas rush:

- Graduate Careers Australia released [Gradstats](#), a summation of Employment and Salary Outcomes of Recent Higher Education Graduates
- The final [compact template](#) from DEEWR
- DEEWR Higher Education 2020 Newsletter for December 2010 is available [here](#).

Feel free to pass the newsletter onto your colleagues. Anyone is welcome to subscribe by dropping me an email. Subscribers are encouraged to [become a member](#) of AAIR.

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

Wendy Marchment
Editor
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PLACES TO GO – THINGS TO DO

Plenty coming up and here's just a sample over the next couple of months plus still time to put in proposals for some future events, including HEIR if you are quick, or to book that trip to Spain!

Some overlaps and a few more events are at <http://aair.org.au/pages/events>

Education 2011 to 2021- Global challenges and perspectives of blended and distance learning

15-18 February 2011

Dockside, Sydney

<http://www.dehub.edu.au/summit2011/index.html>

Policy Officers Conference

23-24 February 2011

National Convention Centre, Canberra

The post conference workshop is entitled 'Developing implementable policy'. The title put a smile on my face. I daren't say any more... Whilst the conference seems aimed at public servants, the program has plenty of relevance for those outside of government.

<http://www.effectivepolicyofficers.com/index.php>

2nd Annual Green Universities Conference

24-25 February 2011

Sydney Harbour Marriott

Still a relatively new area in the Australian tertiary sector. Benchmarking is mentioned in the program as a key focus so relevant for AARies to at least keep an eye on this area.

Further details [here](#)

Universities Australia Higher Education Conference

2-4 March 2011

Hotel Realm, Canberra

The [program](#) promises to "break away from traditional program formats to create greater opportunities for dialogue, analysis and engagement between the sector, other stakeholders, and commentators."

You may have to be quick to secure a seat at the National Press Club Luncheon for the address by Universities Australia Chair Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. Just remember it's televised if you manage to get a seat.

<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/conference>

4th Annual Higher Education Congress 7-9 March 2011

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

The theme is 'Towards Transformation: responsive strategies to improve tertiary education in Australia'.

<http://www.acevents.com.au/higheredu2011/index.html#about>

Customer Analytics Forum

8-9 March 2011

WatersEdge, Sydney

'Increasing Data Reliability and Accessibility to Remain Competitive in Evolving Markets'. Plenty in this program to tempt those in the BI domain

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

Defining & Achieving Interconnected Tertiary Education

Stronger pathways across Higher Education & VET for increased participation

30-31 March 2011

Mercure Melbourne

This topic has been on the agenda for many years but with much more emphasis in recent times following the endorsement of targets in the Bradley Review. The promo says you will takeaway:

“• Up-to-date information on how TEQSA and the Australian Qualifications Framework Council are working to strengthen pathways between VET and Higher Education

• How different stakeholders define an interconnected tertiary education system and plan to make the most of the current good will around collaboration

• Ways to overcome division in the tertiary education system in order to support diverse student pathways, increase regional participation and develop sustainable partnerships

• Methods for working with industry and community; aligning pathways with outcomes

<http://www.interconnectededucation.com/index.php>

Higher Education Data Warehousing Forum (HEDW) 2011 Conference

April 3-5, 2011

Seattle, Washington.

The annual get-together on the other side of the ocean for BI types. Sunday training on the program includes Stephen Few on 'Dashboard Design for At-a-Glance Monitoring' and the Keynote: Ken Collier, Agile Consultant and Author on Agile DW/BI.

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

Conference of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

4-7 April, 2011

Madrid, Spain

The conference theme is "Quality Assurance: Foundation for the Future" with four subthemes:

- Globalizing forces and national/regional goals in higher education: emerging issues
- Professionalization of quality assurance
- Effective QA processes for diversity, development and sustainability
- Independence of QA vis a vis different stakeholders

<http://www.inqaahe.org/madrid-2011>

AUA Jubilee Conference and Exhibition

18-20 April, 2011

University of Nottingham, UK

This will be the 40th annual conference of The Association of University Administrators (AUA) with the theme "Looking back, looking forward and looking beyond".

<http://www.aua.ac.uk/events/conference/index.htm>

The 9th Annual Higher Education Summit

27-29 April 2011

Sofitel Brisbane

The third of three conferences at the start of the year focused on Higher Education. Professor Denise Bradley AC, Interim Chair, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency appears in all three. Includes the usual substantial line-up of VCs doing presentations. If you haven't already received the brochure find out the details [here](#).

Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum

May 21-25, 2011

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Ontario

AIR's crossing the border into Canada for their forum this year with the theme 'Passport to new ideas and better decisions'. Be prepared to be amongst at least 1500+ other delegates if you go. It's HUGE with more than 450 presentations. You can't say you're starved for choice.

<http://forum.airweb.org/2011/>

HEIR Conference

16-17 June 2011

Kingston upon Thames, London

The 4th UK and Ireland Higher Education Institutional Research (HEIR) Conference. If you're quick, you can still get in by the proposal [deadline](#) of 7 February. Details [here](#). The theme is Scanning the Horizons : Institutional research in a borderless world. <http://www.heir2011.org.uk/>

Australian Quality Forum (AUQF)

29 June to 1 July 2011

Melbourne, Australia

The forum theme is 'Demonstrating Quality'. [Deadline](#) for submissions is 1 April 2011 <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2011/>

Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) Annual Forum

July 23-27, 2011

National Harbor, MD (USA)

(Just outside of Washington DC and Alexandria, VA)

The forum theme is 'Integrated Solutions – how and Now'.

<http://www.scup.org/page/annualconf/46>

TEMC 2011

14-17 August 2011

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland

The conference theme is Riding the Waves.

[Deadline](#) for abstract submissions is 5 April <http://temc.org.au/>

EAIR Forum

28-31 August 2011

Warsaw, Poland

EAIR's 33rd forum has the theme 'Bridging cultures, promoting diversity: higher education in search of an equilibrium'

Posters [deadline](#) is 1 May 2011.

<http://www.eair.nl/forum/warsaw/>

If you need some tips on doing an effective poster, try [here](#)

AAIR Data warehouse/Load Management/DEEWR SIG Forum

Will be in early August in Canberra
For further information contact Fiona Sutherland at ANU, fiona.sutherland@anu.edu.au

NEWSLETTER NOTES

1. ALTC - Collateral Damage?

Various Federal Government funding cuts have been announced along with a levy to fund the massive flood recovery bill. Unfortunately, cuts have included the abolition of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC), and the Capital Development Pool.

Some commentary from Andrew Norton at: <http://andrewnorton.info/2011/01/28/a-low-quality-higher-education-spending-cut/>.

2. ABS Data and Floods

Be aware that the floods affect the ABS stats as per this [media release](#).

3. Research Rankings

With the [ERA 2010 National report](#) released recently, rankings tables were quickly compiled. The Australian's is [here](#) with plenty of commentary articles, if you can't manage the 314 pages. The report provides the outcomes of the ERA 2010 evaluations, which applies to research undertaken between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2008.

4. When is a Difference Really a Difference?

With thanks to Gavin Moodie:

Barely a year goes by, it seems, before the Commonwealth proposes yet another survey of student satisfaction to rank universities by.

Commonwealth officials seem determined to allocate substantial funds on very small institutional differences in student satisfaction. A similar survey in the UK has been examined by Jacqueline H S Cheng and Herbert W Marsh. Marsh, you may recall, was a member of the University of Western Sydney from 1980 until he accepted a chair in educational studies at Oxford in 2006. Cheng and Marsh recently published a paper in the Oxford Review of Education volume 36, issue 6 (pages 693 – 712) titled 'National Student Survey: are differences between universities and courses reliable and meaningful?'

Their abstract describes their study well –

The National Student Survey (NSS) of course experience satisfaction is sent to final year students of all higher education institutions in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (N = 171,290 and 157,342 students in 2005 and 2006) and results are made publicly available. The present investigation assesses the reliability and appropriate use of the NSS from a multilevel perspective. Although NSS responses provide a limited basis for discriminating amongst

universities and courses within universities, the ratings of universities are highly reliable and stable over time due to the large number of students (2005 and 2006 rankings correlated $r = .86$). The unresolved question is whether very small (only 2-3% of the variance explained) but reliable and stable differences between universities provide useful information for benchmarking universities, self-improvement, and informing student choice.

5. Apprenticeships and traineeships: participation, progress and completion

This briefing paper draws together findings from two LSAY (Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth) research reports: 'Participation in and progress through New Apprenticeships'; and the 'VET pathways taken by school leavers'. These two reports use data obtained from young people who were in Year 9 at school in 1995 and whose educational and occupational activities were traced each year thereafter. You need to subscribe to view the report [here](#).

6. DEEWR Higher Education Base Funding Review

The consultation paper was released on 17 December 2010 and submissions are due in by 31 March 2011.

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

7. Academic Workforce Planning NZ

With thanks to Kathie Rabel for alerting me to this one:

This report by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL) entitled 'Academic Workforce Planning - Towards 2020' was commissioned by Universities New Zealand - Te Pōkai Tara (Universities NZ) with funding support from the Tertiary Education Commission. Having skimmed through the summary it seems like the story is very familiar. <http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/node/488>

With thanks to Rob Sheehan for the following three items:

8. Hong Kong Aspirations

Hong Kong's University Grants Committee has produced a report to the Government of Hong Kong SAR, entitled Aspirations for the higher education system in Hong Kong. It was released in December 2010. It covers a lot of territory, with a bit of a focus on QA objectives and facilitation of pathways via a coherent credit transfer system. The url is: <http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/publication/report/her2010/her2010.htm>

9. VET Workforce in Shape

Before Christmas, the Productivity Commission released the Vocational education and training workforce draft report. Overall, the Commission reckons the VET workforce – in terms of numbers and capability – is in good nick, but notes some areas that need attention – probably pretty smartly. The almost total lack of data on private providers is one thing to get moving on. More flexible IR arrangements is another thing to get moving on. And there's a need to get cracking on ensuring the Cert IV in Training and Education is delivered well, along with better-targetted professional learning and improved attention to industry currency of VET practitioners. A small agenda. The url is: <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/education-workforce/vocational/draft>

10. Does work and study work?

NCVER released in January a report entitled Outcomes from combining work and tertiary study. It looks at outcomes for both VET and higher education students and is based on data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth. I've only had a look at the Exec Summary so don't have the detail yet, but it's on my list to work through. It's a useful study because it actually gives a bit of breadth and depth to the long-running debate about young people who combine study and work have a tougher time succeeding at their studies – a perspective that would seem odd, in any case, for an apprentice or trainee. The url is: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2320.html>

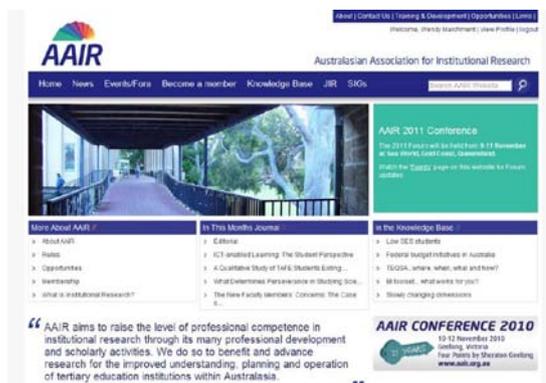
CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE BASE MODERATORS

The AAIR Committee is still looking for [Knowledge Base](#) moderators. Contact Liesha Northover if you are interested. Email info@air.org.au See December e-Newsletter at <http://air.org.au/news> for further details

Thanks to Haley Caldwell from VU who has agreed to moderate a group called 'New AIRies'. This will provide a forum for those who have just joined AIR and who may completely new to IR or who have been in IR for a while but unaware of AIR. More information on that group will be available over the next month or so.

AAIR WEBSITE

The new AIR website released at the 2010 AIR Forum continues to be updated. All past papers for the [AIR Fora](#) are now on the new website as well as all previous [JIR publications](#). Please feel free to provide any feedback on the website that can help us make it useful to our members.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Visual Business Intelligence Workshop 23-25 Feb 2011 Melbourne

Altis Consulting is hosting courses taught by industry thought leaders including Kimball University, Stephen Few and Ralph Hughes during 2011. First up is the Visual Business Intelligence Workshop. Check them out at http://altis.com.au/education_calendar.php

POSITIONS VACANT

Universities Australia is after a Director - Policy & Analysis. Closes Friday 18 February 2011. <http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/page/about-us/positions-vacant/>

FOR THE PODDIES, VODDIES AND BLOGGIES

1. The Joy of Stats

Yes, you read it right, stats can be 'fun'. If you haven't seen a Hans Rosling presentation, this is for you.

http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2010/12/d_ata_visualisation

If this short video whets your appetite, there's more of Hans available on TED talks, including this one which includes an explanation of why he and others developed the software that he uses for visual presentations

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen.html

2. Academics' Health

Radio National's Ockham's Razor has an historical investigation of the occupational health of academics. Probably not to be digested with lunch. A different view of our learned colleagues as Professor Yasmin Haskell from the University of Western Australia discusses some of the ailments associated with the sedentary scholarly lifestyle.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2010/3088102.htm>

3. Changing Education Paradigms

This animate was adapted from a talk given at the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) by Sir Ken Robinson, world-renowned education and creativity expert and recipient of the RSA's Benjamin Franklin award. Here is someone who's pushing the status quo in education and how we teach. It resonates with me.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U&feature=player_embedded

You can view the video of the full 55minute speech [here](#)

4. What Motivates Us?

An oldie but a goodie. Another RSA Animate, adapted from Dan Pink's talk at the RSA, illustrates the hidden truths behind what really motivates us at home and in the workplace. You may be surprised by the findings.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc&feature=player_embedded

The full talk on video is [here](#).

LIGHT RELIEF

http://www.jokelibrary.net/education/after_m/stat-dilbert.html

A DISTRACTION

In the interests of a different break from that tedious task whilst improving your brain capacity, try the brain games on

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

Lumosity partners with researchers at Stanford, UCSF, Harvard, and Columbia, among other prestigious universities. Of course, you can only be distracted for a limited time period unless you pay up. In the meantime there's various options including an assessment of where you could improve your brain capacity.

AND JUST REMEMBER...

63% of all statistics are made up... including this one.

Dilbert

AAIR Committee – 2011

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Deadline for submissions to the March AAIR e-Newsletter is Monday 28 February 2011. Send to editor@air.org.au

This could be about an article, report, website or book, an event or training opportunity, staff movements, positions vacant, introducing yourself to other AAIRies or anything else that you think may be of interest.

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