

When spiders unite,  
they can tie down a lion.  
(Ethiopian proverb)

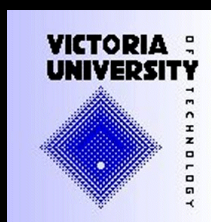
# STARLINK

Issue 40  
June 2000

This issue of Starlink has several enclosures related to resources or issues in the body of the newsletter, in order to provide further information to readers. Thank you to all who submitted items - and please keep them coming! As usual, a proforma is also enclosed with contact details for forwarding any items of interest or good resources etc. Remember Starlink can be freely photocopied and distributed - so please pass it on to any others in your school, organisation or network who may be interested!

Cheers  
Sue James  
Phone: 0410-635-785

Starlink is proudly sponsored by



## Know Drama

Enclosed with this issue of Starlink is a flyer about Know Drama, which offers a process approach to training. Creative strategies adapted from the arts engage learners in a fun and moving journey. Workshops are tailored to suit many issues across health and the school curricula. Sensitive facilitation allows issues to be explored in depth well beyond the stereotypes and the cliches. An active and stimulating way to explore subtleties often overlooked by blanket theories and texts. Humanising learning, engaging the learner: creative ideas for staff development: available daily sessions, PD Days and conferences.  
Darron Davies  
Know Drama, PO Box 146  
Ballarat, Victoria 3353  
darron@knowdrama.com  
www.knowdrama.com  
Mobile: 0418 372 625

## The Giraffe Project <http://www.giraffe.org>

The Giraffe Project is a US-based initiative, designed to encourage community involvement across a range of issues:

*"America needs people with vision and courage—willing to stick their necks out and take responsibility for solving tough problems, from violence to hunger to pollution. The Giraffe Project has been finding these*

*"Giraffes" since 1982, and telling their stories in the media, from podiums and in schools, inspiring others to stick their necks out."*



There are various useful and interesting articles, resources and stories available on the site, for example *It's Up to Us* by John Graham, which is a guide for teens who want to get involved in the community and

**"...people with vision and courage—willing to stick their necks out and take responsibility for solving tough problems"**

Whole New World

Enclosed with this issue of Starlink is a one-page information sheet, including contact details, about Whole New World. This is a commercially available (fee for service) program aimed at Year 12 students, which focuses on informing them about safe ways to attend licensed venues when they turn 18.

## Social Marketing for the New Millennium (2000) by Douglas Franklin

This publication is one of several useful resources available from the Foundation for Young Australians. It is a do-it-yourself manual for NGOs and community and voluntary associations. Provides practical tips on formulating and implementing effective Social Marketing campaigns to forge partnerships and win both

corporate and public support.  
Trust for Young Australians  
Head Office  
Level 12, Bourke Place  
600 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
GPO Box 239E  
Melbourne 3001  
Telephone: 03 9670 5436  
Fax: 03 9609 3246  
Email: headoffice@youngaustralians.org  
Website: www.

## Methods of Adolescent Suicide Prevention

<http://www.psychiatrist.com/supplenet/v60s02/60s0214.htm>

This article from the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry: discusses teen suicide risk factors, prevention screening, and current trends.



"The more you have a culture that focuses on kids treating others with respect, the less you'll need rules for behavior."  
(Kent Peterson, University of Wisconsin, Madison)

## Successful Learning Project

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

This web site provides a wide range of very useful information and resources, and is well worth a visit. Those interested can also subscribe to a regular email newsletter.

*Successful Learning* is the title given to a series of Victorian Government initiatives which

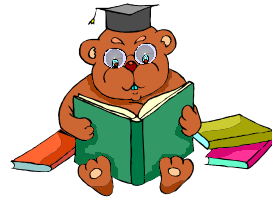
offer support and encouragement for young people who are at risk of not completing their schooling, or who are not engaged in education. The *Successful Learning Website* is one of these initiatives and is a partnership between the Victorian

Department of Education, Employment and Training, and Victoria University.

To prepare for the introduction of the Youth Allowance, Victoria undertook a series of research projects to look at ways of

increasing the participation of young people in education. Findings from the *Successful Learning Reports* are that young people at risk of not completing school are likely to require learning experiences that:

- are relevant to their culture and the community they live in
- meet the student's individual needs and build on their previous experience
- involve practical and experiential learning
- incorporate student negotiation, working cooperatively with others and in teams, time management,
- enhance written and oral communication skills,



- reward the students by giving credit in some form, preferably as a part of a qualification, or provide other incentives
- are explicit about where they lead

The *Successful Learning Website* project aims to:

- document projects in the Commonwealth's Full Service Schools Programme
- document other related initiatives
- provide opportunities for discussion on good practice between teachers

Alliance of Schools - New Apprenticeship Program (ASNAP)  
<http://www.asnap.com.au/>

ASNAP was established to co-ordinate VET in Schools programs for the Catholic school sector in Queensland. The website describes how the program attempts to link school to work, by fostering partnerships between industry, schools and the training system.

## Vocational Programs for Schools Unit (VPSU)

<http://www.zip.com.au/~jsst/>

As part of the Educational Development Directorate of the NSW Department of Education and Training, the Unit manages programs and curriculum offerings for

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools specifically for students in years 11 & 12. The site provides information on courses and a range of



## From Now On

The Educational Technology Journal  
<http://fno.org>. This web site offers a range of useful information related to teaching and learning and the use of technology to enhance these. A number of articles are available on line and make interesting reading. Various *From Now On* articles are also distributed free by email - those interested can subscribe from the web site.

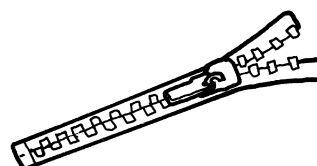
### Victorian Youth Round Tables

Enclosed with this issue of *Starlink* is an information sheet about the Youth Round Tables, providing a brief outline of the initiative and a telephone number to contact for further information. The Victorian Youth Round Tables have been initiated by the Office of Youth Affairs and will be held on a regular basis to allow young people themselves to inform Government on issues affecting them.

### Centrelink Unzipped

From 1 May, all Year 10 students in Australia will receive a copy of Centrelink's new magazine, 'Unzipped' along with the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs' (DETYA) Job Guide. 'Unzipped' provides young people with information on Centrelink services and support and is available from all Centrelink Customer Service Centres.

For further information contact:  
Brendan Cooper  
Media Adviser  
Phone: (02) 6277 7240 or 0409 397 349.



Without our own collaborative efforts, we struggle to survive, to succeed, and to impact alone. Together, our contributions are cumulative and the chances of success rise exponentially  
(Karen Hacker, MD)



## Drug Use Prevention On-Line

<http://www.samhsa.gov/csap/modelprograms>

The US based Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) launched its on-line national dissemination system for science-based model drug-use prevention programs. The system provides information and technical assistance about effective substance abuse programs. It also promotes national partnerships among groups interested in improving substance abuse in their communities.

**DRUGS AREN'T THE ANSWER.**

## At-Risk Youth Young people's perspectives on education, training, work and life.

The Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) has commissioned the Australian Centre for Equity through Education (ACEE) and the Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne, to undertake a national research project called 'Strategies for engaging "at-risk" youth in education to Year 12'. The project is part of the Commonwealth's 'Full

Service Schools Programme' which addresses the Commonwealth Government's priority of reducing youth unemployment by encouraging young people under 18 to remain at school to complete Year 12. The research will involve asking young people about the complexities that make up their lives and where they see education, training, work and lifestyle factors fitting into this pattern or journey. The

research will involve interviewing 1800 young people nationally. The young people will be both in and out of schools, in rural metro and regional locations.  
Source = YOUTH FIELD XPRESS (Newsletter of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies) No. 45, April 2000. This edition is online at [http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/yfx/2000\\_04.htm](http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/yfx/2000_04.htm)

## Classroom Leadership Online <http://www.ascd.org/frameclasslead.html>

This US site has a range of on-line articles from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, for example:

- *Using Literature to Build Emotionally Healthy Adolescents*

- *Promoting Health Behavior Change*  
Follow the links from this page to current and past issues of publications, containing articles on a very wide range of subjects related to good classroom



## What Works: Promoting Positive Youth Development in Your Community

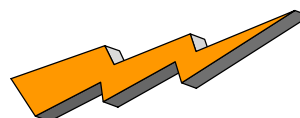
Provides highlights of effective, evaluated programs in a number of areas related to youth development. Available on the web for download:  
<http://www.ahs.state.vt.us>



## Attention Problems

Attention Problems is a special edition of a US publication, *Communique* (Spring, 2000), which is published by the National Association of School Psychologists. The set of articles provides an overview of attention problems, examples of interventions for parents and teachers, and resources for more info.

Download at <http://www.naspweb.org/center/pubs.htm>  
Or contact: NASP Center, 4340 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814.



We prefer the simplicity and satisfaction of holding individuals responsible for whatever happens: crime, poverty, school failure, what have you. Thus, even when one high school crisis is followed by another, we concentrate on the particular people involved - their values, their character, their personal failings - rather than asking whether something about the system in which these students find themselves might also need to be addressed."



## MindMatters

MindMatters is a national mental health promotion program for secondary schools. A range of excellent resources is available on the Mind Matters web site, all available for downloading in PDF format or ordering from Mind Matters. Those currently available are:

- School Matters - mapping and managing mental health in schools
- Educating for Life - a guide for school-based

responses to preventing self-harm and suicide

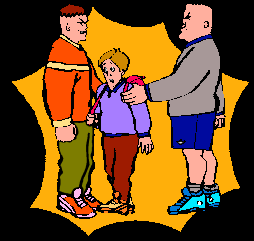
- Enhancing Resilience 1 - Communication, Changes and Challenges
- Enhancing Resilience 2 - Stress and Coping
- A Whole School Approach to Dealing with Bullying and Harrassment
- Understanding Mental Illness
- Loss and Grief

" When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried"

- Mental Health Information Brochures ( a series of brochures produced through the National
- Mental Health Strategy)

Visit the Mind Matters web site at: <http://203.24.26.102/mindmatters/index.htm>

Or contact:  
MindMatters  
Curriculum Corporation  
PO Box 172  
Carlton South



## Anti-Bullying Web Sites

I have a range of 14 web sites related to this issue listed in an html file that can be loaded into a browser so links can be followed to the sites mentioned. (The sites listed have been selected from a much larger number found through a web search, as those most useful) Readers interested in obtaining a copy of the list, please email me with a request at: [soup@dingobluenet.au](mailto:soup@dingobluenet.au)  
Sue James



## Improving the Lives of Young Victorians in Our Community - Launch & Reports <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/>

The Community Care Division of the Department of Human Services (Victoria) has published on its web site results of the *Survey of Risk and Protective Factors*. Work on this survey has been conducted by the Centre for Adolescent Health in Melbourne, and puts similar work done by Richard Catalano and David Hawkins in the US into an Australian context.

Research reports available on line include the full survey report, a summary report, and a *Menu of Services*, which lists programs that have been identified as best practice strategies available in Australia for reducing risk and promoting resilience in young people.

To find the available documents, visit <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/> and follow



links through Community Care Division - What's New - Risk and Protective Factors in Young People

*"This is the most comprehensive report to date about Victoria's young people. Based on the survey responses of 9,000 young people, the findings are broadly consistent with previous surveys of young people's behaviour.*

*This survey is the first of its kind, however, to provide strong evidence that challenges, refutes or confirms a number of commonly held views and beliefs about young people. It is this evidence base that provides us with a clear starting point to address the underlying causes and symptoms of the problems faced by young people.*

*The Survey highlights many salient points about Victoria's young people, their families and their diverse communities with regard to metropolitan and rural similarities, and gender and age issues. Covering the most problematic areas of substance abuse, anti-social behaviour, mental health and related social issues, the Survey provides us with pertinent and detailed information about our young people in the context of their*

**When children don't feel valued, they feel alienated.  
When they feel alienated, sometimes they do antisocial things.  
This is not an isolated issue. It's something our whole country needs to work on.**

Elaine Koury