

Youth Field Xpress — A Wealth of Information

A wealth of useful news and updates, Youth Field Xpress is the electronic newsletter of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, at the University of Tasmania.

To subscribe to Youth Field Express, visit

<http://www.acys.utas.edu.au>

Some recent extracts are listed here.

Futures for Australia's Children

This is a conference organised by the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria as part of their 90th birthday celebrations. The program includes overseas and interstate guest speakers and workshop leaders. With the theme, 'Futures for Australia's Children', CWAV hopes to advance the discussions it initiated last year about the need for a children's strategy for Victoria and about possible models for an Office for Children. Date: 28-30 October 2002; venue: La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus, Melbourne Victoria

Contact:

Current Events, ph: (03) 9596 4333; fax: (03) 9596 4207;

email: email@currentevents.com.au

Web site: <http://www.currentevents.com.au>

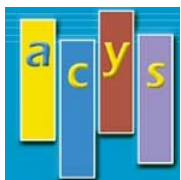
Youth Homelessness 2001

A research program funded by all State and Territory governments and the Salvation Army, July 2002

Reporting on a youth homelessness census conducted in August 2001 among 1,930 schools and Supported Assistance Accommodation Program services across Australia, research published in July 2002 shows that 8.4 per cent more youth aged 12-18 are homeless today than was the case 7 years ago when the last youth census was conducted. The report, 'Youth Homelessness 2001', shows more than 26,000 young people are homeless. The research was conducted by Associate Professor Chris Chamberlain from RMIT University's Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, and David MacKenzie, Director of RMIT University's Centre for Youth Affairs Research and Development. The 54-page report can be downloaded in PDF format from:

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/tce/ssp/yh>

The Salvation Army has called for a number of recommendations following the report, see: <http://www.salvationarmy.org.au>



Responsible media reporting of suicide issues

'Mindframe-media' is an online companion to the hard copy publication 'Reporting Suicide and Mental Illness: A resource for media professionals'. The resource was recently launched, and was developed with the assistance of media professionals, suicide and mental health experts and consumer organisations to inform responsible and appropriate reporting of suicide and mental illness, to minimise harm and copycat behaviour, and reduce the stigma and discrimination experienced by people who have or have had a mental illness. Case studies, new statistics, current research and updated contact details will be added to the site over the coming months. See: <http://www.mindframe-media.info/> or phone (08) 8404 2999 for the print publication.

SANE's 'Media Briefing' and 'Factsheets' provide authoritative information on diagnosis and current related issues in PDF format, at: <http://www.sane.org/mrbrief.pdf>

Office for Youth - Victoria

In Victoria, the Office for Youth have revamped their web site -- see 'Respect: The Government's Vision for Young People', at: <http://www.youth.vic.gov.au/>

Voiceworks

The only national magazine dedicated to publishing the work of artists and writers under 25, Voiceworks is celebrating its 50th year with its September 2002 edition. This quarterly magazine is the flagship project of Express Media, and is written, edited and produced entirely by young people. We welcome submissions on any topic and in any style. Each issue has a theme to which contributors are invited to respond, or you may wish to submit work unrelated to the theme. All contributors receive payment for their work upon publication. We also welcome inquiries from individuals, schools and other organisations, and can tailor workshops for specific needs. Express Media was founded in 1985, the International Year of Youth. Since then, its programs have given countless young people the chance to participate in exhibitions, performances, online projects and various writing, media and arts projects (spoken word, photography, web site design, radio presentation, journalism and creative writing). Their annual program of special events are often presented in conjunction with such organisations as Triple J, National Young Writers Festival, Melbourne Fringe, 3RRR and the Next Wave Festival. See:

<http://www.expressmedia.org.au/>

Parenting

Frozen Futures: Ninth Annual Meeting of Australian Association for Infant Mental Health is a conference exploring the effects of early stress on later outcomes; organised by the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health and the National Investment for the Early Years, 14-16 November 2002. Venue: The Holme, University of Sydney. Contact: Graham Vimpani, Director, Child Adolescent and Family Health Service, Child and Youth Health Network, Newcastle; register through Conference Action Pty Ltd, ph: (02) 9437 9333; fax: (02) 9901 4586; email: confact@conferenceaction.com.au.

Ybblue

This project relating to depression and youth suicide prevention is planning to launch nationally early in 2003. For information, contact Lynne Garrick the project manager, based at Toowong Private Hospital, PO Box 822, Toowong Queensland 4066; ph: (07) 3721 8086; email: lgarrick@toowongprivatehospital.com.au

Young People in Care Report card — CREATE Foundation

On 28 August, the CREATE Foundation, Australia's peak body representing children and young people in care, released its second report card on how well Governments across Australia are meeting the educational needs of children and young people in care. The report card provides a platform for education and community service departments to continue the work already begun, and recommends steps to take to improve the opportunities of children and young people in care. "For children and young people in care we still do not know how they are performing educationally compared to their peers, how long they are staying at school, what level they are achieving when leaving school or even if they are attending school regularly." See: <http://www.create.org.au>

As a society, we do a lot of finger-pointing and blaming. Parents blame schools, schools blame parents, we all blame the media. But we need to remember: in an avalanche, no one snowflake is responsible.

(Deborah Prothrow-Stith)

Behind the Front Page

LOCAL DRUG STRATEGIES CONFERENCE

4 OCTOBER 2002

ST. KILDA TOWN HALL, MELBOURNE



The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Australian Drug Foundation and the Cities of Port Phillip and Melbourne, will convene the Local Drug Strategies Conference on Friday 4 October 2002.

The conference, titled "Behind The Front Page: Dealing With The Real Issues Relating To Drug Use In Our Community", will cover the themes of:

- Debunking the myths associated with drugs and alcohol
- Working with communities effectively and building community connectedness

- Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities
- Public space management

The keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg. Michael is an adolescent psychologist working at the Albert Road Centre for Health in Melbourne. He specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health. Michael will speak about the impact of alcohol and drugs on families and communities.

A series of interactive workshops will be conducted by experienced facilitators who will present a range of perspectives to encourage participants to engage in discussion and debate.

The conference organisers welcome registrations from local government, the drug and alcohol sector, community organisations, government departments, students and anybody interested in local drug strategies.

For further information contact:

Glenn Menner

Community Development & Policy Officer
Local Governments Drug Project
VLGA

Phone: (03) 9654 0333

Email: glenn@vlga.org.au

Website: <http://www.vlga.org.au>

Why Boards Micromanage - And How to Get Them to Stop

http://www.help4nonprofits.com/NP_Bd_MicroManage_Art.htm

If we were to ask nonprofit leaders for their top three complaints about boards, micromanagement would absolutely make that list.

Both board members and CEOs talk about board micromanagement as if it were the weather – they complain about it, but they don't figure there's much they can do about it.

If boards micromanage because they don't know what else to do, then the obvious

solution is to show them a different role. If boards micromanage because they are concerned and/or scared, then the obvious solution is to allay those fears. And finally, if board members micromanage because we've asked them to act as staff, then the obvious solution is not to ask them to perform staff functions.

This article highlights numerous effective strategies for nonprofit board development.

Educational Justice

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

Our mission is to promote quality education for students of all races and cultures. To achieve this, we need to tackle issues of educational equity, culture, and institutional racism in education.

How do we take on these issues?

By building a community where we can have important dialogues

By sharing each other's resources

By making our individual efforts contribute as much as possible to the collective effort for all our children.

There is a huge range of resources either on this site or accessible via links from the site. Well worth the browse!!



LATERAL THINKING

An eccentric philosophy professor gave a one question final exam after a semester dealing with a broad array of topics.

The class was already seated and ready to go when the professor picked up his chair, plopped it on his desk and wrote on the board: "Using everything we have learned this semester, prove that this chair does not exist."

Fingers flew, erasers erased, notebooks were filled in furious fashion. Some students wrote over 30 pages in one hour attempting to refute the existence of the chair. One member of the class however, was up and finished in less than a minute.

Weeks later when the grades were posted, the rest of the group wondered how he could have gotten an A when he had barely written anything at all. His answer consisted of two words: "What chair?"

I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it.
(Jonathan Winters)

Teaching Tips

<http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/teachtip.htm>

This website is packed with interesting tips, techniques and articles. Although designed for an American audience of tertiary-level teachers, there is a great deal here applicable to Australia and to teachers at all levels of education!



Teaching for Change

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

Teaching for Change is based in Washington DC and is a not-for-profit organization that promotes social and economic justice through public education.

There is an on-line catalogue for hundreds of books, videos, and posters for the K-12 classroom. The section entitled *Behind the Headlines* provides sources for a critical analysis of current issues in the news.

Although based in the US, resources and articles are also useful for an Australian context.

Participation Support for a More Equitable Society

http://www.facs.gov.au/welfare_reform_final/home.htm

Starlink readers who do not yet have a copy of this report may find this site an interesting read. *Participation Support for a More Equitable Society* was published in August 2000 and is the final report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform. (Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services)



Girl Power!

<http://www.girlpower.gov/>

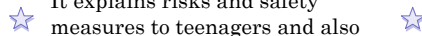
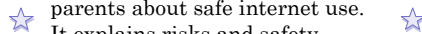
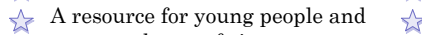
US based web site designed to help *encourage and motivate 9- to 14- year-old girls to make the most of their lives. Girls at 8 or 9 typically have very strong attitudes about their health, so Girl Power! seeks to reinforce and sustain these positive values among girls ages 9-14 by targeting health messages to the unique needs, interests, and challenges of girls*

Some useful and interesting resources, for example:

You're Not Alone

<http://www.girlpower.gov/girlarea/notalone/index.htm>

Resources and information about living



And finally ...

NEW WORDS

FOR 2002 –

Essential Additions for the Workplace

Vocabulary

BLAMESTORMING: Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

SEAGULL MANAGER: A manager who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves.

ASSMOSIS: The process by which some people seem to absorb success and advancement by kissing up to the boss rather than working hard.

SALMON DAY: The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end.

CUBE FARM: An office filled with cubicles.

PRAIRIE DOGGING: When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

MOUSE POTATO: The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

SITCOMs: Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage. What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids.

STRESS PUPPY: A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiney.

SWIPEOUT: An ATM or credit card that has been rendered useless because the magnetic strip is worn away from extensive use.

IRRITAINMENT: Entertainment and media spectacles that are annoying but you find yourself unable to stop watching them.

PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE: The fine art of whacking the s**t out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

ADMINISPHERE: The rarefied organizational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the adminisphere are often profoundly inappropriate or relevant to the problems they were designed to solve.

OHNOCSECOND: That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.

WOOFYS: Well Off Older Folks. A mythological beast, often told of but rarely seen.