

Making Links 2007

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

Where

NSW Teachers Federation
Conference Centre, Sydney

When

30th - 31st October 2007

Web 2.0, social networking, Wikis, open source software, digital storytelling, VOIP, SMS reminders – how many of us could have defined these terms, even two years ago?

While the acceleration of technological change presents both technical and financial challenges for the community sector, many not-for-profit and activist organisations are successfully using new technology to forward our vision of social justice.

The annual Making Links conference is one of Australia's leading forums for workers and activists in the not-for-

profit and community sectors to showcase their work, share their experiences and learn new skills.

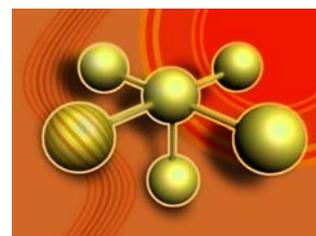
Making Links is a conference that seeks to engage interested people, organisations and groups working at the intersection of social action and IT - including community workers, educators, trainers, not-for-profit organisations, school teachers, environmental campaigners and activists. The Conference seeks to:

- Contribute actively to the strengthening of the information technology (IT) infrastructure and capacity of community organisations by bringing the sector together to access resources, training and services, to share ideas, skills and creative applications of technology, and to increase access to and familiarity with more

complex and emerging technologies, including multimedia, online and interactive capabilities.

- Explore the possibilities generated for communities in accessing and utilising information technology, particularly those communities whose voices have been marginalized and excluded from the mainstream.
- Showcase innovative, grass roots IT initiatives in community cultural development, outreach, and e-learning.
- Build and develop networks amongst workers and activists interested in how IT can be used to support social justice.

The conference, which started in 2004, is organised by a steering committee composed of representatives from a range of not-for-profit organisations



Child & Family Web Guide

<http://www.cfw.tufts.edu/>

This WebGuide from Tufts University is a directory that evaluates, describes and provides links to hundreds of sites containing child development research and practical advice.

Resources are grouped under five main categories:

- family/parenting
- education/learning
- typical child development
- health/mental health
- resources/recreation

The first four categories contain sites with research-based information. The fifth category, resources/recreation, contains sites with information about specific programs and things to do. The resources/recreation sites, which were added at the request of parents, do not contain research-based information.

The WebGuide also offers an option of searching for sites that are especially relevant to a particular age group (topics by age) and it offers several features requested by parents (e.g., ask an expert sites; research news sites.)

Your Eyes Only (Grants Now Open)

(From The Foundation for Young Australians)

Your Eyes Only is a grant opportunity for young people 12 -15 years to celebrate the strengths of their community by submitting a creative entry celebrating their community through their eyes.

Successful applicants will nominate a community group working with young people in their community, for example a school, youth group or sporting group, to receive a donation.

This donation would then be used by the community group to further its work by either purchasing much needed equipment or adding funds to an existing program.

This is the second round for 2007.

Entries close 17 September.

Application forms and more information available at www.youngaustralians.org

Contact us on 03 9670 5436 to receive free posters mailed to your organisation.



August Issue of AI Practitioner



AI Practitioner

The international journal of AI best practice



SOARing to High and Engaging Performance: An Appreciative Approach to Strategy

Guest editors Jackie Stavros and Gina Hinrichs

SOAR has emerged as an effective and flexible strategic framework that releases an organization's energy, creativity and engagement. SOAR inquires into strengths, opportunities, aspirations and measurable results.

The articles in this issue of the AI Practitioner highlight case studies in global business, with a nonprofit board as well as in a school district. There are also articles updating the SOAR framework from its original introduction to AIP readers in November 2003, and connecting SOAR with strengths-based theories.

In Business

A defense contractor and a global manufacturer show how SOAR can be used well at many levels and in many units in an organization. Focusing on appreciative conversations can also lead to improved professional relationships.

Put your appreciation into action by taking time to show your appreciation. Tell one or more people something you appreciate about them. Remember, what you put out comes back. (Doc Childre and Sara Paddison)



In the Social Realm

A library system, nonprofit board working as a virtual team, community college, school district and health system all show where SOAR made a significant difference when time was limited or people had lost hope.

Updating the SOAR Framework

The opening article highlights the steps and value of taking a strengths-based approach to strategic planning. There are four key lessons every strategic planner should know, and the final article sets out where SOAR connects to strategy and strengths-based theories encouraging the whole system into the process of creating positive change.

PLUS Information on Events

AIP is supporting two key events in November: Impact of AI on Research – Experience, Reflections and Thoughts for the Future; and Strength-based Leadership: Applying AI Principles and Process.

Find out more on events

<http://tinyurl.com/23fbu9>

To buy this issue, visit:

<http://www.aipractitioner.com/NewShop/aipracbackiss.htm>

To buy the November 2003 issue visit:

<http://www.aipractitioner.com/NewShop/aipracbackiss.htm>

Best wishes,
Anne

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Media on a Shoestring

Media on a Shoestring is a practical, easy to use book designed to help community organisations develop dynamic, effective media strategies on a realistic budget.

Available for \$45 (including GST) from:

The Media Team.

Suite 2, 16 Bougainville Street,

Manuka, ACT 2603

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

Phone: 02 6295 8300

Fax: 02 6295 8400

Gimundo Videos

<http://www.gimundo.com>

Gimundo.com is a website devoted to good news stories – a refreshing change from the majority of media coverage these days! (*Gimundo.com* was featured in the last issue of *Starlink Extra*, which electronic subscribers receive.)

On the Gimundo website, there is also a collection of inspiring and fun videos.

To see their collection, visit:

<http://www.gimundo.com/player.aspx>

For example, here are four recent videos guaranteed to brighten your day:

Live-Action Simpsons

British filmmakers shot a real-life intro to "The Simpsons." Sure to entertain!

Six-Year-Old Songbird

Six-year-old Connie auditions for Simon Cowell on "Britain's Got Talent."

Flautist Plays Familiar Theme Song

Watch as this talented flutist plays his flute and beat-boxes the "Inspector Gadget" theme song.

Elderly Folks Cover Rock Tunes

Geriatric musical group Young at Heart covers rock songs from some of the biggest stars. Watch and enjoy them playing The Ramones.



A Family Guide To Keeping Youth Mentally Healthy and Drug-Free

<http://www.family.samhsa.gov/>

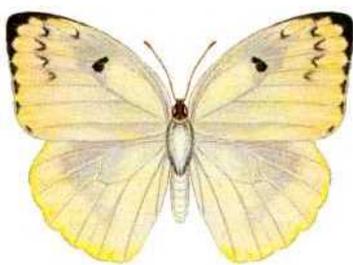
This is a public education Web site developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the US. Its aim is to:

"... communicate to parents and other caring adults about how they can help promote their child's mental health and reduce his or her risk for becoming

involved with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

The site's six main sections relate directly to what researchers and substance abuse prevention professionals term family-related "protective factors." These are situations and conditions that decrease a child's chances for engaging in drug-related and other risky behaviors.

The site also includes information about "risk factors" that increase children's risk for using alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. With content focusing on children aged 7 to 18, the site includes topics such as how to better communicate with young people, activities for promoting "family time," and what to say when discussing difficult issues."



Lemon Migrant Butterfly (Aust)

Settle In Australia

<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/index.htm>

Provides information for all new arrivals, including skilled migrants, family migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants.

Includes "Beginning a Life in Australia" booklets in English as well as 24 community languages.

Youth On Board (Philanthropy Australia)

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

The Philanthropy Australia publication, *Youth on Board - 14 Points to Successfully Involving Young People in Decision Making*, is a comprehensive handbook for anyone who is interested in working with young people in decision making roles.

It includes case studies, worksheets and handouts to help organisations work through the process of engaging young people.

Normally \$35 AUD, it is currently on special for only \$10 AUD and can be purchased online at:

<http://www.philanthropy.org.au/services/publications.htm>



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World's Most Ethical Companies for 2007



<http://ethisphere.com/2007-worlds-most-ethical-companies/>

Take a look at this 2007 Most Ethical Companies list. Some of the results may surprise you!

In assembling the 2007 rankings of the World's Most Ethical Companies, the researchers and editors of Ethisphere examined more than 5,000 companies

across 30 separate industries looking for true ethical leadership.

We looked for absolutes. We examined companies in the relational context of their industries. And we looked for influential leadership that moved others to change or follow.

Companies were measured in a rigorous eight-step process and then scored

against nine distinct ethical leadership criteria.

The winners of the World's Most Ethical Companies are the standouts. Each of these companies has materially higher scores versus competitors in their industries. Each forces other companies to follow its leadership or fall behind.

One Step Forward, A Glance Backwards



Reflections

CHRIS BENNETT

Recently I went to a basketball reunion and I met a player I had coached in the junior ranks in the mid seventies. He is now 44, married, and has two teenage sons who play basketball.

But I still see him as that 14 year old kid who played in our junior teams in the Victorian Championship competitions, in various country tournaments and in the local domestic competition.

As we talked, images and emotions of my own basketball experiences as a young basketball coach flickered through my head. The good times, the bad times, the mad times, the funny times - all jockeyed for position in my mind.

The past was alive for a moment in time and it felt good to revisit our youth.

But the future was also very much alive as I watched his two teenage sons enthusiastically play one-on-one basketball nearby.

Sometimes it's good for the soul to glance backwards and revisit past experiences, while also taking a step forward into the future.

Yet the most important moment for me is always the present.

It is in the here and now that I can best reflect on the past, create the future - and more importantly enjoy life to its fullest.



You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this. (Henry David Thoreau)