

Strengthening Community Organisations

<http://tinyurl.com/6e528y>

Several documents are downloadable from this website, including the *Review of Not-For-Profit Regulation Final Report* and the final *Victorian Government's Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations*:

Premier John Brumby launched the Victorian Government's Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations at the ACOSS Conference on 9 April 2008.

*The action plan responds to two reviews commissioned by the Victorian Government: the **Stronger Community Organisations project**, led by Professor Allan Fels, AO and the **Review of Not-for-Profit Regulation**, led by the State Services Authority. The establishment of the **Office for the Community Sector** at the **Department of Planning and Community Development** is one of the most significant outcomes in the 32-page report.*

The new office will be responsible for implementing the plan, which includes 25 actions to reduce red tape, build the capacity of sector workforce and strengthen the long term sustainability of the community organisations

Links in the left hand menu of this page provide additional resources in relation to community strengthening. The site is well-worth bookmarking and revisiting.



Ability Net

www.abilitynet.org.uk

Based in the UK, AbilityNet is a national charity helping disabled adults and children use computers and the internet by adapting and adjusting their technology.

A number of the resources on this site are of course related to services based in the UK, but

many are of general interest for anyone interested in accessibility issues and IT. For example, well worth checking out are the various articles, Factsheets, Skillsheets and the *My Computer My Way* web pages.

Use the various tabs and menu items to browse the site—you'll find lots of useful resources!



Youth Change Makers Grants

Applications are now open for The Foundation for Young Australians **Youth Change Makers** grants.

Youth Change Makers is a grant round supporting young people who are advocates for change in their community, with assistance of up to \$10,000 per applicant group

Individuals or small groups of young people aged 12-25 may apply for a Youth Change Maker grant. This can be done with the support of an organisation, for example, a community organisation or school, enterprise, youth group, or local government.

Applications for Youth Change Makers are now open and **close 6 October 2008**.

Further information, application forms and guidelines are available on The Foundation's website:

www.youngaustralians.org
or by calling 1800 252 316.

Gallery Sunshine

On Monday 16 June, Gallery Sunshine is holding a special event - the launch of an exhibition of work by artist Cecily Granites and her three granddaughters, Shimera (14), Nikkita (14) and Donisha (9) from Yuendumu, 300 km north west of Alice Springs.

The exhibition will continue until 12 July and will be followed by:

- Sabella Sizwe: inspired visions from Soweto's children, 14 July-8 August
- Sparkles (preschoolers), 11 August-11 September
- Concertina Books (secondary school students),

14 September-3 October

- Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program, 4 October-18 October
 - Sprint (primary and secondary schools), 20 October-12 November
 - Story (primary school students), 15 December-31 January
- All will take place at Granary Cafe, Harvester Centre, 2 Devonshire Road, Sunshine.

And don't forget to check out the website at

www.gallerysunshine.com

More information about exhibitions and special events is at:

www.gallerysunshine.com/Gallery_Sunshine/Coming_exhibition.html

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ASCD—Education Topic Resources

<http://www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd>

The Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (ASCD) website contains a wide range of resources very useful for educators.

Of particular interest for Starlink readers may be the extensive collection of resources under the Education Topics menu. <http://tinyurl.com/y4yss2>

Although primarily US based, membership of ASCD spans several countries:

Founded in 1943, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents 175,000 educators from more than 135 countries and 58 affiliates.

Our members span the entire profession of educators—superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, and school board members.

Education topics are short multimedia lessons on topics that interest all levels of educators. Each lesson includes a definition, short articles on the topic, audio and video files of experts and practitioners, and a listing of resources that you can use to continue your professional development.



View a negative experience in your life like you'd look at a photo negative. A single negative can create an unlimited number of positive prints. (Gerhard Gschwandtner)

Vibewire

<http://www.vibewire.net/>

Vibewire.net is a project run by Vibewire Inc, a non-profit youth media and arts organisation. It is designed to provide young Australians with a forum where they can comment on matters pertinent to their lives. It seeks to provide an alternative channel for youth expression, for those who are creative, political, or just plain interested and its goal is to engage young people in active citizenship through their involvement with local arts, culture, politics, current affairs, poetry, fiction, ideas and beliefs.

The website is run by young people for young people, who are invited to participate actively and submit articles, write blogs, or send images, videos or podcast material. There are also regular competitions for free passes and other giveaways. The site requires free registration.



"Building a constituency that invests in community organizing, social capital development, and political participation will foster those community conditions most conducive to positive health outcomes." (Improving Children's Health)

Improving Children's Health

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageNavigator/publications>

Available from The Children's Health Fund in the US is a report entitled *Improving Children's Health: Understanding Children's Health Disparities and Promising Approaches to Address Them*.

The report is available as a downloadable PDF file from the above web page.

Worth reading, the report has several findings and recommendations also applicable to the Australian context.

Starlink readers may also be interested to browse the Caregiver Guides at: <http://tinyurl.com/22p8tj>

Why New Teachers Leave and Why New Teachers Stay

http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/issues/summer06/intro.htm

This report from the *American Educator* makes for interesting reading. (Download the full article from the above web site)

For Australian readers the report provides some interesting food for thought in relation to the similarities and differences between Australia and the US and how we are supporting our own new teachers.



When we examined teachers' reasons for staying in their school, transferring to another school, or leaving public school teaching entirely, we realized there were three distinct kinds of schools—and only one of them was doing a good job supporting, and holding on to, new teachers. The key was in the schools' professional culture.

A Mission of the Heart

<http://tinyurl.com/4ta3zc>

From this webpage, you can download the report, *A Mission of The Heart: Leaders in High-Needs Districts Talk about What It Takes to Transform a School*

Although this research was conducted in the United States, the report also makes for interesting reading within an Australian context!

What does it really take to transform a troubled school into one where students thrive? What do principals actually do during the school day? What traits and skills do they consider essential to turning a struggling school around?

Prepared for The Wallace Foundation by Public Agenda, "A Mission of the Heart: Leaders in High-Needs Districts Talk about What It Takes to Transform a School" attempts to understand the best ways to recruit and sustain top leaders in high-needs schools. The study is based on in-depth focus groups with principals in high-needs districts and sixteen one-on-one interviews with superintendents and other high-ranking education officials, including a state superintendent of education.

The study reveals that principals often fall into two distinct categories: "Transformers" and "Copers." Transformers had an explicit vision for what their school might be and a "can do" attitude about changing the status quo. Copers were often caring and well-intentioned, but rarely able to do more than just "cope" with the turmoil of the day. Other observations from the study touch on topics ranging from managing teaching staff to whether top-notch principals are "made" or "born."



Pigs Will Fly

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

If you have a passion for such things as community connections and sustainable development and would like to connect with others who share that passion, you will enjoy visiting Pigs Will Fly! As founder and editor, Gail Plowman says:

Australians have a 'can do' spirit. It comes naturally to help a mate and learn from the success of others. At the grassroots level small businesspeople, volunteers and government officers share the same goal. Both public and private sectors want to see sustainable development in their community - profitable businesses and employment opportunities while at the same time caring for the social, environmental and cultural things that make life worth living.

We'd love you to join our conversation about sustainable living, where we share the successes and pitfalls faced by grassroots small business, volunteers and community groups around Australia.

You can contribute by commenting or tipping us off with stories that show how we can balance local community needs with business success and jobs, without the expense to our natural and cultural heritage.

Let's take control of our own future!



Pigs Will Fly is Australia's only comprehensive network for business & community workers. It is an independent, self-funded, self-help website that provides an e-bulletin, Australia-wide jobs list, small business, tourism & community information.

Who's it for?

- small business owners
- event coordinators
- indigenous community leaders
- training & development officers
- enviro & heritage officers
- sport & rec officers
- neighbourhood house coordinators
- volunteers

Expect people to be better than they are; it helps them to become better. But don't be disappointed when they are not; it helps them to keep trying. (Merry Browne)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/search/topiclist.asp>

This web page contains links to a wide range of topics related to juvenile justice issues.

While the programs, funding opportunities and events are US-based, the other resources available are also relevant for an Australian context.

To view those resources, after clicking on any of the topic links, go to the "Publications" tab on the next page.



- HumourAdventure™
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Email: starlink@bjseminars.com.au

Web: www.bjseminars.com.au

- ... inspiring and connecting people

HumourAdventure at the Zoo



Are you looking for an energizing and very practical professional development activity for your staff this winter? You may like to consider HumourAdventure® at the Zoo!

This fun, interactive program takes full advantage of the beautiful Melbourne Zoo setting and includes delicious, fully-catered lunch and morning/afternoon teas.

It incorporates our unique AQ/KQ approach, using storytelling, Tai Chi, humour, juggling and other activities to engage "head, heart and hands" in the learning process. Activities include the opportunity to explore and enjoy the zoo environment - so in winter it's 'bring a broolly' day! :)

It will help your staff deal positively with stress, enhance workplace relationships and re-ignite motivation. You'll also receive an additional collection of online resources on positive psychology, laughter, humour and fun at work.

For more information and bookings, call Sue on (03) 9758 2528 or email info@bjseminars.com.au

Do It Yourself Booklet

<http://www.ywca.org.nz/national/Resources/DoItYourself.html>

The YWCA of Aotearoa (New Zealand) has produced the The Do It Yourself booklet, written by young people for young people. As the introduction says: *It's about believing*

in yourself and your ability to change your world. It's about being part of something. The DIY guide is designed to help young people work out what is important to them, and what they can do about it. It increases your awareness about some key issues; en-

courages you to analyse and gain a deeper understanding of these issues, by asking questions, thinking critically and making links; and helps you start making a plan for action.

Just for FUN!

Good News and Bad News ...

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings on display at that time. "I have good news and bad news," the owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman enquired about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death. When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings."

"That's wonderful," the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?" "The guy was your doctor.."



Wisdom from Dave Barry

- If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
- There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
- No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.
- When trouble arises and things look bad, there is always one individual who perceives a solution and is willing to take command. Very often, that individual is crazy.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above-average drivers.

Horrible Email Virus!

I was just made aware of this horrible virus by someone who contracted it. Be afraid ... be very afraid!

A NEW VIRUS ... just got this in from a reliable source. It seems that there is a new virus out there called the C-Nile Virus that even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of, so be warned, it appears to mostly affect those of us who were born before 1960!

Symptoms of C-Nile Virus:

1. Causes you to send same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send to wrong person.
4. Causes you to send back to person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the e-mail.

