

Online Meeting Planners

Many people use Outlook or some other system internally in their organisations when they need to find a meeting time to suit those who need to attend.

However for those who don't have such a system – or if you need to set up a suitable time with people across different organisations – these online services are very handy!

Meeting Wizard

www.meetingwizard.com/

When is Good

<http://whenisgood.net/>

We've used both ourselves and both are excellent services, although we've turned more to *When is Good* lately because of its ease of use and range of options.

Meeting Wizard allows you to send invitations to folk from within the site. When is Good gives you a link to the event you're planning, which you can copy and paste into the email(s) to your invitees.

Meeting Wizard is limited (in the no-cost version) to a selection of only 12 time slots – which is fine if that's all you need as options. *When is Good* has no such limitation.

You may also like to take a look at these two services, though we can't comment on them as we've not used them ourselves:

Doodle

www.doodle.com/

Need to Meet

<http://needtomeet.com/>

And if you're setting up a time for a virtual meeting across different timezones? This last website can be a very useful tool!

World Clock Meeting Planner

www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html



A Sporting Chance ...

For the sports minded among you – or perhaps the young people with whom you work, here are some websites that may be of interest.

Finish Strong

www.finishstrongteenmovie.com

Inspiring online movie for teenage athletes.

School Sport Australia

www.schoolsport.edu.au
School Sport Australia has been around since 1981, and is "responsible for the development and promotion of school sport in Australia".

Sports Australia

<http://sportsaustralia.com>

News reporting and results – from an independent perspective.

As they say on their website:

We're very proud to be working on a site that is independently owned and operated. Unlike our rivals, we are not influenced by contracts with outside organisations that affects our journalistic integrity.

We endeavour to uphold truths of fair and accurate reporting, which is sadly diminishing from our greater media sphere. We are committed to bringing you a site that is informative, innovative and thought provoking.

Sports Australia also run a program for young Media Studies and Journalist students at University and TAFE to undertake placement with the Sports Australia Media each year.

Reach Out Teachers Network

<http://bit.ly/b5k3V2>

Reach Out Teachers Network has evolved through the recognition of the importance of promoting youth mental health and understanding the significant role technology plays in the lives of young people.

The Reach Out Teachers Network provides access to resources and practical strategies for education professionals on a range of youth mental health issues and online technologies.

The online resources available can be used to enhance the effectiveness of school-based mental health promotion and education programs delivered in school settings.

Examples of the resources (plus support materials) that are available for download from this website:

Head Strong

(Understanding about mood disorders)

<http://bit.ly/9uE6m7>

The Oasis

(Youth homelessness)

<http://bit.ly/ae97eZ>

Heads Up

(Skills for Life)

<http://bit.ly/du5gx7>

You can become a winner only if you are willing to walk over the edge.
(Damon Runyon)

Rethinking Education

In the last issue of Starlink, we included several links to the talks and thoughts of Sir Ken Robinson about education.

Here are some more TED talks about education that, if you've not yet seen them, are worth watching!

Sugata Mitra: The Child-Driven Education

<http://bit.ly/acQ0GS>

Education scientist Sugata Mitra tackles one of the greatest problems of education -- the best teachers and schools don't exist where they're needed most. In a series of real-life experiments from New Delhi to South Africa to Italy, he gave kids self-supervised access to the web and saw results that could revolutionize how we think about teaching.

Conrad Wolfram: Teaching kids real math with computers

<http://bit.ly/90dpr7>

From rockets to stock markets, many of humanity's most thrilling creations are powered by math. So why do kids lose interest in it? Conrad Wolfram says the part of math we teach -- calculation by hand -- isn't just tedious, it's mostly irrelevant to real mathematics and the real world. He presents his radical idea: teaching kids math through computer programming.

Charles Leadbeater: Education innovation in the slums

<http://bit.ly/94o6py>

Charles Leadbeater went looking for radical new forms of education -- and found them in the slums of Rio and Kibera, where some of the world's poorest kids are finding transformative new ways to learn. And this informal, disruptive new kind of school, he says, is what all schools need to become.

Michelle Obama's Plea for Education

<http://bit.ly/9MHYHX>

Speaking at a London girls' school, Michelle Obama makes a passionate, personal case for each student to take education seriously. It is this new, brilliant generation, she says, that will close the gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be.



Cameron Herald: Let's Raise Kids to be Entrepreneurs

<http://bit.ly/bdQIKf>

Bored in school, failing classes, at odds with peers: This child might be an entrepreneur, says Cameron Herald. At TEDxEdmonton, he makes the case for parenting and education that helps would-be entrepreneurs flourish -- as kids and as adults.

Arthur Benjamin

<http://bit.ly/af4XuN>

And finally, in only six minutes, Arthur Benjamin offers a bold proposal on how to make math education relevant in the digital age.



Charter for Compassion

<http://charterforcompassion.org>

In 2008, Karen Armstrong made her TED Prize wish: the *Charter for Compassion*: <http://bit.ly/cVDGBQ>

Launched on 12 November 2009, *The Charter for Compassion* website is the result of Karen's wish and is sponsored by the Fetzer Institute.

The Charter for Compassion is a product of its time, for its time. Using a unique web-based decision making platform, thousands of people from over 100 countries added their voice to the writing of the Charter.

In a six week period, thousands of submissions were entered which were then read and commented upon by the sites over 150,000 visitors. These contributions were then sorted through by the Council of Conscience in crafting the final document.

Read the Charter and watch the video on the *Charter for Compassion* website, which invites visitors to "Learn", "Share" and "Act"



Charter for Compassion

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world ... Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity.

(From *The Charter for Compassion*)

Suite 101

<http://www.suite101.com/>

A site that is worth bookmarking and revisiting, as it houses a wealth of articles on almost every topic area you could imagine. Whatever your area of interest, if you'd like a good starting point for your discovery, Suite 101 can be a useful addition to your list of places to go.

What's in a name? Suite101's door is open to the curious novice looking for a "101" intro to any of our 3000 topics, but it's also a meeting place for over 29 million readers each month who ask 101 burning questions.

We aim for the ground-floor appeal our name implies, spiced with an eclectic mix of topical commentary and candid advice.

With 13 years online, more than 300,000 articles and over 10,000 professional, paid contract writers, Suite101 is dedicated to delivering great articles by skilled writers. In doing so, we aim to create opportunities for writers at every stage of their careers.

Starlink readers might be interested in these topic areas, for example – and don't miss the list of "Related Topics" on the right hand side of each of these pages:

Education and Career

www.suite101.com/educationandcareer

Non-Profit Management

www.suite101.com/nonprofitmanagement

Social Corporate Responsibility

www.suite101.com/social-corporate-responsibility

Visual and Performing Arts

www.suite101.com/visualperformingarts

ActNow

www.actnow.com.au/

ActNow is a website for young people, run by the Inspire Foundation. It is designed to support young people to feel empowered and take action on issues affecting the world around them:

ActNow knows that the more you understand about an issue the more you'll feel empowered to do something about it. Use ActNow to find information on social, political, environmental, lifestyle and topical issues for a non-judgemental and factual snapshot of the bigger picture.

All the content you find on ActNow is written by ActNow members who are young people just like you.

You can take action on issues any way you like. The important thing is to have a go and let the ActNow community know what you did, how you did it and what you think the impact was.

Sign up as a member and you'll be able to add your own content to the site such as a 'thing to do', a story, an interview, a video, a blog entry or a comment. Get published online!

ActNow is also a volunteering hub. Use the site to get in touch with over 200 organisations that are really keen to work with young people.

(Source: Benjamin Hanckel, Youth Content Coordinator, Inspire Foundation)



Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
(William James)

Tune In Not Out

www.tuneinnotout.com/

At Tune In Not Out you will find 24hr TV for life's challenges, such as alcohol, drugs, mental health, exams and relationships. The website is a great place for young people to find out tonnes of information on topics that interest them using great videos, clips, informative factsheets, blogs and plenty of discussion.

Tune In Not Out is a youth initiative of the Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation Inc and the Drug Education Network, and is supported by the Tasmanian Community Fund and Handbuilt Creative.

(Source: Western Sydney/NSW communityNet e-news)



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- ... inspiring and connecting people

ZooKidz



ZooKidz is a new program we are offering in 2011 for Grades 5 & 6.

It is designed to help students build and sustain positive relationships in the classroom and playground, and is specifically adapted for children from *The Organizational Zoo* by Arthur Shelley PhD.

<http://bjseminars.com.au/programs/student-programs/zookidz/>

Fundraising Resources

These three Australian sites are great resources for any non-profit organisation or community group in the country!

Perhaps your well of proven, creative ideas for fundraising is running a little dry. Or maybe you have an idea, but just haven't had the time to search around for resources and sources to help you implement it.

Or perhaps you'd simply like to have access to a great collection of resources to support your current and future fundraising efforts.

If you found yourself nodding to any of the above, head on over to these sites.

Fundraising Ideas

www.fundraisingideas.com.au/

Provides a host of easy to implement ideas for your next fundraising venture.

Fetes and Festivals

www.fetesandfestivals.com.au/

A wealth of information about arranging outdoor events of every size, and an excellent "How to Organise a Fete" guide.

Fundraising Directory

www.fundraisingdirectory.com.au/

An A-Z guide to fundraising products and services in Australia.



When writing a novel a writer should create living people; people not characters. A character is a caricature. (Ernest Hemingway)

Time & Space



Reflections
CHRIS BENNETT

I've just finished a first formatted draft of my screenplay and I still don't know who my major characters really are.

I've named them, described their actions, and created scenes.

But I still need to find out more about why they act the way they do, so I can write something that is authentic and believable.

My characters are real to me because I created them and we often have brief conversations but I still haven't discovered the real person in each of them.

Perhaps I should allow them the time and space to let them tell me their story.

Just like I would for anyone in real life.

