



**AAPAE NEWSLETTER No 7**  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2005

**2005 ANNUAL AAPAE Conference**  
will be held at  
**PRESHIL School**  
in Kew in Melbourne  
[www.preshil.vic.edu.au](http://www.preshil.vic.edu.au)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.**

THEME: Enabling Educational Change for Sustainable Learning and Living  
**Professor Stuart Hill and Professor John Fien**  
will be the main speakers at this gathering.

Stuart is the Foundation Chair of Social Ecology, University of Western Sydney. Stuart participated and presented at AAPAE's 2004 conference and will build on the work we began with him on enabling learning for life and sustainable change, particularly concentrating on "acknowledging, celebrating, imagining, visioning, deciding, choosing and enabling small meaningful initiatives and practices..."

John is Innovation Professor of Sustainability at RMIT University, where he is responsible for facilitating collaborative research in the social, ecological and economic dimensions of sustainability. He has a broad, interdisciplinary background in environmental and education policy and he has been at the forefront of developments in capacity for sustainable development. He has been appointed by The Australian National Commission for UNESCO to coordinate the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) strategy and activities.

**Ms Jenny Macklin**

The Federal Shadow Minister for Education Science and Training  
will speak at the conference at  
10.00am  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Anyone who would like to present or run a session or make suggestions as to how the conference can meet your needs, please contact Cecelia

Some other topics to be discussed at the conference include

IDEC 2006 in Sydney

Alternative Education Training in Faculties of Education

AAPAE & the Media

National Inquiries into Literacy and Teacher Training

The 2005 AGM for AAPAE will also be held

Please see Information and registration included with this newsletter for more details.

Have a look at  
**AAPAE 's New Website!**

[www.aapae.edu.au](http://www.aapae.edu.au)

Special thanks to Eran Segev for all his time and effort in making this happen.  
Comments and Suggestions are welcome. Please forward them to Cecelia.

### **A request!**

We would like to have a photograph of students and adults learning together from each AAPAE member school to include on the website.

Can you please provide necessary permission and clearance for us to do this and a suitable photograph.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **AAPAE's MEETING WITH JENNY MACKLIN**

The Shadow Minister for Education Science and Training,  
on 17th February, 11.00am, at  
Parliament House, Canberra

Gabrielle McIntosh from Blacktown Youth College, Wendy Pettit from Currumbena and Cecelia met with Jenny and her advisor Simon Kent. Our consensus was that the meeting was positive and effective. Jenny was warm, friendly, a careful listener and gave clear signs that she was in tune with our schools and education. Two personal aspects which confirmed this perception for us is that it turns out that her Advisor, Simon Kent is an ex-student of Yinbilliko and the International School. For those who do not recognise the name, Yinbilliko was one of the alternative schools in Sydney which David Cohen helped to found in the 1960s and many of the kids from there came to Currumbena when it very unfortunately closed in about 1985. Jen Burnley worked for many years at the International High School in Sydney. Even closer to home Jenny's sister's children attend Preshil where we are having our conference this year.

We gave an update on the current situation re the Funding Letters of Agreement in relation to BYC in particular as Jenny had previously contacted Gab, Currumbena's contacts with DEST and AAPAE's contact with the Minister and his response.

She asked whether it was still possible for parents to withdraw individuals from the testing and was this part of the agreement? When we responded that the Minister has put in writing to AAPAE that withdrawal is still possible but it has not been written in to the agreement she suggested that we work towards getting this written into the Agreement. We suggested that Labor could be more public about this choice of right to withdraw because it seems that many parents in the state schools either do not know about it or ignore it. They could offer parent real choice.

Gab presented a 'plan' of how Labor could show that, though the Government has the rhetoric of choice for parents, in fact many of the things they are doing are reducing this choice and restricting and pressuring everyone to conform and be the same. Labor could promote genuine choice, choice would bring creativity and diversity and diversity lead to social justice. Jenny responded positively to "diversity" and said "that's the word and we will definitely keep your plan to consider."

Labor's funding policy for the time will be similar to that for the election. Jenny was concerned to know whether AAPAE schools are 'frozen' or disadvantaged by the SES and felt that most of our places would receive more through a needs based system. She seemed to have a clear perception that we were in a different group from state, catholic/ religious, elite independent schools. We presented the ideas of different funding processes such as the equivalent to the AGSRC with choice to spend where the parent wished and though she did not directly comment on this certainly seemed to listen positively and then when we mentioned the possibility of integrating and keeping independent, special character said "that's an interesting idea" and she and Simon recognised the connection with New Zealand and Denmark.

When we mentioned IDEC she was very positive about this and when asked directly if she would be involved and we invited her to attend, she said to definitely keep in touch and let her know more

details. She gave a similar response to the AAPAE conference, to which as you can see above she has responded positively.

Jenny suggested that there were other places for us to contact, two particularly, who are doing similar work to Gab - Salisbury High School and Sydney Rd Brunswick and suggested that she knew of places in the state system, particularly in SA and Vic where the state governments were more sympathetic to diversity and innovation. She is obviously passionate about supporting disadvantaged, struggling kids and places which are treating them with care and respect and working with the kids.

The Shadow Minister was understanding about the plethora of reviews happening. Dr Nelson was literally announcing the teacher training one while we there. She felt that while we can always improve teacher training, she sympathised with our questioning of the purpose and necessity of this continuing review process. We did not have time to go into these topics in any depth. Wendy briefly touched on the National Curriculum issue and Jenny acknowledged that Nelson had been stating that he did not want to make everyone do the same things at the same time. She agreed that anything such as the Statements of Learning need to be as broad as possible to keep the opportunity for difference and diversity and flexibility in implementation.

Jenny very clearly and definitely asked for AAPAE to keep her up to date and stay in touch.

### **EDUCATION FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION !**

AAPAE has a meeting planned with Dr Tony Brown and colleagues from University of Technology Sydney to begin discussions about the possibilities of developing courses of training in alternative education and including alternative education as part of existing teacher training. This meeting is happening on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### **BOOROOBIN DECIDES TO FORWARD A SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AS REQUIRED BY THE QUEENSLAND SUPREME COURT.**

We seek accreditation based on our principles and if this fails we continue in the same manner of operation we have been following since December 2003.

Booroobin will not compromise its values, principles and human rights.

The Submission was written and forwarded, on time, on April 12, 2005. Once again it took long hours of work by 3 Staff to complete it.

The Submission comprised some 55 pages of text and 85 pages of annexures. The Submission and other associated documents have now been added to Booroobin's web site, and is listed in the section "Queensland Supreme Court action seeking natural justice and procedural fairness" at:

<<http://www.booroobin.com/courtaction/index2005.html>><http://www.booroobin.com/courtaction/index2005.html>

Please consider reading what you can of the Submission because it contains some important material that has international relevance; and that also reflects on the processes used by the government and its Board that were the eventual (flawed) basis for cancelling our accreditation. Particular documents referred to in the Submission are also contained in other sections of the web site under "Booroobin's battle". It is important that as many people and organisations should know what we have had to deal with. We're not optimistic about the outcome, even though in our opinion, reinstatement of our accreditation is justified, on our terms.

The main points of the Submission were:

- 1...Parents have the prior Right to the educational model of their choice and according to their values and beliefs
2. Children have the Right to have their views listened to
3. Students and Staff have the Right to Academic Freedom
4. Booroobin does have a legitimate educational program and welfare process, which complies with the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act and Regulations 2001
5. Booroobin complies with and implements International Human Rights Law
6. Booroobin complies with and is achieving the outcomes of the Adelaide Declaration
7. Booroobin Graduates and longterm Students are effective adults and high achievers (a table with these details will be soon added to the web site)
8. There are discrepancies in the Assessors' Summary Statement and Report
9. There are discrepancies between the Assessors' Report and the Show Cause Notice
10. We question why International Human Rights Law is reflected in some Queensland legislation but not in that of legislation governing Schools
11. We question why the Natural Justice provision of past legislation was not brought forward into current legislation

The Minister must now respond to our Submission in about 3 weeks. We may then have to go back to Court to finalise the currently adjourned case.

BTW, consider spreading the word about signing our online Petition.

Regards, Derek Sheppard

The Booroobin Sudbury Democratic Centre of Learning

<<http://www.booroobin.com>>[www.booroobin.com](http://www.booroobin.com)

For keeping up to date with current issues such as Funding 2005-2008, the National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy, the National Inquiry into Teacher Training check the **BURNING ISSUES** on the new AAPAE website.

#### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

##### **IDEC 2005**

is being held in

##### **BERLIN**

from Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

For more information check the IDEC website at

[www.idec2005.org](http://www.idec2005.org)

and subscribe to the e-newsletter.

Hope to see many of you at Preshil in July. Please spread the word about AAPAE, join the association and register soon for early bird benefits for the conference.

#### **AAPAE CONTACTS**

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