

Changing the Tide - May Issue

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Stronger Smarter Summit, Hub Schools Dare to Lead, Real Life Legend, Welcome Irina

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Stronger Smarter Institute May 2012

Changing the Tide

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— FROM RHETORIC TO REALITY —

Call for Papers

The theme for this year's Summit, "From Rhetoric to Reality" will highlight positive stories and achievements of school and community leaders across the country working to create Stronger Smarter realities for Indigenous students.

The Summit will feature individual presentations, 45 minute panel presentations, and interactive workshops illustrating the Stronger Smarter Philosophy and the Stronger Smarter Meta-Strategies.

Closing date for submissions is June 30 2012. Click [here](#) for more information.

Registration Now Open

The Summit promises to set the scene for the future of Indigenous education in Australia. This is your opportunity to connect and participate with your peers and the Institute team, and to share your journey from rhetoric to reality.

[Register Now!](#)

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of the Stronger Smarter Summit 2012!

The Stronger Smarter Summit 2012 'From Rhetoric to Reality'. Monday 8 October to Wednesday 10 October, Brisbane.

Hub Schools Dare to Lead

Kirwan State High School and Rockhampton State High School were among four schools recently awarded the 'High Achievement Award' for the 2011 Dare to Lead Excellence in Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Awards.

Kirwan State High School and Rockhampton State High School are [Learning Community](#) Hub Schools.

The awards acknowledge schools and school leaders who are working in a focused and strategic way to achieve excellence in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student outcomes, with outstanding leadership, engagement with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and demonstrated improvements in targeted outcomes for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The awards were presented by Minister Garrett at the first Dare to Lead National Conference in Canberra.

'These schools are fantastic examples of the positive changes that can be made in schools through high quality teaching and strong community engagement,' Mr Garrett said.

The [Dare to Lead](#) website outlines the achievements of each school and includes statements of support from community members.

Congratulations to all the winning schools. **High Achievement Award winners:** [Kirwan State High School, QLD](#), [Rockhampton State High School, QLD](#), [Wagin District High School, WA](#) and [Yule Brook College, WA](#). **Achievement Award Winners:** Giralang Primary School, ACT, Hume Public School, NSW, and Urandangie State School, QLD

Real-life Legend

Remember Billy from our popular 2010 'Learn, Earn, Legend' community service announcements? Billy was played by Jahmarley Dawson - a real-life legend.

The [Courier Mail](#) featured a story on Jahmarley last week referring to him as a 'young Indigenous trailblazer'.



2011 Award Winners. Photo: Dare to Lead



Jahmarley is a Tullawong State High School captain, renowned boxer, dancer, musician and model student.

Chris Sarra described Jahmarley in the article as ?? a young man who encapsulates the strong and the smart that I always talk about. He is very well rounded, his discipline and excellence not only shine on the sporting field but in his studies as well."

Jahmarley is currently in Italy to perform traditional dances and play the didgeridoo over two weeks at Milan's La Milanese festival.

Tropo mortale! (That?s Italian for ?too deadly!?)

Read the [article](#). Watch the [video](#).

The community service announcement follows ?Billy? through his education journey where he learns, he earns and becomes a LEGEND! Click to watch [opens in your web browser]

Welcome Irina!

Irina Henderson recently joined the Stronger Smarter team as the Finance and Budget Officer.

Irina moved to Australia from Russia four years ago and has extensive experience in accounting, budgeting and analysis in a wide range of Russian and Australian organisations?from not-for-profit to international manufacturing corporations.

Irina is very proud of her profession and is currently studying towards CPA qualification.

Visit our [staff page](#) to read more about Irina.



Leadership Program in 2012

The first phase of the Stronger Smarter Leadership Program is designed for participants to engage with the Stronger Smarter philosophy and collect a Stronger Smarter toolkit of processes, frameworks and activities to enable them to facilitate the development of high expectations excellence oriented school cultures. They leave the first gathering with personal and workplace leadership challenges.

At the follow-up gathering, participants reconnect and Stronger Smarter really comes alive, as participants describe their contexts and share their Stronger Smarter journeys and their plans. This month, two



Program participants at the follow-up phase of the program

national programs have reconvened in Redcliffe, Brisbane for the follow-up phase.

Both groups engaged and impressed colleagues and the Stronger Smarter team with the diversity of their contexts (from a large metropolitan secondary school, to regional and remote primary schools and a cluster of schools from the ACT) and the diversity of approaches to meeting challenges.

This year's Stronger Smarter leaders are living the Stronger Smarter philosophy while engaging in creating high expectations relationships, engaging staff, parents and community in strength-based conversations or facilitating Engoori with staff. Participants representing Stronger Smarter Learning Communities, Next Steps Initiative schools as well as relative newcomers to Stronger Smarter are energetically engaged in changing the tide and we're excited about their Stronger Smarter successes.

Learn more about the [Leadership Program](#).

Tailored Professional Learning Package

The Tailored Professional Learning Package for the Koorie Education Workforce has recently begun establishing Regional Advisory Groups in each region. These Regional Advisory Groups seek to ensure that professional development and training provided to members of the workforce is contextualised to the unique needs and context of each region.

As part of these groups, advice is sought on a range of issues such as:

- how to best operationalise the TPLP project in each region;
- communication between TPLP team and contractors as well as schools, regions and local communities; and
- the provision of a regional perspective on training needs.

These Regional Advisory Groups are made up of a variety of stakeholders, including:

- the Project Team, including representation from Stronger Smarter, Koorie Strategy Unit and Swinburne University;
- regional representatives such as Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Wannik Senior Implementation Officers and Koorie Education Coordinators; and
- local community representation from Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG) or Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated.

The first meeting has been held in Hume and Barwon South West Region. We look forward to many more of these important Regional Advisory Groups operating in all regions of Victoria.

Learn more about the [Wannik Project](#).

Learning Community Highlights

As we step across what is the halfway point in our calendar year, the Stronger Smarter Learning Communities team would like to update the wider Stronger Smarter family on some of our highlights thus far.

The Stronger Smarter Learning Communities Recognition Framework was developed to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of community and staff members within a school who have implemented strategies or initiatives that have improved outcomes for Indigenous students. With feedback from Indigenous groups and on reflection of the process we are pleased to announce that the first set of recognition certificates for this year will be distributed across the network shortly, and we encourage our other hub schools to return their nomination forms to help recognise the great people out there doing awesome work.

A large part of being Stronger and Smarter is our commitment to create, develop and maintain sound relationships among schools, communities and jurisdictions. The Stronger Smarter Learning Communities team have reached a milestone in our relationships in South Australia, in conjunction with The Aboriginal Education Employment Service (AEES) and The University of Adelaide, we have negotiated a set of professional development pathways for teachers and principals within the network that transition into post graduate studies. This relationship and initiative has been cemented with the appointment of a liaison person from The University of Adelaide to work with AEES and the Learning Communities team. Similar conversations are happening in other jurisdictions and are at differing stages of completion with stakeholders.

The Learning Communities team have also finalised the relationship and engagement of Dr John Munro to work with hub and affiliate schools on literacy strategies. This is an exciting deepening of the relationship between Dr Munro and the Learning Communities Network, with all involved thrilled to start this journey.

And in wrapping up this update we would like to thank and acknowledge the input and contribution made by the different Indigenous Education Consultative Bodies around the country. This mutual relationship deepens the strength of outcomes for Indigenous students across the network.

Learn more about [Learning Communities](#).



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