Changing the Tide - June issue

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Early bird registration extended, Dharumbal Culture and Language Program, the WA Aboriginal Education Awards, Swan Hill Primary School opens Koorie classroom

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Early bird registration extended to 31 July

Register before August to save $100 off the standard registration fee. REGISTER TODAY!

Visit the Summit website to learn more.

Dharumbal Culture and Language Program

The Stronger Smarter Institute launched a new podcast series this month called ?In Conversation?.

Each month the series will feature a conversation with school and community leaders who are making positive contributions to their school community. The series aims to highlight successful initiatives that embody the Stronger Smarter Philosophy and outline the strategies that have led to success.
In this month’s conversation, Chris Sarra has a yarn with Dharumbal elder Nyoka Hatfield and staff from Crescent Lagoon State School in Queensland about the successful Dharumbal Culture and Language Program run at the school.

Nyoka Hatfield talks about the importance of teaching Dharumbal Culture on country. Year one teachers Chantal Woods and Rosie Riek speak about the impact the program is having on school culture. Chantal Woods, who was Head of Curriculum when the program was introduced, also discusses some of the challenges she faced embedding the program into the school curriculum. Les Berryman, Deputy Principal, provides insight into the impact the program is having on attendance, numeracy and literacy results at the school.

Listen to the conversation, download the transcript, access links and other resources from our website, or subscribe to the series in iTunes.

The WA Aboriginal Education Awards, 2012

The Stronger Smarter Institute congratulates the deserving winners announced at the WA Aboriginal Education Awards, which were recently held at Parliament House in Perth.

Stronger Smarter leader, Paul Bridge, Principal at Derby District High School received the WA Education and Training Council Award for his commitment and educational leadership throughout the Kimberley region and across the state.

The Barry Hayward Award for WA Outstanding Aboriginal Teacher 2012 was won by Norma Willaway, Teacher at Kalumburu Remote Community School.

Norma’s commitment to high expectations education is evident in everything she does, she developed an Aboriginal Studies program, which is rich in Kalumburu language and culture, she built effective relationships with the community and this has led to the reinstatement of the school council.

Her other major achievements, noted in the award, include:

- coordinating NAIDOC week celebrations;
- training and performance managing all AI EOs;
- establishing the Stronger Smarter philosophy;
- delivering the Stronger Smarter Leadership Program to all staff;
- presenting at the NARIS Conference in Alice Springs in 2011; and
- receiving the East Kimberly Indigenous Award for Most Outstanding Individual Contribution to Aboriginal Education? in 2011.
These Stronger Smarter leaders, alongside their colleagues, are changing the tide in Indigenous Education in the West.

Learn more about the Leadership Program.

Swan Hill Primary School Opens Koorie Classroom

Swan Hill Primary School in Victoria celebrated NAIDOC week in style with week-long celebrations that culminated with the opening of a new Koorie classroom.

The week started off with a breakfast and flag raising ceremony followed by two thirds of the students receiving attendance awards - recognising students who had attended school more than 80% of the time. During the week, students decorated boomerangs, came dressed in Koorie colours, had their faces painted and took part in Aboriginal games.

The new Koorie classroom was opened by Principal Janet Barnard, Koorie School Council members, Stephanie Charles, a Wamba Wamba elder and LAECG chairperson and Cane Chaplin.

"It is through our School Community Partnership, launched last December, that our community has been able to successfully work together to deliver this great resource," said Principal Janet Barnard.

"The classroom will be a valuable learning space for Koorie students and will provide them with a place to go and learn about their culture, access cultural reading materials and visual resources, and hear stories from visiting community members and our elders. It will be a safe space that celebrates Koorie culture to make sure our Koorie children remain strong in their cultural knowledge and identity," explained Janet.

A group of Koorie parents, students, staff members along with the wider Koorie community had worked together to get the room ready. They painted the inside of the room with local totems and dreamtime stories.

All Koorie students placed their hands on the wall to acknowledge that they attend Swan Hill Primary School.

Swan Hill Primary School is participating in the Next Steps Initiative.

How did your school celebrate NAIDOC week? Email your photos so we can include them in next month’s edition of Changing the Tide!

Tailored Professional Learning Package

Progress continues to be made with the Tailored Professional Learning Package (TPLP) for the Koorie Education Workforce across Victoria.
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is well underway. Currently we have 35 members of the workforce enrolled in a Certificate IV in Education Support, and this number is constantly increasing. Recently approximately 18 Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) have completed all requirements for this certificate, and many more KESOs are well underway to completing this certificate.

Feedback from the assessors has been very positive, and they have been very impressed with the evidence provided showing the wonderful and diverse work of the workforce engaging with families and schools. Upon completing this Certificate, a number of members of the workforce have commented on the pride in having their skills and knowledge recognised and valued.

Another important component of the TPLP project has been the training provided. So far gap training has been delivered on the following topics;

- Reading data and data analysis
- Presentation skills
- Writing skills

Further training and support will also be delivered based on identified learning needs. All training provided is delivered under a strength-based focus and seeks to support the KEW in their work and contextualise learning to each region’s unique professional learning needs.

Learn more about the Wannik Project.

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**Strong and Smart Science Sparks**

The Learning Communities team was honoured to have been invited to take part and participate in the very first Strong and Smart Science Sparks day held on the 19th June at the Innovation Centre University of the Sunshine Coast.

The fantastic series of workshops offered students’ science-based experiences which embedded Indigenous perspectives. In the planning stages, science teachers sat and yarnd with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to co-create exercises that reflected both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, but also was grounded in science education. The sessions on the day were led by a mixture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members/teachers and school science teachers. It was a magnificent occasion to be a part of.

The Stronger Smarter Learning Communities team was energised by what we experienced at the Strong and Smart Science Sparks day. It was inspirational to see strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders explaining and passing on Traditional Knowledge in the context of science. We as a team realised, as did the children, the deep connections between what we would call science and Traditional Knowledge.

To all the organisers, thank you all for putting together a deadly event which we in the Stronger Smarter...
Learning Communities see as having a very positive and transformative future. To the participants, thanks for the big smiles and enthusiasm you all showed - it was truly inspirational for our team.

Learn more about Learning Communities.

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**Podcast: National Curriculum**

The Stronger Smarter Learning Communities project conducts monthly Teleconference meetings with project participants.

Each month, the meetings feature recorded interviews and follow up papers by experts on topics identified by the network.

This month’s teleconference featured a podcast by Will Davis, Stronger Smarter Learning Community Professional Learning Support Teams Coordinator. Will discussed the Cross-Curriculum Priority, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

[Click here](http://www.strongersmarter.qut.edu.au/news/detail.jsp?q_link_id=64&vi...) to listen to the podcast.