



**Message from the President ...**

This will be my final article for the newsletter as President of the Middle Schooling Association of WA. It has taken me some time to sit down and write this short article, as I was not sure what I could say that would be helpful. The conference held in May was an outstanding success and this was due in no small part to the dedicated people who worked to make it all come together. I think that the conference happened at just the right time for people working in Middle Schooling. Whilst much has been said about OBE in the Senior School the conference for me showed that outcomes based education works and those who adopt the philosophy in the schools and classrooms are energised by the rich learning experiences which result for their students. I felt that at the conclusion of the conference I could have taken a week off work just to digest all the great ideas and possibilities the conference had raised.

I am the first to admit that patience is not one of my virtues although I continue to work on it. Change often doesn't happen quickly enough for me, however it is happening in middle schooling and I am pleased. I believe students and teachers together are driving the changes and the response we get in the classroom is testimony to the difference a change of philosophy can make. The work we do suddenly becomes so much more enjoyable. I have found from personal experience that there are more moments of Joy to be found in the classroom, which operates from a student centred approach.

However, there is a blight on the landscape which deters others from adopting the necessary changes to their "modi operandi" and which can cause really good practitioners to burn out and this a concern I have previously raised. The blight of paperwork or administrivia I would like to call it. So many it appears to me give up or shy away from adopting new ways of doing things because it all becomes too hard. We are asking very talented teachers to spend too much of their valuable time wielding pieces of paper. I keep saying to myself and to anyone who will listen "it should be easier"! Why can't we spread the load for assessments across subject areas? Why are our students not more involved in self-assessment with the teacher as manager? They can do it, I have tried in my classroom, but it takes time and available support to set up the mechanisms whereby it can all happen.

The Curriculum Framework is an inspiring document and the ideals it espouses wonderful but these are not very helpful for the practicing teacher who may have over one hundred students in his or her care. Each individual student has to be assessed too many times on too many things in as short a time as possible. Why are we allowing this to happen?

I honestly do not think there has been enough thought gone into how teachers operate in the classroom on a daily basis. Changes should be making things better for everyone. My observations are that the paper pile justifying what we do is becoming larger and larger. If I could have one wish on this issue it would be that someone would come along and set up a blueprint for others to follow that keeps it simple. [So It Makes Planning Learning Easier](#)

I am not sure if what I have said is helpful but it is something I think warrants some thought and further discussion.

I have been most fortunate to be the President of this fine Association and whilst I intend to continue to support the Association I will no longer seek to hold any position on the committee. I would like to encourage members to attend the forthcoming AGM, which will be preceded by a PD presentation, which I hope everyone will enjoy. Further details can be found in this newsletter.

*Christine Lee*

**Special Points of Interest:**

- **President's Report**
- **PD - Finn Cragg**
- **AGM**
- **MSAWA International Conference — Press Release**
- **MSAWA International Conference — Review**
- **Flame Awards**
- **National Trust Excursion**



**Don't miss out on these two important events for all Middle Schooling teachers and administrators!**

- **Fantastic PD — Finn Cragg: Generating Learning Outcomes with Multimedia.** Teachers who have attended these workshops have given them rave reviews! Check out p.2 for all details of this PD, which is brought to you by your MSAWA committee.
- **MSAWA AGM — Excellent venue, excellent company, wine and snacks!!** Come along and make your voice heard. The profile of our organisation has been lifted greatly following the success of the International Middle Schooling Conference in May. Have your say in the future direction of middle schooling in WA.(p.3)

# Exciting News! Check out this fantastic PD!

## GENERATING LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH MULTIMEDIA

Lyn Hawkins and Martin Davidson of Finn Cragg Animated Publishing will showcase their newly released "Caravan" multimedia resources and share the results of classroom research. They will demonstrate how these resources are being used to build literacy foundations for storytelling utilising ICTs in the curriculum. They will cover viewing, language, speaking and writing and the introductory skills enabling repurposing of texts, media production and analysis. See how freely available programs including Microsoft's Photo Story 3 for Windows and Movie Maker (and the Apple iLife suite) can be used to resequence images, edit and repurpose Finn Cragg's Caravan animation. Digital author and animator, Martin Davidson will share an insight into the animation process and show a preview of "Emu and the Flying Doctor", Finn Cragg's next production to be released later this year.

See Finn Cragg's Website: [www.finncragg.com](http://www.finncragg.com)

About Finn Cragg's Presenters:

**Martin Davidson** BA Graphic Design: Martin is a digital author and artist. He established Finn Cragg to produce resources aimed at stimulating creative activities to engage students and teachers at all levels. He has an extensive background in graphic design, corporate writing and artistic digital production.

**Lyn Hawkins** BCOM (Hons): Lyn has a background in business development, marketing and communications. Her industry experience has been predominantly in communications technology and professional services prior to focusing on education. She is an experienced presenter and has taught at UWA in Perth and Singapore.



## VENUE AND REGISTRATION DETAILS:

When : Tuesday August 22, 2006

(Prior to the AGM)

Where: Broadwater Pagoda Resort Hotel

112 Melville Pde Como

Hospitality 4 to 4.30pm

Presentation begins at 4.30pm

Cost: No Charge!

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP to David Hunter on fax: 9368 9598

By Wednesday 16th August 2006

**MSAWA AGM - Join your colleagues at this central location and make your voice heard.  
Drinks and snacks provided.**

# Annual General Meeting

Tuesday August 22, 2006

Broadwater Pagoda Resort  
Hotel  
112 Melville Pde Como

RSVP:

David Hunter  
Penrhos College  
Locked Bag 690  
COMO WA 6952

Phone:  
93689562

Fax:  
93689598

Email: [hunted@penrhos.wa.edu.au](mailto:hunted@penrhos.wa.edu.au)

Hospitality 6 to 6.30pm

AGM ~ 6.30pm

N.B Join us for the Finn Cragg Presentation prior to the AGM

4- 4.30pm Afternoon Tea

4.30-6pm Presentation

(Nomination form on back page)



**MIDDLE SCHOOLING**  
ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

## Press Release - Christine Lee

Story contact: Christina Lee

### Middle schooling boosted by informative conference

THE 2006 International Middle Schooling Conference was a success according to organizers, with national and international participants and presenters at the top of their fields.

Middle Schooling Association of WA president Christina Lee said the conference was a tremendous success and it was great to see such an enriching event could be held in Perth.

The theme of this year's conference was Motivation, Meaning and Management in the Middle Years and included international, interstate and local speakers, workshops, school site visits and presentations.

Christina said one of the conference highlights was the interesting and practical strategies and research presented by keynote speakers.

There were 60 presenters at the conference and 375 participants traveling from every state and territory in Australia and representatives from Singapore, New Zealand and Christmas Island.

"The value of this conference was recognized by all the participants," Christina said.

"There was a reaffirmation of what a lot of us believe is important in middle schooling, and we have forged links with other areas that will be strengthened," she said.

"Keynote speakers Professor James Beane, Dr Robin Fogarty and Dr Andrew Martin provided research to support the philosophy of middle schooling and all provided practical advice teachers could take away and use."

She said she received a lot of positive feedback from the conference participants she had spoken to and said they felt refreshed and inspired to take the philosophy and information back to their schools.

Dr Fogarty is president of Fogarty and Associates - an educational consulting and publishing company. Professor Beane teaches at National-Louis University and is a school coach at Sherman Middle School in the United States. Dr Andrew Martin is a registered psychologist and research fellow at the University of Western Sydney and was listed in The Bulletin's 2003 Smart 100 Australians.

## A Report on the International Middle Schooling Conference, by Dr Lesley Newhouse-Maiden, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, Edith Cowan University

International Middle Schooling Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Perth, 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. Middle Schooling Association of WA.

There were a number of highlights for me at this International Middle Schooling Conference:

There were three Keynote Addresses:

Dr. Robin Fogarty's Keynote address, as initial speaker, focussed on *Enhancing the middle years*. This was a highly motivating session that essentially focussed on the role of the teacher as orchestrator of learning opportunities. As an educator, she certainly had great ideas and practised what she preached. Her books on integrating curriculum and problem solving are classics from the early 1990's and equally relevant in the field today.

Keynote address by Professor James Beane.

The topic was *A curriculum for the middle years*. As a fellow curriculum developer and interested in alternatives ways to organise curriculum it was a pleasure listen to his views in person. This lecture, along with two workshops, were affirming of the way Rod Chadbourne and I had designed curricula in the area across the Middle Years Graduate Diploma in Education program (MYS 4004/4104), the 4<sup>th</sup> year BEd (Secondary – EDS 4130 Middle Years Education); and in the Diploma in Education (Secondary Elective MYS 4002).

The Keynote lecture by Dr Andrew Martin focussed on his innovative model related to *enhancing student motivation and engagement*. This model was eminently applicable for teachers and reflected his knowledge of the young adolescent. His books include: "*How to Motivate Your Child For School and Beyond*" (Bantam) and "*How to Help Your Child Fly Through Life: The 20 Big Issues*" (Bantam)

I attended workshops facilitated by Robin Fogarty and two by James Beane. Both re-affirmed the amazing possibilities for effective learning by young adolescents and provided a forum to voice some of the challenges affected by the present day socio-cultural political/economic context of America and Australia. Essentially, I was with like-minded others in both sets of workshops. It is exciting when minds and hearts are open to thinking outside the "traditional" square of education, yet well grounded in the reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I presented at a round-table along with a former colleague Professor Tania Apsland – The session was essentially about sharing thoughts and ideas on *Middle schooling teacher education: sharing models of best practice*. There was healthy debate especially within the Australian context of the move towards assessment of National teacher competencies. There was a good mix of pre-service teachers; teacher mentors, and teacher educators. Strongly voiced outcomes included: the value of partnerships between schools and universities; and real dialogue and directions by the universities for would be "best practice" mentors" for enhancing the practicum experiences of pre-service teachers. Collectively, educators were concerned about gaining valid longitudinal research of recent 'middle schooling' graduates and the achievements of young adolescents.

*Fostering motivation for learning in the Middle years: A life-long learning program challenges traditional constructs of success at school*. As a middle years teacher educator, I was invited by Dr Jenny Bickmore-Brand, the then Principal of the junior part of a large K-12 low fee-paying Baptist college to be actively involved as a consultant in a grades 6/7 life-long learning graduation program. I worked in partnership with the teaching staff, parents in evaluating the program; and was actively involved as a mentor to three boys. This was our story of the program through the cameos of success of the young adolescents. 40 participants attended the session, which was gratifying. There were a number of pertinent questions asked and participants were pleased to leave with a copy of Jenny's patented booklet.

Adrian Scott, who told his story as the Middle Years Coordinator of Georgiana Molloy Anglican School in Busselton, Western Australia, presented the final session I attended. This was interesting because it was the story of an innovation from the perspective of an administrator and a teacher in the program. Adrian had contacted our ECU Graduate Diploma in Education (Middle Years) Team before he started at the school so it was particularly interesting to me to catch up on the possibilities and the limitations of the innovation – due to change of staff, challenges to the undergirding philosophy, the physical resourcing of, and the parental expectations of a newly built Anglican school (especially in relation to the provision of "values" education).

I thank the Dean and school of education at ECU for giving me the time (Monday) to attend the long weekend conference.

## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

The national voice of parents of students in Australia's public schools and their school communities

### LAUNCH OF THE FLAME AWARDS 2006

#### Celebrating Leaders in Australian School Music Education

The Flame Awards are run by ABC Classic FM in association with the Music- Play for Life" campaign of the Australian Music Council, to recognise and celebrate the most outstanding music programs in Australian schools.

The Awards were established in 2005 and more than 250 schools submitted entries. The national winner was Virginia State School, a 300-student primary school in outer Brisbane. Under the leadership of music teacher Kathryn McLennan, the school impressed the judges with the great depth and diversity of its musical activities. You can find out more about last year's outstanding school programs at: <http://www.mca.org.au/mpfl/schools.htm>

#### **You are now invited to enter your school's music program in the 2006 Flame Awards.**

This year's theme is: **Community Connections**. The judges will be looking to see how you involve the wider community in your music making and the development of your students through your music education program.

*ACSSO and the Australian Parents Council (APC) applaud the opportunity the Flame Awards provide to recognise and celebrate excellence and high achievement in music education in Australia's schools. We welcome especially this year's focus on the central importance of building and sustaining effective family-school and community partnerships which support the learning and development of young people. We encourage every school community to consider submitting nominations which highlight exemplary practice and achievement.*

The Awards are open to primary and secondary schools, government or non-government. The smallest schools in the remotest locations or big city schools – each has an equal opportunity to show how your music program goes beyond the school gate and interacts with your local community.

And if you entered last year – you are most welcome to try again! This year's theme and criteria are different, so this year's Awards provide a whole new opportunity for every school across the country to get involved.

The **National Winner of the Flame Awards 2006** will receive \$6,000 to spend on musical equipment and to play host to a world-class concert staged by ABC Classic FM and broadcast live around the country. (*That will be \$3,000 cash and \$3,000 Voucher valid at participating retail members of the Australian Music Association*).

**The eight State and Territory Finalists** will each win a \$1,000 music voucher, a selection of music CDs and a year's subscription to "Music in Action" and Music Forum" Magazines

**Nominating your school is easy and anyone in your community can do it.** All you need to do is to download the Entry Form and other background information which is available from the ABC at <http://www.abc.net.au/classic/flame/FlameAwards06.pdf> Complete the form and post it to the Awards office

#### **The closing date for entries is 5 pm on August 25 2006**

**Further Information:** contact Music for Life – **Phone (02) 4454 3887** **Email:** [flame@mca.org.au](mailto:flame@mca.org.au)

#### Interesting Internet Sites:

The Adelaide Declaration @ <http://www.mceetya.edu.au/nationalgoals/natgoals.htm>

Department of Education and Training (2003) *Plan for government schools. 2004-2007*. Perth: Author  
<http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/stratplan/>

Department of Education, Tasmania 'Effective Teaching' Website <http://ltag.education.tas.gov.au/effectteach/>  
Assessment for learning @ <http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/assessment/default.asp>

[Curriculum frameworks and outcomes-based curricula](http://www.vianet.net.au/~sassy/) - <http://www.vianet.net.au/~sassy/>

[Web links for learning and teaching](http://online.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/subjects/s4763202000Y/other/Helpful20Links.html) -

<http://online.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/subjects/s4763202000Y/other/Helpful20Links.html>

# Fascinating Excursion Opportunity

**The Harper family lost two sons at Gallipoli in 1915**



## **THE HARPERS THE ANZACS LEST WE FORGET**

The story of their early lives at Woodbridge House puts a social history to two of the soldiers who died at Gallipoli. Artefacts and memorabilia on display, along with the family stories, help to unfold a picture of two boys who went away to war and didn't return. The exhibition honours their sacrifice and salutes the service of all Australians who have gone to war.

**Your visit includes:**

**an innovative workshop presentation and tour of the House**

Classes may conduct their own **Anzac Service** at the Flagpole at Woodbridge (recordings of the *Last Post*, *Reveille* and the *National Anthem* will be provided)

Curriculum links with S&E: ICP; TCC; Active Citizenship; English & Overarching Values

**Suitable for all ages**

**Cost \$3.50 per head includes teachers' notes**

**To make a booking please contact:**

<b>Woodbridge Education Coordinator</b>	<b>9299 6331</b>
<b>Woodbridge (1pm - 4pm Thurs to Tues)</b>	<b>9274 2432</b>
<b>or The National Trust of Australia (WA)</b>	<b>9321 6088</b>

**Email: [educationwoodbridge@hotmail.com](mailto:educationwoodbridge@hotmail.com) or [trust@ntwa.com.au](mailto:trust@ntwa.com.au)**

The National Trust of Australia (WA) gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Swan and the Australian Government under the Saluting Their Service Commemorations program for assistance with funding the exhibition.



# MSAWA Executive Committee Nomination Form



**MIDDLE SCHOOLING**  
ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the position of (Please circle below)

President

Vice President (2 positions)

Secretary

Treasurer

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print Clearly

2<sup>nd</sup> By: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print Clearly

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominated Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by fax to the MSAWA Secretary; Penrhos College on 9368 9598 by 3.00pm on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2006.**