

The South Australian Primary Principals Association

2008 Annual Conference

**LEADERSHIP, LEARNING
& NEW SCIENCE**



Conference Registration Package

**Wirrina Cove
30 July - 1 August**



CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2008

Wednesday 30 July 2008

- 5.30pm Welcome Drinks and Nibbles
7.00pm Collegiate Dinner

Thursday 31 July 2008

- 9.00am Welcome and Introduction
9.30am Conference Overview
9.30am **Professor Martin Westwell**
Meeting the Needs of an Uncertain Future:
Thinking and Learning in a Changing World
10:50am Morning Tea and visits to Sponsor displays
11.20am **Dr Jonathan Sharples**
Executive Functioning and its links with Education
1.00pm Lunch and visits to Sponsor displays
2.00pm **Dr Julia Atkin, Margo Foster, Professor Martin Westwell,
Jonathan Sharples**
Ways of Knowing: The link to Neuroscience
3.30pm **Steve Portlock**
SAPPA Information: An Association Perspective
3.45pm Close and visits to Sponsor displays

7.00pm **Conference Dinner and Dance** (*Footsteps Dance*)

Friday 1 August 2008

- 9.00am Welcome and Refocus
- 9.30am **Professor Martin Westwell, Dr Jonathan Sharples**
The science of learning in the 21st century.....going deeper
- 11.30am Morning Tea and visits to Sponsor displays
- 12 noon **Speaker: To be finalised**
A Focus on the political and social landscape
- 1:00pm Conference Summary
- 1.45pm Light Lunch
- 2.00pm Free time for your choice of activities
– refer Information for Conference Participants section of this booklet

Conferees may like to take advantage of the recreation facilities – refer to 'Information for Conference Participants' for details – Pool and Gym, Golf, Horse Riding and Massage Treatments.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

PROFESSOR MARTIN WESTWELL



Martin Westwell is the first Director of the Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century. The Centre, launched by the Premier the Hon Mike Rann in January 2008, supports the decision making of policy makers, leaders in education, teachers, parents and young people to help shape the future of science education.

After completing his degree and PhD at Cambridge University, Martin moved to Oxford University as a *Research Fellow in Biological and Medical Sciences* at Lincoln College. While at Oxford, Martin undertook a number of research projects from producing artificial DNA to drug discovery for tropical diseases and neuro-degeneration. He also began a program of work in science education and public-engagement-with-science. Martin left academia to work in the biotech industry and then with a number of science education organisations including the Royal Institution of Great Britain, The Royal College of Pathologists and Common Purpose (an organisation which helps leaders of civil society engage with local and national issues).

Martin returned to Oxford in 2005 where he became Deputy Director of the Institute for the Future of the Mind. Here he ran the research program on the influence of modern lifestyles and technologies on the minds of the young and the old. Throughout all of the work at the Institute for the Future of the Mind Martin worked with government, teachers, parents and others to provide access to scientific evidence to help inform their decision-making about the learning and education of young people.

Martin frequently addresses specialist education and scientific meetings and gives many talks to general audiences. He has won a number of awards for communicating science to non-scientists. In 1999 he was named by The Times as the *Scientist of the New Century* and most recently he was short-listed for the Parliamentary Science Writer of the Year award in the UK. Martin and his family moved to Adelaide in September 2007. His wife Val is a Maths teacher and their two boys attend Bridgewater Primary School.

DR JONATHAN SHARPLES



Dr Sharples' role as a Deputy Director at The Institute for the Future of the Mind (he is based in Oxford, UK) involves exploring how an understanding of developments in brain-science research can be used to help inform education policy and practice. A key part of this work is considering how young people's increasing intimacy with digital technologies may influence key abilities and cognitive skills.

Dr Sharples coordinates the activities of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group in Scientific Research in Learning and Education which is considering how understandings from brain-science research may be used more effectively to inform government policy.

Dr Sharples has a Masters Degree and D.Phil in Biochemistry from Oxford University. He has previously worked in academic research, the pharmaceutical industry, education and science communication.

DR JULIA ATKIN



Dr Julia Atkin is an independent education and learning consultant in Australia and internationally to develop education services that are effective and appropriate for the Knowledge Era.

Julia has a passion for understanding how we learn and think and for developing educational services that:

- nurture the **human spirit** of individuals and the organisation
- are **personalised and customised** (specifically designed to meet local needs)
- help the learner **learn to think** and **learn to learn**
- integrate the best of learning technology with **information and communication technologies**
- are **collaborative**
- result in **powerful learning** that is transferable from one context to another.

Julia's work is characterised by an innovative approach that bridges the gap between theory and practice. She has received a number of prestigious awards in recognition of her work. In 2000 - 2004 Julia has been named a *Distinguished Educator* by Apple Computers Australia. In 2000 she was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and they awarded her the *Sir Harold Wyndham Medal 2000* in recognition of the contribution her work has made to the learning of teachers and the children of Australia. Most recently, in October 2003, *The Bulletin* named Julia as one of *Australia's Smart 100* – a list of one hundred people, ten in ten fields, making a difference to Australian society through innovation.

MARGOT FOSTER



Margot Foster has worked in the South Australian public education sector for 29 years – in the early, primary and middle years in complex schools as classroom teacher, science coordinator and school leader and then in a range of leadership positions at district and state level such as School Development Officer, District Coordinator and Regional Equity Manager.

Her most significant learning continues to be working at Elizabeth Field Primary School in the late 80s – a school which demanded reflection on one's pedagogy and relationships and engagement with kids. Since 1999 Margot has worked with the Curriculum Services Office to design and lead the statewide *Learning to Learn* Initiative. *Learning to Learn* is a unique approach to building educators understanding of constructivist learning theories - the underpinning theory of the South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability Framework. The initiative has supported over 200 schools across the state conduct site based inquiry into curriculum to inform future policy across the state.

Currently *Learning to Learn* has developed the SA Teaching for Learning Framework for use by schools in 2009/2010. This framework captures SA teachers' voices and the latest research about how best to support learning in the classroom. Margot is passionately committed to redesigning schooling through a focus on learning.

Information for Conference Participants

Accommodation Options:

Wirrina Cove

Accommodation is being held for us at Wirrina. When you call them, please be sure you mention that you are attending the **SA Primary Principals Association Conference**. This will ensure you qualify for the special discounted rates. There are rooms with configurations from 1 – 4 people although those catering for 4 people are limited. For SAPPA Conferees, rooms are charged at the rate of \$125 per room per night. There is also, if preferred, The Links at Lady Bay about 10 minutes drive from Wirrina or Leonard's Mill (also 10 minutes away) at Second Valley. *If you choose either of these options then you will need to arrange your own transport to/from Wirrina.*

Breakfast is NOT included in the room charge at Wirrina Cove. A full buffet breakfast is available in Heysen's Restaurant at a cost of \$22.50 pp.

Alternatively, you can prepare your own breakfast in your room. Please note there is only a small fridge in the room and coffee/tea making facilities (no toaster).

As well at Wirrina there are 13 condominiums available. There are 8 x 1 bed condos @ \$175 per night; 1 x 2 bed condos @ \$210 per night and 4 x 3 bed condos @ \$245 per night.

Check-in at Wirrina is from 2.00pm. Check-out by 10.00am (luggage will be stored until departure if requested). It is possible that some rooms will be available earlier than 2.00pm but please ring a couple of days before if you would like an earlier check-in.

**Telephone: 8598 2400 for bookings at Wirrina
8558 2220 for bookings at Links Lady Bay
8598 4184 for bookings at Leonard's Mill**

Conferees will need to organise their own accommodation and advise any changes directly to the establishment where the booking has been made. This cannot be done through the SAPPA office. You might want to use sappa-talk to see if anyone is interested in sharing.

Booking and paying for accommodation and breakfast is the sole responsibility of the conference participants and must be paid for by them. SAPPA does not take any responsibility for a participant's accommodation arrangements. All major credit cards are accepted but there is a 3% surcharge if payment is made by Amex.

Travel Reimbursement: is available for expenses incurred personally but not where the school has paid.

Country members whose round trip by car is greater than 250km will be reimbursed at a rate per km per car. Members travelling by plane can claim 50% of the fare. Where a claim is to be made, it is essential that the appropriate registration fee is still paid in full. Claims will be reimbursed separately on provision of a claim form available at the conference or from the SAPPA office after the conference. All claims must be received at the SAPPA office by 25th September 2008.

Dress Code:

In case it's your first conference and you are unsure, most conferees wear casual clothing during the day and then 'dress-up' a *bit* more for the Conference Dinner on Thursday night!

Free time for your choice of activities:

You might like to arrive a little earlier on Wednesday or stay a little longer on Friday and enjoy some recreation time. The following are on offer:

Golf:

Sunset Cove Golf Club, Wirrina (maximum 4 per grouping) is an 18 hole (or 9) PGA Standard Golf Course. \$3m was spent making sure the new golf course is one of Australia's finest.

Green fees are \$15 per person; Cart Hire is \$30 per cart (twin share) – there are 10 carts available and Club Hire is \$20 per full set (though there are a limited number of sets available). **Book through Wirrina on 8598 2400** or arrange it while you're there.

Horse Riding:

At Lady Bay - 8km from Wirrina.

You need to contact Dennis and Karen O'Leary of High Country Trails.

Telephone: 8558 2507 Mobile: 0408 795 373

Cost is \$50 per person.

They match your height/weight/experience.

Learners are regarded as those who have ridden 10 -12 times previously.

Average: 20 – 50 times and

Experienced: 100 times or more or who have their own horses.

Massage treatments:

On request and available at the Resort by appointment.

Contact Bruce Whitcher - Telephone: 0418 482 712

Pool and Gym:

Both should be available at no cost to conferees.

For clarification regarding any of the above or any other questions you may have, please contact the SAPPA office on 8463 5845, by email to pvincent@senet.com.au or fax your question(s) to us on 8463 5873.