

Tasmanian Curriculum 2008



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Web resources update

Information about the Tasmanian Curriculum can be accessed in two places on the internet. The public web pages <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum/> contain overviews of the curriculum and are designed for all those with an interest in the curriculum.

The [Curriculum Centre](#) is the Department of Education's online resource to help teachers implement the Tasmanian Curriculum. These resources are designed for teachers and require a Department login. The resources include access to all syllabus documents and overviews, search functions, teacher workspaces, implementation advice, contact details and assessment and reporting information.

The Curriculum Centre incorporates new resources specifically designed for the Tasmanian Curriculum and relevant materials from the LTAG (Learning, Teaching and Assessment Guide) and eCentre.

More resources to support teachers are being added to The Curriculum Centre during the year—please check back often. LTAG resources are being enhanced and moved to the Curriculum Centre. More information about this will be provided in future editions of *Curriculum Matters* and posted on the websites.

Contact: nigel.brown@education.tas.gov.au

National curriculum update

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Julia Gillard recently announced the appointment of Mr Tony Mackay as Deputy Chair of the Rudd Government's new National Curriculum Board. In addition, the Minister has written to all State and Territory Education Ministers inviting them to provide their nominations for the National Curriculum Board.



The Board will include representatives from government, Catholic and independent education sectors and oversee the development of a rigorous, world-class national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, starting with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history. The Board will draw together the best programs from each state and territory into a single curriculum to ensure every child has access to the highest quality learning programs to raise achievement and improve school retention rates.

See [Minister's media release 8 February 2008](#).

Updates on national curriculum initiatives will be provided in this Newsletter and posted on the websites.

English-literacy (including LOTE)

Annette Moults has been appointed Principal Education Officer English-literacy and is working closely with Senior Curriculum Officer, Pam Powell to support teachers implementing the English-literacy syllabus. A new set of record keeping proformas developed with teachers late last year will soon be available from the English-literacy Sharepoint.

<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/ccenglit/default.aspx>

Learning Service North recently hosted a successful unit-planning workshop attended by over thirty teachers. Groups of teachers worked together to plan units based on the syllabus. A future workshop is planned for Learning Service South.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week celebrations are planned for the first week of September. The theme for this year is *Partnerships in Learning*, recognising the role of parents, teachers and members of the community in supporting the development of students' literacy and numeracy skills. National activities this year include National Reading Day; Reach for the Stars and the Dorothea Mackellar poetry awards. Celebration grants will be awarded throughout Tasmania. Last year a highly successful letter writing competition was held and this year Australia Post will be organising a competition to write letters to Australian athletes at the Olympic Games.

Contact: Annette.moults@education.tas.gov.au



Languages (LOTE)

Forty one schools around the state are being supported to make explicit links between their languages (LOTE) program and School Literacy Plan. The work from this group will be published and shared.

As this year is International Year of Languages, many teachers around the state are planning activities with their schools and communities. Join the forum on the languages (LOTE) website and share your ideas:

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/school/educators/resources/support/lotte>

Also find information about The Modern Languages Teachers Association of Tasmania State Conference *Languages: The New World Currency* to be held August 7-9 in Hobart. Contact: sue.tolbert@education.tas.gov.au

Mathematics-numeracy

Resources to support school-based implementation of the Mathematics-numeracy syllabus have been developed and are available through the Mathematics-numeracy Sharepoint: <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/math/default.aspx>

These materials include an audit tool, a sample scope and sequence for mental computation developed by Lenah Valley Primary School and practical resources for teachers. New materials are being added so please check back often.

Teachers should also note that the Mathematical Association of Tasmania's annual conference will be held on May 16th (evening) and 17th at the University of Tasmania, Launceston Campus.

Contact: denise.neal@education.tas.gov.au



Science – professional learning opportunities

Constat – Conference of the Science Teachers Association of Tasmania – April 11-12, Hobart and Woodbridge
Constat offers professional learning for both primary and secondary teachers and an opportunity to extend their professional networks. The Keynote speaker is Peter Boyer, a volunteer for Al Gore's Climate Change project. For more information, visit:

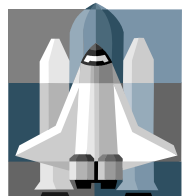
<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/infostream/general2008/feb/21feb/professional/constat2008>

Primary Connections curriculum leader training – May 15-16, Hobart

The Primary Connections program links the teaching of science and literacy. The workshop is designed for teachers who are interested in introducing other staff at their school to the *Primary Connections* program, but any teacher interested in learning more about *Primary Connections* is welcome to attend. For more information, visit:

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/infostream/general2008/feb/28feb208/professional/agqtp-primary-connections-curriculum-leader-workshop>

Contact: denise.devitt@education.tas.gov.au



From the Manager....

So...with a new federal government and a national curriculum on the horizon is the Tasmanian Curriculum out of date before it is out of the plastic?

The answer is a polite but definite "no".

The Tasmanian Curriculum has been built by and for Tasmanian teachers of today. The syllabus documents reflect extensive teacher feedback. The syllabuses develop further some of the key ideas from the Essential Learnings (including the focus on thinking, understanding and the early years) and concepts and processes from all curriculum areas. It has been designed to reflect current initiatives and requirements and capture the best of curriculum ideas from other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally. The syllabuses and support materials will be reviewed via the web to reflect teacher needs, feedback and changing priorities.

All syllabuses in the Tasmanian Curriculum satisfy the requirements of the [National Statements of Learning](#) for English, Mathematics, Science, Civics and Citizenship and ICT. In addition, they contain links to recent and current initiatives and resources in diverse areas including values education, studies of Asia, intercultural language learning, sustainability, ICT and financial literacy.

The process identified for the upcoming national curriculum work aims to capture the best of what jurisdictions and teachers are doing. Tasmania has traditionally represented itself with distinction on the national education stage and, with the Tasmanian Curriculum, I am confident that this will continue to be the case. For questions or comments about curriculum implementation, email irene.gray@education.tas.gov.au

Society and History – Resources update

Some learning sequences in the Society and History curriculum are Itag learning sequences. These are currently being updated for all standards to reflect the new curriculum. Standards 3 and 5 and most of standards 1, 2 and 4 are completed. Access these learning sequences through the links in the document at:

<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/curriculum/socandhistory/default.aspx>

SOSE-Share web forum – Are you a member? You can join this email forum and receive emails about events and resources at http://lyris.education.tas.gov.au:8080/read/all_forums/?&max=1000&skip=0&orderby=ListName+ASC scrolling down to SOSE-Share and then subscribing.



Sport and War Exhibition - This exhibition will be at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston from 1 March to 25 May 2008. Drawing on the War Memorial's rich collections, Sport and War tells remarkable stories of the importance of sport to Australians serving overseas, as well as the wartime experiences of some sporting stars.

Contact: julie.fisher@education.tas.gov.au

Health and wellbeing – Teacher resources

The Health and Wellbeing SharePoint is now available <http://ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/wellbeing/default.aspx>. It provides teachers of Health and wellbeing with a central location for sharing Health and wellbeing information and ideas. Feedback is welcome; email toni.l.gray@education.tas.gov.au, PEO Health and wellbeing.

Learning sequences referenced in the Health and wellbeing syllabus are being updated.

Access to these is through the *Curriculum Centre*.

New learning sequences are being developed so please check back regularly.



Telstra Paralympic Education Program

Last year a group of Tasmanian teachers worked in collaboration with the Australian Paralympic Committee to make Tasmanian Curriculum links to the 2008 Telstra Paralympic Education Program. The resource will be officially launched at South Hobart Primary School in March and downloadable from the Australian Paralympic website:

<http://www.paralympic.org.au/>

Arts: Using the Arts Sharepoint <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/arts/default.aspx>

Each arts strand has its own subsection where syllabuses and teacher developed support materials can be accessed.

It also contains a calendar on which teachers and schools can put their upcoming arts events, performances, presentations and exhibitions so that we can build up a picture of arts experiences across the state. Any professional learning events that may be of interest to other networks of teachers will also be posted. The site already contains some excellent advocacy material for those of us who have to continually assert the value of arts education in order to attract resources, time and material support. News of programs such as Artists in Schools is also contained there.



We sincerely hope that this will become a 'living resource' and a point of reference for all teachers of the arts from K-10. All teachers with a DoE email address have access to the Sharepoint. Drop by, have a look and contribute to the building of a useful, teacher developed resource site. Contact: frank.bansel@education.tas.gov.au

Vocational and Applied Learning (VAL)

The K-10 syllabus for *Vocational and Applied Learning* is being developed now and will soon be available for consultation with schools. Tony Woodward has been recently appointed the Curriculum Project Officer for VAL. The next edition of *Curriculum Matters* will contain an extended report on VAL in the Tasmanian Curriculum.

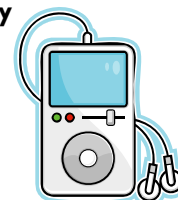
The Vocational and Applied Learning curriculum will be distributed to all schools in June 2008.

For further information contact tony.woodward@education.tas.gov.au.



ICT – Cross curricula framework and Checklists for Information and Communication Technology

At the beginning of term two the cross-curricular Framework and Year 6 and 10 Checklists for ICT will be distributed to all schools. This material is undergoing random consultation during this term and from the beginning of May until the end of term one will be available online for broader consultation.



ICT is organised into four strands:

Inquiring with ICT, Creating with ICT, Communicating with ICT and Operating ICT.

Behaving ethically with ICT is embedded across all four strands. Performance criteria descriptors are provided for all stages (1-15) of learning. These complement the Checklists. The checklists are formally assessed twice a year using SARIS.

The ICT Framework will provide teachers with sample learning opportunities for every subject for all standards (1-5) of learning. It will help teachers to embed ICT into their classrooms, skill students in ICT and use ICT to improve outcomes in all curriculum areas.

Contact: larissa.brenner@education.tas.gov.au

Implementation corner...

Learning Services North – Society and History workshop

Secondary teachers from northern high schools attended a two hour workshop at Riverside High School on 12 February.

For many teachers, this was their first opportunity to use the new document and make connections with their practice. Teachers were able to consider gaps in current programs, possibilities for challenge and new ways of working. Having teachers from a number of schools at one workshop provided a valuable opportunity to network and share ideas between schools.

Feedback from the session included: *The session on introducing the Society and History curriculum is highly recommended.*

Very impressed. Enormous value for our staff. It was good for all of us to receive the same message and to have the document set in its context.



Teachers from these schools are now using their learning to develop scope and sequence in Society and History and can see ways of moving forward using the curriculum document as the primary document to guide the planning of teaching and learning in the area.

For curriculum and professional learning support, contact your Manager (Learning)

South-east

[Bob Phillips](#)

Ph 6212 3502

South

[Judy Travers](#)

Ph 6212 3503

North

[Kevin Fagan](#)

Ph 6336 4474

North-west

[Kim Bennett](#)

Ph 6434 7224

Curriculum Team (state wide)

Manager—[Dr Irene Gray](#)— Ph 6233842

PEO English-literacy: [Annette Moulton](#)—62123315

Curriculum Officer English-literacy: [Pam Powell](#)—Ph 62123306

PEO LOTE (Languages): [Sue Tolbert](#)—Ph 62337331

Curriculum Officer LOTE: [Janine Davidson](#)—Ph 62335071

Curriculum Officer Mathematics-numeracy: [Denise Neal](#)—Ph 62123308

PEO Science: [Denise Devitt](#)—Ph 62123302

PEO Society and History: [Julie Fisher](#)—Ph 62123313

PEO Health and wellbeing: [Toni Gray](#)—Ph 62123314

PEO Arts: [Frank Bansel](#)—Ph 62337334

Curriculum Officers Music: [Di O'Toole](#)—Ph 62337739 and

[Rob Greenwood](#)—Ph 62 5012

Curriculum Project Officer Vocational and Applied Learning—[Tony Woodward](#) - 62123319

Curriculum Project Officer ICTs: [Larissa Brenner](#)—Ph 62286239

Asia Education / Values Education: [Jan Kiernan](#)—Ph 62337938

Curriculum Resources: [Nigel Brown](#)—Ph 62123317

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Moderation, assessment and reporting

Vocational and Applied Learning

AuSSI (Sustainable Schools)

