



SOUTHERN DOWNS
INDUSTRY EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION INC

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From the Editors Desk

Welcome to my very last monthly career and transition e-newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing this newsletter to you over the last four years and hope that you have found it useful and at times entertaining. So it is with a little sadness that I bring this last edition to you. As reported in the last newsletter SDIEA will no longer be funded to bring Structured Workplace Learning, Career & Transition Support and Adopt a School programs to schools from 31/12/2009. We have sincerely enjoyed bring Career Advice Australia to you but also acknowledge and support the great work that has been achieved by schools in this area for the past four years. We feel very confident that students will continue to receive up to date information and resources delivered by their school.

Last Friday, the South West Vetnetwork met in Stanthorpe to wind up the network. This network was initiated by Mike Paton CEO DISCO and myself back in 2001. It is the longest running network of DEEWR funded programs in Queensland. The membership was made up of organisation like the SDIEA and DISCO and included our colleagues from Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Lockyer/Laidley, Charleville, Cunnamulla and the Kingaroy Burnett area. As a fitting finale, we decided to hold a "pirate's wake" to symbolise the end of the VET era for us and to look forward to the new programs that will ultimately improve outcomes for young people in our region. Below is photo of the gang. "Drink up me hearties...yo ho"! Pirate's last forever!



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2. Entry level IT salaries jump

The average entry-level salary for IT graduates has jumped \$2,000 to \$38,000 according to an annual survey by IT professional training company, Excom Education.

Demand for IT staff remains high among the 25,000 organisations surveyed across Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, but there is a renewed focus on the amount of practical training IT graduates have when they enter the workforce.

Excom Education's chief marketing officer, Cassandra Ashworth, said employers have become fussier and expect new staff to be job ready.

"Graduates need to make sure that they do 'have it all' and employers want to know that you've built a sound network," Ashworth said. "Employers require real-world troubleshooting problem solving."

Ashworth attributes the rise in entry-level salary to employers vying to attract the high-quality IT graduates who have invested in themselves, as job requirements are greater than this time last year.

"We've seen a huge demand for our graduates with Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA) and Cisco training, and they're for entry level roles," Ashworth said.

"A few years ago employers would have thought that type of training is too high-end, but today they want IT graduates to have it all so they can promote them quite quickly and confidently through the ranks."

3. Apprentice "Kickstart" bonus payable

Between **1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010**, the Australian Government will provide a \$3,350 *Apprentice Kickstart Bonus* to employers who take on a young person aged 19 years and under into a traditional trade Australian Apprenticeship. The introduction of the *Apprentice Kickstart Bonus* represents a tripling of Government support for employers of eligible Australian Apprentices in their first year of an Australian Apprenticeship

A traditional trade is a trade listed on the National Skills Needs List which is available at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Your Australian Apprenticeships Centre will advise you of your eligibility for the Apprentice Kickstart Bonus.

4. Did you know????

Happy Feet: Queensland director, George Miller, dedicated his film *Happy Feet* to fellow Queenslander Steve Irwin (among others). Before his untimely death, Steve Irwin provided the voice for one of the elephant seals in the film.

5. Latest HR stats

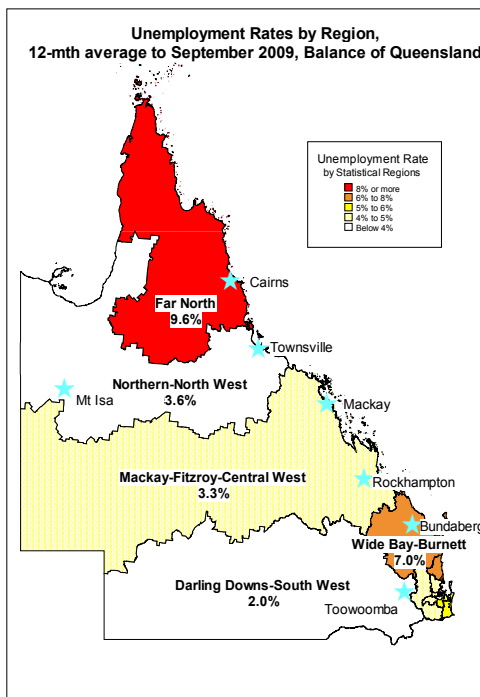
A recent study has found that as a result of the economic downturn, overall expenditure on training by business is expected to reduce by 4.1 per cent in the current financial year. However, the survey also showed a trend for up-skilling the existing workforce (65.7 per cent) in favour of recruiting new workers (28.5 per cent) to meet skill needs.

Source: "Skilling Business in Tough Times", The Australian Industry Group/Deloitte Survey as published by HR Daily.

6. Latest unemployment update – September 2009

Youth (aged 15–24) Unemployment Rate

The average youth unemployment rate in Queensland during the 12-month period was 10.0%, increasing 2.6% points over the year. The rate was higher in the balance of Queensland than in the Brisbane region. Highest amongst the regions were Far North region (14.6%) and Sunshine Coast region (13.9%).



7. Interesting reports

Two reports, which may be of interest to educators, recently released: **Use of Electronic Media and Communications: Early childhood to teenage years** and **Educating the Net Generation: A handbook of Findings for Practice and Policy 2009** include statistical and other data suggesting that there are implications for educators as a result of rapidly changing nature and availability of digital technologies to young learners. **Use of Electronic Media and Communications: Early childhood to teenage years** is a report on the findings from *Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children* (3–4 & 7–8 year olds), and **Media and Communications in Australian Families** (8–17-year olds), 2007 shows the wide-

spread use of television, mobile phones, internet and computers.

Example statistics from the reports include:

- Television and DVD's play a substantial role in the lives of young children – 90% of 3–4 year olds spend around one hour a day watching.
- 40% of 3–4 year olds use a computer.
- Most 7–8 year olds (84%) used the internet (albeit to mainly play games).
- 94% of 8–17 year olds watched television for nearly 2 hours per day on average.
- Average time spent per day online increased from 30 minutes for 8–11 year olds to 1 hour and 32 minutes in the 12–14 age group and 2 hours and 24 minutes for teenagers 15–17.
- Mobile phone use increased from 75% in 12–14 year olds to 90% of 15–17 year olds.
- More than a quarter of parents wished their child spent less time with electronic media.

Educating the Net Generation A handbook of Findings for Practice and Policy 2009 uses the term 'digital native' for students who were born between 1980 and 1994 and have grown up in an age where computers, mobile phones and the internet are part of main stream culture and society.

Six main educational messages emerged from Educating the Net Generation project. Some of interesting points for teachers in this report include:

- Emerging technologies afford a range of learning activities that can improve learning processes, outcomes and practices, particularly in the self reflection, peer evaluation and independent research skills.
- Using web2.0 technologies such as wikis, blogs and photo-sharing sites positively impacted on many students engagement with the subject material, their peers and the general learning community.
- Managing and aligning pedagogical, technical and administrative issues is a necessary condition of success when using emerging technologies for learning.
- Tasks and activities need to be relevant, explicit and integrated into the broader curriculum and assessment plan.
- Innovation with learning technologies typically requires the development of new learning and teaching and technology skills which is effortful for both staff and students.
- Guidance and time is needed to develop skills.

<http://www.altc.edu.au/resource-educating-net-generation-handbook-melbourne-2009>

8. Christmas wishes

On behalf of the whole team at SDIEA and the board of management we would like to wish you all a

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!
IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE BRINGING CAREER AND
TRANSITION SERVICE AND INFORMATION TO YOU

