

The BEAT Sheet



Business Educators Australasia (Tasmania) Inc.

ABN 5798 4913 285

*for teachers of Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies, Business Studies, Consumer Issues,
VET Business Services and Enterprise Learning*

Dear Members

This issue of the BEAT Sheet contains information about

1. *Financial Literacy*
2. *StartSmart Schools Program workshop in Hobart Tuesday 26th June*
3. *Brief news from our Affiliate associations*
4. *Teaching Australia – national professional standards*
5. *ASIC – superannuation and insurance resource **SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK***
6. *National recipients of BEA \$500 grant to Linking Latitudes Conference in September*
7. *Professional learning coming up in Tasmania*

Term 2 is underway and we have returned to our schools this week to face a cold blast of wintry weather. I know my students are pleased to be back though and we started our 8.30am lesson on Monday with a great DVD for Accounting called “The Bottom Line”. This is a new DVD produced in 2006 and a refreshing addition for accounting classes.

I attended the AGM and Council Meeting for Business Educators Australasia over the weekend in the absence of Julie Fisher, who is again the BEAT representative on the BEA Council for 2007. We are keen to provide opportunities for members to participate in discussions at the national level so please let me know if you would like to become involved. I have taken the opportunity to include information from the national meeting in this BEAT Sheet. I hope you something of interest here.

Miranda

1 FINANCIAL LITERACY

There is an excellent supply of resources available for teaching financial literacy and useful for us to maintain our awareness of developments in this area.

The 2007/2008 Federal Government budget allocated \$2 million for professional learning activities around Australia on financial literacy. This project will be administered by the Department of Education, Science and Training and no doubt we will hear more about it in the future. The Foundation has worked with State and Territory education authorities to have financial literacy included in the curriculum for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 from the beginning of 2008. <http://www.understandingmoney.gov.au/>

StartSmart Schools Program for secondary schools

HOBART WORKSHOP Tuesday 26th June 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

(lunch included for students)

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation has distributed the dates for the StartSmart Schools program to all schools.

It may still be possible to book your class in, due to space availability following the final confirmation of numbers attending – please check the web site www.startsmart.com.au or phone (02) 8572 5625 to enquire. Forums have already been held in mainland capital cities and the feedback to BEA has reportedly been positive.

There is also a **Teacher Development workshop** being held in Tasmania on **Thursday 30th August**. You can register online at www.startsmart.com.au. This workshop is interactive and designed to provide you with the tools you need to incorporate financial literacy into your classroom. This is a great opportunity to attend a PL workshop presented by the Commonwealth Bank Foundation in conjunction with Australian Curriculum Studies Association. If you have not yet seen the flyer, please check out all the details on the web site to take advantage of this opportunity.

3 MORE ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

- a) Another teaching resource, *Operation Financial Literacy* is also available to help you educate your students on how to understand and manage money.

Available at no cost and produced with the support of CPA Australia, the 10 modules combine classroom, community, web and research-based activities to help you take students through their own financial literacy course. The units are written by Australian teachers and endorsed by the Curriculum Corporation and the federal government's Financial Literacy Foundation.

All the units are available as pdf files on the financial basics web site enabling printing and copying for your students. Each school has received 2 hardcopy folders with login and password details.

For more information visit the CPA Careers website, or register for the modules via the Financial Basics Foundation website. www.financialbasics.org.au

- b) A new interactive e-learning game called **ESSI Money** will be launched this coming Friday 22nd June on the Kerrie-Ann morning program. **ESSI** stands for earning, saving, spending and investing. This resource reinforces important concepts around setting financial goals and seeking sound advice. The expected time required for each student to 'play' the game is around 6 hours. This simulates a six month period of real life.

I saw a demo of this game at the national meeting and it was impressive. It will be live next week through the financial basics website or directly at www.essimoney.com.au. Schools will be provided with detailed information, but importantly, it is not designed purely as a game. Each student will have individual log in details and a summary of outcomes and the decisions they make will be available for teachers as a report. This can be printed for assessment and follow up purposes.

Please watch out for details about this if you are interested.

ALSO – for teachers of distance education – this should prove a valuable resource. You and your school will have password access and the discussion at the meeting indicated that it could be used successfully for distance students. Good news I think for those of you who have been speaking with me about this.

BEAT should be receiving some DVDs shortly so if you are interested please send an email to me, Miranda.baptist@education.tas.gov.au and we will arrange a get together to preview and discuss the materials.

4 NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

Most associations around Australia have concerns about curriculum, memberships and problems with reaching members in regional areas. The lack of new teachers in the business area was also highlighted as a concern along with issues arising from the push towards a national curriculum. Some states also reported a continuing decline in students studying Economics and the degree of difficulty in courses compared to Universities. It was reported that a number of universities have ceased to offer an Economics degree as a stand alone degree. There will be a report tabled summarising the issues and I will forward this to you once it is received.

5 TEACHING AUSTRALIA – National Professional Standards

Teaching Australia was set up to 'represents the voice of the teaching profession'. It was established by Hon Brendan Nelson in his former portfolio as Minister for Education to try to look at issues from the profession's viewpoint. The current initiative of Teaching Australia is to develop a system of national accreditation for teacher education which will be implemented across Australia. The national meeting was advised that the project has the support of the current government and also that of the alternative government should there be a change at this year's federal election.

We now have the opportunity to have some input into the standards. Responses will shape and influence the way the standards are structured, what they will look like and the process for their development.

Teaching Australia is seeking feedback on proposals for

- A model of national professional standards for advanced teaching and school leadership, and
- How the standards will be developed, endorsed and reviewed.

Professional associations have been identified as the bodies to progress this work. Draft national standards have already been developed for some subject areas including Library and Information Services, Mathematics, Science, History, Modern Languages. Geography have almost completed a set.

Our national affiliate *Business Educators Australasia* will be preparing a response on behalf of Accounting, Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies by 30th June to submit to Teaching Australia. If you would like to provide any comments to be submitted as part of the response, then please contact me.

6 ASIC Superannuation and Insurance resource

ASIC has undertaken a project to develop and distribute resources about **investment**, **superannuation** and **insurance**. They are seeking feedback through BEA about their proposal which incorporates

- **Information fact sheets** to be based on content and key messages supplied by ASIC
- **Student resources** such as interactive quizzes
- **Teacher resources** consisting of curriculum relevant resources based around teaching and learning on superannuation and insurance in the classroom.

What can you do?? Please reply to me with answers to the following:

- 1 Does this resource sound relevant?
- 2 Do you think you would use it?
- 3 Do you have any suggestions of what could be included to enhance the materials?
- 4 What courses would this be useful for?

I apologise for having to tell you that responses are required by Friday. If you can spare a few minutes to reply, that would be great to ensure the resource is developed with some use to teaching programs in classes for **Years 9 - 12**

7 LINKING LATITUDES CONFERENCE

BEA has awarded the 2 travel grants offered to assist with the cost of attending the Linking Latitudes Conference in India to Stephen Bhogal of Geelong Grammar School Corio and Warwick Lyon from The Meridian International School in Melbourne.

The dates for the conference are unfortunately not aligned to the Tasmanian school terms so this would have been a major consideration for Tasmanian teachers in applying for the travel grants. Hopefully any future opportunities will

8 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING.....coming up

Professional learning is being offered during Term 2 for

“Think Like an Entrepreneur” – a curriculum resource which includes a DVD and materials package. The workshop will be designed for VET and Careers teachers as well as for those unable to attend previous workshops. Please pass this information to VET and Careers teachers in your school so that we can make the DVD available to them while it is current and of interest to students. It is our aim to get the DVD into schools so any assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

All BEAT members are invited to attend any meetings held during the year and your contributions are always valued in discussions about BEAT matters.

Please send an email to miranda.baptist@education.tas.gov.au if you have any queries, questions or suggestions. I have prepared this BEAT Sheet on the run given the deadlines for some of the matters raised at the weekend meeting. Apologies for any errors and I look forward to hearing from you with your responses.

Thank you everyone

Miranda Baptist

BEAT President 2007