To Innovate or Enervate, that is the question

Wednesday last week marked 123 years since the pneumatic tyre was invented by the veterinary surgeon John Dunlop. In 1888 Dunlop’s small son was prescribed cycling as cure for a heavy cold; Dunlop hit on the idea of making the boy’s tricycle more comfortable by fitting it with inflated tubes, made of canvas and bonded together with liquid rubber. Countless millions of cyclists and billions of motorists around the world relish this invention which, like other inventions, arose out of the solution to a pressing problem or pressing necessity.

Education too has its problems which beckon inventive or innovative solutions. Indeed to not address these issues will mean a bumpier educational experience for our students.

As I move around our schools, kindergartens and child care centres I see much evidence of innovation as schools meet the day to day challenges of providing engaging learning experiences for students. But, I also see opportunities for further innovation. Put briefly, one of the main challenges and therefore an opportunity for innovation revolves around the pedagogical imperative to meet the learning needs of our twenty-first century students.

Until I, as an educator, can say that I am genuinely “preparing students for their future not my past” I will need to innovate. Until I can genuinely say that I am meeting my students in “their world” then I have to continue to innovate. And until I can say that I am fully embracing the “Conceptual Age” with its attending need for creativity and imagination where the arts are ‘fundamental’ not just ‘ornamental’ then I am well short of the mark as a practicing educator in the twenty-first century.

My point is that innovation is an essential element of twenty-first century education; to maintain the status quo is to seriously enervate, or deprive our educational program of vitality and efficacy.

When I first began as a Principal back in the early 1970’s a learned mentor told me that he was embracing “individual instruction”. Eagerly I asked how he was achieving such advanced educational practice and his reply was that he had bought a copy of the mathematics text book for each individual child! Today when I hear students excited that they have loaded all of their textbooks onto their laptop I lament that little has changed.

The LSA team is committed to generate and facilitate genuine educational innovation and this will be a special focus from 2013 and following. We invite you to be a part of this journey. Indeed in a world awash with change and blessed by our loving God, the master creator, innovation should be the very air that we breathe.

A final exhortation to innovate: “You may not like change but you will like irrelevance even less”.

Loyd R Fyffe
Deputy Director
LSA Staff Appointments

**LSA Finance Analyst**
Stephen Kroker has been appointed to the position of LSA Finance Analyst 0.5 FTE commencing January 2013.

Stephen presently serves in the dual roles as the Business Manager at Immanuel Primary School, Novar Gardens and the Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Business Manager. When taking up this position Stephen will continue in his role as the LEA Business Manager (0.4FTE).

Stephen comes with extensive financial experience in Lutheran schools across Australia. We look forward to the contribution that he will make to our finance team and the support that they in turn provide to our schools, kindergartens and centres.

**LSA Spiritual Development Leader**
It was announced last week that Pastor Stuart Traeger has been appointed to the position of Spiritual Development Leader for the Lutheran Schools Association SA, NT & WA from the beginning of 2013. Stuart is currently school pastor at Cornerstone College, Mt Barker. We are delighted to welcome Stuart to our team and look forward to his contribution.

**Education - Christian Studies Officer (Kindergarten / Primary)**
Last week we also announced that Anne Dohnt has been appointed as Assistant Director (Formation) of Lutheran Education Australia. Anne is ideally suited and equipped to lead LEA in this critical area of focus. At the same time it will be very sad to lose her contribution and service to our team and LSA schools.

The position of **Education - Christian Studies Officer (Kindergarten/Primary)** is now advertised - see following page.

**Principal Advertisement - Good Shepherd, Angaston**
Following Steven Seidel’s appointment to St Michael’s Hahndorf next year, Good Shepherd Lutheran School Angaston are now seeking expressions of interest for the position of principal. Details are at [this link](#).
**Education – Christian Studies Officer (Kindergarten/Primary)**

The Lutheran School Association is seeking a person who is passionate about Lutheran education and the opportunity to support schools and kindergartens with teaching and learning in Christian Studies and the Australian curriculum.

The role involves visits to primary schools, kindergartens and child care centres in SA, NT and WA during the year and the facilitation of Equip Modules in the LSA region.

The position is primarily as a support for Christian Studies Key teachers in their mentoring of Christian Studies teachers.

**Position commences January 14, 2013.**

If the opportunity of this position excites your interest, please contact Heather Waring for a position description and selection criteria.

heather.waring@lsa.lutheran.edu.au
Ph: 82678401

Applications, including contact details of 3 referees (1 pastoral) can be submitted to:

Mr John Proeve
Executive Director
Lutheran Schools Association
137 Archer Street
North Adelaide  SA  5006
john.proeve@lsa.lutheran.edu.au

Applications close 19th November 2012

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**LSA State Level 1 Health & Safety Representative Training**

After many years the LSA has finally achieved a confluence of all that is necessary to commence the inaugural Health &Safety representative training. An important aspect of this specific training program is that it has been tailored for schools and not Industry in general. Elements of the program include sessions on the LSA Safety Management System.

**Attendees**

Ron Armstrong (Tatachilla Lutheran College)
Michael Barrett (Good Shepherd Lutheran School Para Vista)
Scott Crouch (Unity College)
Anne Jones (St Michael’s Lutheran School)
Jenny Judd-Smith (Immanuel Lutheran School Gawler)
Graeme Kluske (Redeemer Lutheran School)
Travis Saegenschnitter (St Jakobi Lutheran School)
Kathy Smith (Faith Lutheran College)
Kylie Watson (Cornerstone College)

**Instructor**

Gerry Conley (operating under the auspices of SA Unions; an accredited training organisation)

The attendees are guaranteed 5 days of exciting training to lift their knowledge, skills and confidence as H&S Reps to improve the safety of their schools for all.

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An interesting article:  **The 21st Century Principal**
The important initial planning phase for the SA Lutheran Schools Mission to Cambodia in 2013 is just gearing up. A group of about 45 students, staff and youth leaders from 8 or 9 schools will spend 10 days in July next year building houses in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for AIDS orphans under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity. This biennial service project is organised by SALs, the Secondary Academic Leaders of LSA schools.

This work is not a handout from a wealthy country to a poor one. It is about partnerships – working with the future home owners and local specialist builders to erect solid secure housing that is desperately needed. It is also about LSA partnerships as students from Mount Gambier to Tanunda participate together and build relationships across the system. This is what makes this trip unique – teamwork, sharing and building of friendships and relationships.

It’s also about cross cultural sharing as Aussies and Cambodians get to know each other and appreciate each other’s special cultures and backgrounds. But couldn’t the money spent on travel be sent to the locals and create more benefit, you may ask? I believe not. For a start our visit generates lots of employment in the hospitality sector alone. The students involved also change from this experience. Mao Ze Dong used the phrase “seeding machine” for this process. As students return and share their experiences with friends and live their lives with a different perspective, that rubs off on those around them and the issue of world poverty develops momentum in our schools.

This is my fourth trip. What keeps me going back? It’s the incredible positive enthusiasm of a talented and committed bunch of Aussie Lutheran School students doing God’s work which never ceases to energise and inspire me. It’s quite infectious.

I encourage all schools to support this team in their prayers as they start to come together. The team will face some hard work in trying conditions – not to mention the challenge of raising funds. Just a reminder to the participant schools to get their liaison staff member's names to me by next week and then their student selections by November 23. Our first team training day is December 2 at Concordia.

Ev Leske
Team Leader
SA Lutheran Schools’ Mission 2013

A good job of concreting done, Palawan Habitat house, 2009.

Students from 5 different SA schools in the home they helped to build with their home partner family, Bohol Island, The Philippines, 2005.

SALSM team, Palawan Island, The Philippines, 2009
ALWS Calendar Dates
Awareness Week 2013
Date: 11th – 15th March 2013 (or when more suitable for your school)
Theme: Health for Life! Focus Country: Nepal.
This theme will allow schools to learn about all aspects of life required for people to be and feel healthy. The focus on Nepal will enable schools to find many links to the Asian strand of the National curriculum and enable students to learn about a country living with destructive poverty. Curriculum materials, movies, chapel resources etc. will be on the web by the end of term. www.alws.org.au/schools.html

Awareness Days
We would love as many schools as possible to be involved – they are a wonderful way for your students to learn about other people and our God who loves us all. If for any reason the date does not suit your school and you are in a position to attend another day, please let me know.

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<th>When</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5</td>
<td>Adelaide schools</td>
<td>VENUE TO BE ADVISED</td>
<td>St Paul’s Lutheran School, Blair Athol</td>
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<td>Barossa Valley schools</td>
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Student Christian Service and Learning Tour 2013
The Student Service and Learning Tour will be to either Cambodia or Nepal. This decision will be made in the next two weeks. All schools who have registered an interest in being involved will be contacted as soon as we know.

No Teacher Study Tour 2013
ALWS will not hold a Teacher Study Tour in 2013 to enable as many teachers as possible to attend the ACLE conference in Brisbane in September. In 2014 the Teacher Study Tour will travel to Nepal in September.

For more information, please contact Susan Seng Email: susans@alws.org.au Phone: 0407117401