Indigenous Update

Lutheran Schools Association SA NT & WA

National Professional Standards For Teachers

Promoting reconciliation illustration of practice
An illustration of the National Professional Standards For Teachers, Standard Number 2 - Know the content and how to teach it. Focus Area 2.4 for this standard is ‘understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.’ The descriptor for the proficient career stage is ‘Provide opportunities for students to develop understanding of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages’. In this illustration the teacher demonstrates his understanding of Indigenous history and the importance of reconciliation in the school and community. Link to resource

Mr Barry John (Buck) McKenzie - Vale

Mr Barry John (Buck) McKenzie, a highly respected Adnyamathanha Elder and outstanding educator passed away on the 10th October 2012. Buck commenced working in the education field in 1984, he was an accomplished and nationally recognised songwriter, musician, a talented artist and photographer. Educators increased their understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture through joining Buck on one of his many Adnyamathanha Cultural Studies tours through the Flinders Ranges. Buck had a unique ability to share his knowledge and love for his culture with thousands of children, young people and educators. Buck was committed to Aboriginal Cultural Studies curriculum development and implementation in South Australian Schools. His dedication and passion to teaching others about Aboriginal history, language and culture resulted in many of his songs and resources being published, including works in the dual language songbook resource, ‘Songs for Aboriginal Studies and Reconciliation’ used in schools and preschools today. A memorial service for family and friends of Buck McKenzie will be held on Friday 23 November 2012, 4pm at Pilgrim Church, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide. Buck made a significant contribution and lasting legacy to Aboriginal education and Reconciliation in South Australia.

Songs for Aboriginal Studies and Reconciliation Songbook

The cover of the “Songs for Aboriginal Studies and Reconciliation” songbook features Buck’s painting of him as a child, riding in his Uncle Ted Pondi’s old grey buggy with his cousin Eddy. Half the proceeds of sales of Buck’s songbook and CD sold between now and the end of the year will go towards a headstone for his grave. Go to www.groups.esa.edu.au/songs to download an order form or email sasose@activ8.net.au. At this page you can freely download backing tracks. Cost is $29.95 each, plus postage and packaging of $5 for one copy. For two copies they are $25 each and for three or more $20 each plus $10 for postage and packaging. Direct payments can be made to SA Studies of Society and Environment Council, Bank SA, BSB 105 147 Account 552528640, (if paying by EFT, please include your name and email your postal details).
Mungo Explorer—A New Learning Initiative

A new and engaging multi-media resource, Mungo Explorer is now available to support teachers implement the new Australian History Curriculum. Jacquie Taylor and Jenny Bowler spent two years developing curriculum based on Professor Jim Bowler’s history changing discoveries of Mungo Lady and Mungo Man. Dated at 42,000 years of age, these are the oldest human remains in Australia. Mungo Explorer Resource enables students to take a virtual tour of Lake Mungo via Professor Bowler’s CDRom: ‘Lake Mungo: a window to Australia’s past,’ and their learning supported by inquiry based curricula. Through this resource students will develop a new appreciation of our country’s expansive history and explore evidence of the lives of ancient people whose artefacts and remains have been exposed in the sands at Lake Mungo.

This comprehensive and valuable classroom resource aimed at years 4 & 7, informs teachers and students about:

- The arrival of modern humans in Australia who are the oldest living cultures on earth
- Ancient Australia’s natural environment and the lifestyles of Aboriginal people who lived through the last Ice Age
- The impact of European colonisation from different perspectives

This exploration into the deep history of Australia will be new learning for many as appropriate resources have previously been scarce. As they prepare to implement the Australian Curriculum, teachers will have confidence using a resource written from a strong scientific foundation, and endorsed by the custodians of cultural knowledge. The Willandra Lakes Elders Council have given permission for use of sensitive materials and have provided encouragement and advice throughout the development of the Mungo Explorer Resource.

There is a magical sense about how scientific knowledge and Aboriginal perspectives have been woven into a tapestry of holistic learning within the Mungo Explorer Resource. It is anticipated that students and teachers, will have their lives enriched through engaging in this learning journey. Such learning will foster an interest in the sciences of geology and archaeology and also has the capacity to ensure students become reflective about their own values and attitudes and form their own historical interpretations.

Mungo Explorer is also a tribute to the life-long work of the geologist, Professor Jim Bowler, whose respect for Aboriginal People and his acknowledgement of what we can learn through the accumulated wisdom of Aboriginal cultures is a significant mile-stone in the Reconciliation process.

Friends of Reconciliation SA.

Become a friend of Reconciliation SA. Email: reconciliationsa@adam.com.au Reconciliation South Australia Inc. is a not for profit organisation with a major focus on encouraging the people’s movement for Reconciliation at a state level. Current priorities are education, constitutional reform, justice—human rights, young people and ambassadors, employment, local government.

@indigedlutheran ON TWITTER

For those who have a twitter account (maybe here is an opportunity to open one) – you are invited to follow @indigedlutheran. This is a fantastic opportunity for me to provide instant messages in regards to Indigenous happenings in South Australia and nationally. It might be an art exhibition, a new book, a movie or a conference. I only tweet as something of interest comes up.
Imagine not being able to read a newspaper, a road sign or directions on a bottle of medication. Sadly, this is a reality faced by many Indigenous Australians living in remote communities today.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation aims to improve literacy and hence the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. Over the past two and a half years the project has sent over 70,000 books to more than 200 remote communities across Australia. It has launched Book Buzz, an early literacy project and has worked with communities on specific literacy projects, including translating books into local language and recording Indigenous stories.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation has launched its Christmas Appeal to raise over $20,000 to supply literacy packs to remote communities across Australia. ILF Ambassador Anita Heiss, prolific author and member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales, appealed to the generosity of Australians in her special message: "If you can't imagine your holiday season without a good book, can you imagine what it would be like to have every season without one? I can't and that's why I support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. I hope you will too."

Register your school to get involved: [http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/](http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/)

**Becoming a 'mini' historian**

This lesson plan describes a lesson sequence in which students engage in a research project based on the life of a notable Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to produce a digital timeline. The graduate teacher demonstrates an understanding of historical content and pedagogical knowledge and skills and promotes intercultural understanding and the use of ICT to support student learning. [Link to resource](#)

**Numeracy**

The Milba Djunga website has been specifically developed to help teachers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students teach consumer and financial literacy. The site includes two online units – one for primary students and one for secondary students with a selection of interactive Learning Objects to support these Units, along with a selection of other resources particularly chosen because of their Indigenous focus. [Link to resource](#)
**STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH TO SCHOOL READINESS**

ACER Starting School: A strengths-based approach towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. A new ACER paper highlights the need for a strengths-based approach to school readiness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in order to recognise the skills, cultural knowledge and understandings they already have when they transition to formal learning.

[Link to resource](#)

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**ABORIGINAL MULTICULTURAL LANGUAGES & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE**

A free specialist library of educational resources for teachers. Located at 255 Torrens Rd, West Croydon, SA 5008, phone 8301 4850; email: decdamllrc@sa.gov.au; [www.lmrc.sa.edu.au](http://www.lmrc.sa.edu.au). Join up now to get free access to hundreds of resources.

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**Indigenous Education Research Database**


This searchable web database contains details of 8,045 books, articles, conference papers and reports on various aspects of Indigenous education from publishers in Australia and overseas.

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

"Alice Springs artist, Karina Penhall presents a manger scene combining her traditional Aboriginal dot painting style with some aspects of western art."

"In the centre of the curved wind break (stable) lies a coolamon, a wooden Aboriginal carry basket symbolising the baby Jesus. On either side is a 'U' shape symbolising a seated person, Mary and Joseph. In front of the coolamon are three wise men with their gifts and behind them are others such as the shepherds, who also come to the manger to worship the Child. Above, Bethlehem's star lights the way."

(This card is available from the LLL tract shelves)

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**DUE DATES FOR 2012**

- **Indigenous Supplementary Assistance Report** — 30th November
- **Indigenous Curriculum Program Report** — 30th November

Both reports available on the LSA Indigenous webpage - [www.lsa.lutheran.edu.au](http://www.lsa.lutheran.edu.au). Use your member login and password, select under "teaching and learning" - 'Indigenous education'

Due date changed due to lateness of final payment.

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The Lutheran Schools Association provides support, encouragement and leadership for school communities as they fulfill their education responsibilities within the context of Christian ministry.