



**March 2009
Newsletter Number 4**

International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

Registration (exchange rates)

Registration is now open through the conference website www.iaea2009.com

Discounted conference registration fees apply until 30 April (and in the case of presenters until 31 July).

A currency converter, updated daily, is available on the conference website under Useful Information. It may be helpful to note that, at the exchange rates of mid-March 2009, AUD700 is equivalent to about USD460, EUR352 and GBP324.

Proposals reminder

The due date for proposals for presentations of papers, symposiums and workshops was Friday 27 March. If you are still wishing to submit a proposal, please do so as soon as possible. Proposals require only a 100-word abstract.

Program outline

The program for IAEA 2009, 13–18 September, in Brisbane is shaping up to be very interesting and stimulating. The theme of this year's conference is *Assessment for a Creative World*. The program follows the usual pattern of IAEA conferences. Details will be available shortly on the conference website www.iaea2009.com. Notable features are: the *Welcome Reception* on Sunday evening; the *Opening Ceremony* and a *Keynote Speaker* (Professor Patricia Broadfoot) on Monday morning; a *Keynote Speaker* (Professor Barry McGaw) and associated *Symposium* on Tuesday morning; a presentation on the *ICT World of Students* on Thursday morning; the *Gala Dinner* on Thursday evening; and a *Symposium on Externally Moderated School-based Assessment and Certification* on Friday morning, followed by the *Closing Ceremony*. At other times there will be papers, symposiums and workshops in parallel sessions. There will also be a special pre-conference workshop on Sunday 13 September (further details to be announced).

Wednesday tours

As usual, Wednesday is devoted to optional tours that allow opportunities for networking with other conference delegates. Options are: *Whale Watching on*

Moreton Bay, Australia Zoo (Steve Irwin's Zoo); Gold Coast Hinterland and Winery Tour, and an Educational Tour (morning at Canterbury College, lunch at Customs House, afternoon at Queensland Studies Authority). See the website and registration form for details.

Sponsors and exhibitors

As always, sponsors are important for the success of the conference. We are pleased to announce that, to date, the following organisations have become sponsors of IAEA 2009: DRS Data Service limited; Stephen Austin and Sons Limited; Salmat Business Force; RM Assessment; Griffith University; and Queensland Studies Authority.

Opportunities are still open for further sponsors. We also expect a large number of exhibitors. If you would like to be a sponsor or an exhibitor, please email the conference organisers at iaea2009@icms.com.au or telephone Emily Yiannakis on +617 3844 1138.

150th anniversary of Queensland and Brisbane

It is 150 years since Queensland was established as a state and Brisbane as a city. Both Queensland and Brisbane are having special celebrations all year. Some events around the time of IAEA 2009 include: the Brisbane Writers' Festival (9–13 Sep); the World Triathlon Championships, Gold Coast (9–13 Sep); the Brisbane Festival 12 Sep – 3 Oct); and the Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba (18–27 Sep). In a later newsletter we'll tell you more about these and other ideas for making your stay even more memorable. In the meantime you can explore more about Queensland at www.q150.qld.gov.au/ and Brisbane at www.ourbrisbane.com/brisbane150.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in September.

Peter Luxton and Joy Cumming
Co-chairs IAEA 2009 Conference Organising Committee

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