



Newsletter Number 7: July 2009

International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

Conference program

Acceptances of papers and posters were advised by email at the end of May. Since then we have been engaged in the task of forming groups of papers for parallel sessions in the program. As soon as this is finalised (shortly before or after you receive this newsletter), presenters will be advised by email of the details of their session. This advice will be accompanied by instructions to assist presenters in preparing their paper and making their presentation. At about the same time, the program will be posted on the conference website where you will be able to see details of all sessions < <http://www.iaea2009.com/> >.

Due dates for presenters

- Registrations completed by Friday 31 July (through your advised url)
- Papers submitted by Friday 31 July (through your advised url)
- Powerpoint files submitted by Friday 14 August (to qr@icms.com.au).

Conference highlights

Highlights of the conference include the Opening Cocktail Reception on Sunday evening, and the Gala Conference Dinner on Thursday evening. As in past IAEA conferences, Wednesday is for tours and informal networking. Due to its popularity, the educational tour is almost fully subscribed; you should book early for the remaining tours to avoid disappointment.

All of the plenary sessions are keenly anticipated:

Monday morning: The Opening Ceremony (to include a choral presentation, Aboriginal Welcome to Country, and welcome speeches), followed by a keynote address by Professor Patricia Broadfoot.

Tuesday morning: A keynote address by Professor Barry McGaw, to be followed by a plenary symposium that includes reactions from four selected and internationally-representative conference participants.

Thursday morning: A special presentation on the ICT World of Students by Stephen Atherton of Apple Asia.

Friday morning: A special symposium presented by the Queensland Studies Authority on Externally-moderated School-based Assessment for Certification, followed immediately by the Closing Ceremony.

Final reminder about registration

If you have not already registered please do so soon at <http://www.iaea2009.com/>

Note that the due date for accommodation reservations is Friday 7 August. It would be wise to book early to avoid disappointment on your preferences.

Queensland Core Skills Test Marking Operation

Conference participants are invited to a guided tour of the Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS Test) Marking Operation. The opening day for this operation is Saturday 19 September, immediately following the conference. The opening day includes training sessions for markers as well as the beginning of marking for the Writing Task and Short Response Items sections of the test. The tour will include copies of past papers and the retrospective. People who are interested should send a message to: qcsmarkerinfo@qsa.qld.edu.au providing their name, contact details and area of interest. Details about the QCS Test are available at <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/587.html>.

Sponsors

The following organisations are confirmed sponsors of IAEA 2009: **DRS Data Service Ltd** (Silver Sponsor); **SALMAT Businessforce** (Silver Sponsor); **RM Assessment** (Bronze Sponsor); **Stephen Austin and Sons Ltd** (Bronze Sponsor); **Griffith University** (Silver Sponsor); and **Queensland Studies Authority** (Silver Sponsor). See further details on the conference website.

Brisbane as a destination

Recently the Economist Intelligence Unit rated Brisbane the 16th most livable city in the world. While we think that it should rate higher (naturally we're biased), this supports our view that it is a wonderful city. You may want to spend some time in the city before and/or after the conference to savour some of its delights. The best way to find out more about Brisbane is to visit <http://www.ourbrisbane.com/>.

At this site, see especially See and Do—Places to See for some of the highlights of Brisbane. Some of the places in the city centre we think you should consider include the City Botanical Gardens, the Roma Street Parklands, China Town and the Southbank and Cultural Centre. Southbank includes parkland, bougainvillea walk, swimming pool and beach (yes, with lifeguards), restaurants, eateries and picnic spots and the Brisbane Eye (as well as the Friendship Bridge connecting to the City Botanic Gardens). At weekends, from Friday night to Sunday, there is an extensive craft market. Given Griffith University's sponsorship of the conference, we should also mention that it has campuses at Southbank for the Conservatorium of Music and the College of Art. The Cultural Centre includes the Performing Arts Centre, The Queensland Museum, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA). All of these places are an easy walk from the Sofitel Hotel.

You could also take a City Cat up the river to the University of Queensland (itself worth a visit) or down the river to Hamilton and Bulimba. Walk the River Boardwalk down to New Farm Park and back. A more challenging walk is the Story Bridge Adventure Climb (see www.storybridgeadventureclimb.com.au) but you will need to book well in advance). Rock climbers might be interested in the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, across the river from the city centre.

Further afield, visit Mt Coot-tha Lookout (a must for any visitor to Brisbane), the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha (extensive, with special features, such as the Japanese Garden and the Brisbane Planetarium) and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary where you can hug a koala and feed the kangaroos and emus (best reached by boat from North Quay).

There are several interesting events around the time of the conference. The Brisbane Festival runs from 12 September to 3 October (program details not yet available). The most spectacular event of this festival is the opening event, Riverfire, a huge fireworks event on the city reach of

the Brisbane River. This will take place this year on the night of Saturday 12 September, and would give you an exciting and unforgettable introduction to Brisbane.

For the more literary minded, there is the annual Brisbane Writers Festival: 9–13 September. See www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au for details.

Some might be interested in the Beyonce: I Am Tour, 12 & 13 September at Brisbane Entertainment Centre, a location that is some distance from the city centre but can be reached easily by train. Alternatively, there is Brisbane's own annual version of *Last Night of the Proms* at Brisbane City Hall on Friday 11 September (this year featuring Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Baritone, and The Queensland Orchestra). The Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium has performances of the opera *Saul*, by *Handel*, during the week of the conference (Sunday 13th 3 pm, Tuesday 15th 6.30 pm and Sat 19th Sep 7.30 pm). We may arrange a discount group for Tuesday 15th September.

If you are coming from another time zone, there are advantages in coming early to allow time to reduce the effects of jet lag before the conference. So, some of these places and events might offer very attractive possibilities.

The conference seems now to be just around the corner. Again, we encourage you to register soon if you have not yet done so. We look forward to sharing Brisbane with you in September.

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

For more information

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