



Newsletter Number 8: August 2009

International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

Conference program

The conference program can be viewed at the conference website www.iaea2009.com. There you can find details of the conference sessions, papers in each session, abstracts of papers and details of presenters. Please note that adjustments may be made to the program from time to time.

Papers have been grouped into sessions thematically. Each session has been given a title to indicate the way in which the papers may be linked. This indicates the types of papers that are included in the session. However, the title may not fit all the papers exactly. Presenters are encouraged to find possible ways of linking their paper with the others in the session.

All sessions will be run 'symposium style', that is with all of the papers presented before any general discussion. This is intended to create synergies between the papers and to ensure appropriate time for discussion.

Each paper will be given 20 minutes for oral presentation. This limit will be strictly enforced in order to ensure that all papers receive appropriate attention.

Plenary sessions

Monday: Professor Patricia Broadfoot will present the first keynote address: Survival of the Fittest? The Challenge of Third Horizon Assessment.

Tuesday: Professor Barry McGaw will present the second keynote address.

Tuesday: A plenary symposium on both keynote addresses. Chair and discussants to be announced soon.

Thursday: Presentation by Stephen Atherton (National Development Executive, Apple Australia): The ICT World of Students.

Friday: A special symposium by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA): Externally moderated school-based assessment and certification: The Queensland experience.

Pre-conference workshop: Influencing Policy Makers

Presenter: Professor Kenneth Wiltshire (The University of Queensland)

This pre-conference workshop has been organised by the IAEA Executive as a follow-up to last year's successful pre-conference workshop at Cambridge. This workshop is intended for Primary Members of IAEA but other conference participants are welcome.

Venue is the Sofitel Grand Central Brisbane. Time is 16:00–18:00 Sunday 13 September 2009. There is no pre-registration and no fee—just turn up. Make plans now for early arrival in Brisbane.

For further details on the workshop, consult the conference program on www.iaea2009.com.

Post-conference workshop: *Media Handling in the Modern World*

Presenters: Bene't Steinberg (Cambridge Assessment, UK) and Peter Kent (Porter Novelli, Australia)

This post-conference workshop has been organised by Bene't Steinberg who also organised and presented last year's successful workshop on a similar theme at the Cambridge Conference. The workshop is open and free to all conference participants. There will be opportunity to sign up for this workshop during the conference.

Venue is Sofitel Grand Central Brisbane. Time is Friday 18 September 2009, 14:00–16:00. Make plans now to stay for Friday afternoon after the conference.

For further details on the workshop, consult the conference program on www.iaea2009.com.

Invitation to the 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: gcsmarkerinfo@gsa.qld.edu.au providing their name, contact details and area of interest. Details about the QCS Test are available at <http://www.gsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/587.html>.

Final reminder about registration

If you have not already registered please do so soon at www.iaea2009.com. Note that the due date for accommodation reservations is Friday 7 August. After that, you need to make your own arrangements. It would be wise to book early to avoid disappointment on your preferences.

Arriving in Brisbane and making the most of your stay

If you are arriving in Brisbane by air, you will arrive at either the Domestic Airport Terminal or the International Airport Terminal (they are 1.5 kms apart). The airport is about 13 km into the city. Taxi takes about 20 minutes and costs about \$35. Skytrain departs every 15 minutes, 6.00am to 7.30pm (22 minute ride for \$12) and takes you to Central Station, which is right underneath the Sofitel Hotel, so it is quite convenient. If your flight lands after 7.30pm, there are several shuttle buses for about the same cost as the train.

The *Useful Information* button on our conference website www.iaea2009.com gives you advice on several matters (see for example the advice on 'tipping').

In the previous newsletter, we mentioned some of the events in Brisbane around the time of the conference. It would be difficult to mention everything. There is new information to hand about concerts in St John's Cathedral just before the conference (see www.4mbsclassifm.com.au). There will be various sporting events too. Whatever your interest, it's probably available.

Griffith University Opera

Griffith University Conservatorium of Music has a production of the Oratorio Saul by George Frederick Handel during the week of the conference. The blurb says: In this grand drama—an opera in everything but name—Handel draws upon the biblical story of Saul and with consummate skill and humanity traces the decline of a great but tortured leader. Full of exquisite solo writing, exhilarating choruses and one of the richest orchestrations to be found in the baroque literature, this is a rare and special event not to be missed.

If there is any interest, we will arrange a group booking for Tuesday evening (15 September, 6:30 pm). Cost will be \$25. Register your interest by email to j.cumming@griffith.edu.au.

A comprehensive source of information on Brisbane is www.ourbrisbane.com. This will give you information on places, events, sport and eating. See also <http://www.brisbanemarketing.com.au/> (choose Publications, then Official Brisbane Visitors' Guide 2008 - though it seems to be 2009) and www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/brisbane.

The conference hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane so you will find a cornucopia of shopping, entertainment and eating easily available. While you are here, in the city you should check out Queen Street Mall, Southbank Parklands and Cultural Precinct, Roma Street Parkland, City Botanical Gardens, the River Boardwalks, the Museums and Art Galleries. These are all easily accessible by walking or by bus—a free bus service circles the inner city area. Also visit Chinatown (one train station away in Fortitude Valley). Lots to do, lots to see, never a dull moment if you want to enjoy yourself.

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.

The conference is fast approaching and we hope your plans are all in place for attendance. The program is looking very exciting and interesting. We are looking forward to it enthusiastically and we hope you are too.

Peter Luxton and Joy Cumming

Co-chairs IAEA 2009 Conference Organising Committee

For more information

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