



Newsletter Number 9: August 2009

International Association for Educational Assessment Annual Conference 2009

Conference program

The final conference program can be viewed at the conference website www.iaea2009.com. There you can find details of all the conference sessions, including the plenary sessions as well as the parallel presentation sessions (with titles, presenters and abstracts).

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.

We encourage you not to 'session-hop' but choose each session carefully and stay for all papers and the subsequent discussion.

The symposiums may have varied formats. In all the other sessions, 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.

Some chairs have been asked also to be a discussant. This means they will prepare a brief analysis and commentary on the papers in the session as a lead-in to general discussion. However, in all cases, chairs will take an active role in stimulating and encouraging discussion.

We think that you will agree that the program offers substantial variety and depth. The conference promises to be very interesting and stimulating.

Pre-conference workshop: Influencing Policy Makers

(Hosted by the Executive Committee of IAEA for Primary Members of IAEA)

Presenter: Glenn Withers AO (Chief Executive Officer, Universities Australia)

Venue is the Bastille Room, Sofitel Grand Central, Brisbane. Time is 16:00–18:00 Sunday 13 September 2009. Attendance is free. Please advise Gabrielle Matters <matters@acer.edu.au> of your intention to attend.

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

Conference check-in

The Conference Registration desk will be staffed throughout the conference. Check-in on Sunday from 3 pm to 6 pm and on Monday starting at 7.30 am.

Opening Session

The Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium of Music Children's Chorus will begin their pre-conference musical presentation at 8.30 am. We would like everyone to be seated by 8.45 am. The Opening Ceremony will begin at 9.00 am with an Australian Welcome to Country.

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. Make plans now to stay for Friday afternoon.

For further details on the post-conference 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: 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>.

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.

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.

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 from the city. A 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 (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.4mbsclassicfm.com.au/). There will be various sporting events too. Whatever your interest, it's probably available.

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

We thank the following 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.

We are looking forward to hosting the conference and welcoming you to this wonderful part of the world.

Peter Luxton and Joy Cumming

Co-chairs IAEA 2009 Conference Organising Committee

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