

New multi-stage units on K-6 website

The Board of Studies has recently added two new multi-stage integrated units of work to its K-6 website. The two separate units are titled *Leaving* and *Perseverance*.

Both units contain strong Aboriginal perspectives and are designed especially to assist teachers in schools with multi-stage classes, covering Early Stage 1 to Stage 3. The units can easily be adapted to single-stage classes.

Leaving is a literacy-based unit that contains four learning sequences. Each sequence is clearly mapped to outcomes in six key learning areas.

Leaving by Katrina Germein is a text central to the discussions on the concept of something of yourself remaining when you leave a place or community. The unit

also explores the customs and traditions different cultures have when saying goodbye.

There is a wide range of book, video and internet resources available that include artwork by Sally Morgan, Margaret Olley, Isabel Davies and Susan Norrie. Other resources include Aboriginal paintings, rock carvings and Dreaming stories as well as a number of detailed websites on Aboriginal art.

The *Perseverance* unit contains four learning sequences mapped to syllabus outcomes across five key learning areas.

The unit provides opportunities for students to explore the concepts of believing in oneself, personal traits, setting realistic goals, discrimination and social

justice, and provides opportunities for students to study significant persons and their achievements, including Charles Perkins, Ernie Dingo, Betty Cuthbert, Matthew Flinders and Douglas Mawson.

The unit comes with a detailed resource list of websites, books and videos including stories on Aboriginal experiences such as the video *Rabbit-proof Fence*, or John Moriarty's book *Saltwater Fella*.

The new multi-stage integrated units can be accessed at www.bosnsw-k6.nsw.edu.au/linkages/linkages_index.html

The Board of Studies is currently considering the recent report into Primary education by Professor Ken Eltis. Further details on the work being undertaken will be reported in future *Board Bulletins*.

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Primary students identify perseverance qualities exhibited by the characters in one of the texts used in the Multi-stage Unit of Work on Perseverance.

Important Dates

Year 10 (SC)

- 28 June** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider resubmitted applications for new courses
- 23 July** Decision letters to schools for resubmitted School Developed BEC applications
- 30 July** Principals' 'N' determination forms dispatched

Year 11

- 28 June** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider resubmitted applications for new courses
- 2 July** Final date for submission of VET competencies entered
- 23 July** Decision letters dispatched to schools for resubmitted School Developed BEC applications
Final date for VET BEC applications for courses commencing in 2005 to reach school system authorities
- 30 July** Dispatch principals' 'N' determination forms
- 6 August** School Developed BEC applications not endorsed by this date lapse

Year 12 (HSC)

- 25 Jun** Dispatch principals' advance copy of 2004 HSC Examination Timetable
Final date for receipt of changes to HSC Drama and Music course options
- 28 June** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider resubmitted applications
- 2 July** Final date for submission of VET competencies entered
Notification for all practical exam dates applying to individual schools in Term 3 will be received by the schools approximately 2 weeks prior to their individual exam dates
- 20 July** Dispatch Illness/Misadventure forms
- 23 July** Decision letters to schools for resubmitted School Developed BEC applications
Final date for VET BEC applications for courses commencing in 2005 to reach school system authorities

New BOSLO for Hunter



Philippa Young

Philippa Young has been appointed to the position of Board of Studies Liaison Officer (BOSLO) for the Hunter area, based in Newcastle. Philippa was previously Assistant Principal at Tenambit Public School, near Maitland.

Philippa brings valuable experience to the BOSLO position. At Tenambit Public School, Philippa was responsible for providing quality educational leadership in a number of key areas including school management, curriculum implementation, technology and student welfare. Philippa has served on curriculum teams, developing support

materials for Mathematics. She has also led District-level School Improvement Project Teams, Gifted and Talented Workshops, Regional Sporting Teams and school-based Quality Teaching Practice initiatives.

In addition to her experience and achievements in the NSW education system Philippa brings overseas teaching experience to the BOSLO role, having taught for two years in Canada through the Teachers' Professional Exchange Program.

Philippa is based at Newcastle and may be contacted on (02) 4924 9976.

Report on statewide Years 7–10 syllabus support meetings

The Office of the Board of Studies has been conducting an extensive series of syllabus support workshops across the state this year to support teachers with the implementation of the new Years 7–10 syllabuses.

More than 8000 teachers have attended at least one of the 168 sessions, which were held in each Board of Studies Liaison Officer (BOSLO) region between October 2003 and June 2004. The workshops are now nearing completion, with the last workshop to be held on 28 June 2004.

The meetings were designed to provide teachers with the latest information on the new Years 7–10 syllabuses and to give them an opportunity to have their questions answered directly by senior Board officers. Each session addressed the syllabuses within a specific key learning area. The Office of the Board of Studies also held sessions on Life Skills outcomes and content across the curriculum and the new Aboriginal Languages syllabus.

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Report on statewide Years 7–10 syllabus support meetings

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At the meetings, Board officers provided an explanation of the key requirements of the new syllabuses and advice on how to use the Board's support materials effectively – including the popular new *Assessment for Learning in a Standards-Referenced Framework* CD-ROMs.

Throughout the program of meetings, teachers were invited to provide feedback to the Office of the Board on the relevance and effectiveness of the meetings in helping them to gain a better understanding of the new syllabuses and support materials.

Feedback from teachers overall has been very positive, with many praising the opportunity to examine the support materials developed by the Office of the Board of Studies, discuss issues and have their questions answered by the Board's Curriculum Inspectors and Board of Studies Liaison Officers.

Many teachers commented that they would have liked more time with the presenters and suggested follow-up sessions on programming and developing assessment strategies. The Board's syllabus support meetings and support materials are the first phase of a comprehensive program to support teachers with the introduction of the new Years 7–10 syllabuses. Following this initial program of teacher meetings and support materials, the school systems will provide further training and development and consultancy services to support the implementation of the new syllabuses.

A number of teachers who were unable to attend an information session have contacted the Office to ask how they might access the information presented at the meetings. As a result, the subject-specific presentations have been placed on the Board's website:

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/syl_brief.html#pagetop



NSW teachers attending one of the Years 7–10 syllabus support workshops. By the end of Term 2, 2004, the Office of the Board of Studies will have conducted a total of 168 meetings throughout the state.

President's Message

I have been privileged to attend the opening of some of the regional exhibitions of DesignTECH this year. There is much interest in the creativity and skill demonstrated in the products on display, and particular interest in those students whose work is from the local region. This year's DesignTECH catalogue features 10 years of the exhibition.

When talking with older people and with parents at the exhibitions the most common response is about how much diversity and creativity is on display. Our own recollection of our school experience in this area is of a syllabus that led us to develop skills through a very regimented set of common tasks. Not so today. Teachers guide students to take risks and the result is an impressive array of work, which in the most outstanding cases leads to new products with commercial possibilities.

The changes to the Education Act with respect to registration of non-government schools have now been proclaimed and the Registration of Non-government Schools Manuals have been approved. There has been a very productive consultation and training process to assist the changeover to the new requirements. Members of the Registration Committee and the Board Inspectors have been engaged in joint training sessions to ensure consistency and common understanding in the giving of advice and in the implementation of the changes.

During a recent visit to Hong Kong I was able to visit the Australian International School in Kowloon Tong and meet with Sue McMillan, Head of School, and senior staff. The school uses the NSW curriculum and presents students for the HSC. It was a valuable opportunity for me to get first-hand information about overseas delivery of our curriculum. The school has excellent facilities, very dedicated staff and enthusiastic students. A highlight was seeing the Primary students perform a musical item and then hear HSC students talk about their future plans during the school assembly. I was able to bring them greetings from us all in NSW. The Board values the excellent work in those overseas schools that adopt our curriculum.



(Professor) Gordon Stanley

Top HSC Aboriginal Studies students honoured

Last year's top performing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in the HSC Aboriginal Studies course were honoured at the annual dinner of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) in Sydney on 1 May 2004.

The award recipients, Fiona Webb, a former student of Coffs Harbour Senior College, and Heidi Alchin, who studied Aboriginal Studies through Dubbo School of Distance Education, achieved equal first place in the 2003 HSC Aboriginal Studies course. As in previous years both award recipients attended regional NSW schools.

Dr John Bennett, General Manager of the Office of the Board of Studies NSW, presented Fiona, the top Aboriginal student in the course, with her award and Mr Charles Davison, President of the AECG, presented Heidi, the top non-Aboriginal student in the course, with her award.

Fiona and Heidi both achieved first place through a combination of hard work, determination and a genuine desire to gain a greater understanding of Aboriginal society and culture.

Both accepted their awards with considerable maturity and grace and reflected on the valuable learning experiences they have gained through studying Aboriginal Studies.

Fiona's major project for the HSC Aboriginal Studies course focused on education. She researched a program called *Student Leadership is for Koori Kids* that helps Aboriginal high school students develop leadership skills. Fiona is a passionate advocate for reconciliation and social justice issues for Aboriginal people and hopes to apply the knowledge and skills she has gained through the Aboriginal Studies course to her chosen career as a future teacher

of Aboriginal Studies. She is now studying for a double degree in Education and Arts.

Heidi Alchin became interested in learning about the histories of cultural groups from an early age and enrolled in Aboriginal Studies to learn more about Aboriginal people, their history and issues of social justice. Heidi spent many hours travelling from her home just outside Orange to Dubbo so she could attend workshops. She is now studying for a Bachelor of Communications/Multimedia degree at the University of Canberra. Heidi hopes to use the knowledge she has gained from Aboriginal Studies to direct films and write books on Aboriginal issues.

Fiona and Heidi were each presented with a framed certificate, a glass plaque and a small financial contribution to assist with their future education.

ARTEXPRESS Regional Tour – locations and dates

Orange Regional Gallery

4 June–7 July 2004

Byng Street, Orange

Albury Regional Gallery

30 July–29 August 2004

546 Dean St, Albury

Manning Regional Gallery

(Taree)

3–19 September 2004

12 Macquarie St, Taree

Grafton Regional Gallery

24 September–24 October 2004

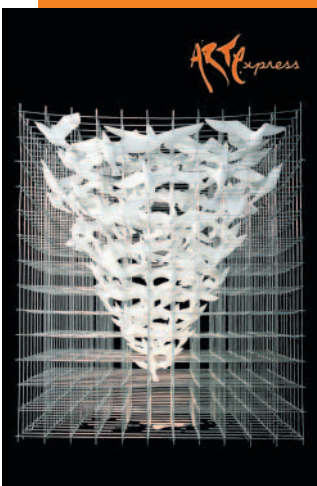
158 Fitzroy St, Grafton

Campbelltown City

Bicentennial Art Gallery

10 December 2004–15 January 2005

Art Gallery Road, Campbelltown



Young Writers Showcase 2003

English Extension 2 major works in book and CD-ROM

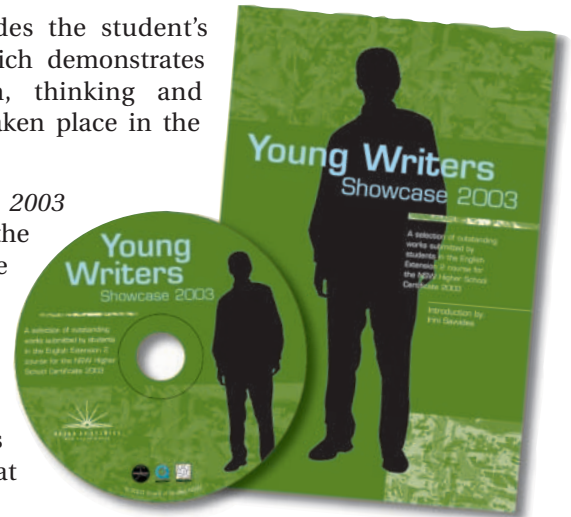
The Board of Studies recently published the third edition of *Young Writers Showcase* – a collection of a range of outstanding English major works by students from the 2003 HSC English Extension 2 course.

Young Writers Showcase has again been produced as a book and in CD-ROM format in order to feature a selection of outstanding print works, including short stories, critical responses, scripts and poetry, as well as video and multimedia presentations.

Each major work includes the student's reflection statement, which demonstrates the high-level research, thinking and composition that have taken place in the work's development.

Young Writers Showcase 2003 comprising the book and the CD-ROM is now available for \$24.95 (incl GST).

Orders may be placed by fax to Customer Liaison on (02) 9262 6270 or by visiting the Board's eBOS Shop Online at <http://shop.bos.nsw.edu.au>



MYDA Awards to embrace 'Year of the Built Environment'

In March, all schools were sent posters and flyers containing key dates and important information about the 2004 Minister's Young Designers Awards (MYDA). The information was also made available on the Board of Studies website.

The Minister's Young Designers Awards are designed to support the mandatory Design and Technology course for Years 7 and 8 students throughout the state by providing young designers with an opportunity to develop and showcase their talent and creativity. In 2003, there were more than 3000 entries from government and non-government schools throughout the state.

The Commonwealth Government has declared 2004 the 'Year of the Built Environment' and this year's MYDA Awards will provide students with the opportunity to base their optional design brief on this theme. Copies of the brief can be downloaded along with entry information from the Board

of Studies website, www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/catalogue/cat.html

Expressions of interest will be accepted until 2 July 2004. They can be lodged online at the Board of Studies website or the Expressions of Interest Forms can be downloaded from the website and faxed or posted to:

Ms Jody Ziesel
Exhibitions Coordinator
GPO Box 5300
SYDNEY 2001
Telephone: (02) 9367 8309
Fax: (02) 9367 8375



MYDA

design
the FUTURE
2004

2004 trial Computing Skills test update

A mandatory Computing Skills test will become part of the suite of School Certificate tests in 2006.

The introduction of the new Computing Skills test is well timed because students completing their School Certificate in 2006 will be the first cohort to be assessed on the new Years 7–10 syllabuses and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) skills embedded within them. The Board decided at its March meeting not to include a separate school-based component in the assessment of computing skills for the School Certificate.

All schools have been invited to have their Year 10 students participate in this year's trial test in November. Schools may choose to have their students sit the 2004 trial test in online or pen-and-paper format or they may choose to nominate some or all of their students to trial either version.

This year schools will be given considerable flexibility in relation to the conduct of the trial test. Schools will be able to arrange for their students to do the online test at any time throughout the school day from Wednesday 10 November until Monday 15 November. This means that schools can choose the time and the day to have their students sit the test, or even organise students into groups and spread the groups over a number of days. The pen-and-paper version of the test will be conducted on Monday 15 November at a time determined by the school. The duration of both the online and the pen-and-paper tests is 1 hour 30 minutes.

The computing skills that will be tested in the 2004 trial Computing Skills test have been grouped into the following five skill areas:

- Perform basic computer operations
- Demonstrate basic word-processing skills to create, work with and modify text documents
- Demonstrate basic spreadsheet and database skills to create, work with and modify files

Schools can choose the time and the day to have their students sit the online test, or even organise students into groups and spread the groups over a number of days.

- Demonstrate basic graphics and multimedia skills to create, work with and modify graphics and multimedia-based files
- Demonstrate internet/intranet communication and research skills (including email).

Schools are encouraged to trial online delivery of the test this year with some or all of their Year 10 students. Many teachers involved in the 2003 trial commented that the electronic test was easy to access, required a minimum of organisation, was quick to download, and required virtually no follow-up paperwork.

The process of entering students for the online test is quite straightforward. When schools enter students in the Computing Skills test, through Schools Online, students are automatically entered for the pen-and-paper test. To enter students for the online test, select the 'Nominate students for the online test' link and follow the instructions. Information on this procedure has been sent to schools.

Enquiries on student enrolments should be directed to Ellen Lynel on (02) 9367 8257 or email to lynel@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Further information about the trial is located on the Computing Skills Assessment page on the Board of Studies website: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/computingskills_assessment.html

It is anticipated that Year 10 students will do the 2006 Computing Skills test online, although a pen-and-paper version will be available for schools upon request.

Contact details regarding the 2004 trial Computing Skills test

Student enrolments

Ellen Lynel
(02) 9367 8257
lynel@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Online test

Rod Roylett
(02) 9367 8029
roylett@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

General enquiries about the test

Joe Merlino
(02) 9367 8110
merlino@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

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Celebrating a decade of HSC Design and Technology Projects

In 2003 DesignTECH celebrated ten years of exhibiting the best HSC Major Design Projects in NSW. DesignTECH is an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Design Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology students.

As a tribute to this outstanding exhibition a full-colour catalogue has been published. The catalogue showcases all the design projects from the 2003 DesignTECH exhibition, which opened at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney late last year and then toured regional NSW throughout 2004.

The catalogue also includes a wonderful collection of images of design projects from past years and a presentation of past DesignTECH student biographies that show how the HSC Design and Technology course has influenced many career paths over the years.

This special edition is a valuable resource for all Design and Technology teachers. It is also an excellent resource for the school library to provide further inspiration to students about this exciting area of the curriculum.



\$19.95
(inc GST)

Available from
<http://shop.bos.nsw.edu.au>
while stocks last



2004 trial Computer Skills test update *continued from p 6*

Important dates for the 2004 trial Computing Skills test

Date	Information
Friday 2 July 2004	Closing date for entries for the trial Computing Skills test in 2004
Friday 29 October 2004	Last day to change/nominate student entries for online or pen-and-paper test
Wednesday 10 November to Monday 15 November 2004	Online test available for students to take on any one or more of these days
Monday 15 November 2004	Pen-and-paper test only on this date

Revision of Construction Curriculum Framework

The Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) endorsed the new national Training Package in Construction in late November 2003. National policy requires that VET courses based on national Training Packages – such as the NSW *HSC Construction Industry Curriculum Framework* – be amended as soon as possible after a new national Training Package is endorsed. Accordingly, the Board of Studies will revise its Construction Industry Curriculum Framework for implementation from Year 11, 2005.

The new national Training Package contains significant changes to qualifications and units of competency. The Board's revised Construction Industry Curriculum Framework will draw from the General Construction (BCG03) Training Package.

Consultation meetings on the draft framework will be

conducted with trained Construction teachers over a period of six school weeks, from 15 June to 6 August 2004. Locations and venues for these consultation meetings, once finalised, will be advertised in each region by Board of Studies Liaison Officers. It is anticipated that the final syllabus will be available in schools late in Term 3.

Students studying the current framework will continue to study from this framework until the end of 2005. The HSC examinations in 2004 and 2005 will draw from the current framework. The first HSC examination based on the revised framework will be in 2006.

For further information contact Maureen Jones, Senior Curriculum Officer, VET on (02) 9367 8175 or jones@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

What's new on the BOS website?

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/aa_main/news.html

- ❏ Computing Skills Update 1– Information on entering and nominating students to sit the 2004 trial Computing Skills test online
- ❏ Years 7–10 Syllabus Briefing Presentations (including the *Mathematics K–6 Syllabus*), in MS PowerPoint and Adobe PDF
- ❏ Guidelines and application forms for Board Endorsed VET Courses to commence/continue in 2005
- ❏ *Board Bulletin* Volume 13 Number 2 May 2004
- ❏ Information sheets and application forms for development of the 2005 Higher School Certificate examinations and School Certificate tests for Chief Examiners, Members of Examination Committees, Assessors and Item Writers
- ❏ The 2003 trial Year 10 Computing Skills test and paper answers
- ❏ The 2004 Higher School Certificate examinations and School Certificate tests timetables

The *Board Bulletin* is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. One copy should be filed for reference. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

Print Post No. PP24163100021

Printed on recycled paper.

The *Board Bulletin* is produced by Public Affairs and Planning, Office of the Board of Studies NSW, 117 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000. Phone (02) 9367 8111. Editorial inquiries: Phone (02) 9367 8308. Distribution inquiries: Fax (02) 9262 6270. Internet address: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

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ISSN 1038-5053