

# Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW

June 1998 – Vol 7 No 5

## 1998 School Certificate information kit sent to schools

An information kit for parents on the new School Certificate was sent to all high schools mid-June.

The kit included brochures for parents on the 1998 School Certificate, a short video from the President of the Board of Studies, NSW Professor Gordon Stanley explaining the changes and outlining the content of the new School Certificate folio, a set of overhead masters plus answers to commonly asked questions.


'The information kit addresses key issues for parents and provides comprehensive details of the new School Certificate, what the changes will mean for their children and how they will result in a stronger, more meaningful credential for Year 10 students,' Professor Stanley said.

The kit also provided information on how parents can help their children prepare for the School Certificate Tests.

'We want to ensure students, parents, teachers and the wider community have all the information they need. The new School Certificate will provide more detailed reporting of what students know, understand and can do. Students, parents and employers all need to understand how to interpret the more descriptive reporting that will be used.'

### Why the School Certificate has been changed

- To restore meaning and purpose to Year 10 study
- To promote continuity between Years 10 and 11
- To raise standards and expectations
- To enable the School Certificate Tests to be held in November, ensuring students are completing useful work until the end of the year
- To provide better, clearer reporting of results
- To ensure students receive their school-based grades for work completed during Year 10 as well as their own School Certificate Test marks based on key aspects of the curriculum

Schools will be able to use the kit on parent information nights, as well as using it as a resource to answer any general questions they receive. 




## HSIE K-6 Update

The Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Draft Syllabus and draft support document were distributed to schools in late May. These documents are also available on the Board's website (<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>). A simple flyer with instructions on how to access these documents using the website was included in the first dispatch.

Part 2 of the support document (Additional Draft Unit Overviews) was distributed to schools in June. A consultation survey on the documents was included in this second dispatch. Consultation on the documents will continue until July 31.

A resource list has also been developed for the draft syllabus and support document. This list, which is also on the Board's website, includes resources such as texts, kits and websites related to each of the units as well as general teacher references.

The list will be regularly updated during the year. At present it contains some suggested resources based on advice from teachers trialling the units. Any additional resources or feedback on the resources already listed can be emailed to Louise Bidenko, Senior Curriculum Officer for HSIE K-6 ([louiseb@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:louiseb@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)). 

## HSC and SC Important Dates

### Year 10

- 6–17 Jul Term 2 Vacation.  
 27–30 Jul Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications.  
 31 Jul Applications for special exam provisions for 1999 Year 10 students sent to schools.  
 5 Aug Principals' 'N' determination forms to schools.

### Year 11

- 3 Jul Amendments to entry forms due at the Board.  
 6–17 Jul Term 2 Vacation.  
 27–30 Jul Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications.  
 31 Jul Applications for special exam provisions for 1999 Year 12 students sent to schools.  
 5 Aug Principals' 'U' determination forms to schools.

### Year 12

- 6 Jul Principal's copy of 1998 HSC Examination Timetable sent to schools.  
 6–17 Jul Term 2 Vacation.  
 24 Jul Last date for change of HSC Music and Drama course options.  
 27–30 Jul Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications.  
 3 Aug Progressive notification of individual dates for practical examinations in Drama, Dance, Design & Technology, Industry Studies, Industrial Technology and Music (Board).  
 5 Aug Principals' 'U' determination forms to schools.  
 9 Aug Final completion date for Society and Culture Personal Interest Projects. Submission details to be advised.  
 17 Aug Commencement date for HSC Dance practical examinations.  
 21 Aug Assessment Collection Schedule (combined Board Developed and Board Endorsed Courses) sent to schools.  
 Alternate mark schedule for students with 'U' determinations sent to schools.

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## CHECK YOUR MAILBOX



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ❖ Science Stage 6 Symposium Proceedings | ❖ HSC 1997 Exam Reports French, Applied Studies, Industrial Technology, General Studies, Science, Economics, Contemporary English, German, Studies of Religion, Geography, Engineering Science |
| ❖ English Prescribed Texts Poster       |  |
| ❖ Securing Their Future Newsletter No 9 |  |
| ❖ Guide to the School Certificate       |  |
| ❖ Science 7–10 Draft Syllabus           |  |
| ❖ Science 7–10 Draft Support Document   | ❖ HSIE K–6 Draft Syllabus  |
| ❖ Science 7–10 Survey                   | ❖ HSIE K–6 Draft Support Document  |
| ❖ HSC Assessment Review Survey          | ❖ HSIE K–6 Survey  |
| ❖ School Certificate Information kit    | ❖ English Stage 6 Summary Report   |
| ❖ English K–6 CD-ROM                    | ❖ School Certificate Information Translations  |
| ❖ English K–6 Information Translations  | ❖ History Writing Brief  |
|   | ❖ History Survey   |

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.

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## President's Message



*The Board is in the process of discussing the HSC subject evaluation reports prior to making recommendations on the changes that will be necessary to achieve the White Paper goals of a stronger, simpler and fairer HSC. In arriving at recommendations, the*

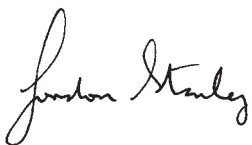
*Board will have the benefit of extensive feedback from teachers and different groups consulted during the past few months.*

*The participation of so many members of the education community in the exercise has been a remarkable achievement and indicates the high level of involvement and commitment there is to achieving the best outcomes for students in NSW.*

*This month has also brought the release of the Science Stages 4 and 5 draft syllabus. The syllabus document has been produced after a wide range of professional input from academic specialists, experienced teachers and others. The Draft release provides another opportunity for teachers to contribute to the curriculum development process so we can ensure the final product is useful and stimulates high levels of interest in science and its place in our daily life. The syllabus has a greater content specification than in the past as a result of feedback from teachers indicating their preference for more detailed syllabus documents.*

*There are important changes to the School Certificate this year. An information kit has been prepared to assist schools, students and parents to understand the changes that are designed to restore meaning and purpose to Year 10 study and to provide better, clearer reporting of results. The kits were sent to schools earlier this month and aim to provide timely and helpful information in a format that is useful. We would appreciate feedback about whether or not you find the kit achieves this.*

*The Primary Curriculum Committee of the Board is considering strategic directions in the development of the primary curriculum. While we have a number of important curriculum documents in progress, we recognise the importance of addressing ways in which different elements of the primary curriculum relate to one another. Work is progressing on ensuring opportunities are made available for better integration across the primary curriculum.*



(Professor) Gordon Stanley

## What's New on the Internet

### K-6

An early draft of the K-6 HSIE Resource List is available and will be updated regularly.

All the new English syllabus documents have been available since early April — about 2000 a week are being downloaded.

There is also a new series of articles entitled *K-6 Science and Technology in Action — Updates from the Classroom*.

Follow a group of Years 5 and 6 Penhurst West Public School students and their teacher, Jan Hancock, implementing a Space Unit with an emphasis on the design/making processes. Join these students and their teacher as they learn more about negotiating tasks and dealing with resource management issues at:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/k6/k6.html>

### HSC English

The papers presented at the Board's Stage 6 English Forum held at Trinity College, Auburn, 7-8 March are all available on the website at:

[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/forum\\_hscenglish98/forum\\_menu.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/forum_hscenglish98/forum_menu.html)

### ACE Manual 1998

This 262-page document can be downloaded from:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/docs/docs.html>

### History Stages 4 and 5 Writing Brief

The History Stages 4 and 5 Writing Brief and Survey can be downloaded from:

[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/docs\\_history/history\\_page1.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/docs_history/history_page1.html)



# Primary Matters

## Work in Progress

### *Mathematics K-6*

The development of a support document of student work samples for Mathematics K-6 is now well advanced. This document is being developed to assist teachers in making judgements about student progress when using *Mathematics K-6 Outcomes and Indicators*, released earlier this year. In addition to the student work samples, a parent brochure is being developed to inform parents and community members of the stage outcomes in Mathematics. A support document for students experiencing learning difficulties in numeracy is also being developed.

### *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6*

The PDHPE K-6 project team is working on the refinement of the 1992 *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6 Draft Syllabus and Support Document*.

### *English K-6*

The collection of English K-6 student work samples for a CD-ROM is in its final stages. This CD-ROM will provide schools with additional work samples to those released in print form in April.

### *Science and Technology K-6*

'Science in Action' is now available on the Board's website. This project follows a class and their teacher through a unit of work over several weeks. It provides a window into the


decisions made by the teacher regarding organisational and resource issues, the learning and teaching opportunities and the students' work samples. The collection of Science and Technology K-6 student work samples for a CD-ROM is now well underway. This CD-ROM will provide schools with work samples based on the Board's *Science and Technology K-6 Syllabus and Support Document* (1991).

### *Creative and Practical Arts K-6*

Consultation with a sample of teachers on work-in-progress material for the draft Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus will take place in June and July. Feedback from the teachers involved in these meetings will inform the work of the project team.

## Special Education

Copies of the two special education interim documents *Literacy* (for students experiencing learning difficulties) and *Communication* (for students with high support needs) sent to schools last year are still in high demand. Schools or institutions who require additional copies can obtain them for \$12 each by ordering on the General Order Form attached to the Board of Studies Syllabus Catalogue or by faxing Client Services on (02) 9262 6270.

If you would like further information regarding these items or K-6 curriculum matters in general, contact Phil Lambert, Inspector, Primary Education, ph (02) 9367 8199 or fax (02) 9367 8476. 

## Official Notices

### Mathematics K-6 Outcomes and Indicators — Errata

The Board advises that some inconsistencies have been identified in the document *Mathematics K-6 Outcomes and Indicators* which was released to schools in March this year. The wording of some outcomes in the sections 'Outcomes by strand' on pages 69-83 and 'Syllabus units' on pages 85-103 is not consistent with that in the section 'Outcomes by stage' on pages 16-20. The intended wording of every outcome may be taken from the 'Outcomes by stage' section.

The 'Values and Attitudes Outcomes' (page 83) should be identified as a separate section and not as part of the section 'Outcomes by strand'.

Effective: Immediately

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8028 Curriculum Officer

### K-6 Syllabuses in Languages

K-6 syllabuses have now been developed in Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Italian. Copies of Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese and Italian are already available. Schools may order copies from the address or fax number indicated below. Korean is currently being finalised. Schools may place advance orders as indicated. The *K-6 Languages Generic Syllabus Framework* was distributed to all schools in 1997. Further copies are available on request. Schools may order copies from:

Client Services Section

Office of the Board of Studies


GPO Box 5300

Sydney 2001

Sales Desk Fax: (02) 9262 6270

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8152 G Sims

(02) 9367 8280 H Oppermann

(02) 9367 8180 D Harland 

# Final evaluation reports on HSC curriculum to be considered

The consultation phase of the HSC subject evaluation process recently drew to a close and final evaluation reports will be considered by the Board of Studies over the next few weeks.

The Board will then make its recommendations on the course arrangements to apply for each subject. The revision of the syllabus will then commence based on this decision and the findings of the evaluation.

‘The completion of the subject evaluations marks the end of an important stage in the HSC reform process,’ Professor Gordon Stanley, President of the Board of Studies, said. ‘The next major step will be the development (where required), of new syllabuses, which meet the needs of all students.’

Thousands of teachers across NSW have been involved in the process, providing valuable feedback on the draft evaluation report for each HSC subject. Together with comments and advice obtained from internal and external consultants, representing a cross-section of community interests, this feedback has been incorporated into the final subject evaluation.


‘Providing teachers with draft copies of the reports and

seeking their comments has been very valuable,’ Professor Stanley said.

‘It has given teachers the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the development of the new HSC curriculum. More than that, it has provided the Board of Studies with the assurance that the final subject evaluation reports will accurately reflect teachers’ professional judgements.’

The Government’s reforms to provide a stronger and fairer HSC call for a curriculum based on rigour, high academic standards and subject integrity. To achieve this, each HSC course has been evaluated against explicit criteria by a panel of teachers, academics and curriculum consultants.

Teachers and the education community will be consulted again throughout the syllabus development stage. Professor Stanley commented:

‘I am very satisfied with the work that has occurred and am confident real improvements to the HSC will result. Everyone concerned, particularly the many teachers who have given their time to the arduous task of subject evaluation, deserves congratulations for our progress to date towards a rigorous, meaningful and equitable credential to award our students in the 21st century.’ 

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## Expressions of Interest

### Office of the Board of Studies

The Office of the Board of Studies is responsible for the development and delivery of professional and administrative services to the Board of Studies and its committees to enable the Board to fulfil its legislated functions under the *Education Act 1990*. These functions include responsibility for NSW curriculum development, monitoring and support; registration and accreditation of non-government schools; and the assessment and examination of student achievements for awarding the NSW School Certificate and Higher School Certificate.

### Expressions of interest

To assist with the management of its 1998–1999 vocational education and training curriculum development program, the Office of the Board of Studies is creating a register of people with curriculum expertise in the following industry areas:


- Building and Construction;
- Business Services and Administration;
- Information Technology;
- Metal and Engineering;

- Primary Industries (including Horticulture);
- Tourism and Hospitality.

Suitably qualified people are invited to submit an expression of interest in being placed on the register to undertake projects on behalf of the Office. The expression of interest may be for one or more of the industry areas.

There will be a range of duties associated with each project. Duties may include writing, researching, convening and conducting meetings, as well as undertaking negotiations with industry, schools and training sectors.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible to ensure that they can be considered for projects that will commence during Term 3 or Term 4, 1998. An information package and an expression of interest form can be obtained by contacting:

Phil Stabback, Principal Education Officer  
Office of the Board of Studies  
GPO Box 5300  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Tel: 02 9367 8310  
E-mail: [stabback@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stabback@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au) 

# Science Years 7–10 draft syllabus sent to schools for consultation

The draft syllabus for Science Years 7–10 was sent to secondary schools in NSW in the first week of June, giving teachers an important opportunity to contribute to the syllabus development process and provide valuable feedback.

The draft syllabus reflects best educational standards and incorporates current developments in science.

It provides a coherent framework for teachers, enabling students to better understand the natural and technological world in which they live and make a positive contribution to the decisions that shape it.

The draft syllabus reflects the extensive consultation carried out by the Board of Studies, involving classroom teachers, head teachers, final year university students studying to become science teachers, academics and tertiary specialists. Response from these groups has been extremely positive.

Each package contains:

- a covering letter explaining the background to the documents
- a copy of the draft syllabus
- a proposed contents page for the support document and two sample units of work
- a survey for teachers that seeks their responses to the documents.

As well as an understanding of the traditional areas of knowledge, the draft syllabus includes five Prescribed Focus Areas: History of Science; Nature and Practice of Science; Applications and Uses of Science; Implications for Society and the Environment; and Current Issues, Research and Development.

The Prescribed Focus Areas identify the different emphases or purposes that can be applied to learning experiences. Attention to the Prescribed Focus Areas will assist students to develop an understanding that scientific activity has become an integral part of the culture in which we live and, as such, contributes a distinctive view of the world. The

Prescribed Focus Areas increase students' knowledge and understanding of science as an ever-developing body of knowledge, of the provisional nature of scientific explanations, the complex relationship between evidence and ideas, and the impact of science on society.


In response to teachers' requests, the draft syllabus clearly defines the scope and depth of the course content. The final syllabus will be accompanied by a comprehensive support document to help teachers with implementation. To assist understanding of the issues and the nature of future teaching programs, two sample work units have been developed in the current package.

One of the major features of the syllabus is that it encourages the development of research and investigative skills in all students.

Science is not only a body of knowledge but also a systematic approach. It involves skills in inquiry, decision making and problem solving, along with positive and informed values and attitudes. The syllabus increases students' confidence and competence in interacting with and analysing their environment. It also enhances their skills in thinking, communicating with others, devising practical solutions to problems and increasing their scientific literacy. It develops students' skills in:

- planning and conducting investigations
- developing techniques and using equipment
- gathering and processing information
- communicating information and understanding
- developing scientific thinking and problem-solving techniques
- working in teams.

As well as acquiring scientific knowledge and skills, students also learn to apply their understanding to everyday situations and develop an appreciation of science and its place in our day-to-day lives.

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8136 Rosemary Hafner, Inspector, Science. 

## John Cook's Farewell

*Friends and colleagues of John Cook, Director, Examinations and Assessment, Office of the Board of Studies NSW, are invited to attend a retirement dinner in his honour on 14 August 1998*  
*Mandarin Ballroom, Gordon Social and Recreation Club*  
*Cnr Albert and Victor Streets, Chatswood, from 7 pm*  
*Cost \$50 pp (includes gift)*  
Contact Flora Tang, Office of the Board of Studies  
on (02) 9367 8118.

## HSC On-Line Aboriginal Studies 2 Unit

Aboriginal Studies 2 Unit went live on the web recently at: [hsc.csu.edu.au](http://hsc.csu.edu.au)

The Aboriginal Studies Homepage is part of a joint venture between the Department of Education and Training, Charles Sturt University, the Joint Council of Professional Teachers' Associations and the Board of Studies. It is designed to support teaching and learning of Aboriginal Studies 2 Unit. The site has four sections:

- The course — this section reflects the Board's Aboriginal Studies 2 Unit Syllabus. It covers all areas HSC students need to study.
- Teaching support — this section is designed for teachers and includes the addresses of new Internet sites for comparative studies and listings for audio-visual and written text resources.
- Hot News — this section is designed for community organisations, schools and districts to place information on the Internet about matters related to the course. For example, in March there were articles on Sorry Day, Bangarra's production of *Fish*, and a listing of students with outstanding results in Aboriginal Studies in the 1997 HSC.
- Communication — this section facilitates discussion and information sharing about the HSC Aboriginal Studies course. The use of the listserver is a valuable way to support teaching and learning in Aboriginal Studies. It will allow students and teachers to develop networks within NSW to augment their comparative studies and exchange information and resources. Users can subscribe to the listserver by clicking the Communications button.

Enquiries: e-mail Chris Dorbis, Curriculum Adviser, Aboriginal Studies, Charles Sturt University at [cdorbis@postoffice.csu.edu.au](mailto:cdorbis@postoffice.csu.edu.au)



### Encore 97 CD

Encore 97 is now available on compact disc. This double CD features all the artists who performed at the Encore 97 concert early in 1998. Order a copy for your school Music Department - at \$20 it's the best value double CD around!

### Board of Studies Website

Many of our syllabus documents are now on our Website. Look in the 'Reading Room' at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

The draft HSIE K-6 Syllabus and Support Document are also available for download. Look in the 'K-6 News' section.

Keep up to date on progress and proposed time lines for White Paper reforms by reading *Securing Their Future* newsletters in the 'HSC and SC Review' section.

### 1997 Sample Answer books

There are seven new titles from the 1997 Higher School Certificate examination available now: Business Studies; Computing Studies; Contemporary English (including tape); English 1997 HSC Best of Writing; Geography; PDHPE and Society & Culture PIP Projects and Guide. All titles are \$15 each plus postage.

### Contact information

The fax number for Client Services is (02) 9262 6270. To place an order simply fax it to this number quoting an official school purchase order number. There is a postage charge of \$4 for one item or \$8 for two or more items.


Should you require a copy of an invoice at any stage, please fax your request to this number.

If you would like to make an inquiry about any of the Board's products, you can speak to a Client Services Officer by phoning (02) 9367 8178. Alternatively, our e-mail address is [clientservices@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:clientservices@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8331 Helen Griffin, Leader, Client Services Section.

## Former Board President named in Queen's Birthday Honours List

Mr Sam Weller, former President of the Board of Studies, 1993-1997, was recently awarded the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He received the award for outstanding public service to education in NSW. Mr Weller, who

retired last year, worked in education for more than 40 years and held many positions including teacher, deputy principal, Inspector of schools, lecturer in teacher education, and General Manager, Curriculum. 

# NSW school students at the National Schools Constitutional Convention



Photograph by Irene Lobeings

*The NSW contingent of student delegates at this year's National Schools Constitutional Convention with Marcus Kearns, Robyn Hawkshaw and Michael Lee from the Office of the Board of Studies.*

**M**ore than 120 Year 12 students participated in the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra on May 13–15.

The National Convention was the culmination of a series of conventions held throughout Australia during 1997. It brought together a group of outstanding State/Territory student delegates, including 31 from NSW schools.

The program is a major project of the Constitutional Centenary Foundation, designed to promote understanding and informed discussion among young Australians about the Australian Constitution and system of government. The Canberra program involved the following speakers: His Excellency Dr Bahdra Ranchard, South African High Commissioner; Ms Tan Le, Young Australian of the Year; His Excellency Mr Dominique Girard; Ambassador for France; and Mr David Marr, Journalist.

The convention focused on the issues of Citizenship and The Preamble to the Constitution. These two issues generated lively debate among students as they questioned and challenged the presenters during the convention sessions.

The convention concluded with the drafting of a communiqué summarising the views of the student

delegates. The communiqué will be forwarded to politicians and will be available to the wider community during 1998.

Convened by the Office of the Board of Studies, the convention has proven to be a highly successful educational program with enormous relevance for young Australians today.

‘The knowledge gained about the workings and value of our Constitution and legal system was far beyond what would be available in the normal school room,’ said Matthew Francis, a NSW schools delegate. ‘However, it was delivered in a way that was relevant and readily understandable by people my age. We also gained skills to help spread this knowledge and interest amongst our school friends and general community.’

The conventions have shown that young Australians are keen to learn more about the Constitution and the form of government that serves them. They give students the opportunity to become involved in debate over whether any changes need to be made to the Constitution as we head towards the 21st century. NSW State conventions for 1998/99 are currently being organised. For more information, contact your Board of Studies Liaison Officer (BOSLO).

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8379 Marcus Kearns.

