

# Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW

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## Making multicultural Australia

*Making multicultural Australia* is an exciting new CD-ROM package that looks at Australia and our emergence as a multicultural society. With a cast of hundreds, from Ron Casey to Kate Ceberano; Helen Darville Demidenko to Bob Hawke and Malcolm Fraser, this multimedia documentary tells the story of today's Australia through thousands of images, words and voices.

Consisting of three CDs, *Making multicultural Australia* details important historical events from the perspective of many of the key participants and looks at conflicting perspectives on Australia as a multicultural society.

It explores the impact of ethnic diversity on Australian public culture and tests Australia's claim to multiculturalism in areas such as politics, the media and the economy.

The package also examines the arts and debates within the arts world, including film and television, visual arts, performance and writing.

Moreover, it provides a major data base of original documents and commentaries for research.

The CD-ROM package can be viewed and listened to as a documentary-style sequence of images, video clips and audio commentary. It can also be stopped at any stage, allowing issues to be explored in depth. At the editorial and research desk there are interviews, debates, images, videos and documents

which have been used in building the story at the documentary level.

*Making multicultural Australia* is designed for high school students and teachers, and is relevant to studies of Australian history, art and design, social studies, Australian politics, civics and citizenship, and computing studies. It is also suitable for TAFE programs in social welfare,

length. Interviewees ranged from prime ministers, senior politicians and civil servants to artists, poets, performers, novelists, musicians, academics, steelworkers, union officials and community workers. Rare insights by now departed participants in key events, such as Peter Wilenski, Don Dunstan, Nugget Coombs, Walter Lippmann, and Mick Young, provide material never before available to the public.

- Every Prime Minister since Gorton is represented, including Malcolm Fraser in an original interview on his time in government, and the current situation confronting Australian multiculturalism.
- The package covers controversial and difficult issues, seeking to ensure a cross-section of community views, allowing debates to emerge throughout the project. These include issues of citizenship, social cohesion and identity.



Image from *Making multicultural Australia*

multicultural studies, translating and interpreting, creative arts, new media and youth, indigenous studies and youth and community work.

With teacher guidance it would also be suitable for senior primary school.

### What's in it?

Material in the package is drawn from every part of Australia, with every state and territory represented by articulate advocates of views, often controversial and in contest with each other.

- Over 200 original interviews were recorded on audio or video, some up to 15 minutes in

- There is a section that deals with questions of racism, anti-racism education, and school, media and community strategies to combat racism.
- A Festival of the Arts celebrates the cultural achievements of contemporary Australian diversity (by more established, newly arrived and younger artists), in the visual arts (painting, sculpture, photography and textiles), in screen production

*continued page 5*

# HSC and SC Important Dates

## Year 10

- 1 Apr Latest date for submission of applications for special exam provisions for Year 10 students
- 23 Apr Submit School Certificate entry forms
- 27 Apr Presiding Officers and Test Supervisors Nominations due at Board

## Year 11

- 19 Mar Preliminary entry forms sent to schools
- 7 May Preliminary entry forms due at Board

## Year 12

- 19 Mar HSC practical option collection forms sent to schools
- 1 Apr Latest date for submission of applications for special exam provisions for Year 12 students
- 23 Apr Confirmation of entry schedules sent to schools
- 27 Apr Presiding Officers Nominations due at Board
- 30 Apr Practical option collection forms due at Board

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## DesignTech on tour

DesignTech, an exhibition of outstanding major design projects from 1998 HSC Design and Technology students, is on display at the Powerhouse Museum Sydney until 18 April, before touring to the following regional centres:

<b>Newcastle Charlestown Square</b>	<b>21 April — 25 April</b>
<b>Coffs Harbour Park Beach Plaza</b>	<b>29 April — 4 May</b>
<b>Tamworth Art Gallery</b>	<b>6 May — 11 May</b>
<b>Dubbo Orana Mall</b>	<b>13 May — 21 May</b>
<b>Wollongong Westfield Warrawong</b>	<b>24 May — 30 May</b>
<b>Wagga Wagga Art Gallery</b>	<b>4 June — 4 July</b>

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



*We hear much talk of the information age and its potential for changing our educational experience. Much of the hype is about the future, which is always just around the corner.*

*Current experience can be a little frustrating. Access to the World Wide Web can often involve waiting time*

*and then filtering out a lot of unnecessary data before we strike the information we are seeking. While there is an increasing number of reliable web sites, hyperlinks and search engines often lead one into irrelevant paths.*

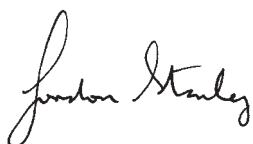
*At present educational CD-ROMs have the advantage of reliability and relative ease of access. The content has been developed with scholarly quality control and thought for end-users. The recently launched Making multicultural Australia CD-ROM is an excellent example of such a resource. It was developed by cooperation between the Board, UTS and the Ethnic Affairs Commission.*

*Personally I have found it most engaging. It enriches our experience and understanding of modern Australia and is very easy to use. It is a valuable teaching and research resource, an archive, and a media library.*

*Congratulations must go to all those who have worked to produce it. In particular the labours of Lyndon Sharp, Lloyd Sharp, Anna Sabiel and Lara Van Der Wall from the Office of the Board of Studies, Andrew Jakubowicz from UTS and Stepan Kerkyasharian from the Ethnic Affairs Commission have been consistent in ensuring that the end product is a valuable contribution to education.*

*The Board has recognised the importance of thinking through the strategic implications of the new developments in the information and communications technologies in curriculum and assessment. The availability of HSC results this year online is one indication of our progress. There are many further applications for us to pursue.*

*We also recognise the changes that are occurring in the teaching and learning environment which in turn influence the ways in which students learn and solve problems. The Board will be working towards a better understanding of such changes in our future developments. We have already had a small workshop with local experts as well as people from Victoria, WA and New Zealand to help us identify some issues for further exploration and development.*



(Professor) Gordon Stanley

## Premier awards students for excellence in the 1998 HSC

**M**ore than 250 Higher School Certificate students with outstanding records of academic excellence were presented with awards by the Premier of NSW, The Hon Bob Carr MP and the Minister for Education and Training, John Aquilina MP, at a ceremony at Darling Harbour in February.

The Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Higher School Certificate, held each year, provide the opportunity to recognise and reward the remarkable achievements and efforts of students in NSW.

This year 99 students were awarded the prestigious Premier's Trophy for achieving 90 per cent or higher in at least 11 units of Higher School Certificate courses. Certificates for Excellence in the Higher School Certificate were awarded to the 156 students placed first in a course where they achieved a mark over 90 per cent.




*Mr Christopher Pitson, a former student of Cootamundra High School, accepts a trophy from the Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr.*

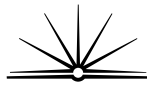
'There are many factors which contribute to excellence in education. However, the elements which are invariably behind such outstanding results are teacher and family support, a quality system of education and, of course, the determination and dedication of the students themselves,' Mr Carr said.

'They come from all sections of New South Wales, and from a wide range of schools — proving that it does not matter where you live or the type of school you attend, if you have a desire to succeed and excel you will achieve your goal.'

Mr Aquilina also congratulated the award winners, and all HSC students, on their achievements.

'Our schools are better equipped than ever before to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to reach their potential. It is this potential that is evident in the excellence celebrated at the Premier's Awards.'

Over 700 people attended the ceremony, including the recipients, their parents, school principals, representatives from the Board of Studies NSW, the NSW Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools. 



# Primary Matters

## Update on the Linkages Project (K–6)

The Linkages project, which commenced in 1998, will have three focus areas this year:

- the mapping and publication of information about links across the curriculum
- research into practices that involve the use of integrated curriculum materials, and
- reporting on the work being undertaken in some schools.

Suzanne Ziems (Senior Curriculum Officer, Primary), who has been appointed project manager for the Linkages project, has been involved in a number of activities since taking up her position in February. Some of these activities have included:

- the mapping of skills that can be located across K–6 syllabus documents
- the preparation of website pages to highlight links in some specific areas
- interviewing teachers in a sample of schools about their use of syllabus documents
- the collection and analysis of recent research reports in the area of curriculum integration.

It is expected that some of the material arising out of these activities will be added to the Linkages site on the Board's webpage (<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>) at the end of March.

Following discussions with teachers at workshops over the past few weeks there has been great interest expressed in the project. Teachers are pleased that the project will identify appropriate syllabus links that will save them time with their programming. They also like the idea of there being a variety of ways to link the KLAs, such as through literacy, computer-based technology and generic skills. Other teachers hope that the

Linkages project will assist them to develop greater familiarity with syllabus outcomes, enabling them to make clear links between concepts and skills across the key learning areas.


## Human Society and Its Environment K–6 Briefings

The Office of the Board of Studies will be conducting briefings on the recently released Human Society and Its Environment K–6 Syllabus and information about K–6 syllabus development in general during March and April. These briefings, which have been organised throughout NSW by BOSLOs (Board Of Studies Liaison Officers), are part of the hand-over of the HSIE K–6 syllabus to schools and school systems. Schools have received information from their BOSLO about the briefings to be held in their local area. The dates and locations for these briefings are below.

Schools are encouraged to contact their local BOSLO for additional information about the briefing/s in their area.

## A Resource of Classroom Practices

*A Resource of Classroom Practices*, a publication developed following the release of the 1998 English K–6 syllabus, is now available for purchase from the Board for \$15. This publication outlines a range of useful classroom suggestions for teaching and learning activities and for assessment. Schools should use the General Order Form (page 8) if they wish to purchase this new publication.

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. 

March 22	Maroubra	March 30	Cardiff
March 24	Campbelltown	April 21	North Sydney
March 25	Yass	April 22	Nyngan
March 26	Griffith	April 23	Broken Hill
March 29	Penrith	May 4	Merimbula

*Making multicultural Australia continued from page 1*

for cinema and television, in theatrical and musical performance and in writing.

- Questions still unresolved in the arts are explored by leading Australian commentators, tackling issues such as the importance of authenticity (in the wake of Helen Demidenko), the role of tradition in contemporary art and culture, and the problem of understanding art across cultures well enough to assess its quality in an environment where artistic excellence is the primary criterion for funding support.



- It includes creative participation by indigenous Australians and artists from East Timor, China, Spain, Greece, Vietnam, Italy, Ireland, the Cook Islands, Somalia, Tanzania, India, Malaysia, the former Yugoslavia, South America, and many more.
- There is an overview of initiatives by state governments, supplemented by interviews with key state policy makers from Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and containing key documents such as the NSW Charter of Cultural Diversity.
- The 'Harvest of Endurance' scroll from the Natural Museum, in its original form, 50 metres long, tells the story of the Chinese in Australia from 1788 to 1988.

**Teaching Resources**

- Documentary material – over 2500 pages of key documents, commentaries, articles, and original research – covers significant areas of multiculturalism as a social reality, a social program and a contested social philosophy.

**The Timeline and Culture discs contain:**

- over 1000 screens, including original Australian artwork, original photographs, archival images and cartoons;
- 500 video and audio files, including nineteenth century archival footage, rare interviews, original

video and audio interviews, original cultural recordings and SBS television archival footage;

- 850 documents – interview transcripts, original commentaries, reports, book extracts, speeches, original articles, academic journal articles, legislation, debates, newspaper and magazine stories, translated texts, and poetry.

**The Library disc contains:**

- Over 2500 pages of formatted documents ready to search by author, abstract keyword, title or order in the project, download or print options, a 2500 item searchable data base of annotated abstracts selected from the MAIS database on Ausrom, and a database of some Australian archives and their collections and accessibility criteria.



- All materials that are copyright cleared can be used for not-for-profit educational purposes.
- A unique research skills section allows students and teachers to develop awareness of how different research resources can be used, what issues to be aware of in their use, and how to analyse examples of different sources.

*Making multicultural Australia* will run on any contemporary multimedia-capable computer, both Macintosh and all recent versions of Windows from v3.1, 95/98, up to Windows NT and networks. A school-wide networking licence to run the discs on multiple computers is granted free on registration.

*Making multicultural Australia* was developed by the Office of the Board of Studies NSW, the University of Technology, Sydney, the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, SBS Broadcasting, the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australia Foundation for Culture and the Humanities with assistance and contributions from several other organisations.

It is available from the Board of Studies for \$95 plus postage by completing and faxing the order form on page 8.



# Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize

This year's recipient of the 1998 Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize, Ms Jyotika Raniga, a former HSC student of Blakehurst High School, is a remarkable student who has overcome great difficulty to achieve academic success.

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, Mr John Aquilina, presented Jyotika with the prize at this year's Premier's Awards ceremony and praised her outstanding effort.

'Jyotika is a determined young woman who has overcome obstacles that would have discouraged most others,' he said.

'Despite serious health problems, which meant Jyotika had to attend hospital for several days each week for dialysis treatment, causing long-term disruption to her studies, Jyotika has been a most conscientious and capable student, achieving excellent results in all her subjects.


'She never asked for favoured treatment. Instead, she was intent on earning her way rather than using her health as an excuse for special treatment. Often she was more concerned with the problems of others, than her own,' Mr Aquilina said.

Brother John Taylor was highly regarded by his colleagues and the educational community for his remarkable contribution to education. During his time he strongly supported the ideals of equality and excellence for all students.

It was in this spirit that he provided board meetings with both wisdom and vigorous debate, and demonstrated superior leadership in the assessment and credentials committees.

The Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize, first awarded in 1994, is presented in honour of the significant contributions made by Brother John Taylor to NSW and national education, and to his commitment to quality in teaching and education.

A total of 18 nominations were received for the 1998 Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize and the decision was no easy task for the trust committee, with so many outstanding cases of achievement against the odds.

'It is a real pleasure to see Jyotika's outstanding efforts recognised and to see her presented with the Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize for 1998.' 




*Ms Jyotika Raniga, a former student of Blakehurst High School, was the recipient of the Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize, presented to a student who has overcome great difficulty to achieve academic excellence.*

# The Royal Easter Show

Every year the Board of Studies participates in the Royal Easter Show, displaying material on a stand with the Department of Education and Training, and TAFE. Staff members are available to answer questions from the public.

Each agency will have a set of computers on the stand. The Board will have the *Making multicultural Australia* (see story in this issue of *Board Bulletin*) and Sampler CD-ROMs on display, as well as pamphlets and copies

of the latest edition of *On Board*. The Sampler CD-ROM includes segments from each of the Board's CD-ROMs and demonstrates a range of kits and other publications.

This is the second year that the show has been held at Homebush. If you haven't been out to the new premises yet, take the opportunity to have a look around. We look forward to seeing everyone out there! 

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## Tenth annual **ENCORE** celebrates fresh talent

A night of dazzling performances by outstanding Higher School Certificate Music students featured in this year's tenth annual ENCORE production. The unique musical abilities of singers, instrumentalists and composers from schools across the state were celebrated in the sell-out performance at the Sydney Opera House.

Music by Mozart, Chopin and Gershwin was performed alongside well-known contemporary hits. Many musicians wrote their own scores, providing a refreshing mix.

Each year ENCORE demonstrates a repertoire of superb quality in both solo and ensemble pieces. This year challenged all previous standards with the maturity of presentation and technical skill of the gifted young people.

The performances and compositions offered represented excellence in the full range of musical expression explored in the HSC Music syllabus, from classical and traditional, through to jazz and rock.

ABC radio presenter, Mr Bob Hughes, compered the evening.

### ENCORE 98 Full list of performers

**David Anderson**  
St Patrick's College,  
Strathfield

**Mark Bell**  
The McDonald College,  
Strathfield

**Julian Brun**  
The Scots College,  
Bellevue Hill

**David Campbell**  
Sydney Grammar  
School, Darlinghurst

**Peter Clark**  
Killara High School

**Bronwyn Cumbo**  
North Sydney Girls High  
School, Crows Nest

**Samuel Donovan**  
Merewether High School,  
Broadmeadow

**Joanne Fogwell**  
Barrenjoey High School,  
Avalon

**Marion Frank**  
Byron Bay High School

**Nicholas Gilbert**  
Canberra Grammar  
School, Red Hill

**Lindsay Gilroy**  
Brigidine College for  
Girls, St Ives

**Louise Gosper**  
Cheltenham Girls High  
School

**Megan Gosper**  
Cheltenham Girls  
High School

**Sarah Jones**  
Armidale High School

**Anna Karnikowski**  
Conservatorium High  
School, Redfern

**Regine Law**  
Ravenswood School for  
Girls, Gordon

**Caroline Lee**  
MLC School, Burwood

**Miguel Lumbré**  
Loyola College, Mt Druitt

**Robert Metcalfe**  
Jamison High School,  
Penrith South

**Roslyn Montefiore**  
Kiama High School

**Sun Park**  
Manly High School

**Martin Penicka**  
Newtown High School of  
Performing Arts

**Cato Rutherford**  
Newtown High School of  
Performing Arts

**Anita Watson**  
Malvina High School,  
Ryde

**Evan Williams**  
St Francis Xavier's  
College, Hamilton



