A federation for communities and places

This paper presents a practical and professional point of view. It marks the first step in a two-year program of Local Government Professionals research and events aimed at increasing awareness of what local government does, the resources it can bring to the table and the expanded role it should pursue.

Read more

Australian Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion is recognised as one of the key social justice challenges facing policy makers and communities worldwide. Digital inclusion is not just about computers, the internet or even technology. It is about using technology as a channel to improve skills, to enhance quality of life, to drive education and to promote economic wellbeing across all elements of society. Digital inclusion is really about social inclusion.

Read more

Australian Jobs 2016

The publication contains a wealth of information, including summaries for states and territories and industries and occupations. It also includes helpful tips that can give job seekers the edge when looking for their next job.

Read more

Australia's Urban Boom

If our big cities keep growing at the same pace as in the past five years – Melbourne by 2 per cent a year, Sydney by 1.6 per cent – by 2050 Melbourne will have nine million people, and Sydney almost 8.5 million. Even if Melbourne's growth slowed to something like Sydney's pace, over the next fifty years both cities would add roughly a million more people per decade

Read more

Some ideas from our members

Buy Swap Sell Online

Think Globally/Eat Locally Film Link

Cooking Down Barriers at St Albans School

Sharing our stories

Read more

Five Challenges in Australian Education

There is no shortage of challenges in school education. Some of the biggest challenges we face can appear frustratingly intractable. Despite reform efforts, regular government reviews and ongoing calls for change, progress in addressing our most significant challenges is often slow and solutions continue to elude us. In this paper Professor Geoff Masters discusses five significant challenges facing school education.

Read more

Inequality and Higher Education

These 'rear view' observations were made in light of more recent government proposals, supported almost universally by the nation's cohort of Vice-Chancellors, to deregulate higher education fees for domestic university students. Professor Parker's address outlined his opposition to such additional changes to Australia's higher education landscape, and considered their wider implications for exacerbating inequality in this country

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Investing in Australian Cities

The Federal Government's Better Cities Program (BCP) of the early 1990s is credited with providing the financial stimulus that facilitated the nation's long term economic growth. This $814m package was invested in 26 strategic projects around the country. In each case, this Federal investment was matched by state funding and provided the catalyst to unlock the economic growth potential of Australian cities and regions.

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Designing Healthy Communities

Selandra Rise is a new housing development located in Melbourne's south-east growth corridor, where residents have bought land and built new houses over a period of several years. This research project aimed to discover how design and planning of a new residential community could improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Read more

Effective Teaching of Reading

This report outlines the powerful research evidence on learning to read from the 1960s to 2015 and explains how having effective, evidence-based reading instruction in every classroom, every day can substantially improve literacy levels among Australian children

Read more

Bring Small Cities In

For our small cities to continue their strong economic performance and be the linchpin in future national productivity they need a future built on city success and growth. Keys to success are about turning challenges into opportunities

Read more

Wyndham Learning festival

Please follow the link for the full program of over 100 events, and feel free to share amongst your networks.

Click on this link: http://www.wyndhamcec.org.au/downloads/WLFProgram-WEB.pdf

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AUSTRALIA IN A CENTURY OF TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE: A FEDERATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

Link to Resource

This paper has been commissioned by Local Government Professionals Australia as a contribution to debate on the future of the Australian federation and as a response to the National Innovation and Science agenda.

Australian local government is far from perfect and Local Government Professionals accepts the need for improvement. Nevertheless, it is disappointing that current moves to reform the federation, including the recently issued discussion paper, have given little consideration to the contribution local government could make.

This paper presents a practical and professional point of view. It marks the first step in a two-year program of Local Government Professionals research and events aimed at increasing awareness of what local government does, the resources it can bring to the table and the expanded role it should pursue.

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AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL INCLUSION

15 February 2016

Source:

Telstra

Source:

Swinburne Institute for Social Research

Owning Institution:

Swinburne University of Technology

Source:

Centre for Social Impact

Owning Institution:

University of New South Wales
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Western Australia

<div style="background:green;color:white;text-align:center;">**Link to Resource**</div>

The internet has transformed almost every aspect of our lives. But for the 4 million Australians who are still not online, the education, health, social and financial benefits of being connected remain out of reach. And we know that digital disadvantage coincides with other forms of social and economic disadvantage, so those that can potentially benefit most from being connected are at greater risk of being left behind.

Digital inclusion is recognised as one of the key social justice challenges facing policy makers and communities worldwide. Digital inclusion is not just about computers, the internet or even technology. It is about using technology as a channel to improve skills, to enhance quality of life, to drive education and to promote economic wellbeing across all elements of society. Digital inclusion is really about social inclusion.

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AUSTRALIAN JOBS 2016

The 2016 Australian Jobs has been released. This report provides a great starting point for users to gain an appreciation of trends in the labour market and factors that should be considered when looking for work or making career and training choices.

The publication contains a wealth of information, including summaries for states and territories and industries and occupations. It also includes helpful tips that can give job seekers the edge when looking for their next job.

The publication also touches upon jobs in the future so that all Australians can take advantage of the job opportunities of tomorrow. Employment projections suggest that most new jobs will be in industries and occupations for which post-school study is essential, highlighting the importance of education. There will also, though, continue to be good opportunities in lower skilled jobs, but applicants will need good employability or soft skills.

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AUSTRALIA'S URBAN BOOM: THE LATEST EVIDENCE

Tim Colebatch
5 April 2016
Source:
Inside Story
Owning Institution:
Swinburne University of Technology

Governments are in denial about population growth and its impact on Australia's major cities. It's time to take up the challenge

SOMETIME over the next three months, Sydney's population will reach five million. If Melbourne keeps growing at its current pace, by 2020 it too will have five million residents – and it won't stay that size for long.

New figures published by the Bureau of Statistics last week estimate that in just five years to mid-2015, the number of people living in Melbourne grew by more than 10 per cent. That's like adding the entire population of Canberra and Queanbeyan in just five years.

If our big cities keep growing at the same pace as in the past five years – Melbourne by 2 per cent a year, Sydney by 1.6 per cent – by 2050 Melbourne will have nine million people, and Sydney almost 8.5 million. Even if Melbourne's growth slowed to something like Sydney's pace, over the next fifty years both cities would add roughly a million more people per decade.

They're not alone. In the past decade, Perth has added almost half a million people, although its growth slowed sharply in 2014–15. Brisbane's growth has been subdued in recent years, but by 2050, on reasonable projections, both cities will be about the size that Melbourne and Sydney are now.

The numbers are kind of breathtaking. Yet they don't explain what's really going on, or the consequences for us now – let alone in the future…

Read the full article

BUY SWAP SELL ONLINE

Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Never sold online? Come along to this FREE worskhop and learn the online tools to sell, donate and swap unwanted items

Warringah Mall Library

Bookings essential.

THINK GLOBALLY / EAT LOCALLY FILM LINK

Posted March 2, 2016 - 14:56 by **Pat Inman**

This documentary which premiered at the PASCAL conference in Catania, tells the story of the development of a local food system in DeKalb, Illinois. Enjoy!

'Think Globally/Eat Locally' is the story of DeKalb County Illinois' community-led efforts to address the need to increase the production and distribution of locally grown foods to improve, health and nutrition, foster community building and promote reconnection with one of our most basic needs—the need to come together to provide food for ourselves and for our communities.

You can download the video from https://vimeo.com/153860645

COOKING DOWN BARRIERS AT ST ALBANS SCHOOL

TADROS HANNA SHARES A DISH WITH OTHER PARENTS AT THE ST ALBANS PRIMARY SCHOOL COOKING DEMONSTRATION. PICTURE: SHAWN SMITS

A rice cooker and an electric wok are all that are needed for a handful of St Albans Primary School parents to cook up a storm once a fortnight.

Despite not sharing a common language, the parents are preparing recipes they cook for their families at school. It's become a valuable social event for these parents, some of whom are yet to master English but want to be involved in the school community.

Organiser Hang Bui said the idea started small, with just two parents, and had since grown. Parents attend each fortnight and have so far shared their favourite Egyptian, Vietnamese, Thai, Sudanese, Eritrean and Indian recipes.

"We discovered that one of the mothers ran a catering company in Vietnam before moving to Australia," Ms Hang said. "She couldn't speak English, but I translate for her and she now hosts her own cooking demonstrations."

The most common languages spoken at the school other than English are Arabic, Vietnamese and Hindi.

Ms Hang said she planned to collate the recipes into a cookbook translated into each language "so the parents can relate to it and own it".

HUME CITY COUNCIL: TOGETHER 3047

SHARING OUR STORIES

PROJECT FACT SHEET

To overcome some of the disadvantage in the 3047 postcode area of Broadmeadows, Dallas and Jacana, an initiative called Together 3047 has been created. This program will deliver a range of projects to promote opportunities for local employment and training, improve housing diversity and enhance our streets and public spaces. One of these is the Sharing Our Stories project.

What is the Sharing our Stories project?

The Sharing our Stories project gives residents of postcode 3047 the opportunity to better get to know their own community by capturing local stories. It will also give participants a chance to develop skills and experience in websites, media, communications and social media, which will hopefully help those participants who are seeking employment or education opportunities.

What will it do?

Everyone loves a good story. Sharing our Stories is a chance for participants to explore life as they know it in postcode 3047. The stories will be collected for an interactive website and book, which will help develop a stronger sense of place and community pride, as well as create connections between people.

How will it do this?

 Our storytellers will be progressively recruited so that the stories reflect the whole of postcode 3047. Council will invite 10 people to start the project and then each story-teller will need to identify other community members and recruit them to share their stories. Hume City Council, through its learning programs, provides the opportunity for local residents to learn story-making

skills that range from video recording, to the editing of stories and the development of website content.

Our 47 story-tellers will be supported by participants of website, media, communications and social media programs and courses (or people who would like to join these programs and courses), who will help develop a Sharing our Stories website where video, stories and other project information can be added over time. The website will be linked to and supported by other social media platforms including promotion via Council's website and Facebook pages. The stories will also be put together in a printed publication that documents the project from start to finish and supplements the website content.

How can I get involved?

Got a great story about life in postcode 3047? Want to develop your video-making skills? If you would like to be a storyteller or participate in creating the videos, you can find out more information online or register your interest by contacting us.

For further information

9205 2200

together3047@hume.vic.gov.au

hume.vic.gov.au/together3047

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FIVE CHALLENGES IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Policy Insights Issue 5 (May 2016)

[Geoff N. Masters](#)
12 May 2016
Source:

There is no shortage of challenges in school education. Some of the biggest challenges we face can appear frustratingly intractable. Despite reform efforts, regular government reviews and ongoing calls for change, progress in addressing our most significant challenges is often slow and solutions continue to elude us. In this paper Professor Geoff Masters discusses five significant challenges facing school education.

1. Equipping students for the 21st Century, including by increasing reading, mathematical and scientific literacy levels;
2. Reducing disparities between Australia's schools, particularly along socioeconomic lines, by ensuring that every student has access to an excellent school and excellent teaching;
3. Reducing the 'long tail' of underachieving students who fall behind year-level curriculum expectations and thus fail to meet minimum international standards;
4. Getting all children off to a good start, by reducing the number of children who begin school with low levels of school readiness and so are at risk of ongoing low achievement;
5. Raising the professional status of teaching, by increasing the number of highly able school leavers entering teaching.

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INEQUALITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION: A CLASS ACT

Stephen Parker
19 February 2016
Source:
TJ Ryan Foundation

Professor Stephen Parker AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Canberra, presented the keynote address to the TJ Ryan Foundation's second anniversary event held in Brisbane on Tuesday, 16 February 2016. The TJ Ryan Foundation is a progressive think tank focusing on Queensland public policy and public administration. Professor Parker's speech addressed changes over the last fifty years to Australia's higher education sector, and to levels of societal inequality in Australia, drawing comparisons and identifying links between the two. These 'rear view' observations were made in light of more recent government proposals, supported almost universally by the nation's cohort of Vice-Chancellors, to deregulate higher education fees for domestic university students. Professor Parker's address outlined his opposition to such additional changes to Australia's higher education landscape, and considered their wider implications for exacerbating inequality in this country.

INVESTING IN AUSTRALIAN CITIES: THE LEGACY OF THE BETTER CITIES PROGRAM

Lyndall Bryant
13 May 2016
Source:
Queensland University of Technology
Owning Institution:
Queensland University of Technology

Download file

The Federal Government's Better Cities Program (BCP) of the early 1990s is credited with providing the financial stimulus that facilitated the nation's long term economic growth. This $814m package was invested in 26 strategic projects around the country. In each case, this Federal investment was matched by state funding and provided the catalyst to unlock the economic growth potential of Australian cities and regions.

Numerous evaluation reports were carried out at the completion of the BCP in the mid-1990s. However, the flow on effects of this investment continued long after the program's completion and have largely gone unreported. The Property Council of Australia (Queensland) has commissioned this report to examine the long term economic impacts of the BCP, some 20 years after its end.

Two of the original 26 projects have been used as case studies, to demonstrate the ongoing impacts this catalytic investment has had across the nation: Newcastle's Honeysuckle redevelopment and Brisbane's urban renewal area. Both were derelict industrial wastelands in the early 1990's. Thanks to the BCP funding and the management structures created, both Newcastle and Brisbane today have thriving waterfront precincts that generate significant economic benefits to their cities, states and the nation in general.

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PLANNING AND DESIGNING HEALTHY NEW COMMUNITIES: SELANDRA RISE

Cecily Maller, **Larissa Nicholls**

9 May 2016
Source:
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Owning Institution:
Government of Victoria

Selandra Rise is a new housing development located in Melbourne's south-east growth corridor, where residents have bought land and built new houses over a period of several years. This research project aimed to discover how design and planning of a new residential community could improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Developed through a VicHealth Research Practice Fellowship, it was conducted at RMIT by Dr Cecily Maller, Senior Research Fellow with co-researcher Dr Larissa Nicholls, Research Fellow. In partnership with Stockland, the Metropolitan Planning Authority, the City of Casey, the Planning Institute of Australia (Vic) and VicHealth, a key focus of the research was the development of recommendations to inform design and planning of future residential communities.

The key research findings and recommendations cover five areas:

- Length of travel to work and health outcomes
- Public transport and connectivity
- Community engagement and social connection
- Physical activity
- Neighbourhood satisfaction and wellbeing

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SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF READING

Kerry Hempenstall, **Jennifer Buckingham**
7 March 2016
Source:
Centre for Independent Studies

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Overview

How children learn to read is one of the most studied aspects of education. There is a large and rigorous body of scientific evidence identifying the key elements of high quality reading instruction. The research literature also unequivocally shows that explicit instruction methods are the most effective way of teaching reading, especially for novice readers and children at-risk of reading failure. Unfortunately, these elements and methods are not consistently used in Australian classrooms, with many thousands of children failing to achieve even basic levels of literacy as a result. This report outlines the powerful research evidence on learning to read from the 1960s to 2015 and explains how having effective, evidence-based reading instruction in every classroom, every day can substantially improve literacy levels among Australian children.

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DEAL OR NO DEAL?
BRINGING SMALL CITIES INTO THE NATIONAL CITIES AGENDA

Regional Australia Institute
26 April 2016
Source:
Regional Australia Institute

The Deal or No Deal? report highlights that Australia's small cities are strong performers economically, but if we look under the bonnet there are some essential ingredients that enable small cities to succeed and grow consistently over time. These include:

• high rates of **connectivity** through physical and digital infrastructure so that firms and people can readily connect with others outside the city;
• strong **human capital** able to support a density of **high paying jobs** that attracts the best talent and ensures that businesses and institutions in the region are capably led;
• one or more **globally competitive specialisations** that enable the city to become embedded in domestic and global supply chains and develop groups of firms and innovation orientated organisations that enable the city to capture growth opportunities over time;
• the type of **amenity** that makes a city 'sticky' or a place that people want to be for the long term so that existing citizens remain committed to spending their lives and careers in the city and others are attracted to join them; and
• a network of **high capacity institutions** so that a city can capably and proactively act to develop itself.

For our small cities to continue their strong economic performance and be the linchpin in future national productivity they need a future built on city success and growth. Keys to success are about turning challenges into opportunities and