

SOSE students discover RSL through the ages

THE Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) has developed a nationwide *RSL Civics and Citizenship* education program to mark the 90th anniversary since the formation of the League in Australia in 1916.

Middle school students in 3000 schools across Australia now have the opportunity to study the history, contribution and impact of the League and can draw inspiration from case studies of RSL community leaders through the years.

The *RSL Civics and Citizenship* education program encourages young Australians to understand why the RSL was established and can be incorporated into the middle school curriculum through SOSE, History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Art and English.

RSL (Qld Branch) State President Doug Formby said the program reinforced the RSL's commitment to invest in educating Australia's youth.

"The RSL is uniquely placed to educate students about the realities of war, past and present," Mr Formby said.

"In our 90th year it is imperative that we continue to bring the history of the RSL into the classrooms through multimedia projects like this, so the stories of our servicemen and

women are never forgotten," he said.

The program comprises of three curriculum modules published in STUDIES magazines distributed to all secondary schools free of charge in March, July and October 2006, a special anniversary CD-ROM titled *Serving the Nation* sent in July 2006, and a website www.servingthenation.info combining wartime voices, interactives and a curriculum guide for teachers.

"The *Serving the Nation* website, in particular, is a resource that all Australians should explore to gain a true sense of what Australians value and what is being done by the RSL to preserve this history," Mr Formby said.

The first STUDIES module of the program is being piloted by a Year 9 class from John Paul College, south of Brisbane.

The college's Middle School Head of SOSE Kelly Fox, who is coordinating the pilot, said the curriculum materials provided a wide range of examples of primary source documents including letters, diary entries, personal recounts and news reports about issues facing returned servicemen and women.

"The activities enable the students to make reflective comment, evaluate and analyse the information present-

ed and extend their understanding of the role the RSL played in this vital aspect of Australian history," Ms Fox said.

The RSL originally evolved as a direct result of the experience of the diggers of 1914 - 1918; their mateship, their post-war needs and welfare, and their sense of what it meant to be Australian. That ethos of compassion and service remains the motivating influence of the League.

Today, the RSL is the largest ex-service organisation in Australia, with a national membership of around 200,000 who continue to give and receive support by way of welfare, advocacy, commemoration and remembrance.

The *RSL Civics and Citizenship* education program will be launched in Queensland by the Premier Peter Beattie at Parliament House on Friday August 25.

To visit the RSL website *Serving the Nation* go to: www.servingthenation.info

- Further information:
- Curriculum exchange link - include EduSite review
 - The Returned & Services League (QLD Branch) www.rslqld.org
 - Ryebuck Media www.ryebuck.com.au



The RSL Civics and Citizenship education program consists of a STUDIES magazines, a special anniversary CD-ROM titled *Serving the Nation*, and a website www.servingthenation.info combining wartime voices, interactives and a curriculum guide for teachers.

Forum promotes great learning ideas

MORE than 235 participants attended the 2006 National IDEAS Learning Forum, an annual event for the Innovative Designs in Enhancing Achievements in Schools (IDEAS) project.

The forum was held at the Church of Christ Community Hall in Toowoomba in May.

The Department of Education and the Arts/University of Southern Queensland IDEAS Alliance convenes the Learning Forum each year for schools engaged in the IDEAS project to share and celebrate their achievements.

This year the event expanded to attract IDEAS schools Australia-wide as well as a range of participants interested in the school revitalisation program. Educators from as far away as Sicily, in Italy, and from around Australia including Western Australia, Canberra, Victoria, Sydney and all over Queensland registered to take part.

Each school engaged in the IDEAS project was given the opportunity to showcase its school vision and the journeys the school is embarking on using the process.



Toowoomba State High School mounted a colourful display illustrating their school vision for both campuses: Mt Lofty - "Creating opportunities: building lofty futures" and Wilsonton - "Learning together: launching bright futures."

Building on the strengths and focusing on challenges, both campuses have successfully been working with the IDEAS program since 2003 to develop a new vision to achieve improved learning outcomes for their students.

This has extensively engaged staff in discussion and planning about teaching and learning. Students and parents and carers participated in the

identifying, visioning and actioning phases of the process. A continuing partnership will strengthen the directions of this school well into the future.

Toowoomba State High School principal Chris Zilm said, "After being part of the IDEAS program and having had an opportunity to work on what is really important to our school, it was very valuable to share what we have done with other schools and to see what other schools have done in re-engaging students to a higher degree. We have come away motivated with a lot of energy to further engage our students."

Department of Education and the Arts Principal Project Officer - IDEAS Sharon Taylor, along with IDEAS Core team members from the University of Southern Queensland, were instrumental in developing and implementing an interesting program of professional development for the day.

Sessions included topics such as student leadership, building cohesive school community through alignment and three-dimensional pedagogy.

They were ably joined in leading presentations by students, teachers and administrators from a number of IDEAS schools including students from Harlaxton State School and teachers and the principal from Walkervale State School and Toowoomba State High School.

Our many visiting educators from other states, jurisdictions and international locations were complimentary about the level of enthusiasm and passion exhibited by our teachers, which of course all contributes to improved student learning outcomes.

Australian Heritage Festival
26 Aug - 3 Sept

Jondaryan Woolshed and Village comes to life with markets, vintage machines and challenges, wagon rides, shearing, pioneer games and delicious damper.

9 days of fun for families and school groups - work, rest and play the pioneer way.

www.jondaryanwoolshed.com

Schools tap into data through CensusAtSchool

STUDENTS from 2746 schools nationwide have recently completed the questionnaire stage of the CensusAtSchool project.

The data gathered from that questionnaire is now ready to be used. Starting this week, 415 Queensland schools involved in the project will begin progressively tapping into the data, for uses that are both educational and fun.

CensusAtSchool is an online learning experience conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It shows students from Years 5 to 12 how statistics can be relevant to them.

Queensland Director of Census Tony Webb said the ABS was delighted with the response from both the public and independent schools sectors.

"CensusAtSchool aims to increase statistical literacy amongst students and open their minds to the possibility of future careers in statistics," he said.

"School students from across Australia have built up a statistical base by filling in a questionnaire online at the ABS CensusAtSchool website.

"Just like a real census, students answered a set of questions about themselves. The questions dealt with things such as height, what a student had for breakfast, and the colour of their eyes," Mr Webb said.

Students can access the data to make comparisons between themselves and other sets of students in different parts of Australia.

As with the national census, no one can be identified from this data and strict Internet security is in place.

It is also a way of highlighting the importance of the 2006 census, fast approaching on Tuesday August 8, 2006.

Teaching Opportunities in the UK

- Teachers of secondary, primary and special needs, plus classroom assistants, childcare workers, school support.
- Day-to-day or long-term positions
- Excellent rates of pay
- ongoing support and training
- Your own personal consultants
- Offices throughout the UK
- Bonus after working first 20 days

Contact Capita today for a free handbook on living and working in the UK.
UK working holiday necessary or right-of-abode visa required for the UK.

brisbane@capitaer.com.au
www.capitaers.co.uk

CAPITA
EDUCATION RESOURCING

Call now on **1800 240 130**

International Edu-K Conference
ACGS, Brisbane, Australia

Brain Gym®
A Lifelong Learning Opportunity
Celebrating Diversity

September 28 - October 1, 2006

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTERS

SAVE MONEY!!! REGISTER NOW!!!

4 DAYS: \$475 by 12th Aug. \$525 later
WEEKEND: \$250 | DAY: \$135:
Includes Morning tea and lunch

VISIT www.braingym.org.au
EMAIL registration@braingym.org.au