



Big day of sport out West 4



Earth Dialogues Challenge 9



Australia on the Map 10



Staff represented at Games 15



Students feel safe at school

BRISBANE Central State School students, pictured, were amongst the hundreds of schools around the country that celebrated National Safe Schools Week this week. Students from all year levels came together in groups to participate in team building activities and to host a morning tea for members of their community.

National Safe Schools Week is an initiative that aims to reduce bullying in schools by encouraging public recognition and celebration of their achievements towards ensuring all students have positive learning experiences.

Full story and more pictures from celebrations around the state, page 20.

Alliance has great IDEAS to revitalise schools

AN alliance that has already helped revitalise more than 160 Queensland state schools has been so successful that it is using money generated through intellectual property to fund a new research hub.

Department of Education and the Arts Workforce Learning branch director Jenny Galligan said the \$350,000 hub, officially opened in Toowoomba this week, was based at the Leadership Research Institute at the University of Southern Queensland.

“The IDEAS – Innovative Designs for Enhancing Achievements in Schools – program is a research alliance of the Department of Education and the Arts and the Leadership Research Institute,” Ms Galligan said.

“IDEAS is a research based process that looks at what a school is doing now and how it could do it better to improve outcomes for students and the school.

“It identifies a school’s strengths and weaknesses through a diagnostic process that includes surveys of parents, teachers and students.

“The whole school community then plans and implements strategies for improvement.

“Each school is different. IDEAS may lead to changes in teaching practice, better communication within the school community or targeting an area of the curriculum where the school’s performance can be improved.”

Ms Galligan said IDEAS had been so successful in Queensland that it had now been adopted by schools in Victoria, Western Australia, Sydney and Canberra.

“There is also strong interest overseas, including a research pilot in Singapore that is being funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education,” Ms Galligan said.

“Schools participating in the IDEAS program commit to a two-year process of revitalisation using resources, workshops and on-site consultation from the IDEAS team.”

The Department of Education and the Arts has been working closely with the university for seven years to deliver the IDEAS program into Queensland schools.

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Tickets on sale now - don't miss out

Don't miss out on tickets to see *Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage* – 7pm, June 2 and 3 at QPAC Concert Hall. Full details page 7.

www.qtix.com.au

Education Office Gazette page 16

TechnologyOne **byte** awards

www.education.qld.gov.au/students/advocacy/gilted/byte/

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At the official launch of the IDEAS Alliance Research Hub in Toowoomba on Tuesday are USQ Leadership Research Institute director Dr Dorothy Andrews, USQ Dean of Education Professor Frank Crowther and Department of Education and the Arts Workforce Learning director Jenny Galligan.

Research program builds on success in our schools

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In 2004 this successful affiliation was formalised when the IDEAS Alliance was created. This has enabled the IDEAS team to deliver the program interstate and internationally. The success of the program is illustrated by the fact that funds generated from interstate contracts for the IDEAS program will be used for

on-going research into school revitalisation and leadership. Director of the Leadership Research Institute at USQ Dr Dorothy Andrews said one of the initial research projects would look at how IDEAS schools are able to sustain school improvement. "Another project will look at how IDEAS is working in diverse con-

texts, so if you create a program in Toowoomba, does that program have relevance in other parts of Australia, like the Torres Strait," Dr Andrews said. More information on the IDEAS program and school stories can be found on the USQ website at: <http://ideas.usq.edu.au/Home/tabid/52/Default.aspx>

Western Cape College celebrates first stage of redevelopment

THE State Government has invested \$7.3 million at Western Cape College to provide new state-of-the-art facilities and help meet enrolment growth. Officially opening the facilities yesterday during a visit to Weipa, Education Minister Rod Welford said the new facilities were the first stage of a master-planned redevelopment of Western Cape College's Weipa campus. "Enrolments at the Weipa campus have risen from 557 in 2002 to 715 this year as a result of the town's buoyant mining industry and the transfer of students from the school's Napranum campus which closed at the end of last year," Mr Welford said. "With its three campuses in Aurukun, Weipa and Mapoon, Western Cape College has the largest geographical footprint of any school in Australia. "The multi-campus school has gone from strength to strength since it was formed in 2002. Enrolments from outlying Indigenous communities are particularly increasing, as are Year 12 completion rates." Mr Welford said a highlight of the new facilities was a specialist building incorporating a graphics/multi-media room, technology/business centre with 30 computers, music studio with soundproof practice rooms, and an arts studio with a small gallery area. "Students in Years 7-12 are currently using the new building to practice their dance and music performances for the 2006 Croc Festival, being held at the school in July this year," he said. "The school has also struck an agreement with Tropical North Queensland TAFE to run after-school art classes for the community to support the region's burgeoning Indigenous arts industry. "The redevelopment's other major element was the construction of two Years 5 and 6 classroom blocks with computer laboratories to accommodate the school's growing student population." Mr Welford said the school had capitalised on its location in Queensland's mining hub by establishing links with key industry groups to create career paths for students. "The school has a strong school-based apprenticeship and traineeship program with 13 students aged between 14 and 16 currently involved in on-the-job training in areas such as transport and distribution, diesel fitting, agriculture, retail, business and hospitality. A further five students are set to join the program after two students secured full-time employment," he said. "The school has also this year introduced a new service guarantee with senior students that guarantees them an OP, vocational qualification or a job when they finish Year 12. "This is a great example of a school taking the spirit of our Government's 'learning or earning' reforms and making them work for students in their local community."

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