

EDITORIAL

The argy-bargy on the decision by Commonwealth, state and territory Education Ministers to ensure ‘that schools provide clear performance reporting to parents, carers and their local communities’ in the form of nationally consistent information about school results is going to be significant. So admitted Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, speaking about national league tables at the National Press Club, back in August last year. Evidence that we’re coming to the pointy end appeared in New South Wales in June, when the opposition, with cross-bench support, managed to win a parliamentary vote to prevent newspapers from publishing league tables. A more measured attempt to cut through the argy-bargy came in the form of *Reporting and Comparing School Performances*, a paper prepared for the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs and published in December last year by the Australian Council for Educational Research to provide advice on national schools data collection and reporting for school evaluation, accountability and resource allocation, which proposes, sensibly, that information be made available in the form of like-school comparisons. **1**

Reporting and Comparing School Performances by Geoff Masters, Glenn Rowley, John Ainley and Siek Toon Khoo is available at http://research.acer.edu.au/ar_misc/8

CORRECTION

The opening lines of Greg Black’s ‘This changing world: Technology, teaching and learning’ in the August edition made reference to ‘Did you know?’ by Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod and Jeff Brenman, available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihbL8ewkP-o

ANOTHER AWARD FOR TEACHER

Rebecca Leech is the winner of the Australian College of Educators (ACE) Victorian Branch Media Award, which recognises excellence in the reporting of educational issues and outstanding journalistic contributions to education.

Leech received the award for her analysis of the provision of state and Commonwealth government funding to government and non-government schools in ‘Easy as pie? It’s time we fixed our school funding system,’ published in the October 2008 edition of *Teacher*.

According to Dr Ian Sloane, Chair of the ACE Media Awards judging panel, “‘Easy as pie?’ was an excellent piece of journalism, which impressed all members of the judging panel.

‘The panel was impressed with the article’s comprehensive coverage of all the key issues, the author’s exposure of flawed arguments provided to support the existing system and the conclusion that, “Only when the funding system is consistent and transparent will government, schools and society be able to evaluate whether or not it’s fair.”

QUICK QUIZ

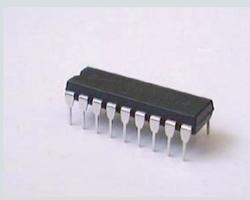
1. Why does Chris Waterman encourage the use of quotation marks when you do a Google search?
2. After whom is ‘Boolean’ named?
3. With 110 million users, MySpace would make a large country, but where would it rank by population if it was a country?
4. How much is Australia’s international education industry worth per year?
5. What does ASHD, the acronym coined by Tools for Thought blogger Andre Kibbe, stand for?
6. Do android teachers stress about electric students?
7. Okay, once and for all, is William Makepeace Thackeray’s Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair* innocent or not?
8. Who can sue for defamation?
9. Who created *The Story of Stuff*?
10. When religious broadcaster Pat Robertson said on his *700 Club* program on the Virginia Beach-based Christian Broadcasting Network, back in 2004, ‘I’m hearing from the Lord it’s going to be like a blowout election,’ what did he mean?

Answers: 1. because the search leads to results that contain the exact search terms; 2. George Boole; 3. it would be the 11th largest country in the world; 4. \$14.2 billion, according to Australian Education International; 5. Attention Surfeit Hypoactivity Disorder; 6. not yet, but Javier Movellan’s robotics team at the Machine Perception Laboratory at the University of California, San Diego, is working on it; 7. hard to tell – Thackeray, always evasive, never quite answers; 8. any living person; 9. Annie Leonard; 10. the Lord may have said, ‘It’s going to be, like, a blowout election, Pat,’ but apparently not, ‘It’s going to be, if you will, a blowout election, Pat.’

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