

Grapevine

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

The web is an amazing thing. Put 'World Teachers' Day 2010' in your favourite search engine and guess what? The first page in your search list is not topped by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which initiated World Teachers' Day to 'celebrate teachers worldwide...', mobilise support for teachers and...ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers' in 1994. No, it's topped by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT), with the Western Australian College of Teaching (WACOT), the Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania (TRB Tasmania), the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia (TRB SA) and the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training (NT DET) hot on its heels. Even Mountain Creek State School on the Sunshine Coast ranks high on the list. UNESCO's date, by the way, is 5 October, in Australian term time, so we celebrate World Teachers' Day on 29 October. The QCT suggests things like a morning tea, lunch or barbecue for teachers, a student concert, a collage of messages, poems and drawings, or a poster or postcard design competition. WACOT is running a Kinder to Year 3 drawing competition; a Year 4 to Year 7 limerick competition; a Year 8 to Year 10 literary composition competition; and a Years 11 and 12 artwork competition. The WACOT prizes are pretty amazing. Likewise, the TRB Tasmania is celebrating World Teachers' Day by inviting students to create a digital image story to answer the question, 'What makes teachers in your school great?' with some fantastic prizes. Entries close 15 October. The VIT is inviting people to nominate a teacher who has made a real difference with their students, colleagues or community, with 10 nominees to receive a certificate of recognition plus an iPad and professional development to go with it. Nominations close 15 October. The TRB SA suggests holding a joint after-school celebration with neighbouring schools, celebrating great teachers in the school

newsletter or producing a banner. The NT DET coordinates functions in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Grapevine's favourite, though, is the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, which lists World Teacher Day on 5 October.

BOOK-TO-FILM

Hands up all those school principals who had a \$20 million film released last month. The first novel in John Marsden's massively successful *Tomorrow* series, *Tomorrow, When The War Began*, was released in September. It's believed that Ambience Entertainment, the independent film and television production company behind the film, has optioned the second and third novels in the series, *The Dead of the Night* and *The Third Day, the Frost*, and may use the following four books in the series



– *Darkness, Be My Friend, Burning for Revenge, The Night is for Hunting* and *The Other Side of Dawn* – as the basis for a television series. According to Stuart Beattie, who wrote the screenplay and directed the film, 'I was looking to make a character-based but commercial action movie set in Australia that could compete on the international stage.' What does Marsden think? 'I'd never heard of Stuart Beattie, although once my wife found out that he'd written the movie *30 Days of Night*, she assured me that we were in safe hands!' he says. 'But as soon as I walked onto the set and watched them filming a scene I started to relax. The vibe was good. Stuart is a subtle, clever filmmaker. When I finally sat down to watch the entire movie I was stunned by just how well it works. I love the pacing, the con-

trasts, the relationships, and the action. And I love the actors.' Marsden is the principal of Candlebark School, north of Melbourne.

THE AVERAGE STUDENT BODY – NOT ONE LEG TOO FEW

Still on John Marsden, all Victorian schools are required to prepare an annual report, sometimes for interested readers. One item in the 2009 annual report on Candlebark School makes for more than interesting reading: 'We are required to provide "contextual information about the school, including the characteristics of the student body."' Devotees of *Beyond the Fringe* (if anyone even remembers it) will understand the temptation I am battling with, to write that the average student body at our school consists of four student limbs, a student torso, a student chest, and is joined to the student head by the student neck. However, I am made of strong stuff, and will resist the temptation.' *Beyond the Fringe* was a satirical stage revue written and performed by Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Alan Bennett, and Jonathan Miller in the 1960s. Marsden would appear to be well qualified to write for a new incarnation of the show. Maybe Ambience Entertainment might consider a television series.

GOODBYE, MR CHIPS; HELLO, MS BANERJEE

According to a research report by Carol Reid and Michael Singh from the University of Western Sydney with Jock Collins from the University of Technology Sydney, Australian schools are now in a 'global competition for professional labour.' Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the report, 'Globalisation and teacher movements into and out of multicultural Australia,' suggests Australian schools will need to recruit overseas teachers to fill vacancies in specialist areas like maths, science, technology and some languages. The trio is writing a book, *Goodbye, Mr Chips; Hello, Ms Banerjee*.

The Grapevine is written by Steve Holden, Editor of Teacher.