Teacher has scooped a total of three awards at the 2007 Bell Awards, staged annually by Publishers Australia to celebrate the achievements of business-to-business, specialist and custom publishing, both in print and online. The win is all the more remarkable since 2007 was the first year Teacher, published by the Australian Council for Educational Research through ACER Press, has entered the awards. Teacher was the runner up for the coveted 2007 Business-to-Business Magazine of the Year trophy, putting it in the top eight magazines in the country vying for the title of Magazine of the Year in competition with 260 other magazines. Teacher was also the runner up for the highly-competitive Best Print Quality trophy, which deserves a special congratulations to our superb printers, Printgraphics. Rebecca Leech won the prestigious Writer of the Year trophy for her outstanding work in Teacher. We know that readers and advertisers already recognise the excellence of Teacher, but it’s nice to know that Publishers Australia also recognises that excellence through the 2007 Bell Awards, and we’re extremely proud to receive an astonishing three awards. The 2007 Bell Awards success is a testament to the great strides Teacher has made in the last few years. More than that however, it’s a testament to the vitality and expertise of educators in Australian schools. After all, Teacher is founded on the principle that educators across all state, Catholic and independent schools and in related educational settings deserve their own national education magazine that provides opportunities for comment by educators for educators. In providing exactly that, Teacher supports the central goal of the Australian Council for Educational Research: improving learning.

Teacher February 2008

EDITORIAL

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FASTR FACTS

The average performance of Australian students in scientific literacy was significantly below the average of only three other countries – Finland, Hong Kong-China and Canada.

In scientific literacy, Australia ranked fourth with New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei – behind Finland, Hong Kong-China and Canada.

In mathematical literacy, Australia ranked ninth, behind Chinese Taipei, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Korea, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada and Macao-China.

In reading literacy, Australia ranked sixth, behind Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Canada and New Zealand.

In scientific literacy, 40 per cent of Australia’s Indigenous students, 27 per cent of students in remote schools and 23 per cent of students from the lowest socioeconomic quartile performed below the OECD baseline.

Source: PISA 2006, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who designed Lake Ginninderra College?
2. Members of which four peak principals bodies sit on the governing council of the Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council?
3. What percentage of United States children and adolescents are overweight?
4. Which Australian state does not offer a certificate of education with the words ‘certificate of education’ in its title?
5. Does light travel in straight lines?
6. In which class did Adelaide’s Annesley College enter a car in the 2007 World Solar Challenge?
7. The Annesley College team was the only girls’ team in the 2007 World Solar Challenge: true or false?
8. Which Melbourne school now offers Auslan in its Languages Other Than English program?
9. What is the location of Australia’s muddiest History classroom?
10. Who, in 1952, said, ‘I em speaking to you from mai ayn haym, where I em spending Christmas with mai femly.’

Answers: 1. Daryl Jackson; 2. the Australian Primary Principals’ Association, the Australian Secondary Principals’ Association, the Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools of Australia and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia; 3. 17 per cent; 4. New South Wales, which offers the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate; 5. no, at least not in Australian schools; 6. the Greenfleet class; 7. true; 8. Diamond Creek East Primary School; 9. Emu Gully in Helidon, west of Brisbane; 10. Queen Elizabeth II.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey, 1859–1952, Philosopher, Psychologist and Education Reformer

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