HALF EMPTY, HALF FULL
According to Australian University Sport, of the 149 Olympic medals brought home from Beijing by Australians, half were awarded to past or present students that have ties to the Australian university sector. Well, actually there were 149 medals and 71 went to an athlete with a link to a university so it wasn’t actually half, but presumably the 52.35 per cent of athletes with no link to a university won’t be able to figure that out.

MIND YOUR HEAD
One in five students needs support for mental health problems, according to research undertaken by Interconnexions, a collaboration between the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) and International Alliance for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools (Intercamhs), presented at the Mind Your Head conference co-hosted by ICP, Intercamhs and Principals Australia in Melbourne in September. Professor Louise Rowling, the research project leader, said principals identified bullying, harassment, impulse control, anger management and family dysfunction as the priority mental health problems for students. The research also identified stress, anxiety, depression, loss and grief, bullying and harassment in the workplace as mental health issues for teachers.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST
The Catholic Education Office (CEO) of Wollongong plans to build a 1,000-student high school in Camden. Camden Council in May rejected an application by the Quranic Society to build a 1,200-student school in Camden ‘on planning grounds.’ The president of the Camden-Macarthur Residents’ Group, Emil Sremchevich, told the Sydney Morning Herald’s Sunanda Creagh the CEO plan ‘ticked all the right boxes.’ ‘Catholics are part of our community so we should be supporting it on this basis alone. We have to welcome them,’ he told Creagh. ‘To become part of a community, you need to live in the community. You can’t just turn up.’ You can ask whether this is racist, or just plain illogical. As Sremchevich explained, ‘It’s very simple: people like some things but don’t like other things. Some of us like blondes, some of us like brunettes. Some of us like Fords, some of us like Holdens.... If I want to like some people and not like other people, that’s the nature of the beast.’ Quranic Society spokesman Issam Obeid said the Quranic Society did not object to the CEO plan, but noted ‘there is a double standard.’ CEO spokesman Peter McPherson said the proposed site is already zoned for a school, unlike the Quranic Society application, which would have required rezoning.

SAFETY RULES
China’s Ministry of Education released an updated code of ethics for primary and middle school teachers in September, with a new rule instructing teachers to ‘pay more attention to the health of students’ and ‘take care of their students’ safety.’ Ministry officials said they had been considering a safety rule since 2004 and the case of ‘Running Fan’ merely reinforced their decision. ‘Running Fan’ is the name given to Fan Meizhong, a middle school teacher in Dujiangyan in southwest China’s Sichuan province, who ran for his life when the 8.0-magnitude earthquake struck on 12 May, leaving his students in the classroom. Fan was fired by his school shortly after the earthquake.

This month’s Grapevine is by Steve Holden, Editor of Teacher.