



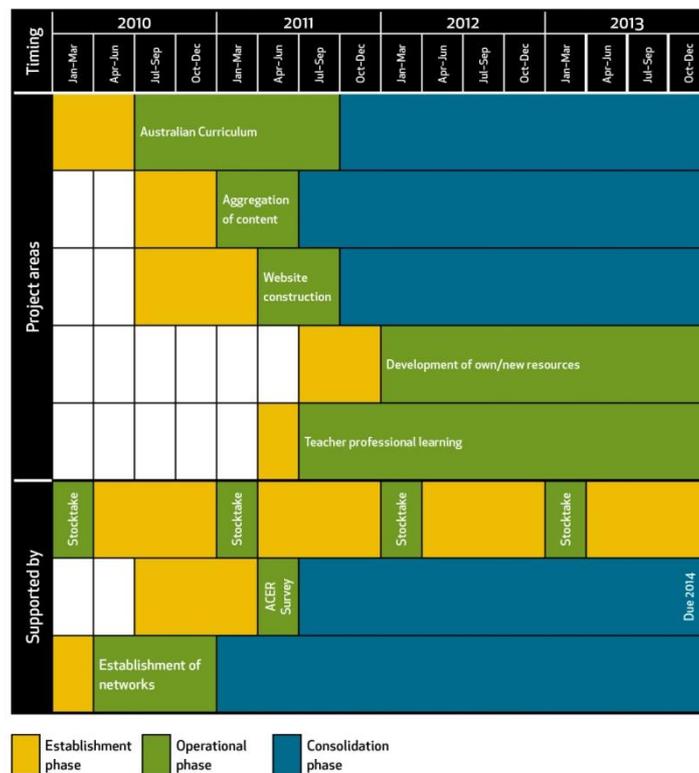
Foundation Newsletter-June 2011

The Foundation continues to develop as the peak body for primary industries education in Australian schools. Much of our initial work will come to fruition throughout the second half of this year. This newsletter will provide an update of activities so far this year; advise of forthcoming events and activities and highlight the many wonderful things occurring in the primary industries sector.

The more time we spend discussing primary industries education the more faith we have in the need for a peak body to facilitate and assist in the coordination of initiatives and activities across the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector. Recent events have only served to reinforce the need for a credible, honest broker of high quality resources in this area.

However, we can only be successful with the continued support of industry, government and education. Just as we seek to support our tripartite network we need mutual support from these three sources to maintain relevance and currency. We look forward to your continued support and contact and trust you will appreciate the update.

Overview and Update of Activities





We have had some early success in having primary industries included as a subject within the technology learning area and as a context across all learning areas and have received the following update from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority;

**Curriculum development process for the Australian Curriculum:
Technologies**

The Technologies (Information and Communication Technology and Design and Technology) learning area is a diverse learning area and the way it is currently addressed in states and territories varies considerably. Technology contexts include (agriculture/primary industries, built environment, computing/digital technologies, design, engineering, food technology and nutrition, graphics, materials and product design (e.g. timber, metal, and textiles).

Curriculum development for the Technologies learning area (Information and Communication Technology and Design and Technology) is planned to commence in 2011. The first phase of this process is the Shaping phase and this is expected to occur during the second half of 2011. A lead writer will be identified to write the Initial Advice Paper in consultation with an expert advisory panel. A national forum will be convened later in the year to provide feedback on the draft Initial Advice Paper. Feedback from forum participants will be analysed and the lead writer will develop a draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Technologies paper for public consultation over a 10 week period. The writing phase, including development of a draft for broad consultation, is planned to take place in 2012–2013.

Further information about the Curriculum Development Process is available at: http://www.acara.edu.au/development_of_the_australian_curriculum.html

Aggregation of Content

As of February 2011, the stocktake identified over 250 individual initiatives. We are aware that this is by no means the definitive list. The Foundation will engage in a process over the next twelve months to aggregate this content to include appropriate resources on our website to make them 'discoverable' by being located in the one place and found using simple search terms. The process has commenced with the placement of 50-60 initial resources on the website for the launch in late June/early July. The continual sorting and uploading of existing resources over the next 12 months will immediately follow.

Website

A key feature of the foundation's activities has been the development of a one-stop web-portal for resources, events and contacts. The name of the website will be 'Primezone' and is the result of market research and focus groups involving teachers and students.



The address will be www.primezone.edu.au. The securing of an “edu.au” is a significant factor in increasing the Foundation’s credibility and access to the education sector.

The website is being developed by Education Services Australia (formerly the Curriculum Corporation and Education.au). Education Services Australia also maintains the National Digital Learning Resource Network (NDLRN), has worked for various projects related to the Australian Curriculum and has developed a reputation for high-quality resources. The resources listed on our website will also be made available to teachers via the NDLRN. The purpose of the website is to make existing resources easier for teachers to access and find. They will be linked to the Australian Curriculum and be sorted by year level and topic headings. The ultimate aim is to “make it easier for teachers”.

The website will be having a ‘soft launch’ later this month and the network will be advised via email as to when it goes live. This will be followed by a period of testing and the inclusion of further resources. The website will initially have around 60 resources included and this will be followed by a period of continual inclusion of further resources.

Development of Resources

Once we have included existing resources on our website we will map the resources available on our website against the Australian Curriculum to see where the gaps may lie. They will be referenced against the results of ACER benchmarking survey to develop a cross-industry and cross curricula primary industries resource under our own brand. This will hopefully bring together all significant players in the primary industries education space to collaborate on a resource that will become recognised in all Australian schools for its quality. The Primary Connections model produced by the Australian Academy of Science stands out as a model for such resources in the primary school years.

We anticipate planning for this project to commence in mid-2012.

Teacher Professional Learning Program

Providing teachers with resources is only one part of our planning to improve the teaching and learning related to primary industries education. The availability of resources needs to complement quality teacher professional learning programs.

Planning is underway for the Foundation to host primary industries professional learning days in each state. The days will coordinate with a number of existing providers to present a number of interesting, accessible and high quality sessions from which teachers can increase their confidence to teach the subject matter in



their schools. The days will focus upon 'mainstream' teachers although there will be options for teachers of agriculture, forestry and fisheries related subjects. Depending on the availability of suitable funding, these days will either commence in 2011 or early 2012. We will inform the network of developments.

Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER), Benchmarking Survey 2011

The Foundation has commissioned ACER to conduct a national benchmarking survey of student and teacher understanding in relation to primary industries education and the careers available within the industry. The survey, to be conducted in July and August this year, will inform our resource development, the way in which resources are promoted via our website and our teacher professional learning program. It will also serve as an ongoing means of monitoring and evaluating our performance, as we will resurvey every three years.

To date the instrument has been developed, trialled and we are currently awaiting confirmation of participation from randomly invited schools.

Full results will be released in October 2011.

The Development of a National Network

The concept of a 'peak body' is to provide a central mechanism for individuals, schools and other organisations to coordinate, strategically plan, connect to like organisations, leverage from each other's activities and avoid costly duplication.

At present our network is larger than 1400 educators, producers and associated primary industries people. The website will eventually serve a place to connect and source organisations that may add value to each other's activities. We are contacted regularly to seek information regarding specific primary industries education matters. If we do not know the answer, then we know people within our network that may know.

A key feature of this newsletter and the website will be an 'Events' and a 'News' notice board. **If you have news or events coming up in the near future please let us know so we may announce them and publicise them.**

We believe the real strength of the Foundation lies with you! The network of passionate people that wish to see the improved teaching and learning of primary industries education in Australian schools. The network exists both for you to use and connect with and for you to add value to. We will in time develop a more sophisticated way of maintaining a database of our members and ask that you assist us in keeping your contact details up to date.



Primary Industry News from Around the Country

Until our website is live we thought you may like an update of what is happening through our newsletter.

Australian Year of the Farmer 2012

2012 is Australian Year of the Farmer. The year aims to highlight the role that farmers play in everyday life. PIEF is working closely with AYOF to explore how we can support the aims of the year by engaging schools. A video clip has been produced to provide an overview of the work that farmers do ... [Watch the video here](#) Find out more about the year here- <http://www.yearofthefarmer.com.au/>

Sydney Teachers using Virtual Farm

Have you used the online resource 'Virtual Farm' and teach at a school in Sydney? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please email info@primaryindustrieseducation.com.au

Primary Industries Educators 'Harvest Resources'

Around 9 educators from all states are engaged in a project on behalf of the Foundation to sort through the National Digital Learning Resource Centre or 'Scootle' to identify resources from across the curriculum that use primary industries as a context. These resources will be identified thereafter as 'primary industries' resources and receive additional tags such as 'wool, beef, fisheries or forestry'. These resources will be made discoverable on the Primezone website in addition to Scootle'. Scootle is a national pool of educational resources freely available to all schools in Australia. The Primary Industries Week committee in Queensland has funded this project via a donation to the Foundation.

The Story of Beef is back!

Did you know there are more than 28 million cattle in Australia? Kondinin Group is delighted to announce the much anticipated update of The Story of Beef. The Story of Beef takes readers onto Australian cattle properties where they can discover how beef cattle are raised and how meat is processed and delivered fresh to Australian consumers. Follow Blunnie the Workboot through the five areas of beef production — the source, the producer, the product, the consumer and the environment and learn how they all play an important role in the story of beef. The Workboot Series— The Story of Beef is proudly supported by Meat and Livestock Australia. Congratulations to The Story of Wool which has been named a Notable Book in this year's Children's Book Council of the Year Awards.



The Story of Beef and The Story of Wool are available from Kondinin Group.
FREEcall 1800 677 761 to order your copy or visit www.kondinigroup.com.au.
http://cbca.org.au/EvePownall_Notables_2011.htm

Week of Tastes 2011!

The Week of Tastes is an annual program designed to change children's relationship with food and address some of the eating habits contributing to the obesity epidemic. Grade 4 children are targeted through a series of interactive and educational experiences aimed at establishing positive associations with the process of food creation, taste, and the act of making good food choices.

It is based on a French program developed twenty years ago and now operating in schools across Europe and the US. Teachers work with supplied lesson plans to lead children through a series of experiential exercises. Week of Tastes enlists chefs and other food artisans to go into their neighbourhood schools to teach children about their world of taste, food and cooking.

Last year over 2000 students in NSW and country Victoria were involved.

To learn more or become involved for 2011 go to www.weekoftastes.com.au

Do you know what it takes to feed Sydney for a day?

An exciting competition for secondary schools that links primary industries with art and technology is being run by Art4Agriculture to help students answer that question.

Go to <http://www.dairyouthaustralia.com.au/bridging/index.html> to find out more!

Calling South Australian Science Teachers!

Do you or your organisation run science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) activities for schools in South Australia?

'Science Pages' are collating information on all the fantastic activities available, both inside and outside the classroom, creating a one-stop-shop for busy teachers looking to enhance and enrich their science and maths curricula.

By taking 10 minutes to register your activity with them, you have the chance to promote yourself to educators free of charge.

Go to www.sciencepages.com.au

Sustainability and Advocacy in the Beef industry

Discover the positive story of agriculture at the 'Advocates for Agriculture' workshops. US cattle producers, Troy and Stacy Hadrick, will share their experience and help you become effective advocates for the Australian agricultural industry.

Strong believers of YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, the South Dakota couple have been successful in sharing many positive stories within the American agriculture industry and now want to help Australian producers to do the same.



You will also hear about the newly launched MLA program, *Target 100*. Using case studies of producers, the program demonstrates to urban consumers the activities our industry embarks on every day to deliver sustainable cattle and sheep farming.

AgForce Principal Project Officer, Marie Vitelli, will provide an update on the Grazing Best Management Practice (BMP) project that plans to improve on-farm productivity and profitability while simultaneously proving the industry's environmental and sustainability credentials.

Workshops will be held at; Charters Tower- June 30, Cloncurry- July 1, Eidsvold- June 28. Please register by June 22nd.

To register or for more information contact Angus Street, MLA
astreet@mla.com.au

SPERA 2011 National Rural Education Summit.

The Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities in partnership with the Society for the Provision of Education for Rural Australia (SPERA) and Rural Education Forum Australia (REFA) will hold a National Summit from September 21 to 23 at Flinders University in 2011. The summit will be an open event. The summit organisers will work especially hard and strategically to ensure there is a diversity of presenters with the outcome to be a set of recommendations aimed at advancing the future of those in rural industries. For more information go to:

<http://www.spera.asn.au/>

Calmsley Hill City Farm

At Calmsley Hill City Farm you can get up close and personal with a variety of farm yard and native animals. There are beautiful open spaces with covered picnic areas and FREE electric BBQ's for self-catering or you can tempt yourself with something from our extensive café menu. Children and adults alike will learn whilst they are having fun. Calmsley Hill is striving to be a fully sustainable site. We are progressively developing programs for all ages on the key elements for sustainability, water, waste, land and energy. Come along and be a part of the sustainable journey with us.

Located in Abbotsbury in the South West of Sydney, Calmsley Hill City farm is off the M7 just under 1hr from Sydney and 1/2hr from Parramatta. Parking is plentiful and provides level easy access to the entrance of the farm. With easily accessible pathways throughout the farm, Calmsley Hill City Farm is completely stroller and wheelchair friendly.

<http://calmsleyhill.com.au/>



CSIRO Carbon Kids Resource for Primary Industries

The CSIRO has complemented their Carbon Kids program with the addition of a unit entitled 'Agriculture in a Changing Climate'. Go to <http://www.csiro.au/products/CarbonKids-Resource.html#CKUnits> for more information

Kelmscott High Farm Raises Funds for Community

Kelmscott High School held a 'Farmday Fundraiser' in March to raise funds for the 12 families of Kelmscott Primary, Kelmscott SHS and Clifton Hills Primary, whose homes were totally devastated by fires in the area earlier this year. The day raised over \$3000. The volunteers at the Farmday Fundraiser consisted of staff, students and parents from the three schools, as well as community members.

With activities ranging from camel rides, bouncy castle, shearing and milking demonstrations, scare-crow making, calf-naming, cattle weight competition and animal handling, it was a full-on day. Many thanks must go to our local business community who assisted with prizes and vouchers used throughout the day as gate entry and activity prizes.

A special presentation was made on the day by Andrew Gorton of the Armadale Freemason Lodges, of a donation of \$1000.00.



Thank you for reading and if you are using a resource that you would like to recommend to others, please let us know at info@primaryindustrieseducation.com.au so we may share with teachers via our website.



Primary Industries Education Foundation



www.primaryindustrieseducation.com.au

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PIEF would like to thank the following for their continued support



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**For all membership or project sponsorship enquiries please contact
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ben.stockwin@primaryindustrieseducation.com.au**

"An Australian Community which understands and values its primary industries"