



## ***Rural DOES Matter – Our Reality***

**2012 WADHSAA Conference  
Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Burswood Convention Centre**

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW – REGISTER BEFORE THE END OF TERM 1 at  
[www.wadhsaa.wa.edu.au](http://www.wadhsaa.wa.edu.au)**

Country School Administrators are invited to the 2012 annual WADHSAA conference to be held at the Burswood Convention Centre Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The 2012 WADHSAA Conference theme is **Rural DOES Matter – Our Reality**. There are many pressures on all schools. Country schools have added complexities that will be explored at this important conference. Over the 3 days, the theme will move from *Our Reality* which is explored on Day 1, to *Rural DOES Matter* which will be further developed on Day 2 with Day 3 focusing on *Rural Futures*.

**REGISTER NOW AT:** [www.wadhsaa.wa.edu.au](http://www.wadhsaa.wa.edu.au) at the Conference Page

### *Proposed Program*

#### **Day 1: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Our Reality**

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| 0830 – 0915 | Director General of the Department of Education, Sharyn O'Neill will open the conference, giving some insights into the challenges, opportunities and future of rural school education.  |
| 0915 – 1000 | Professor Matthew Tonts UWA (or delegate), a human geographer with interests in regional development and research focused on the range of economic, social and demographic changes affecting regional Australia will provide an insightful overview of research that paints a clear picture of trends and issues for schools in rural Western Australia. |
| 1000 – 1030 | Mr Don Boyd representing the Society for the Provision of Rural Education in Australia (SPERA) will present an overview of the recommendations from the 2011 Summit <i>Rural Futures Matter</i> held at Flinders University.   |
| 1030 – 1100 | Morning Tea  |

1100 – 1530 Peter Kenyon, Director of Bank of I.D.E.A.S. which incorporates The Centre for Small Town Development will inspire conference delegates to move us from reality to vision and planning.

Peter is a social capitalist and community enthusiast who has worked with over 1000 communities throughout Australia and overseas. In 2003, Peter was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal for services to 'Community Development in Rural Australia'

Peter is convinced that one cannot develop communities from the top down or from the outside in. It requires communities to build from the inside out, and for their residents to invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process.

Peter will work with conference delegates to help them understand how to best develop a positive vision for rural schools and their communities in the context of the realities presented earlier in the day.

This session will include a 45 minute lunch break

1800 – 2000 President's Welcome. WADHSAA President Alan Smith invites conference delegates for drinks and canapés with the Minister for Education Liz Constable. This session has become a well known opportunity for the Minister to meet and mingle, talking with conference delegates about current issues in their schools and communities. The Minister's ability to ensure she gets around to see all delegates gives everyone an opportunity to meet the Minister and be heard.

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**Day 2: Thursday 31st May Rural DOES Matter – making it happen**

0830 – 1000 *IPS in a Rural School and Year 7s Move to Become High School*  
Hear a panel of school leaders, DoE executives and university researchers talk about the challenges of the year 7 move, IPS in a rural community and bridging the gap between research and practice.

Panel members will have the opportunity to present their perspective on issues. This will be followed by an opportunity for conference delegates to present views and raise questions with panel members.

1000 – 1030 Morning Tea

1030 – 1230 *What Matters?*  
Conference delegates will be led through a process to incorporate the inputs thus far, with the recommendations from the 2011 Flinders Rural Summit, to make key recommendations for rural schools and rural education in Western Australia.

1230 – 1330 Lunch

1330 – 1415	Concurrent Session 1
1430 – 1515	Concurrent Session 2
1515 – 1545	Afternoon Tea
1545 – 1645	WADHSAA Annual General Meeting
1830 – 1900	Conference pre-dinner Drinks
1900 – 2330	Conference Dinner – including special after dinner speaker

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**Day 3: Rural Futures**

0900 – 1100	<p><i>Best Practice and Best Futuring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a virtual school tour to look at how some selected schools are making sure they have best practice and are best future-proofed.</li> <li>• What does an exemplary District High School as judged by the External Review Group really look like? Bruce Rock District High School was visited by the ERG after outstanding NAPLAN results were achieved across the school. What did they look at? What does exemplary mean?</li> <li>• District High Schools are renowned for their excellent year 7 to 8 transition. Take a virtual tour of two schools (Donnybrook and Yanchep DHSs) to see how they have been teaching year 7 students as high school students for several years.</li> <li>• What does a rural IPS school look like 3 years on? What does it mean for a school to commence the journey? We will get an update on the IPS journey at Lake Grace District High School along with the emerging story from Donnybrook District High School.</li> <li>• What does an innovative District High School look like? Quairading District High School was awarded a NAB innovations grant. A virtual tour will show conference delegates how they are so innovative.</li> <li>• CEP-WA had its first public launch at the 2011 WADHSAA Conference. <i>Country Education Partnerships – WA</i> has continued to evolve and grow. Get an update on the proposed \$5.1M projects that have been developed by CEP-WA.</li> </ul>
1100 – 1145	Concurrent Session 3
1200 – 1300	Conference outcomes – Rural Futures. This final session will summarize conference and present the WA based recommendations for our rural future.
1300 – 1400	Conference lunch with sponsor raffles

Concurrent sessions on offer will include (proposed):

- Australian Curriculum
- IPL – Professional Support in a Rural Context
- Maintaining Your Health in a Rural School
- Schools and the Law; Child Protection; Standards and Integrity
- e-learning: The Realizable Future
- The Future of Staffing in Rural Schools

