

# Students star in Australian production

BROWNS Plains State School has introduced a unit of work that has turned its Year 5 students into television writers, producers and presenters.

Year 5 teacher Scott Ward said he had been concerned by the lack of knowledge about Australian places and locations from students in his class.

His idea was to use a *Getaway*-style television program to encourage students to research and present television segments on Australian places.

'The difficulty was the technology. I had to learn it as I went along,' Mr Ward said.

The students worked in groups on the project for a term. Each group researched a location, wrote their scripts and then made an appointment with Mr Ward to do the filming.

'The groups coordinated with each other online. I set up a blog and a forum through the Learning

Place,' he said.

'The groups needed to coordinate their scripts, as each had to write a "throw" to the following segment. Real television productions need to do that, so we did it online too.'

Students also wrote weekly individual blogs on how they felt the project was progressing.

Mr Ward said the completed program was presented at a school assembly.

'Other classes were just blown away,' he said.

'Everyone was asking how we did it. I said, "Ask the kids in the class". Other classes are now learning from them.'

Students have continued to write personal blogs, again through the Learning Place.

'The best thing for me was seeing the students talking to parents, teachers and the principal about how they did it,' Mr Ward said.

'Their self-esteem absolutely soared.'



Students are researching and filming Australian places with the support of the Learning Place.

## What's online

Use the Opinion organiser to help you make

**A** Balancing the options

**B** Cybersearch

**C** The hungry miles

**D** SOSE learning experiences

### Upcoming events

#### Online cartooning competition

The task is to design a comic chat cartoon avatar for a Bilby character. The avatar will consist of 13 drawings expressing the different moods of the bilby. The prize is an online cartooning workshop for the winning class with Australian cartoonist Gary Clarke of *Swamp* fame. Entries due June 15. For more information visit the Learning Place.

#### ICT Learning Innovation Centre

The ICT Learning Innovation Centre has a variety of exciting professional development opportunities this term. Events on offer include Introductions to Machinima, Joomla and Macromedia Flash; Introductory and Advanced Excel; Curriculum Integration ICT Workshops; Computer Network Support; and Digital Literacies in the 21st Century. For more information visit the ICT Learning Innovation Centre website at [www.learningplace.com.au/ea/licsunshinecoast](http://www.learningplace.com.au/ea/licsunshinecoast)

#### TLF Learning objects

**A** *Balancing the options: wildlife park (L1003), aged care (L1027), tourist resort (L1028), opinion organiser (L1029)*

This series focuses on investigating community attitudes, gathering facts and opinions and comparing options. Students choose the plan that satisfies most interests and write a report. An

opinion organiser allows students to decide the scenario.

#### SDE learning objects

**B** *Cybersearch: Think before you click (0424), Tackling your task (0425), Take control of your keywords! (0426), Who do you turn to? (0427), Everyone wants to help (0428)*

A series designed to help students develop their research skills by providing insight into online resources and how to use them effectively.

#### TLF digital resources

**C** *The hungry miles, 1955*  
Twelve segments from a powerful black-and-white documentary about waterfront unionism. The narrative reveals many aspects of union history, including early conditions, hard times in the Great Depression, colloquialisms and workers' views of owners.

(Codes: R6198, R6199, R6200, R6201, R6202, R6203, R6204, R6205, R6206, R6207, R6208)

#### EduSites

*Six paths to China: six strategies for using the Web for learning*

Demonstrates a variety of ways of using the Internet for research, using China as the focus.

*Schoolhistory.co.uk*

This teacher-created United Kingdom site provides ICT activities for a range of history topics.

#### TIPS

*Investigating patterns of weather using Kid Pix, Microsoft Paint, BlockCAD and radar images (02204)*

Activities include accessing the Bureau of Meteorology website, observing radar images, inserting and modifying the images in Paint, using Kid Pix to create initial design for weatherproof house and BlockCAD to design final version.

Find the resources listed above in the CX resource centre at [www.learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources](http://www.learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources)

#### Getting too many hits when searching the CX collection?

Try enclosing search terms of more than one word in double quotes, that is, "gold rush" instead of gold rush.

#### RTG Ready-to-go online courses

**D** Some great SOSE learning experiences for your students:

- Antarctica
- The changing world
- Case study – The Johnstone River, Far North Queensland
- An introduction to oral history
- Japan
- Local waterway management
- Source to sea
- WebQuest: Advance Australia Fairly

For more information and registration details visit the Course Catalogue link at the Learning Place.

The Learning Place is Education Queensland's e-learning environment.

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