

Newsletter 2012 – Term 3



Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre acknowledges the Aboriginal people as the first custodians of this land.

Welcome to our new students

Home Pupils:

Bruce Hudson
Liam Potter
Jacob Traynor
Joshua Watson

Overseas Pupils:

Hayley Jacobs
Rachel Jacobs
Cooper Murada
Montana Murada
Jala Widodo

A visit to Cockington Green to see a traditional English village allowed students to extend their familiarity with all things English. The train ride was a highlight for all.



Cool Kids, Bluearth, singing with a signing choir, Zumba, boomerang decorating and throwing and time spent with the platypus expert and water quality officers from Queanbeyan City Council rounded out the gathering.

Wednesday night as always was family night and this term included our formal Year 6 farewell.



For the Parsons and Wallis families the farewell represented not just the end of primary education for one child but

the end of their links to Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre. For the Wallis family their association with the centre goes back to 1994. We wish all our Year 6 students success in their future and know that they will continue their learning journey.



Term 3 Gathering



The recently concluded London Olympics and Paralympics were the starting point for this term's gathering. Students

came representing countries of the world with flags, national costume and colours and an overview of their chosen country. After the ceremonial parade of nations and presentation of flags it was down to the serious business of competition. Students competed in a range of events including age races, javelin – using a plastic cricket stump and discus using a Frisbee. The three legged race proved very popular with all competitors. Traditional ball games of Captain Ball, Tunnel Ball and Over/Under Ball were a huge success as well.

For supervisors the chance to meet and share time with other supervisors as well as swap tips and ideas was valuable. School counsellors were also available to discuss child well-being, motivation and helping children manage anxiety.

Our thanks to all the students and supervisors for their attendance and participation in this term's gathering.

Life as a Kid in Germany

by Claudia Horne



Life in Germany is very different than in Australia. I get up at 6:30am. School Starts at 7:45am and finishes at about 1 pm. Dad takes me and my siblings to school and I come home by myself. The German school system is different to the Australian

one. Primary school is from grade 1 to grade 4. After that there is high school which has two streams. Gymnasium is for those students who want to go to university when they are older and Mittelschule for those you don't. High school in Germany goes from grade 5 to grade 12. I am very happy at my Gymnasium because I have lots of friends there and I enjoy the school activities.

After school I also do lots of activities: guitar lessons, choir, rock climbing, drama, distance education and soon basketball. We try to do distance education after school, but it is sometimes annoying to learn more after you have just learnt a lot at school! Most of the time it is fun. It is different to speak 2 languages at the same time. The reason why we are living in Germany is because Dad works for an English speaking Anglican church in Leipzig. It is called Leipzig English Church (LEC). So we are a mission family in Germany.



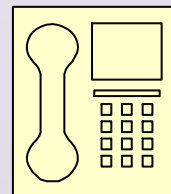
It is nice to live in Europe because unlike Australia we can visit lots of different countries in and near Europe easily. That is what we do in the

summer holidays. This summer we drove to Italy and Switzerland. It took us 8 hours to get to Switzerland and 5 to Tuscany. The week we were there was one of the warmest weeks in Italy. It got up to 41 degrees - a big difference to Germany. We visited lots of different places and cities like the tower of Pisa, the statue of David, Luca, Florence, Cinque Terre, Pisa and spent lots of

time on the beach! In Switzerland we did a few hikes and went up to Niederhorn with the cable cars. There was a lovely view up there.

So life as a missionary or distance education kid in a different country is strange at first but after a while you get used to everything and the place you are feels like home to you and you never want to leave!

Contacting Teachers



The Centre's staff can be contacted between 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours teachers can be contacted using either the phone and the answering machine or the email address supplied by the Department of Education and Communities. All teachers have made this email address known to their students. The Centre's email address queanbey-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au can be found on the Centre's web site <http://www.queanbey-d.schools.nsw.edu.au/> and also on the contact card supplied at enrolment. The DEC Code of Conduct advises teachers about maintaining a professional relationship between themselves, students, and supervisors. The code discourages the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a means of contacting students. Teacher's personal devices such as mobile phones for either calls or text messages are also not recommended. Some staff have been contacting families by text messages but this practise will no longer operate.

Staff

This term we have welcomed a number of new staff members to the Centre's team. Ruth Hayward has taken maternity leave and given birth to a son Zakariya.

**Hello, my name is Suzanne Boyd.
I prefer to be called Sue.**



I have been a mainstream classroom teacher for the past 28 years. This is my first year working full time in Distance Education and I am enjoying working closely with my wonderful students and families.

I grew up at Tathra on the Far South Coast of New South Wales and my family live in Merimbula. I absolutely love the beach, so my hobbies are swimming, surf-boarding, walking on the beach, collecting shells, deep sea fishing, whale watching and reading. I go to the coast often to visit my family and fulfil my hobbies.

I have a beautiful daughter named Erin, a cheeky son named Matthew and a glamorous cat named Gucci.

Hello, my name is Shirley.



I have been working in Queanbeyan Public School 3 days a week and in the Distance Education Centre 2 days a week, in the office and library.

I have enjoyed working with the students and families of distance education.

Hi, my name is Rebecca.



I am a Year 2/3 teacher for two days a week in Queanbeyan Public School and work in Distance Education three days a week. I enjoy working in Distance Education because the content is so personal to each student, their interests and their strengths.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, dancing and playing video games. My favourite books are crime novels and I love anything written by Agatha Christie as well as the Sherlock Holmes series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. I also enjoy fishing.

I enjoy finding and making educational resources for all my students and I look forward to seeing the work they produce.

Hello, my name is Petah Batten.



I have worked at Queanbeyan Public School for 6 years and have just started working in the Distance Education Centre one day a week. The other days of the week I am on class teaching Year 2 students.

I am really enjoying the new path my career is taking in the DE and I am looking forward to the new challenges.

I am originally from Bathurst and love the country life. My interests are painting, reading, swimming and horse riding.

I am looking forward to hearing more about my new students here in the DE.

Naplan results have been distributed.
If you would like to discuss your student's
performance please contact the Centre Manager
Eloise Dews in the new term.

Attendance and Engagement

Students working on a distance
education program are
expected to attend school
every day in the same way as



students in a face to face classroom. Supervisors
are able to organise the school day to fit in with
the particular needs of their student. Attendance
is recorded by the regular return of programmed
work. Supervisors are asked to indicate on the
summary sheet any days absent due to illness or
other reasons why the programmed work has not
been completed. Engagement is determined by
the quality and quantity of the completed work.

Where a pack of work has been returned
incomplete and no explanation has been offered
the teacher is presented with a situation where
outcomes or indicators cannot be assessed and
cannot be reported upon. In these circumstances
a student may be considered to have not
engaged with the program of work. It is
important for all students to engage with their
program and complete all programmed work.

Resources



Thank you to all families who
returned unused or unneeded
resources. We appreciated
the return of many books and
blue bags that will now be
available to other students.

Unfortunately, in some packs that have been
returned recently, there have been items such as
library books or other reading resources that have
been returned in a waterlogged or otherwise
damaged state. This means the resource has to
be written off and a replacement purchased. In
some cases this is difficult as the book is out of
print. Whilst we are aware that accidents with
materials do happen we ask all parents to take
care with all resources. It should be noted that
the cost of replacing damaged resources will be
deducted from the resource hire fee paid on
enrolment.

ThinkUKnow

Many Australian homes have at least one
internet enabled device, some more than one
device such as a smart phone, tablet,
computer or other device. ThinkUKnow is a
program developed by the Australian Federal
Police in conjunction with other agencies and
computer companies to raise awareness of
cyber safety issues. The program provides a
number of helpful hints about protecting
children from the more unsavoury aspects of
the internet. One simple piece of advice for all
families is to ensure that computers and other
internet enabled devices are in family areas
rather than in bedrooms. In this way families
can monitor internet sites and be aware
questions that those trying to contact young
children may be asking. More helpful
information on cyber safety can be found on
the web site at <http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>



The Department of Education and Communities is undergoing realignment. This means that some staff in Head, Region and District Offices are being reassigned to schools. The department believes this will allow teachers to focus on the business of teaching with a greater proportion of the overall budget and personnel effort being directed at the school level. We are not sure what the impact will be on our centre but one implication for Rural and Distance Education has been a move for the Equity Programs Directorate to the Secondary Education Directorate. The core business of Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre is and will continue to be the provision of quality education programs with an individual focus for all students. Updates on the impact of the realignment of the Department will be provided when they are known.

Local Schools, Local Decisions

A new initiative of the Government and the Department has been Local Schools, Local Decisions. This is an initiative that puts more of the decision making about a school in the hands of the principal. Principals will be given greater authority over the procurement of resources including major items such as copiers and computers but also over the mix of staff in a school. Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre is part of Queanbeyan Public School and will be affected by decisions made by the principal. At this stage the initiative is being trialled in a number of schools.

It is unclear what impact Local Schools Local Decisions will have on the operation of the Centre. The staff will continue to make the provision of quality programs its highest priority. We will keep you updated and informed about developments under this initiative

21st Century Learners

There can be no doubt that there are great challenges in store for education, for schools and teachers in the next few years. The nature of learning, not just what students learn but how, when, where and with what tools will be major considerations. In 2014 the History curriculum will be implemented in all NSW schools. This will be the first of the suite of national curricular. A great many thinkers in education are telling teachers that the old skills and old strategies will no longer work in the 21st century nor will they equip students for work places of the future.

Teachers at Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre have been working with the Rural and Distance Education Directorate to understand the implications of this new thinking.

The Five Fluencies



We have been hearing about *The Five Fluencies*;

- **Solution Fluency** - the ability to learn and apply solutions to problems
- **Information Fluency** – being able to ask good questions to locate analyse and authenticate information
- **Creative Fluency** - developing whole brain thinking that will help students to identify, inspire and imagine creative ways to approach complex problems
- **Media Fluency** – today's students exist in a world of media which includes; tablets, smart phones, music devices, computers and 24 hour radio and TV. Being able to read, understand decode and sort the valuable from the infotainment and then make use of it in solving problems or changing behaviours is a fluency students will need to develop
- **Collaboration Fluency** - working together and in teams is a prerequisite in many work places now. A team of people working together in real or virtual spaces to solve real problems and have a meaningful impact in society is an expectation for many employers. Our students need opportunities to collaborate and work together on meaningful projects. Collaboration can be in real time or in a virtual space such as Edmodo or a Wiki.

Notification of absence from school

Your child, while on distance education, is enrolled as a student at a NSW Department of Education and Communities school. Each pack of work represents the work your student is to complete for their learning for the length of time indicated on the pack. This is usually two weeks, or in some instances, one week. **The regular return of work demonstrates students have been in attendance at school.**

Students in distance education are allowed to be absent from school for legitimate reasons! Should the work not be able to be completed for any reason, you need to inform your child's teacher. Your child may be sick or on leave for a special reason (to attend an appointment requiring travel or for urgent family business for example). Alternatively, you, the supervisor, may be ill and not able to fulfil your role. In either instance, where work is unable to be completed, call or email or write a note so the teacher can record the absence.

Fees

Queanbeyan Distance Education Centre charges two types of fees. The first is a general service fee of \$50 per student per year. This contribution helps cover the cost of consumables and consumable materials used as part of the student's program. This fee is payable every year that a student is enrolled. It has not been our practice to invoice families for this fee but a reminder letter is sent and notice is provided in the first term newsletter. A second fee of \$50 for resources is a one off fee which is charged to cover returnable resources such as books, thumb drives, maths kits and other items necessary to the delivery of student programs.

When an enrolment is completed and all resources loaned to a student have been returned, this resource deposit is fully refunded. In a case where items have been misplaced, damaged or not returned, the cost may be deducted from the resource fee before a refund is given.

An Overseas Student Fee of \$100.00 is payable at the time of enrolment and prior to the beginning of each term.

An exemption under this category only applies to students where the mail is forwarded to a locked or diplomatic bag within Australia.

Payment of fees, as explained in the enrolment package, is a condition of enrolment and of continuing enrolment. Fees can be paid either by cheque, money order, cash or direct deposit. Unfortunately we do not have EFTPOS facilities. Receipts for fees are provided and are generally included in the student's pack. Further information about fees can be obtained by contacting our office on (02) 6299 2966. Special circumstances are considered with regard to the payment of fees. Please discuss this with the centre manager at the time of your student's interview.

Asthma Awareness

Ten per cent (10%) of Australians suffer from Asthma. For many, spring can be a difficult time with a lot of pollen and other lung irritants in the air making breathing difficult. Whilst we cannot control the weather we may be contributing to an asthma sufferer's difficulties by the use of aerosol sprays. The Asthma Foundation is running an awareness campaign to highlight the problems caused to asthma sufferers by the use of hair, body, deodorant and other products that use an aerosol spray. The Foundation suggests not using any spray can product in an area where there may be asthma sufferers. The fine mist used to propel the product the smells and chemicals can all be triggers for an asthma attack. The Foundation's advice is to use any spray can product in a well-ventilated area and away from people who may have asthma. More information about asthma can be found at <http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au/default.aspx>



Important Term Dates

- Students last day for Term 3 2012 is Friday 21 September 2012
- Students first day for Term 4 2012 is Monday 8 October 2012.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES AND EVENTS FROM OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2012

- 1 October** **International Day of Older Persons**
Organisation: United Nations. The International Day of Older Persons is a celebration of the older people in all societies, and a reminder to continue developing a society for all ages. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/
- 1-7 October** **RSPCA Awareness Week**
Organisation: RSCPA
There is always lots happening during RSPCA Awareness Week, which runs during the first week of October every year. The week is an opportunity for the RSPCA to raise awareness about their work to care for and protect animals. Contact your local RSPCA to find out about activities in your state. National/State: National. Contact Email: rspca@rspca.org.au Website: www.rspca.org.au
- 1-7 October** **Be Kind to Animals Week**
Organisation: Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary. Be Kind to Animals Week is used to honour the animals of this world that have stood by us; who have been loyal, loving, and protective of their human friends. It is also used to inspire people to create change to make this world a better place for animals, educate and promote awareness of some of the issues faced by animals in our community, and to encourage kindness to all animals. National/State: National. Contact Email: info@bekindtoanimalsweek.org Website: www.bekindtoanimalsweek.org/
- 1-31 October** **Community Safety Month**
Organisation: Injury Control Council of WA (Inc). Community Safety Month aims to promote awareness about a broad range of community safety issues, including personal safety, road safety, suicide prevention, emergency management, safety in public places, safe work practices and many more. Community Safety month is coordinated by the Injury Control Council in WA (ICCWA) and reminds us all that we all have a part to play in making our communities safer. National/State: WA. Contact Phone: 08 9420 7212 Email: zcooper@iccwa.org.au Website: www.iccwa.org.au/
- 1-31 October** **Mental Health Month**
Organisation: Mental Health Association NSW. Mental Health Month NSW is part of a national mental health promotion campaign held in October each year and is coordinated by the Mental Health Association NSW with funding by NSW Health. Its main aim is to promote social and emotional wellbeing to the population in NSW, enhancing the coping capacity of communities, families, individuals, and increasing mental health literacy. National/State: NSW
Contact Phone: (02) 9339 6008 Email: promoadmin@mentalhealth.asn.au
Website: www.mentalhealth.asn.au/well-being/campaigns/mental-health-month-nsw.html
- 2 October** **International Day of Non-Violence**
Organisation: United Nations. Celebrated on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi the International Day of Non-Violence aims to disseminate education and understanding of the positive effect of non-violence. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/nonviolenceday/index.shtml
- 2 October** **World Habitat Day**
Organisation: United Nations. United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/habitatday/
- 4 October** **World Animal Day**
World Animal Day was started in 1931 at a convention of ecologists in Florence as a way of highlighting the plight of endangered species. Since then it has grown to encompass all kinds of animal life and is widely celebrated throughout the world. October 4 was chosen as World Animal Day as it is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. National/State: International Contact Website: www.worldanimalday.org.uk/about.asp

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- 5-6 October** **World Teachers' Day**
Organisation: United Nations
World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October to celebrate the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/teacher-education/world-teachers-day/
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- 7-13 October** **Fire Prevention Week**
Organisation: National Fire Protection Association. Fire prevention week aims to educate the community, particularly children, about the dangers of fire and the importance of prevention techniques. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=2017&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202010
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- 10 October** **World Mental Health Day**
Organisation: United Nations. World Mental Health Day aims to raise public awareness of mental health issues, and increase understanding of the strain they can place on the individual, their families, friends and communities. National/State: International Contact Website: www.un.org/observances/days.shtml
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- 11 October** **World Sight Day**
Organisation: Vision 20/20 Australia. World Sight Day seeks to raise public awareness on low vision. Blindness and low vision are critical issues in Australia, especially with an ageing population. World Sight Day is a global initiative providing an opportunity to raise the profile of the causes of blindness and vision impairment and the preventative measures. National/State: National. Contact Phone: +61 3 9656 2020 Email: info@vision2020australia.org.au Website: www.vision2020australia.org.au/index.cfm
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- 13 October** **International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction**
Organisation: United Nations. International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is a day for city-planners and governments across the world to think about the safety of the people who rely on them in the instance of a natural disaster. While it is not a day to actively decrease the instances of natural disasters, it is a reminder to these people that they must reduce the death tolls of the most major disasters. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/disasterreductionday/
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- 14-20 October** **National Water Week**
Organisation: Australian Water Association
National Water Week is a week-long event held in October across Australia each year. Coordinated by the Australian Water Association, National Water Week is the only event in Australia that provides a national focus for the achievement of improved water management and conservation. Anyone can get involved, with many organisations and communities running events across the country. National/State: National. Contact Email: info@nationalwaterweek.org.au Website: www.nationalwaterweek.org.au/
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- 14-20 October** **Carers Week**
Organisation: Carers Australia. Carers Week was established to promote and raise awareness of the valuable role that carers play in our community and to generate discussion about carer issues. Carers Week also provides an opportunity for carers to come together, support one another and share ideas and information. National/State: National. Contact Phone: 1800 242 636 Website: national.carersaustralia.com.au/?/article/view/via:2:609
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- 14-20 October** **National Nutrition Week**
Organisation: Nutrition Australia. National Nutrition Week encourages Australians to learn about making healthy food and lifestyle choices. National/State: National. Contact Phone: 02 4257 9011 Fax: 02 4257 9012 Email: nsw@nutritionaustralia.org Website: www.nutritionaustralia.org/

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- 15 October** **International Day of Rural Women**
Organisation: United Nations. On the International Day of Rural Women we recognise the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/ruralwomenday/
- 16 October** **World Food Day**
Organisation: United Nations. World Food Day is a reminder that everybody deserves and needs access to food, particularly those who can't keep up with rising food prices. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/depts/dhl/food/index.html
- 17 October** **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**
Organisation: United Nations. The UN developed this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority. National/State: International
Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/
- 19 October** **Loud Shirt Day**
Organisation: Hear and Say Centre for deaf children and their families Loud Shirt Day is a national fundraising event for deaf children's charities across Australia. To participate all you need to do is wear your loudest shirt on the day and raise funds for charity. National/State: National
Contact Phone: Karen Dahlskog 07 3870 2221 Email: karend@hearandsaycentre.com.au
Website: www.loudshirtday.com.au/
- 20-26**
October **National Week of Deaf People**
Organisation: Deaf Australia. Starts on the 3rd Saturday of each October for a week. The National Week of Deaf People is a week-long national celebration of Deaf individuals and the Deaf Australian Community. It is an opportunity for the Deaf to celebrate their community, language, cultural and history; make the public awareness of their local, state and national communities; and recognise their achievements. It is also an opportunity for organisations involved with, or wishing to be involve with the Deaf community to: showcase their services and/ or products; build / maintain relationships with Deaf people; and be recognised for giving Deaf people a fair go in their workplace. National/State: National Contact Phone: 07 3357 8266 Fax: 07 3357 8377 Email: info@deafau.org.au Website: www.deafau.org.au/community/nwdp.php
- 21-27**
October **Children's Week**
Organisation: Children's Week Council of Australia. Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia during the fourth week in October. Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities. National/State: National Contact Email: council@childrensweek.org.au
Website: www.childrensweek.org.au/what_children.html
- 24 October** **United Nations Day**
Organisation: United Nations. This day marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 1945. National/State: International. Contact Website: www.un.org/en/
- 26 October** **National Bandanna Day**
Organisation: CanTeen. National Bandanna Day is the annual fundraising and awareness day for CanTeen, the organisation for young people living with cancer. National/State: National
Contact Phone: 02 9262 1022 Email: admin@canteen.org.au Website: bandannaday.com.au/
- 1-30**
November **Movember**
Organisation: Movember Foundation. Movember is an annual, month-long celebration of the moustache, highlighting men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men. Mo Bros, supported by their Mo Sistas, start Movember (November 1st) clean shaven and then have the remainder of the month to grow and groom their moustache. During Movember, each Mo Bro effectively becomes a walking billboard for men's health and, via their Mo, raises essential funds and awareness for Movember's men's health partners. National/State: International
Contact Phone: 1300 GROW MO (1300 4769 66) within Australia
Email: info@movember.com Website: au.movember.com/

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- 10 November** **World Science Day for Peace and Development**
Organisation: United Nations. This is a day to celebrate the responsible use of science to further the advancement of peace and development across the world. National/State: International
Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/scienceday/
- 11 November** **Remembrance Day**
Remembrance Day (11 November) marks the anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18). Each year Australians observe one minute silence at 11 am on 11 November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.
National/State: National. Contact Website: www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance/
- 12-18 November** **National Recycling Week**
Organisation: Planet Ark. National Recycling Week aims to improve the positive environmental outcomes of recycling by increasing community awareness, increasing collection rates and reducing contamination. Local councils, businesses and community groups are encouraged to join in throughout the week. National/State: National. ContactPhone: 1300 733 712
Website: recyclingweek.planetark.org/
- 14 November** **World Diabetes Day**
Organisation: Diabetes Australia. The World Diabetes Day campaign is an event used to increase understanding of diabetes, and to raise funds for research. National/State: National
Contact Phone: 1300 136 588 Email: admin@diabetesaustralia.com.au
Website: www.diabetesaustralia.com.au
- 17 November** **World Philosophy Day**
Organisation: United Nations
World Philosophy Day's objective is to encourage the peoples of the world to share their philosophical heritage and to open their minds to new ideas, as well as to inspire a public debate between intellectuals and civil society on the challenges confronting our society
National/State: International Contact Website: www.un.org/en/events/philosophyday/
- 20 November** **Universal Children's Day**
Organisation: United Nations. Universal Children's Day is observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. National/State: International.
Contact Website: www.un.org/depts/dhl/children_day/index.html
- 22 November** **Assistance Dogs Australia Awareness Week**
Organisation: Assistance Dogs Australia. Assistance Dogs Australia was established as a non-profit organisation in 1996 with a commitment to enhance the quality of life for people with physical disabilities Assistance Dogs Australia obtains, trains and maintains dogs in community settings to assist people with their disabilities, to give them more confidence and to help them achieve a greater level of independence. National/State: National. Contact Phone: 02 6120 0600
Email: jmeredith@assistancedogs.org.au Website: www.assistancedogs.org.au/index.html
- 5 December** **International Volunteer Day**
Organisation: Volunteering Australia. December 5th was declared as International Volunteer Day (IVD) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. The first IVD was celebrated in 1986 by dozens of countries world-wide. Activities ranged from clean-up campaigns and round table conferences to competitions and exhibitions. In Australia , IVD has been designated as a day for the recognition of volunteer involvement, a day in which organisations can thank their volunteer staff. National/State: International. Contact Phone: 03 9820 4100
Email: volaus@volunteeringaustralia.org Website: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_cat_id=208&nav_top_id=55
- 10 December** **Human Rights Day**
Organisation: United Nations. A day to celebrate the basic rights of all humans, and to remember that many people still have to fight for their human rights. National/State: International
Contact Website: www.un.org/observances/days.shtml