

Media release 23 October 2008

## Local teachers honoured on World Teachers' Day

Schools across Victoria will celebrate international World Teachers' Day this Friday October 31. The theme of this year's celebration is "World Teachers *every* Day".

Wedderburn College teacher Anne Baird has been chosen to feature in a community poster campaign promoting the profession on World Teachers' Day.

The ICT innovator is being highlighted for her work connecting students from a small rural school to the wider world. Ms Baird's school blog is read in four continents, and she is currently working on a project called "Digiteen – exploring what it means to be a digital citizen".

"The online environment gives me the opportunity to collaborate with teachers around the world. We have the same goals, ideas and passions," Ms Baird said.

"We want to challenge our students and give them opportunities they would not normally have. We want to expose them to different cultures and different ideas and let them learn from each other."

Ms Baird aims to empower students to manage the web in a safe and smart way.

"I'm an Australian teacher but also a world teacher. It doesn't matter that I live in a small country town, as long as I've got my laptop or even my mobile phone I can communicate with someone on the other side of the world or just next door."

"I find that exciting. It's the reason I get up every day and why I love to teach."

Victorian Institute of Teaching Chairperson Susan Halliday said World Teachers' Day was a chance to celebrate the work of teachers, like Ms Baird, who connect students to the world through experiences, language, and technology.

"Today's teachers are international operators. Tools like the internet, email, blogging and twitter mean that students learn about the world faster, and younger, than ever before," Ms Halliday said.

"Good teachers see learning opportunities in these developments," she said.

“We want the community to recognise the work our teachers do at the international level. It has untold dividends for students.”

As part of World Teachers’ Day celebrations, the Institute has invited teachers and schools to tell their own 'world teachers' stories and send them in on video. The stories can be viewed at [www.vit.vic.edu.au](http://www.vit.vic.edu.au)

The Victorian Institute of Teaching is also highlighting the international nature of school communities. A demographic snapshot of the profession shows:

- Victorian teachers were born in 169 different countries
- Teachers with qualification from 136 nations are working locally
- Roughly a quarter of our teachers were born overseas (16,000 out of the 64,000 who have advised the institute of their birthplace).
- 2114 Australian-trained teachers are currently living overseas with many working in not for profit organisations
- In government schools, teachers work with 113,000 students with language backgrounds other than English.
- More than 80% of primary students and 52% of secondary students learn a language other than English in government schools.

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