



# Education **now...**

adelaidenow.com.au

A TERTIARY AND NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION RESOURCE

**CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?**



**PAGE 30**

Does honey really take the sting out of a sore throat?

**BACK TO BUSINESS**



**PAGE 31**

Expert calls for principals to have better management training.

**AN APPLE A DAY**



**PAGE 59**

How the iPad is at the core of an education revolution.

# Board shut-out wrong: Parents

**P**ARENTS should make up half of the Teachers Registration Board, the state's key parent body says. The South Australia Association of State School Organisations has raised concerns the current board does not protect the interests and welfare of children but instead acts in the interests of teachers.

In a submission to a parliamentary inquiry into the effectiveness of the board and its structure, SAASSO is calling for the 16-member board to be made up of six parents whose children attend public schools, one parent of a student in the Catholic system and one parent of a child in the independent system.

In its submission it also demands members include a child protection expert and a police officer.

"On a board responsible for the welfare of the state's children, to have only one of 16 members appointed to represent the community interest is wholly insufficient; given that the parents of SA are entrusting their children's welfare to this board," the submission states.

The Teachers Registration Board is responsible for the regulation of the profession in the state, including investigations into alleged miscon-

**NIE MANAGER**

**MARTINA SIMOS**



duct or complaints against educators. Under the current board, only one member is a parent, with the majority made up of representatives from the public, Catholic and independent school unions and departments. SAASSO director David Knuckey called for the current inquiry into the board two years ago because of concerns parents were being "left in the dark" about complaints against teachers. Some concerns included:

**INADEQUATE** representation of parents, police, principals and school organisations.

**FAILURE** to involve school organisations when reviewing professional standards for teachers.

**REFUSAL** to release data on the total number of complaints against teachers.

The parliamentary inquiry began last year, and is still calling for submissions.

**Continued Page 30**

**THE CURRENT BOARD**

- 5 AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION REPS
- 3 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPS
- 2 INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION REPS
- 1 CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE REP
- 1 ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF SA REP
- 1 UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC/ EDUCATION EXPERT
- 1 INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON
- 1 LAWYER
- 1 PARENT OF SCHOOL STUDENT. (THE LAST THREE REPS ARE NOMINATED BY THE MINISTER)

**WHAT PARENTS WANT**

- 6 PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
- 4 TEACHERS
- 1 CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT
- 1 PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENT
- 1 CHILD WELFARE PRACTITIONER
- 1 LAWYER
- 1 POLICE OFFICER
- 1 UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC/ EDUCATION EXPERT



**FREE National Geographic Liftout**

To support the upcoming National Geographic TV series, the Sunday Mail is featuring an exclusive liftout focussing on Great Migrations.

Themed in three distinct areas: land, sea and air, the liftout is packed with award-winning photography, capturing migrations of the animal kingdom in stunning detail.

**Don't miss the Sunday Mail this weekend!**

**GREAT MIGRATIONS**

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL**

**Sunday Mail**  
Love my Sunday

**Letters of the week**

**ADDRESS LETTERS TO:** Letters to the Education Editor, GPO Box 339, Adelaide, 5001. **FAX:** (08) 8206 3669. **EMAIL:** educationnow@advertiser.com.au

**UNJUSTIFIED ELITISM**

LISTENING to Peter Garrett (pictured) defend the amount the Federal Government is spending on education sounded rather impressive until you looked at who gets what. Maybe Peter would like to explain why there is such a massive imbalance between the amount allocated to each child in public schools compared with children attending private schools. I have no problem with parents wanting their children to attend private schools, but what I do object to is it being carried out at the expense of those in public education. This imbalance in funding is having a devastating effect on the morale of the highly dedicated and qualified teaching professionals in the public system and is creating an unjustified elitism in many of those private schools in the eyes of parents who place their children in them.



**D.J. FRASER, Mudgeeraba, Queensland.**

**ARRAY OF CULTURES**

While it is natural for parents to show concern for their children's wellbeing and education, the anger and fear demonstrated at Woodside is shameful and unjustified. Any parent concerned their child will suffer from the presence of refugees should visit my son's school. At Bellevue Heights Primary School, almost half the students are part of the New Arrivals Program and the school is living proof multiculturalism is something to be celebrated. All students thrive in a supportive, diverse school community. My son enjoys many precious experiences and interactions that he would miss out on at other schools. Children, staff and parents all benefit from the amazing array of cultures, colours and faiths. It is a joy to see children (including refugees) laughing and learning together. One hopes such a positive experience will instil greater compassion and acceptance of difference than we see from many adults.

**Name and address supplied.**

**EducationNow@advertiser.com.au**

**EDITOR:** Lucy Hood, phone 8206 2358, email: hoodl@advertiser.com.au

**NIE MANAGER:** Martina Simos, phone 8206 2613, email: simosm@advertiser.com.au

**JOURNALISTS:** Candice Keller, phone 8206 2281, email: kellerc@advertiser.com.au  
Clare Peddie, phone 8206 2204, email: peddiec@advertiser.com.au

**ADVERTISING:** Cheryl Bilney, phone 8206 2353, email: bilneyc@advertiser.com.au

**MARKETING:** Sarah Kipling, phone 8206 2545, email: kiplings@advertiser.com.au

Published by The Advertiser Newspapers, 31 Waymouth St, Adelaide, SA 5000. GPO Box 339 Adelaide, SA 5001.



**CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?**  
WITH JAMES BYRNE, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

**Honey is a buzzword for promoting good health**



**DID YOU KNOW**

- Bee defensin 1 was the fifth active anti-microbial property identified in honey.
- Bees use honey as an all-purpose food source for all members of the hive to use during winter or when fresh nectar is unavailable.
- Global bee populations are under threat from a combination of agricultural pesticides and natural bee pathogens.
- If bees were to become extinct much of the world's agriculture would die, as would many of the world's flowering plants.

**HIVE OF ACTIVITY:** Bees work hard to produce honey that science shows can have some amazing qualities.

**O**LD wives' tales are wonderful. While some are ridiculous, some are not and those that work can work in one of two ways, as a powerful placebo or because they contain some actual medicine.

One that always has stood out to me is honey. Honey is produced by bees as an all-purpose food source and long has been used by humans as a natural sweetener. Honey has picked up many other uses throughout history, but a well-known old wives' tale says honey is great for treating a sore throat.

Several anecdotes led to researchers investigating honey's healing effects. To their surprise they found honey did seem to be doing something. Once they found it had an effect, the question changed from does it work, to how does it work.

Scientists had to find something in the honey that could be having an effect, otherwise honey simply was a placebo.

After extensive study, researchers found honey contains active products that can inhibit the growth of infectious bacteria and so will reduce pain and discomfort.

The first property of honey is obvious, sugar. Honey has a high sugar content. In fact, this is the main reason why honey is such a stable food product. The low amount of water found in honey is bound up so tightly by the sugars, bacteria naturally present in honey cannot

extract that water and consequently their growth is inhibited. This is very important to the bees as honey is their primary food source so it's important to keep it sterile and prevent growth of bacteria that might convert the high-energy sugars into low-value acidic products.

Honey also is a potent source of hydrogen peroxide - a kind of bleach. A bee enzyme contained in the honey, called glucose oxidase, produces the hydrogen peroxide. In diluted honey, this enzyme converts the glucose into gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide. Both compounds are bioactive, but, importantly, they contribute a general defence against bacterial growth in the bees' honey stocks. Hydrogen peroxide, like bleach, is a well known antiseptic and anti-bacterial.

The final two identified components, bee defensin 1 and methylglyoxal (MGO), have very specific activity and round out what we know about the anti-bacterial properties of honey. Bee defensin 1, produced by glands in young bees, is only found in some types of honey but is known to be present in Royal Jelly. Royal Jelly is a special kind of honey given to some female bee larvae to allow them to develop into queens. Bee defensin 1 only recently has been identified and while we don't yet know exactly what it's doing, we do know its anti-bacterial activity is very potent.

Finally, MGO was first identified in Manuka

honey and also has been shown to possess anti-bacterial activity. It has been very difficult to work out exactly what MGO does but it seems to inhibit the synthesis of DNA, RNA and protein, preventing normal activity at the common amine chemical group.

Taken together, these five properties keep the bee honey from spoiling in the hive and maintain this high-energy food source for the bee colony.

It's these very properties that make honey an attractive source of new anti-bacterial treatments. Recently honey has been used as the basis of several new treatments, including wound dressings and topical skin treatments with plans to incorporate honey, or just the parts that make it such a useful anti-microbial, into many other medical products.

While many old wives' tales are just that, sometimes it's worth investigating them.

**James is a microbiology PhD student from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide. He also writes his own science blog, www.diseaseoftheweek.wordpress.com**

**■ Do you have feedback on this article or want to ask a question of the author? If so, please contact The Faculty of Sciences, University of Adelaide: faculty.sciences@adelaide.edu.au**

**Board shut-out is wrong, say parents**

**From Page 29**

It follows a report in *The Advertiser* last month in which the board came under fire for allowing a teacher to register for school work despite declaring they had been charged with several counts of indecent assault.

The board defended its secret decision to allow the teacher to work because the charges were dropped and an investigation deemed children would not be at risk.

The information was only made public after a Freedom of Information request.

Independent Education Union Glen Seidel defended the board, saying it

was performing in a manner that was rigorous and fair and that it did not need overhauling because it was "discharging its duties well".

He said the board was founded on a "court-like procedure" that handles investigations thoroughly and there were already agencies, such as Families SA and the police, that were equipped to handle issues such as child abuse.

"These are existing agencies already set up to handle child protection issues - Families SA and the police handle abuse matters and child protection - and the TRB takes on board findings of those bodies when it is trying to determine whether a teacher is fit and proper,"

Mr Seidel said. "The TRB does not punish people for child abuse, but if somebody has been convicted of child abuse, or if it is likely they have abused children, then they are not appropriate to be in front of a classroom and they will be removed."

Mr Seidel said if the board's brief was altered to focus on one aspect - such as child protection - it would mean the professional standards of teaching would be lost.

Teachers Registration Board Registrar Wendy Hastings refused to comment.

"This matter is ongoing. I have no comment to make at this time," she said.

- with Lucy Hood