

Active Australia Schools Network Northern Territory Update – Term 1 2006

In this Update:

- **Welcome**
- **My Contact Details**
- **AASN Website**
 - Online Directory of Junior Sport Programs and Resources
 - Involving parents – story from AASN website
- **Northern Territory School Stories:**
 - Minyerri School H&PE
 - MacFarlane Primary School Fitness Program
 - Alice Springs Leadership Program
- **Physical Education Coordinators**
- **Programs and Sport Information**
 - Leadership Programs
 - Community S*port
 - Disability Education Program
 - Life. Be in it. Team Challenge
 - Gymnastics
 - Cheerleading
 - Interschool Gymnastic Team Competition
 - Water Safety Month
 - Jump Rope For Heart
 - Australian Rugby
 - EdRugby
 - TryRugby
 - Netball NT
 - New email address
 - Northern Territory Netball Challenge
- **Resources**
 - National Sport Information Centre – Online Catalogue
 - Healthy Active Website
 - \$\$ - Youth Grants – Youth Websites
 - Young Australians
 - Office of Youth Affairs
 - Australian Sports Commission – Junior Sport Website
- **Courses**
 - Sports First Aid and Injury Management
 - Cricket Australia Level 1 (Development) Coaching Course
 - Level 1 Track & Field Coach Course
- **Food for thought...**
 - Excerpt from School Sport and Aboriginal Children's Conductive Hearing Loss by Damien Howard and Len West

WELCOME to the Term 1 2006 Active Australia Schools Network Northern Territory Update!

Definitions of *Network* include “set of connections”, “association”, “group” and “set of contacts”.

The Active Australia Schools Network provides schools in the Northern Territory with an ideal opportunity to use our “set of connections” to share experiences, successes, programs, ideas, problems and solutions with others – within the Territory and across the country.

You can use The Network in the Territory to share and gain information by:

- Contacting the coordinator anytime via phone, fax or email (details below)
- Sending in your stories, ideas, problems, solutions... anything you would like to share so that they can be included in future quarterly updates
- Keeping an eye out for your cluster School Sport meetings. Our Network meetings will be “piggy-backed” with them from time to time and you can come along to share and find out what is happening in your area
- Talking to each other
- Using the fax-back form at the end of this update to provide feedback about this update, share your stories and/or raise issues you would like to see discussed
- Checking out The Network website

I have included some stories about things our member schools have been doing in this update and I would really encourage everyone to become involved by doing the same in future editions.

Let's really start to make this “set of connections” work!

A letter has gone out to the Principals of all member schools with your school's membership information and renewal dates in it.

Don't forget to keep your school's contact details up to date by letting me know any time there are changes – or if there is anyone you would like to add.

Please ensure that Network also works within your school community. Share your password to the Network website (your membership number) and raise relevant issues and ideas with fellow staff. Feel free to make a copy of this

update for each teacher in your school and share with parents. Let me know if you would like extra copies.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition.

My contact details:

Jo Jennings

P: (08) 8973 8765 or 1800 045 678

F: (08) 8973 8941

E: josephine.jennings@nt.gov.au

I am very happy to hear from you at any time, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any ideas, questions or just want to say "Hi!"

- Tuesday and Thursday morning Health Hustles (walking and aerobics) for students
- motor skill development tips provided via the school website and home newsletter
- relevant professional development activities with teachers
- the Perceptual Motor Program at sporting events and with school teams.

Parent volunteer recognition includes:

- assembly announcements
- thank you notices in the school newsletter
- a special morning tea at the end of the year.

Sport and physical activity are advocated to parents by:

- placing research information in the school newsletters and on the noticeboard
- discussing health-related issues at assembly
- posting relevant articles in staff pigeon-holes
- including relevant information on the website
- promoting the value of active students, active staff and active parents.

AASN Website

www.ausport.gov.au/schools/index.asp

Have you visited the Active Australia Schools Network Website recently?

What is your school doing that you might like to share?

Here are two examples of the kind of information you can find on the site.

ONLINE DIRECTORY OF JUNIOR SPORT PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Select from a list of sports including Athletics, Baseball, Freestyle BMX, Hockey, Rugby Union, Surfing, Surf Life Saving, Tennis, Touch Football and Volleyball for information about junior sport programs and resources offered by national sporting organisations. The directory provides brief details of the programs and resources available to teachers and students, together with links and contact information for further details.

INVOLVING PARENTS

How does your school involve parents? The following story about how one school is involving parents is taken from the website.

Schools Network Member area - School stories

Ideas for linking with your community

Sandringham East Primary (Victoria) involves parents in activity programs

The school involves parents as volunteers and participants in:

Northern Territory School Stories

MINYERRI SCHOOL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM TERM 4 2005

Minyerri School worked with *Sunrise Health* and the *Living with Alcohol* program to deliver a comprehensive health program addressing mental health, body and exercise, family and relationships, drug education, good nutrition, hygiene, healthy cooking, sexual health, awareness and sexual responsibilities, healthy lifestyles, positive parenting and skin care.

Secondary students participated in softball, basketball, cricket, hockey and AFL football sports skills clinics during the semester.

A highlight was a visit to the school by Cricket NT Indigenous Development Officer, Ian Redpath who is a high profile player in Darwin.

Students actively participated in the Milo "Have a Go" program, improving their skills and awareness of cricket. It was 45 degrees during Ian's visit, and students were so keen they stood on cardboard to stop the heat from burning their feet!

Secondary students, Wallace Dennis and Jeffred John have also undertaken:

- Auskick Level O Coaching Certificate
- Rooball Level O Coaching Certificate
- Bike Education Program
- Participation in the Under 17 Minyerri Tigers AFL team
- Active After-Schools Communities Community Coach Training Program. Both have been employed to run after school activities in the Minyerri community and have assisted the Community Sport and Recreation Officer in running programs such as Friday night Basketball.

MACFARLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL FITNESS PROGRAM

MacFarlane Primary School has been implementing a daily fitness program for their entire school population this year.

The program runs for 25 minutes, four mornings a week. Students in our early years classrooms participate in PMP programs, while the rest of the students participate in fun activities that get their bodies moving.

A typical morning sees the children going for a warm up jog, then rotating around eight different activities, ranging from aerobic activities to strength and flexibility, and skill development. Students then return to their classrooms to blow their noses and make sure they are ready for the day.

The students and teachers stay hydrated thanks to water bottles supplied by The Power and Water Corporation.

So far the program has proved successful with improved fitness, encouraging group games at recess and lunch times and the general well-being of the school.

ALICE SPRINGS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

60 students from five Alice Springs primary schools came together to participate in Schools Network Leadership program on February 28 and March 1 2006.

This was the first time that a combined leadership program has been held in the Northern Territory and it

proved to be an excellent opportunity for the students to work with other students who they would not normally work with. The Program also provided an opportunity for the teachers to network.

Students learnt about different roles and responsibilities within sport, communication, sport safety, basic group management, inclusion, making decisions, organising, conducting and evaluating activities and how to promote activities within schools.

Thanks go to Mandy Hargreaves (DEET PEC), Darryl Little (AASC), Racheal Curtain (Sport and Rec) and Willie Devlin (Football Development Officer) for their assistance and for making this leadership program a great success.



Physical Education Coordinators

A team of seven Physical Education Coordinators is working around the NT to develop Physical Education in Government Primary Schools and promote active participation in sport through Cluster and School Sport NT events. These are the team members and their contact details –

Name	Cluster	Location	Phone
Senior PEC Jane Slater	Group Schools	Mitchell Street	8901 1376
Jo Cochrane	PARCS	Driver Primary	8935 9055
Julie Kellam	City	Millner Primary	8948 1163
Mandy Hargreaves	Desert Storm	Bradshaw Primary	8952 9920
Max Henry	Rivers	Casuarina Street Primary	8971 2643
Dave Llewelyn	Arnhem	Arnhem Education Office	8987 0467
Paulina Motlop	Northern Suburbs	Manunda Terrace	8927 7666

All were very active in Term 1, with many visits to schools, working with both staff and students to develop Physical Education programs and improve levels of active participation across the Northern Territory.

Here are a few examples of what we have been doing during the first school term of 2006:

- Jane recently travelled to Melville Island and worked with students to develop their hockey skills.
- Paulina has been working with Early Childhood teachers to develop their knowledge of PMP programmes.
- Jo has organised Try-Days for students and has convened the SSNT Tennis Championships.
- Mandy had a particularly successful week working with The School of The Air Students when they came into Alice Springs recently.
- Dave has helped to plan the first All Arnhem Cluster event, a Healthy Lifestyles Carnival sponsored by NTAFI, which takes place early next term.
- Max has assisted with the re-introduction of inter-school sport in Katherine on Friday afternoons.

All the Coordinators are also very actively involved with the organisation of School Sport NT events and with sports events in their own Clusters.

A Gymnastics / Movement Skills course has been arranged with Sharon Hartley of Gymnastics NT for August 11th. Anyone who wishes to join in with this should contact Jane at the number above.

A busy term lies ahead after Easter and we are looking forwards to continuing in our new roles.

Programs and Sport Information

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Active Australia Schools Network Leadership Programs have been very popular with Northern Territory member schools over the last three years, and we are now faced with the problem of demand outstripping our ability to continue to provide individual programs for each school.

For this reason, the decision has been made to offer combined Leadership Programs in each of the major centres.

The first of these has already been run in Alice Springs (see story above) and two-day Combined Leadership Programs will be offered in Katherine, Darwin and Palmerston in Week 8 and Week 9 of Term 2.

Details of the programs will be sent to member schools as soon as confirmed.

Programs may also be available pending numbers in the Rural Area and Nhulunbuy. Please let me know if you are a member school that would participate in a program in one of these areas.

Programs for remote schools will be provided at Community S*port Tennant Creek and Mataranka.

The Leadership Programs are free of charge to member schools and up to 12 free shirts, hats and water bottles will be available per school. A copy of the program overview can be obtained at any time by forwarding your request to me at josephine.jennings@nt.gov.au.

COMMUNITY S*PORT

- Community S*port Tennant Creek 8 – 12 May
- Community S*port Mataranka 29 May – 2 June

Planning is well underway for both programs. Invitations and information packs will be sent to schools early in Term 2.

For further information contact:

Tennant Creek Coordinator:

David Kerrin

P: 8951 6424

E: david.kerrin@nt.gov.au

Mataranka Coordinator:

Jo Jennings

P: 8973 8765

E: josephine.jennings@nt.gov.au

DISABILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Is your school completing work units on People with Disabilities? Are you interested in your class experiencing games and sports for people with disabilities?

Sport and Recreation has some programs that could help. We have trained presenters who can come to your school, at a time that suits you, to conduct activities in Bocce, Goal ball, Sitting Volleyball and various other sports. We have all of the equipment; you just need to provide the children and the space. You are also able to short term borrow some of the equipment if you are confident in conducting the activities yourself. This service is currently provided free of charge.

If you or fellow staff members would like to receive professional development training on Inclusion of

Children with Disabilities into your PE/Sport program we can help with that too. Depending on our available budget, this may also be offered free of charge.

In Darwin, there is also the opportunity for students in Year 6 and above to have a go at wheelchair basketball. This needs to be conducted at the Darwin Basketball Stadium under the eye of trained presenters. It will also incur a small fee which can be negotiated at the time of booking.

Contact:

Michael Richardson

P: 8982 2301

E: michael.richardson@nt.gov.au



TEAM CHALLENGE

The *Life. Be in it. Team Challenge* program is aimed at upper primary or high school students and includes a variety of fun activities designed to encourage group participation and team building.

For information contact *Life. Be in it.* on 8981 7035.

GYMNASTICS

Are you nervous about providing gymnastics for your students? Gymnastics develops core body strength, spatial awareness, body control/management, confidence and self esteem. Gymnastics involves locomotion, landing, swing, rotation, static positions and springing and is for all ages and abilities.

Gymnastics NT Development Officer, Sharon Hartley can take staff and students on a journey of movement exploration where gymnastic skills can be simplified into easy progressions conducted in a fun and safe environment.

Sharon can also provide you with information about:

- **Cheerleading** and a wonderful easy to follow resource that will have your team cheering in no time
- **Interschool Gymnastic Team Competition** on Friday 10 November 2006 at Marrara Indoor Stadium. Teams of six students perform 10 skills and are awarded coloured stars for their efforts. Expressions of interest are sent in Term 2 and skill packages containing 25 – 30 skills are forwarded in August. The skills involve individual, team and partner

workmanship and utilise equipment that is in everyone's store room.

Contact: Sharon Hartley

Phone: 08 8927 9262

Mobile: 0439 887 093

Email: ntdevelopment.gymnastics@bigpond.com

Fees apply.

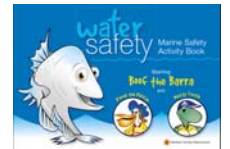
WATER SAFETY MONTH

18 Sept - 13 Oct 2006



Water Safety Month – what is on offer?

- Competitions
- Teacher resource book and support
- Co-ordinate School visits – marine dangers, boating, rescue, pool fencing etc
- Water safety lessons from stakeholders
- Mascot visit
- Resource pack
- Water Safety lessons from aquatic stakeholders



Water Safety Branch Contact Details:

Grd Floor RCG House
83-85 Smith Street Darwin
GPO Box 4621 NT 0801


P: 1300 301 059

F: 8999 8520


E: watersafety@nt.gov.au

Web: www.watersafety.nt.gov.au





Heart Foundation



Jump Rope for Heart teaches children about the importance of physical activity and heart health.

Support the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program and help the fight against Australia's biggest killer - cardiovascular disease (includes heart, stroke and blood vessel disease)

www.jumprope.com.au
Tel: 1300 72 48 04



Get your school active with Rugby Union!

FREE resources from EdRugby

Has your school registered for EdRugby – the Australian Rugby Union's National Education Program for Schools? If not, register now and your school will have access to FREE resources and activities for the classroom and the field as well as the opportunity to be a part of some unique Rugby experiences, including:

- Over 100 Rugby-themed, cross-curriculum lesson plans, word puzzles and interactive games for Upper Primary and Lower Secondary school students which meet outcomes from the Key Learning Areas of English, SOSE and HPE and promote literacy and ICTs skills, healthy lifestyles and values education.
- The EdRugby Walla Challenge whereby students of all ages are challenged to organise, manage and stage their own Walla Rugby Tournament using teamwork and resources from the FREE starter kit they receive upon registration, which includes:
 - Rugby equipment i.e. balls, markers, whistle, ball bag
 - Over 50 lessons and handouts about Walla Rugby and tournament organisation
 - A CD of Walla Rugby footage and other resources
- Unique Rugby experiences including access to the Wallaby E-Pals program, where students can email members of the Wallabies' squad each month; Rugby-themed design and writing competitions; Values in sport forums; School media team challenges and more.

EdRugby has been recognised by the Australian Sports Commission for engaging students in fun, educational programs that promote physical activity and has more than 1,500 Australian Primary and Secondary schools currently registered with the program.

For further information about EdRugby or to register visit www.rugby.com.au/edrugby, or call Dale Roberson on 8945 1444 or 0403 459 950.



TryRugby is a six-week sports program for boys and girls that gives players an opportunity to develop

general sport and Rugby-specific skills to play the modified games of Rugby Union – Walla, Mini and Midi and U/19 Laws.

Professional instructors deliver skills and games to suit the specific age groups and abilities of children in a fun, safe and welcoming atmosphere.

The program combines a central location with short sessions and community barbecues. All children who register for the program receive a free TryRugby sports pack including cap, Rugby ball, water bottle and sling bag.

For more information visit www.rugby.com.au/tryrugby or call Dale Roberson on 8945 1444 or 0403 459 950.

NETBALL NT

Please note Netball NT's new email address:
netballnet@internode.on.net

The Northern Territory Netball Challenge will be on in Darwin 23 – 25 June 2006. Any schools interested in sending a team please contact Michael Lloyd on the above email or phone 8942 2241.

Resources

NATIONAL SPORT INFORMATION CENTRE - ONLINE CATALOGUE

Find the Catalogue at:

<http://www.ausport.gov.au/nsic/index.asp>

The National Sport Information Centre (NSIC) is located in the Administration Centre of the Australian Sports Commission at the Australian Institute of Sport campus in Canberra.

The **public online catalogue** was launched in November 2005. The NSIC is regarded as having the best sports collection in Australia.

- NSIC collection is technically orientated – specific sports, administration, coaching/training, sports science (physiology, biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, and medicine), sport policy, special populations such as women, children, masters and disabled and major events such as the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. There is limited material held on the history and sociology of sport.

- Information is available in books, videos, journals, articles, and E-Resources.
- Keyword – search for all types of information in one search i.e. books, videos and articles on basketball coaching
- Information for borrowing books and videos or obtaining copies of articles can be found in the NSIC Ordering Section.

HEALTHY ACTIVE WEBSITE

<http://www.healthyactive.gov.au/>

This Australian Government website provides information about the Building a Healthy Active Australia initiatives and includes background information, Healthy Eating and Regular Physical Activity, Healthy School Communities, Active After-School Communities, Active School Curriculum, Contacts, Go for 2 Fruit & 5 Veg Campaign and the new Get Moving Campaign. The site provides some great ideas for fun physical activities.

\$\$ - YOUTH GRANTS – YOUTH WEBSITES

Foundation for Young Australians

<http://www.youngaustralians.org/>

The Foundation for Young Australians is an independent national grant-making organisation, funding and working in partnership with youth-led initiatives which aim to positively contribute to young people and their communities. Their website provides information about a variety of grant programs that may be of interest to youth / schools.

Office of Youth Affairs

www.nt.gov.au/dcm/youth_affairs

Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) is a central co-ordination agency located in the Department of the Chief Minister. OYA provides a whole-of-government approach to policy priorities for young people aged 12 to 25 years and develops effective communication links between young people, Government and the wider community.

The Office supports initiatives that improve young Territorians' personal wellbeing, promotes their positive achievements and assists them to reach their goals. In addition, the Office supports events and activities that provide positive recreational and developmental opportunities for young Territorians.

OYA believes that the principles of Respect, Diversity, Access, Empowerment, Equity and Coordination should

underpin any program or service that is developed for young Territorians:

The website includes information about programs and services of OYA:

- Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians
- Regional Consultations
- National Youth Week
- Youth Grants Program
- STS Leeuwin Youth Development Program
- Sponsorship of Awards
- Coordination, monitoring and review of the Northern Territory Government's Youth Policy Framework
- Youth Research

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION - JUNIOR SPORT WEBSITE

www.ausport.gov.au/junior

Junior sport covers the ages 5 to 17, which has been identified as the most important time to nurture, educate and simply have fun with sport.

This website has been developed largely for people who are involved with or look after junior sport – coaches, parents, volunteers and teachers. You will find information from grassroots participation to elite training tips, child harassment and protection laws, helpful hints, case studies and resources. Just follow the steps (and links) for more information.

Some information will be of interest to young people, those wanting to participate for the first time and the more experienced looking for some extra coaching tips. The best places to start looking may be the frequently asked questions section and fact sheets.

Courses

SPORTS FIRST AID AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

Charles Darwin University offers a **Sports First Aid and Injury Management** (SFA & IM) program which can be delivered in schools under VET for people 15 years and above. The cost for VET students is around \$65 per student and includes St. John Senior First Aid Certificate, Sports First Aid Certificate, course hand outs and materials. The SFA & IM program is a feeder

course for the Certificate III in Sport (Athlete Support Services) which covers management and preventions of sporting injuries in greater depth as well as some business and computing units. Further information can be obtained by contacting Paul (PJ) Guarini at Charles Darwin University on 08 8946 6374 or email paul.guarini@cdu.edu.au.

CRICKET AUSTRALIA LEVEL 1 (DEVELOPMENT) COACHING COURSE

Northern Territory Cricket is offering a Level 1 (Development) Coaching Course at Kormilda College, Berrimah on 8, 9 and 14 May 2006.

The course is targeted at school teachers, junior coaches and parents and aims to equip candidates with the technical knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective coach. The program will cover principles of coaching, communication, group management, physical training and coaching cricket.

This is a formal Cricket Australia National Coach Accreditation (NCAS) course. Cost is \$150 incl. GST and candidates will receive an Australia Coach Cricket Manual, Level 1 Development Course Handbook, Development Coach CD, Cricket Australia Umpiring Guide CD and Cricket Australia Junior Cricket Policy.

LEVEL 1 TRACK & FIELD COACH COURSE

The Australian Track & Field Coaches Association Northern Territory Branch is conducting a Level 1 Accreditation Course in Darwin on 3 & 4 June 2006 at the Arafura Athletics Stadium, Marrara. Cost is \$285, applications close 19 May 2006.

Coaching courses may be available in your for groups of at least 10 candidates.

For further information:

Contact: Cherry Harvey
Phone: 89451979
Mobile: 0411 448 742
Email: cherry@ntathletics.org.au

Food for thought...

The following is an excerpt only from an article entitled *School Sport and Aboriginal Children's Conductive Hearing Loss* by Damien Howard and Len West – Draft March 2006. It is presented here as the opinion of the authors only.

...While teaching at a Darwin primary school with a high proportion of Aboriginal students one of the authors, Len West, became interested in how hearing loss may

impact on children's sports performance. Prior to all Aboriginal students at the school being screened for hearing loss, teachers were asked to fill in a questionnaire on their perception of students' sporting performance. They rated students on a four point scale - below average, average, above average or excellent.

When hearing screenings were carried out with the fifty three Aboriginal students, twenty three (44%) failed their hearing screening. This is consistent with findings of approximately half of Indigenous students in some schools having a hearing loss at any point in time (Quinn 1988). However, in many remote Aboriginal schools it is not unusual that up to 90% of children have some degree of hearing loss resultant from middle ear disease (Morris et al 2005). When hearing screening results were compared with the teachers' perception of sporting ability, it was evident that more students with a current hearing loss were assessed by their teachers as having lower levels of sporting performance...

...Seventy per cent of Indigenous students with no current hearing loss were described by teachers as having above average to excellent sporting abilities. However, only forty three per cent (43.5%) of those with a current hearing loss were described as having sporting abilities in this range. This difference in proportions (26.5%) is statistically significant (95% confidence interval equal .05 % to 53.6%).

Discussion

These results indicate that conductive hearing loss is associated with lower levels of performance in school sport for many children. There are several ways that conductive hearing loss could influence children's sporting performance. Sports performance could be diminished by:

- general ill health related to middle ear disease;
- communication problems during training and games or;
- the effect that middle ear disease has on balance and co-ordination.

Some or all of these factors could contribute to diminished sporting performance for children who experience conductive hearing loss from middle ear disease. Comments made by boys with conductive hearing loss supports that communication problems can impact on communication during team sports (Howard 2005). The effect of middle ear disease on balance and coordination through impairment of vestibular function has also been described in research with non Aboriginal students (Silva et al. 1982, Brookhouser & Goldgar 1987, Moore and Best 1987).

The positive effects of participation in sport may be diminished for Aboriginal children with conductive

hearing loss. Diminished performance may result in less satisfaction or even avoidance of participation if communication difficulties contribute to being shamed. Qualitative research is needed to examine how hearing loss impacts on performance and if diminished performance influences the positive benefits derived from children's participation in school sport. Further, the results of this small study should be replicated with a larger sample.

While the effects of conductive hearing loss on school sport performance needs to be investigated in greater depth there is enough evidence to support the need for training programs for teachers and coaches to minimize the adverse outcomes of conductive hearing loss on participation in school sports. Such training programs would need to alert teachers and coaches, firstly, to informal hearing screening games such as 'Blind Man's Simon Says' (Howard 1993). Awareness of hearing loss can encourage early medical intervention and referral for formal hearing tests as well prompting greater care in communication with children with a current hearing loss. Many negative social outcomes from hearing loss arise when people are unaware that a child has a loss, for example responses such as failing to respond to instructions may be seen incorrectly as defiance and reacted to accordingly with adverse results. Secondly, those involved with children's sport should be aware of ways to communicate most effectively with children with hearing loss. Work in schools indicates the communicative disadvantage experienced by students with hearing loss depends greatly on the communicative skills used by those they communicate with (Lowell 1994, Howard 2005). The following are some brief suggestions of how to improve communication during coaching.

Suggestions for sports teachers and coaches

- *Get the attention of students before trying to speak.*
- *Speak slowly and clearly when giving instructions.* Focus on key words and repeat important information. Encourage children to ask for information to be repeated or clarified.
- *Try to minimise background noise when giving verbal instructions.* Be aware that children with hearing loss

will have more difficulty hearing when it is noisy. Others may think someone with a hearing loss is ignoring instructions or shouted requests during a noisy game when in fact they have not been able to clearly hear what was said.

- *Use modelling as part of training*
Students will be more successful when they can supplement verbal instruction by observation - show what is expected as well as telling.
- *Use a 'buddy system'* where students, especially those with suspect hearing, are paired with another student who is more able to process verbal instruction.
- *Be aware of the amount of verbal instruction you are using.* Students with hearing loss are likely to be disruptive because they may be unable to cope with high levels of verbal communication. They may also have developed a teasing, confrontational social style that makes them unpopular with peers. Socially excluding students with hearing loss may only exacerbate problems and should be used as a last resort. Teasing and disruptive behaviour by students with hearing loss can often be better managed by controlling levels of background noise and engaging students in activities where they can succeed.
- *Be aware that students with hearing loss are likely to be sensitive* about being shamed by their hearing-related communication problems being evident to others.

There is more information, including a downloadable poster on conductive hearing loss and sport available at www.eartroubles.com

Damien Howard is a Darwin based psychologist and educator who is interested in the social effects of conductive hearing loss. He can be contacted at damien@phoenixconsulting.com.au

Len West is a former Northern Territory teacher who now operates the national franchise business 'Stacks of Snacks' from the Gold Coast.

FAX – BACK FORM

Please let me know about any ideas, useful resources, games, ideas, tips, stories or questions you would like to share with the rest of the network. This form can also be used at any time to update contact information or pass on any messages. Simply fill in the form on this page and fax back to me.

To:	Jo Jennings	Fax:	(08) 8973 8941
From:		Fax:	
School:		Email:	
		Phone:	

MESSAGE: