



The ***Futures***
Focused School
Film resource guide

Teaching Australia

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Film resource guide

The Film resource guide PDF includes hyperlinks to the films, which can be streamed online from the Teaching Australia website or downloaded to your desktop. Click on the highlighted **BLUE** link to stream or download film.

Program 1: Focus on society and schools

Film A: Dr Rufus Black: *The big picture; forces impacting on schools*

Dr Rufus Black is Master of Ormond College, University of Melbourne and former Principal and Partner, McKinsey & Company (McKinsey & Company conducted the influential study published in *How the World's Best Forming School Systems come out on Top*). In Film A Rufus identifies the forces facing the future of schools with a focus on education, economy and society.

Film B: Professor Hedley Beare: *A national or global curriculum*

Professor Hedley Beare AM who is Emeritus Professor, University of Melbourne and author of *Creating the Future School*. In Film B Hedley describes the forces of globalisation and their impact on schools.

Film C: Professor Erica McWilliam: *Challenges to curriculum and pedagogy, building creative capacity*

Professor Erica McWilliam is Professor of Education, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; and Leader, Creative Workforce Program, Centre for Excellence for Creative Industries, Queensland University of Technology. In Film C Erica builds a case for the core business of schools in the 21st century being 'creative capacity building'.

Film D: Dr Rufus Black: *Characteristics of a futures focused school, leadership and governance*

In his second contribution, Rufus Black describes the characteristics of a futures focused school and the capacities of leadership and governance that are required.

Film E: Barbara Stone: *Being futures focused and outward looking*

Barbara Stone is Principal, MLC School, Sydney NSW, which is one of the three exemplary futures focused schools that contributed to the project. In Film E Barbara describes how schools must be futures focused and outward looking.

Film F: Dr Rufus Black: *Innovation within an open and trusting culture*

In his third contribution Rufus Black recommends a systematic approach to futures focused planning including a 'portfolio approach', a willingness to be innovative and the importance of an open and trusting culture.

Film G: Denice Scala: *Student, parent and staff voice in a primary school*

Denice Scala is Principal, St Andrew's School, Adelaide SA. In Film G Denice describes the importance of listening to the voices of others including students, teachers and parents in planning the way forward. Her description of how she engaged students in the primary school in online surveys is particularly engaging.



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Film H: Gabrielle Leigh: *A community partnership*

Gabrielle Leigh is Director, Caroline Springs College, Caroline Springs VIC, currently on leave as President of the Victorian Principals Federation. In Film H Gabrielle describes how multi-campus Caroline Springs College is deeply embedded in its community. Ensuring a high level of congruence with community needs and aspirations has been critical to the sustained growth of the school, from less than 70 students to more than 3,000 in barely a decade.

Film I: Gabrielle Leigh and Marlene Monahan OAM: *Gathering data, learning from others*

Gabrielle Leigh makes a second contribution when she describes strategies adopted at Caroline Springs in gathering and utilising data in futures focused planning. The film continues with a contribution from Marlene Monahan OAM, Principal, Bethany Catholic Primary School, Werribee VIC, one of the three exemplary futures focused schools in the project, who briefly describes how her school learns from others in creating its strategies for the future.

Film J: Professor Hedley Beare: *Implications of globalisation for curriculum and pedagogy*

In his second contribution, Hedley Beare provides a link to Program 2 (Focus on Learning and Teaching) in developing his theme of globalisation and exploring its implications for curriculum.

Program 2: Focus on learning and teaching

Film K: Dr David Warner Professor Erica McWilliam: *Short and long-term perspectives and the impact of new technology*

Dr David Warner is Principal, ELTHAM College, Eltham VIC and author of *Schooling for the Knowledge Era*. David introduces a theme that runs through Program 2 which concerns the extent to which a futures focused school should deal with short or long-term perspectives, or how it can simultaneously deal with both. He is immediately followed by a third contribution from Erica McWilliam who describes the characteristics of students who are utilising a wide range of technology. She challenges the school to take account of these in their planning.

Film L: Ross Smith: *Responsiveness to students and the community*

Ross Smith is Principal of Robina State High School, QLD, the third of our exemplary futures focused schools. In Film M Ross picks up a theme raised in Film K when he describes how Robina's success is related to its 'responsiveness' to students and the community.

Film M: Deborah Derrick: *A school partnership with a football team*

Deborah Derrick is a member of the leadership team at Robina. In Film M she illustrates the high level of responsiveness at the school as it seized the opportunities when the Gold Coast Titans took up their headquarters opposite the school. This led to the transformation of learning and teaching, especially for boys, in the school's League for Life program.

Film N: Phillip Heath: *Linking with the community and the importance of a narrative*

Phillip Heath is former Head of School, St Andrew's Cathedral School, Sydney NSW, and now Principal at Radford College ACT. In Film N Phillip provides an account of how St Andrew's engaged more widely with the community and how this impacted on his role. He stresses the importance of creating a narrative to build understanding and gain commitment to a future that extended its work while maintaining its traditions.

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Film O: Dr Jim Watterston: *The different worlds that students encounter*

Dr Jim Watterston is Regional Director, Eastern Metropolitan Region DEECD VIC. In Film O, Jim describes the different worlds students encounter in their after school-hours use of technology and what they may typically encounter in schools. It takes up a theme introduced earlier in Program 2 by Erica McWilliam in Film K.

Film P: Ross Smith: *Non-traditional approaches to strategic planning*

In his second contribution Ross Smith offers a frank description of traditional approaches to strategic planning with their emphasis on large amount of paper-work.

Film Q: Tony Mackay: *Disciplined innovation and next practice*

Tony Mackay is Chief Executive, Centre for Strategic Education; President, Australian Curriculum Studies Association; Deputy Chair, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) (now subsuming the National Curriculum Board); and Chair, The Innovation Unit (UK). In Film Q Tony explains the importance of innovation and introduces the concepts of 'disciplined innovation' and 'next practice'. He provides time-frames for different approaches to futures focused planning.

Film R: Elisabeth Lenders: *Backward mapping in creating strategic plans*

Elisabeth Lenders is Deputy Principal, Carey Baptist Grammar School, Kew VIC. In Film R, after explaining the general approach at her school, Elisabeth introduces the idea of 'backward mapping' in creating strategic plans – working backwards from a vision to the present rather than the traditional linear approach of working from the present to the future.

Film S: The leadership team at Bethany Catholic Primary School: *The importance of a vision and a plan*

Film S draws from an extended discussion with the leadership team at Bethany Catholic Primary School whose Principal Marlene Monahan was introduced in Film I. These leaders highlight the importance of always having a vision and always having a plan, being willing to engage in robust debate and building a high level of trust in the team.

Film T: Barbara Stone: *Planning for the next 10 to 20 years*

In her second contribution, Barbara Stone describes how MLC School, Sydney has moved from a short term view in planning to the longer term planning for 10 or 20 years – preparing students for 'global social responsibility'. Her timeframes are consistent with those described by Tony Mackay in Film Q.

Film U: Professor Hedley Beare: *Teachers as 'brokers of learning'*

Hedley Beare has the last word in his third contribution. He offers a mental image of teachers as 'brokers of learning' and, in an uplifting conclusion, describes the complexity of schooling in the 21st century. He contends that leaders in business have much to learn from leaders in schools.



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Extended interviews

Other films provide extended interviews with consultants to the project and range in length from 20 to 30 minutes.

Film V: Dr Rufus Black

Film W: Professor Erica McWilliam

Film X: Tony Mackay

Film Y: Brent Davies

Film Z: Contains reflections of the project co-directors Brian Caldwell and David Loader on the workshop series that formed part of the project.

A futures focused school in action

Also included in the package is a film **Bethany Catholic Primary School** showing students and teachers at work in the future-oriented Leadership Centre at Bethany Catholic Primary School, Werribee North, Victoria, whose principal and senior leadership team made contribution in Programs 1 and 2. No commentary is provided so this film is suitable for background viewing before and between different topics in the two programs.