



Australian Teachers of Media NSW Inc

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ATOM NSW Newsletter May 2011

President's Report

As this is our first newsletter for the year I want to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to all our new members. This is indeed an exciting and challenging time in arts education nationally. Those interested in teaching Media Arts in New South Wales have a crucial role to play. As valued members of ATOM NSW, you are the pioneers of the development and inclusion of an arts subject that will bring young people new and significant opportunities for deep, rich and relevant learning. This is an era where the production and dissemination of screen media has extended beyond the traditional industry borders of producers and media corporations to the general public. Schools and teachers now have the capacity to help students engage with a medium of communication that permeates every aspect of their lives and our own.

With an ACARA Arts Curriculum date of 2012 and implementation date of 2013, we will continue to provide information and support for teachers and schools. While much has been achieved by ATOM NSW in the last eleven months there is still much to do. Many do not understand what Media Arts is or why it is an essential arts education. The following questions and answers may help you and your colleagues with information about ATOM, ATOM NSW and the future of Media Arts.

What's Been Happening in NSW?

- Over the past eleven months the committee has worked solidly to promote Media Arts and to dispel some of the myths and scare mongering that inevitably arise when change is proposed.
- We ran two forums in November last year which were well attended and have initiated links with educators from Drama, Visual Arts, Design and Technology and English who have an interest in teaching Media Arts.
- ATOM NSW Committee members met with ATOM representatives from other states to forge a common position on Media Arts nationally.
- We have met with representatives and made productive links with the Department of Education and Training, The Office of the Board of Studies, the Australian Film Television and Radio School and University of Sydney Faculty of Education and Social Work.

What is ATOM?

- ATOM is an acronym for Australian Teachers of Media. There are ATOM chapters in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and South Australia. Each chapter operates autonomously to promote the teaching and development of media.



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- At a recent meeting of ATOM state chapters, a motion was passed to begin the process to form an official national ATOM body to coordinate the interests and needs of Media Arts in the states and territories.

What is Media Arts?

- While the term 'media' is broad and has different interpretations nationally, the ATOM NSW committee believes that learning in Media Arts should focus on the MAKING of moving image and sound to tell story.
- The screen media forms of television and film provide the framework for historical, aesthetic, social, political and cultural perspectives.

Why should Media Arts be introduced as an arts subject in New South Wales?

- Screen media is ubiquitous and permeates every aspect of our lives.
- When students investigate, through collaborative practical learning experiences, the forms and types of moving image the more they are empowered to tell their own stories. They also develop critical skills to interpret the ways in which others use the aesthetics of moving images and sound to create meaning.
- Students of narrative film making require dedicated, sequenced units of work in film making to develop depth of knowledge and understanding and to be able to master complex film production skills.

How will Media Arts impact on my school?

- Media Arts creates a connectivity with the study of media and digital media in English, Photographic and Digital Media, Drama, Design and Technology and other subject areas. This creates opportunities for deeper and richer learning.

What can I do to support Media Arts?

- Become a member of ATOM NSW!
- Speak about and for Media Arts at your school and in your community
- Become a committee member of ATOM NSW