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*The Australian Year of the Built Environment is almost over. Whilst urban Geography is largely taken up by studies of cities and CBDs, there are other facets to look at. Heritage, economic prosperity, the use of information technology resources in landscape analysis and other topics and angles can be studied. Yet has the year that has highlighted our urban areas made a profound difference on our environment and how we view it? Certainly it will take more than a year to change societal views to become more environmentally perceptive and aware of our surroundings. But then, that's the work of a Geographer.*

## Port Adelaide Enfield Council Historical Photographs

<http://elibrary.portenf.sa.gov.au>

This digitising of local photographs was completed as an Australian Federation Project. The images cover a wide range of historical images, including a large range of coastal shots, useful for the Stage 2 Geography Studies course and middle school studies. From completing two separate searches, subjects as removed as beach photographs at Semaphore, aerial photos of Windsor Gardens and horse tram shots showing previous transport types were displayed. Mortlock Library images (<http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au:1084/search/>) have also been included in the selection, adding to the range of information available. For those looking to add some local image content to their lessons, this resource is well worth a look.

## NASA - Spacelink

<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/Curriculum.Support/Earth.Science/Geography/>

NASA provides a rich range of teaching materials in this range of links. It is connected with other sections on the Spacelink site but covers a vast array of topics. Practical examples of activities are given (eg: how to make a mountain and topographic map) as well as links to other areas within the NASA website behemoth. One outstanding resource indirectly linked to this page is the now out of print web-based book, Geomorphology from Space ([http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/DAAC\\_DOCS/geomorphology/GEO\\_HOME\\_PAGE.html](http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/DAAC_DOCS/geomorphology/GEO_HOME_PAGE.html)), which is full of maps and aerial photographs ripe for interpretation. Warning: you could be in this NASA site nebula for hours: the resources are that rich...!

## World Heritage in Young Hands Website

<http://whc.unesco.org/education/slindex.htm>

The UNESCO site gives plenty of information from a student and teacher perspective. There is an online teaching kit (html based) with a vast array of resources based on the theme of world heritage. It gives a range of activities including relevant museum visits (or planning a visit to a World Heritage listed site - an excellent opportunity/reason to visit the Naracoorte Caves) and other activities. The information is dense and may be best saved and viewed 'offline' for those without broadband. It is an excellent resource for those contemplating a heritage unit in their courses.

## Innovating With Geography - Geographical Association (UK)

[http://www.qca.org.uk/geography/innovating/key3/learning\\_matters/05.htm](http://www.qca.org.uk/geography/innovating/key3/learning_matters/05.htm)

This British based equivalent of AGTA gives a range of options in using information technology in Geography. This page in particular is but one of a wide range of areas in revitalising skills, content and methodology in Geography. Sections (on the right of screen include: *learning matters: getting started; open-ended enquiry work; structured enquiry work; props and models; imaginative mapwork; problem-solving and issues analysis; Music, film and soaps; Promoting creativity; and using ICT*. This is a page to look at when trying to freshen up a course, with plenty of suggestions on how to do it. It is worth a look.

## Wing and Ian Chan's Webpages

[http://www.geocities.com/wingian\\_chan/](http://www.geocities.com/wingian_chan/)

I never normally suggest a Geocities site because of the short term nature of these "free" webpages but this site is one definitely worth visiting. This one primary, now secondary aged student and his father have put together a number of human and physical geography pages based on a scientific & report method. Topics include the ethnic diversity in Sydney's suburbs, experiments on geotropism, the angle of repose and a few other areas. Information includes the report itself, teachers manuals as well as excellent diagrams and photographs to support the information presented. This is one to watch as Ian develops into a budding young geographer in the coming years.

## The International Year of Microcredit

<http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/> & <http://www.gdrc.org/icm/iym2005/>

The official page and site as well as the Global Development Research page & site gives the background to the forthcoming year and is one to bookmark/add to your favourites in terms of activities and resources for the year ahead. Links to the United Nations Official site (as shown above) and other organisations can be found reasonably easily. This page is worthy of inclusion in terms of the up to date nature of the case studies of individuals where microcredit has been a success story for the various featured individuals. The United Nations Official site has a range of resources in the form of kits and promotional material, logos and the like to celebrate the year on a local level.

This is perhaps one for the enterprise education or development sections of your curriculum.

### **Teoma**

<http://www.teoma.com/>

Sick of Google for your research-based information? Looking for a faster, text-based search engine? Students may be encouraged to be less Google dependent and try other search engines such as Teoma. This minimalist design and fast return speed allows for quick and effective use. The added advantage of this search engine is the multiple answers available. As well as the main results section, there are organisation links and resource links on the right hand side of the screen. These can be utilised to narrow searches or look in different directions other than just the ordinary results section of other search engines. It is also pleasing to note because it is lesser known, site returns are less likely to return dubious sites & links. Teoma has a place for junior classes (because of the safety aspect) and senior classes for extending research results. Look into it!

### **Furl**

<http://www.furl.net/>

Just as Google became a household name in the late 1990's, Furl has the potential to be a just as famous moniker. Imagine you have a range of internet addresses you wish your students to access on various topics. They can access all of your relevant bookmarks/favourites when you add them to this site. This free service (at this stage) allows access and manipulation of your favourite/saved public and private bookmarks for yourself. It does contain an account type structure and you do need to log in. Once set up, Furl is like the personalised Google toolbar where a downloaded file provides access to access your links whilst you have an online internet connection. With this system, your students can go to the furl site and access your bookmarks, already catalogued for reference and relevance. This is a technology which has great potential in education (like blogging: web logging) but has yet to be fully harnessed. There is a huge potential for those who wish to take the time to "catalogue" their own resources.

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## Recent News Releases

### **Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MP - 15/10/2004**

#### **Discover South Australia – on foot!**

Discovering South Australia on foot will be a breeze with the release of a user-friendly Trails SA brochure featuring 40 of the State's best short walks.

Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith launched the 50-page brochure, entitled *40 Great South Australian Short Walks*.

She says the project will entice tourists and locals to enjoy the State's many trails, raise awareness of South Australia as a premier walking destination and strengthen the *Trails SA* brand.

"South Australia has a wealth of natural tourism assets. Our landscapes range from rolling hills, to dramatic coastline and rugged outback ranges. Many of the trails have interesting stories to tell about our country, wildlife and history," Minister Lomax-Smith says.

"Bush walking and cycling are among the most popular recreational activities for locals and visitors. Track and trail experiences not only provide people with things to see and do, but also connect them with the natural and cultural environment.

"This brochure is a perfect example of government departments – the Department of Environment and Heritage, Office of Recreation and Sport, Forestry SA and the South Australian Tourism Commission – working cooperatively to achieve key objectives.

"In time, each walk will be marked with interpretive signs designed to raise the level of the visitor's experience even further."

*Trails SA 40 Great South Australian Short Walks* is a 50-page publication showcasing some of South Australia's best short walks. The selected walks are under five hours and highlight areas of natural or cultural significance. The trails are located throughout the State from the middle of the city (Botanic Garden Ramble) to the Northern Flinders Ranges (Blinman Pools).

Copies of the brochure are available through the South Australian Visitor & Travel Centre on 1300 655 276 or at local visitor information centres.

The brochure has been launched in time for the 3rd Australian Tracks and Trails Conference, which is being held in Hahndorf from 18 to 20 October. For more information visit [www.southaustraliantrails.com](http://www.southaustraliantrails.com).

