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## The Weather Channel's Senior Meteorologist Dick Whitaker to visit Orange Public School

AUSTAR for schools are very excited to announce that The Weather Channel's Senior Meteorologist Richard "Dick" Whitaker will be travelling to schools in regional New South Wales as part of the AUSTAR for schools Climate and Weather Month in July.

The Weather Channel meteorologist, Dick Whitaker will present "Australia's Natural Disasters" to students at Orange Public School on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, taking a look at some of the major droughts, floods, thunderstorms and tropical cyclones that have affected Australia. The presentation will highlight the impact severe weather can have on our country. Dick's presentation will involve students in a number of different interactive weather experiments and give them the opportunity to present the weather in front of a blue screen, just like a professional weather presenter!

Meteorologist Dick Whitaker says that he is delighted to be involved in the AUSTAR for schools program and is looking forward to visiting schools in regional New South Wales as part of the AUSTAR for schools Climate and Weather Month in July.

*"I'm excited to be teaching school kids about the types of hazardous weather we sometimes experience in Australia and showing them some experiments that illustrate how certain aspects of the weather work such as cloud formation, rain and thunder. I'm really looking forward to visiting schools Dubbo, Orange and the Bathurst and inspiring students about weather and the impact of climate change and how they can get involved in helping combat climate change and the effects this has on the weather and our environment."*

The AUSTAR for schools Climate and Weather Month is part of the expansion of the existing curriculum based schools program which now incorporates exciting extra curricular activities to further bring education to life. The new AUSTAR for schools program offers regional schools and communities a way to engage with AUSTAR personalities in local situations.

One of the key objectives of the new AUSTAR for schools program is to understand and support the important issues and interests of the students, teachers, parents and wider community from a grassroots education perspective and address these with initiatives that are in line with the core values of the AUSTAR brand.

Upon completion of each school visit AUSTAR will present a \$2000 grant to the participating school, to be used by the school towards educational resources for their students.

AUSTAR believes that quality education for regional Australian children is integral to the bright future of Australia and AUSTAR for schools is our way of making a positive contribution to this future.

### **AUSTAR for schools channels**

- The History Channel
- Discovery Channel
- National Geographic Channel
- The Weather Channel
- Sky News Australia
- ABC 1
- SBS
- BBC World
- CNN
- The LifeStyle Channel
- LifeStyle Food Channel
- Ovation
- Discovery Travel and Living
- Discovery Home and Health
- Discovery Science
- Aurora Community Television
- National Indigenous Television
- Sky News Business
- Animal Planet

To find out more about the AUSTAR for schools program and the other exciting interactive activities planned for 2008, visit the AUSTAR for schools website [www.schools.austar.com.au](http://www.schools.austar.com.au)

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