

Press Release

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Boardgames Australia supports National Literacy & Numeracy Week

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Across Australia, students and families will be celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy week this week by playing a boardgame. Boardgames use vital literacy and numeracy skills in fun and engaging ways in a relaxed and enjoyable social setting.

Developing and maintaining effective literacy and numeracy skills is important to Australians of all ages. As well as fostering literacy through use of word games, boardgames also promote literacy through reading rules and exploring themes or concepts that occur during a game. Mathematical games go beyond simply keeping score, addressing spatial relationships, multiplication and division and probability skills.

Boardgames Australia has published lists and descriptions of recommended games that promote literacy and numeracy as a resource for teachers, parents, libraries and game buffs. These include old favourite Scrabble, as well as Apples to Apples, a fun word game where players match a range of items with an appropriate (or sometimes inappropriate) description. Numeracy games include Number Chase, a guessing game about ways to describe numbers, and For Sale, a fast-playing game about buying and selling real estate.

More and more Australian families are looking for an interactive alternative to solitary computer games. The many wonderful new board games appearing in the specialist market in the "new golden age" of the boardgame offer social interaction as well as intellectual stimulation. Every year brings more exciting boardgames that challenge children's higher order and strategic thinking skills, expose them to new themes and ideas, and offer countless opportunities for negotiation and discussion. And the best thing is, they're fun!

The Internet's premiere resource on boardgames, the BoardGameGeek database, lists over 30,000 boardgames – truly something for everyone!

About Boardgames Australia

Boardgames Australia is a non-profit organisation founded in 2006 to stimulate the growth and raise the profile of boardgaming in Australia.

The members of Boardgames Australia have come together to create a credible organisation that is independent of game publishers or retailers. The Committee includes teachers, journalists, parents, academics and business people united by a passion to foster positive engagement of families and friends around the games table.

For more information

- Boardgames Australia <http://www.boardgamesaustralia.org.au>
- National Literacy & Numeracy Week <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au>
- Victorian Department of Education – Statewide Games Day
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/litnumweek/gamesday.htm>
- BoardGameGeek <http://www.boardgamegeek.com>