CPAW is an international collaborative project co-founded in 1983 by Dr. Malcolm Beazley AM, and Australian educator, and James Erwin, a computer consultant from the USA. Computer Pals provides opportunities for people in educational and community institutions to share their experiences, ideas and knowledge in a variety of collaborative learning environments to enhance global understanding. It is operated and managed in over twenty countries by voluntary dedicated educators and citizens.

UCF College of Education has a long legacy as host of CPAW in tribute to Dr Larry Hudson and Dr Tom Bayston, Past Presidents.
International President Dr Gillian Eriksson

CPAW aims to:
- Provide students with a real context to improve their written communication skills;
- Provide an opportunity for intercultural exchange
- Motivate the linguistically challenged student;
- Provide a real-life opportunity for people to develop computer skills;
- Allow students and teachers to engage in discussions on multicultural and global issues;
- Liberate people from isolation caused by age, physical and emotional disabilities and geographical and cultural barriers;
- Assist in the learning of foreign languages;
- Provide an environment for collaborative study and research;
- Provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of information in education.

INTERNATIONAL WRITER’S CELEBRATION 2010:
“WORD WINDOWS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT”
See story page 2
http://www.queanbeyan-h.schoo ls.nsw.edu.au/
**Introduction**
In the United Nation’s International Year of Biodiversity the CPAW (Computer Pals Across the World) Global Educational Network based at the University of Central Florida, is hosting an International Writers’ Celebration. This event is being coordinated by Queanbeyan High School, New South Wales, Australia. Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

The theme for this year’s event is “Word Windows on Our Environment”. A “word window” allows us to view qualities of our local environment through using distinctive words, phrases and idioms. While English tends to be the world’s *lingua franca*, the language does not always allow for an exact translation of the pure meanings of words from other languages. Thus many words and phrases only have real meaning in the language from which they originate. The challenge in using “word windows” is to describe clearly your observation, so that your description is as close to the pure meaning in translation, as possible.

Your “word windows” may include a variety of written genre, such as stories, reports and poems. The variety of “word windows” together will reflect the issues of our global environment in terms of all living creatures.

**Audience**
The event is open to all students from primary (elementary) school to high school.

**Activities**
The following are a few suggested activities:
- observe features of your local environment
- discuss issues relating to your local environment
- have students write in a variety of ways about their local environment
- compile a bibliography of books about the environment
- compile a list of authors whose works focus on the environment
- invite writers to your school and have students from other schools send them questions online, about their writing
- send a media release to your local media outlets
- have students exchange writing online to read and critique before returning with comments
- send samples of writing to the Coordinating Team at Queanbeyan High School to display on the showcase website

**Aims**
To provide opportunities for students to:
- appreciate their local environment
- direct questions to either visiting or online authors about the craft of writing
- share their writing with professional writers
- become familiar with local and international writers
- share their writing with peers across the world
- focus on tele-editing (explanation of idiom and nuance) as a means to improving communication

**Outcomes**
A special website will showcase the outcomes of the event.

**How to Register**
If you would like to participate please send an email to the Coordinating Team: Acer.Zhang@education.nsw.gov.au
A Message from the President:

We are, indeed, a small and fragile planet when we contemplate our earth home and the vastness beyond. In our daily life we take for granted our access to resources such as pure air, pure water, abundant energy and healthy plants around us. Living in an affluent country, we tend to forget that millions of our planetary neighbours are not so fortunate, and that we experience our lifestyles at their expense.

Many torchbearers have warned us that the unbridled development and waste is threatening our futures. Here at the University of Central Florida we have a Unifying Theme, SUSTAINABILITY, which has operated this academic year with a range of projects that include: experiential learning; greenhouse gas reports, open energy information, climate action, campus indoor temperature. These issues are infused in interdisciplinary studies, but students and faculty, under the Sustainability Alliance, are demonstrating their commitment to this cause.

It is therefore fitting that CPAW address these concerns. I am delighted at the commitment shown by students at Queanbeyan High School, New South Wales, Australia. to host this year’s INTERNATIONAL WRITERS’ CELEBRATION. CPAW thanks these students for hosting this event and commends them on developing an outstanding advocacy project that impacts us all.

I declare this event open to all those global citizens committed to creating a positive future that is green and clean.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gillian Eriksson

University of Central Florida.

UCF UNIFYING THEME http://www.ut.ucf.edu/