

## **ACAL eNews**

### **August 2006 Vol 2 No 3**

(Formerly Literacy Live newsletter)

ACAL eNews is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the Australian Council of Adult Literacy (ACAL) and is distributed free to people interested in adult literacy and numeracy. See below for subscription details.

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#### **1. Beyond Text: how can voice technologies support adult literacy programs**

In Literacy Live at 5pm on Thursday August 3 Delia Bradshaw will present the outcomes of her 2005 Australian Flexible Learning Framework New Practices Project. Facilitated by Michael Chalk To join in go to <http://literacylive.ivocalize.net> and log in using your name and acal as the password You need a headphone/mic set OR speakers and microphone. Go into the room well in advance to check everything is working and software is downloaded. Further instructions are available on our EdNA site at <http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=221> For assistance please email Robyn Jay on [robyn.jay@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:robyn.jay@det.nsw.edu.au)

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#### **2. 2006 ACAL National Conference Literacy - It's Everyone's Business**

The ACAL national conference is fast approaching on 6-7 October in Adelaide - preceded by a national forum convened by NCVER and Reframing the future (see below). There's a packed conference program - over 30 workshops by practitioners, researchers and administrators, as well as guest speakers including Margaret Somerville, Dave Tout, Louise Wignall, Jill Sanguinetti, Wing-Yin Chan Lee, and the Arch Nelson Address speaker at the annual dinner will be Mr Jeff McMullen. There will be the opportunity to explore a range of issues with ACAL executive and ACAL members including specialist strands on numeracy, panels on 'making partnerships work' ... and lots more. The SACAL Executive committee warmly invite you to joins us for the national forum followed by the ACAL national conference in October. Please note that the forum requires an additional registration.

Registrations to <http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/>. Enquiries [Adelaide@literacy.sa.edu.au](mailto:Adelaide@literacy.sa.edu.au)

Two half-day forums precede the national conference (see below)

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#### **3. NCVER forum and Reframing the Future forum - 5 October 2006**

(Two half-day pre-conference sessions)

Registrations to <http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/>

**Training and assessment for adults with low literacy skills: a workshop for adult literacy teachers, trainers and managers.**

In this NCVER forum you will have an opportunity to listen to a brief review of what is happening nationally and locally to improve the literacy skills of adults with low basic skills. There will also be an opportunity for you to join discussions about current challenges you experience in your work and to learn from others about effective ways to address such challenges. Officers from national government literacy programs will also be on hand to discuss and respond to questions about any current initiatives.

**Hand in Glove - developing LLN practices in a Training Package context**

This Reframing the Future forum provides an opportunity to hear about good practices in literacy and numeracy development in VET training package delivery and assessment processes.

Exemplars drawn from three of the fourteen LLN focused professional development projects

funded by Reframing the Future in 2005 will be used to stimulate professional conversations between the forum participants. You will have the opportunity to explore innovative practices and ways to adapt, adopt and apply them within your own practice environment.

Enquiries [Adelaide@literacy.sa.edu.au](mailto:Adelaide@literacy.sa.edu.au)

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#### **4. Literacy Link Editor sought**

Our editor Robyn Hodge has resigned to take up a full time position with a TAFE college. We thank Robyn for her efforts in building the value of Literacy Link as a valuable national tool.

We are now seeking a new Commissioning Editor for Literacy Link (with some spillover into ACAL eNews). The Comm. Editor is part of the consortium providing administrative support to ACAL and is a paid contract role. If you believe you have the necessary experience, skills and enthusiasm we'd like to hear from you.

A detailed description of the role can be obtained from the ACAL web site <http://www.acal.edu.au> or contact the consortium manager, Don MacDowall, 03 9546 6892 or [dmacdowall@bigpond.com](mailto:dmacdowall@bigpond.com)

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#### **5. National Domestic Violence and Literacy Workshops**

One of the challenges in the field of adult literacy is sustaining the outcomes of successful initiatives.

Protea Training is presenting a series of cross-sectoral workshops for practitioners and policy makers in the fields of Adult Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Community Health and related support services for women.

Based on the work in Redesigning Social Futures, (an ANTA funded innovative literacy project for women who had experienced domestic violence and who had literacy needs) the workshop provides participants with a framework for developing cross sectoral networks, and identifying local issues. The first workshop was conducted in July in association with Dr Yvon Appleby of the Lancaster University Literacy Research Centre. 17 workers and policy makers from a range of Domestic Violence services in the Preston region (UK) attended and as a result of the workshop are assessing ways to work more closely with literacy providers.

Details of future workshops and a registration form are available from <http://www.proteatraining.com.au/workshop.htm> , or contact Jane Gunn [info@proteatraining.com.au](mailto:info@proteatraining.com.au)

ACAL members and members of state branches are eligible for a 10% discount.

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#### **6. State news**

##### **6.1 Queensland**

In June we held a Twilight Seminar to look at using the media when producing relevant, real-life resources for the adult literacy classroom. During the workshop, participants looked at tried and tested resources and then they were given the chance to create resources of their own and share their ideas with the group.

Two new dates to chalk onto your calendars -

\*\* QCAL would like to invite you to celebrate "Adult Learners' Week" with us on the 8th September 2006 at the Greek Club in Brisbane. Participants will enjoy a workshop, delicious morning tea and be invited to join us at our 2006, QCAL AGM. Time: 8.45am - 12noon

\*\* Queensland Council for Adult Literacy 2006 Annual State Conference 19/20th October 2006 at the Bardon Conference Centre, Brisbane Making Waves. "Issues of integration of adult literacy and numeracy in vocational skills courses." The Committee of QCAL invites expressions of interest for lecture and workshop presentations for this conference. All presentations should address the conference theme. Closing date: 25 August 2006 Please go to our website

<http://www.beam.to/qcal> to download Expressions of interest sheets for submission. We hope to see you at one or both our ventures over the next few months.

##### **6.2 Victoria**

VALBEC is seeking Expressions of Interest (close August 4, 2006) for three positions

Position 1 - VALBEC Fine Print Commissioning Editor

Fine Print is VALBEC's quarterly journal for language and literacy practitioners.

Position 2 - VALBEC Fine Print History Publication project officer

This project will investigate and produce a publication that can best reflect VALBEC's history and

publish it in time for celebrations in 2008.

Position 3 - VALBEC Archive project officer

With the approach of the 30 years anniversary of VALBEC, it is vital to establish a VALBEC archive with systems for recording, processing and storage.

More detail for each position can be found at <http://www.valbec.org.au>

The CGEA is undergoing re-accreditation and the first draft of the (reaccredited) CGEA will be available for comment on the SITNtalk website from 4th August to 21st August

<http://tls.vu.edu.au/cf/sitntalk/main.cfm>. The following will be available:

- Draft structure of each of the 5 levels.
- Draft units organised by skill area (reading and writing, numeracy, science, individual learning plan, complete a project, selected electives)

Also included on the site will be questions to guide feedback, and a feedback sheet. You might prefer to provide in-depth comments on a particular level or skill area, or cover the whole range, or do 'spot checks'.

To access the materials, go to SITNtalk, then click on the links to Certificates in General Education for Adults Reaccreditation. Use Finder/ links in the side menu, then Resources. It is not necessary to log in to download documents.

### 6.3 Western Australian

On 13 July 2006 the Western Australian Adult Literacy Council (WAALC) held a highly successful annual conference at Central TAFE in Perth. The conference theme, 'Two-Way Talk: Listening to Learn, Learning to Listen', attracted many participants from all over the state.

Geoff Pearson, an ESL teacher of many years standing, gave the keynote address. Geoff is currently teaching English reading and writing skills to a group of profoundly deaf people from the WA Deaf Society. With the help of one of his students and an AUSLAN interpreter, Geoff presented a fascinating account of the linguistic and corresponding social and cultural challenges faced by deaf Australians.

The conference continued with a variety of workshops covering such topics as two-way learning (recognizing Aboriginal English) for indigenous CGEA students; digital storytelling; desktop publishing; working with beginning ESL students; and problems associated with the widespread use of corporate jargon by education bureaucrats and academics.

Conference proceedings included the WAALC AGM at which Carmel Jennings was re-elected as President, Cheryl Wiltshire as Vice-President and James Plumridge as ACAL state representative.

### 6.4 NSW

NSW Council won a DEST Innovative Literacy grant in partnership with UTS to make a new DVD resource about teaching practice for teachers.

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### 7. Literacy Link

Literacy Link is ACAL's quarterly print newsletter – and it's free. To obtain your copy send your postal address to ACAL at [acal@pacific.net.au](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au). Recent back copies can be downloaded from <http://www.acal.edu.au> then 'publications'

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### 9. Contact ACAL

[acal@pacific.net.au](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au)

P 03 9546 6892

F 03 9546 0421

<http://www.acal.edu.au> <<http://www.acal.edu.au>>

GPO Box 2283 Canberra ACT 2601