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**From:** ACAL <info@acal.edu.au>

## **ACAL eNews**

### **May 2009**

**ACAL eNews** is the 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 or to unsubscribe.

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### **1. From Strength to Strength**

#### **ACAL 32nd Annual Conference, 1-3 Oct 2009**

**Last chance - Call for Presentations closes on 19 May 2009.**

There is just time for you to download and fill in the form from the website. <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/fullcall.htm>

We want a chance to hear about your way of working, your research, your techniques and your insights. We want to hear from people involved in Aboriginal adult education, literacy, numeracy and ESL.

#### **Keynote Speakers**

We are pleased to announce the names of three Keynote Speakers for the 2009 ACAL Conference *From Strength to Strength*.

**Dave Baker** is based at the London Institute of Education in the UK and is passionately interested in the issue of social justice and mathematics. His presentation will be about numeracy as social practice. (See information about Dave and his keynote at <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/> )

**Dr Peter Waterhouse** has had a lifelong interest in adult literacy and learning, particularly informal and experiential learning and will speak about strength-based approaches to learning and teaching.

**Dr Rob McCormack**, now based at the Victoria University, has well documented interest in academic and civic literacy working in the past with Aboriginal students in tertiary education and now with students from low socio-economic groups. His

presentation will explore curriculum practices designed to inject a new vitality into contemporary adult language and literacy education.

**Register your interest**

Be sure you're in the loop, get updates and news as the conference program develops. Go to <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/reginterest.htm> and register your interest (no obligation). And don't forget to put Fremantle, Western Australia in your diary for 1-3 October 2009

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**2. Pre-Conference Forum • 1 October 2009**

ACAL has just agreed that the theme for this year's forum will be Aboriginal Education: the link between language variation and educational and other life outcomes. The Forum will showcase the bi-dialectal approach to literacy education used in WA and bring together a range of researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and community members. Visit the conference website for more details. <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/>

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**3. Budget impact**

What's in the budget for adult literacy? What does an additional \$86.5m for foundation skills mean?

Find out at <http://www.acal.edu.au> Visit the ACAL website for further information on the budget item for these qualifications. ACAL's response will be available shortly.

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**4. 'Reading The Fine Print'**

Rosie Wickert launched 'Reading The Fine Print' at the VALBEC Conference last week. The book was written by long time supporter of adult literacy and one-time president of VALBEC, Bev Campbell. This significant publication is an engaging and comprehensive account of thirty years in the life of this professional organization. It recounts some of the policy and pedagogical struggles of the adult literacy field that have shaped VALBEC's identity. Reading the Fine Print also explores how VALBEC's journal, Fine Print, acted as a trend-setter in its choice of articles for publication, and as a mirror by reflecting some of the major themes of adult literacy education in Victoria in the last thirty years.

More details and purchase at <http://www.valbec.org.au>

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**5. Get back issues of Fine Print, journal of VALBEC**

A limited number of Fine Print journal are now available for purchase - \$6 for 3 (minimum purchase. See more at <Http://www.valbec.org.au> are now available for purchase

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**6. Literacy in the street**

Mankind Is No Island uses found signage on the streets of New York and Sydney to tell a touching story from the very heart of two cities and was shot entirely on a cell

phone. The entire budget for the film was \$57. It won the top \$20,000 prize at Tropfest NY, the world's largest short film festival.

Sue Shore Uni SA commented "It struck me as a fascinating way to work on the idea of multi-literacies with adult learners and at the same time draw on some of the familiarity adults have with cell-phones."

See it at <http://www.tropfest.com/ny/>

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