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

ACAL eNews **November 2010**

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. 2011 ACAL Conference

The next ACAL conference will be hosted by VALBEC in Melbourne on September 26-28, 2011 at Victoria University, Flinders Street campus.

The theme is '**Literacy on the Map: Common visions, different paths**'

More details as they come to hand.

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2. 2010 ACAL Conference

While it's gone, it's certainly not forgotten with our website under strain with the amount of downloads.

There's now another reason for going to the website (<http://www.acal.edu.au/2010conf/presentations.htm>) Another keynote is now available.

You can see and download (PowerPoint and audio file) the Saturday morning keynote 'Ethical Foundations of Critical Mathematics Education: A Socially Response-able Approach' by Bill Atweh, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at the Science and Mathematics Education Centre at Curtin University of Technology.

Bill makes reference to the messages from above. Those who were present will remember the difficult circumstances Bill worked under – literally under – with the PowerPoint on the ceiling! (You had to be there!)

Hear Bill or download this, and other conference files, at <http://www.acal.edu.au/2010conf/presentations.htm>

There is a very limited number of DVD's of Bill's presentation available. There is no

charge for these DVDs while stocks last (for postage in Australia). To obtain a copy email info@acal.edu.au with 'DVD please' in the subject line, provide your postal details.

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3. NSW State Conference

At the Crossroads: a new decade for Adult Literacy & Numeracy - the 2010 NSW Adult Literacy & Numeracy Council Conference
Registration now open – go to <http://www.nswalnc.uts.edu.au/conference10.htm> to find out more and register.

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4. The future direction for Australian VET

Have your say: Creating a future direction for Australian vocational education and training
Skills Australia is seeking submissions on their discussion paper about a future direction for Australian VET. You can access the discussion paper and the submission form by going to <http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/VETdiscussionpaper.shtml>

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5. NVEAC Good Practice case studies

The National VET Equity Advisory Council has published their case studies on good practice approaches to equity in VET. You can read the case studies at: http://www.nveac.tvetaustralia.com.au/home/nveac_projects/good_practice_equity_in_vet

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6. Productivity Commission paper on LLN

'Links between literacy and Numeracy and Labour Market Outcomes' has been published by the Productivity Commission and can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/staffworkingpaper/literacy-numeracy-labour-outcomes>

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7. QCAL Conference – *Building your Future: Literacy & Numeracy as Foundation Skills*

Despite the rather serious title, chocolate, Barbies and Moodle featured in some of the workshops at the recent QCAL Conference. Held on Thursday 4, and Friday 5 November, at Griffith University, Mt Gravatt campus, the conference brought together a wealth of knowledge in literacy and numeracy as foundation skills. Participants at the numeracy workshops used chocolate and Barbies to learn new approaches for presenting mathematical concepts. We often hear about the importance of 'critical literacy' but Dr Keiko Yasukawa highlighted the importance, also, of critical numeracy in a fun and interesting way through the use of Barbie's statistics to demonstrate how numbers can be manipulated to present a false image. Facilitators, Margaret Wagstaff and Denyse Hampson introduced a variety of maths concepts using Smarties as a resource - this proved a big hit. An overheard comment after the *Numeracy with chocolate* workshop was: 'Who says maths is boring?' Another workshop which was far from boring was, 'Let's Play!' During this

workshop, Debbie Soccio helped participants learn about using technology and software such as Moodles to engage learners and facilitate learning. The session on helping learners with disabilities was also very well-received and deemed 'useful and relevant'. The conference, although very well organized and structured, had a relaxed, informal and friendly feel to it – an ideal learning and sharing environment.

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