

ACAL eNews

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(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. 2006 ACAL National Conference Literacy - It's Everyone's Business

Adelaide, Oct 6-7,

There's still time to register for this event of the year.

Full program details and registration at <http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/conf06/>

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2. Pre-Conference Forum

Thursday 5 October 2006, 10:30am to 4:30pm

On the Thursday prior to the Conference, NCVER and Reframing the Future will host two half-day sessions in a Pre-Conference Research Forum covering the following topics:

- **Training and Assessment for adults with low literacy skills: a workshop for adult literacy teachers, trainers and Managers**

Find out what is happening nationally and locally to improve the literacy skills of adults with low basic skills. Join discussions about current challenges in the field.

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

The 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.

More <http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/conf06/?pid=8>

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3. Conference Dinner

Journalist Jeff McMullen will deliver the Arch Nelson Address

'Challenges of Literacy and Health in Indigenous Communities'

Friday 6th October 6:30pm Hilton Hotel Adelaide

(You can attend this dinner even if you aren't attending the conference).

Bookings essential via <http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/conf06/>

Jeff is the CEO (gratis) of Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth Trust.

'Many years work with Indigenous communities has convinced me that Australia's greatest

civil rights challenge is closing the racial gap in learning. It is the first step towards closing the gap between black and white life expectancy.

In this sense, literacy is about life!

Our projects involving Aboriginal parents, teachers, doctors and health workers view literacy as a process of empowerment that enables adults to make critical choices about nutrition, health, employment, family and community. To develop such life skills Aboriginal adults living in deep disadvantage need education that addresses their needs and aspirations. Education is not a “white thing” and it does not have to be dominated by a “Gubba” approach, ignoring or erasing culture and Indigenous history. Learning is empowerment for all human beings and one of our most important human rights.’

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4. ACAL AGM

Members and friends of ACAL are invited to the the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, 6 October 2005 at 4.30 pm

during the National Conference at the Hilton Adelaide, 233 Victoria Square, Adelaide

The agenda for the AGM is:

1. Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
2. Receive and adopt an annual report from the Executive
3. Receive and adopt the audited accounts of ACAL
4. Elect new office bearers and Executive Committee for the coming year.

President

Vice President (to be based in a state or territory different from that of the President)

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

5. Announce state and territory representatives

6. Appoint an auditor

7. Close meeting

RSVP by October 2, 2006

acal@pacific.net.au

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5. NCVER Research Proposal

ACAL has submitted a proposal to NCVER to undertake the next step of the research conducted by Robin Hartley and Jackie Horne on behalf of ACAL and published under the title Social and Economic Benefits of improved adult literacy: Towards a better understanding (NCVER 2006). The current proposal aims to focus on one of those areas—health literacy—in order to explore how a better understanding of literacy and numeracy issues can contribute to better health outcomes, to investigate opportunities for effective collaboration between health and literacy professionals and the implications for the training of health professionals and health-related workers. The researchers will be Robyn Hartley and Robert Ryan and the research is titled: Improving health outcomes: literacy, health campaigns and health practices. If ACAL is able to undertake this research, the outcomes will contribute to the organisations aim of making literacy a life-wide and life-long for our community.

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6. Knowledge Bank 2006 Online Conference

11-13 October 2006 This three-day online conference explores how education networks are creating and sharing knowledge. The conference features a great line up from school presenters to e-learning experts and covers topics ranging from online competencies to digital literacy, blogging and podcasting. Knowledge Bank Networks - your invitation to attend:

Who should attend: Primary and secondary school teachers, researchers, VET professionals and other educators - anybody interested in innovation, networking and online learning.

The conference focus is on learning, participation and knowledge-sharing.

The event is free but you will need to register

<http://www.knowledgebankonline.vic.edu.au/>

More conference info here: <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/knowledgebank/default.asp>

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7. Building Better Boards Conference

The 3rd National Building Better Boards Conference is on 28/29 October 2006 at the Novotel, Brighton Beach, Sydney.

This conference provides a key opportunity for nonprofit board members (and community management committees), chief executives, managers, senior staff, consultants, and other nonprofit leaders to share their experiences and to learn from others facing similar challenges.

The program for 2006 will focus on the important theme of *accountability for nonprofit Boards* and continue the BBB tradition of practical relevance to the challenges facing nonprofit boards in these turbulent times.

Get more information and a registration form from <http://www.betterboards.com.au/>

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8. State news

8.1 Queensland <http://www.qcal.org.au/>

QCAL has a new website <http://www.qcal.org.au/> so if you'd like to read up on all that QCAL has been doing over the past three months please log onto our site and if you'd like to send us an e-mail type in info@qcal.org.au and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. QCAL celebrated "International Literacy Day" with a seminar on the 8th September 2006. Lesson plans and ideas were shared during an interactive workshop on the theme, "Setting students on the path to lifelong learning." After a delicious tea and cream scones QCAL held their AGM to elect their 2006/2007 committee an enthusiastic team, ready to meet the challenge of the new year.

Something to add to the diary :-

QCAL Annual State Conference, "Making waves" will be held on the 19th and 29th October 2006. Please log onto the website and read the programme, it is sure to have something for everyone. We hope to see you there !

8.2 Western Australia <http://www.waalc.com>

CGEA Re-Accreditation

The WA CGEA Moderation Network has maintained a lively interest in the re-accreditation of the CGEA over the life of the project.

Since the first draft was released on 4 August 2006, WA practitioners have taken part in a number of information sessions and been very active in contributing comments on SITNTALK. Regrettably, although WA is a major stakeholder in the CGEA, the State was not represented on the Project Steering Committee.

One of the big unanswered questions is: why is the draft CGEA written in units of competence? ANTA's definition of 'unit of competence' is 'the specification of knowledge and skills, and the application of that knowledge and skill, to the standard of performance expected in a workplace'. It follows that units of competence can only be used meaningfully with courses that produce a vocational outcome. If the CGEA is now to produce vocational outcomes, shouldn't it have a change of name?

New Curriculum Officer

Cheryl Wiltshire of WA Department of Education and Training is enjoying a well-earned

spell of long-service leave on her farm in Toodyay. Taking her place as Curriculum Officer, VET Teaching and Learning is Melissa Jones who has taught adult literacy and numeracy since 1995, most recently in the LLNP program at Centacare Employment and Training in Perth. For the past two years Melissa has also assisted with the Department's professional development program for adult literacy teachers. She is a member of the Executive Committee of WAALC.

A new use for the NRS

The Department of Education and Training in Western Australia has developed a new system for describing Entry Requirements (ER) for full-time TAFEWA courses. Entry requirements are descriptors of communication and maths skills broadly based on the National Reporting System (NRS). Applicants can use evidence from school, other qualifications, life or work to demonstrate that their communication and maths skills would enable them to effectively participate in the course. This evidence can be collected from learning areas outside the traditional maths and English subjects.

A Trip to the Past

How did Rockingham WA get its name and who is Thomas Peel? The Read Write Now Rockingham Kwinana adult literacy group was able to delve into Rockingham Museum's history books to answer these questions and more during Adult Literacy Week. The group was awarded an Adult Learner's Week local activity grant to assist students and tutors celebrate learning in their community. Coordinator Sue McKay said about 20 people took part in a guided tour and heard a talk about the area's history. Read Write Now! is a state wide volunteer program and offers one to one tutoring to assist adults improve their literacy skills.

8.3 New South Wales <http://www.nswalnc.uts.edu.au/>

NSW Council in partnership with UTS was awarded a DEST Innovative Grant in Literacy. A DVD on best practice is being made. Council will be holding a professional development event in November 2007 and there will be sessions on the literacy implications in the welfare to work and work choices policies imposed by Centrelink and its masters, how to assist the teaching of people suffering an intellectual disability, issues surrounding NESB learners who are not literate in their first language and more. Lastly The Council will again showcase writing by literacy students. More details will be placed on the Council website, but entries will close mid 2007. Keep watching for updates on the theme students will be asked to write on.

8.4 Victoria <http://www.valbec.org.au>

CGEA Re-accreditation

The VALBEC committee and members have been actively involved in the CGEA re-accreditation process by attending forums and consultations and accessing and posting on the SITNTALK site during the past eleven months. The VALBEC committee, on behalf of VALBEC members, has raised a number of concerns in letters and discussions with the CMM project team, ACFE and the chair of the project steering committee. The restrictive timeframe for the consultation process and limited access to the draft documents have constrained dialogue.

VALBEC conducted a Twilight forum in August with valuable feedback from the 25 members in attendance sent to the project team. VALBEC recognises the importance of practitioner interactions with the documents with opportunities for clarification in a face to face context and so will run another forum in October. The SITNTALK site will have more information made available and so it will be useful for ACAL members to access and add comments as the process continues.

VALBEC is pleased that an extension to 2008 for the implementation phase of the

reaccreditation process for the revised CGEA has been granted and will continue to represent the interests of learners, practitioners and providers.

Fine Print News

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Karen Manwaring as the new Fine Print Commissioning Editor. If you would like to contribute to Fine Print please contact Karen at fineprint@valbec.org.au

VALBEC / Fine Print History Publication Project Officer

Bev Campbell has been appointed as Project officer for the VALBEC / Fine Print History Publication. Bev brings a strong background in research, writing and publishing to the project. The publication will coincide with the 30 year celebrations of VALBEC in 2008. A reference group will be working with Bev on this project and we will seek input from members "outstanding in the field"! For more information contact Bev at info@valbec.org.au

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9. 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. Recent back copies can be downloaded from <http://www.acal.edu.au> then 'publications'

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10. Unsubscribe

If you no longer wish to receive ACAL eNews, send us an email with [mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Pls Unsubscribe me from ACAL eNews](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Pls+Unsubscribe+me+from+ACAL+eNews) > or send an email to acal@pacific.net.au with 'Unsubscribe ACAL eNews' in the subject line. It would help if you could also identify what state you're from as you may be on a state list.

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