

ACAL eNews Vol 2 No 1

Spring 2006

(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. Enewsletter name change

This newsletter will now be known as 'ACAL eNews'. The move to a new name distinguishes this newsletter from other ACAL activities and simplifies our communication especially with newcomers to ACAL.

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2. ACAL eNews distribution

This eNews has been sent to

- those who have subscribed electronically (see 'Subscribe' below)
- some state lists, where they've been provided to ACAL
- state representatives who have distributed copies independently.

The receipt of multiple copies has been an issue for some. (We think 4 copies might be the record). This issue will be the last sent out by this method. The next issue of ACAL eNews will only be sent to those on the ACAL eNews subscriber list. Of course state organisations may choose to send it on to their respective lists but ACAL is trying to ensure readers are not inconvenienced by multiple copies.

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3. Comment on Essential Skills

A national Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) research project, to understand workplace requirements of industry sectors represented by Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) has been underway for a number of months.

The research investigates how essential skills: communication, numeracy, critical thinking and technological know-how impact on an organisation's workforce capability. ACAL, industry and education were involved in consultations. The resulting action plan is now available for broader comment before being launched in June 2006.

The draft paper and action plan are now available for comment on the IBSA website:

http://www.ibsa.org.au/content/latestnews/well_training.html. IBSA would appreciate feedback on these documents directed to louise@louisewignall.com by April 14 2006.

More information on this research will be included in the March edition of Literacy Link.

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4. Contributing to CGEA reaccreditation

The Certificates in General Education for Adults are being re-accredited this year. The CMM

reaccreditation project team will use SITNTALK (Service Industries Teacher Network TALK) to keep readers informed about the progress of the project by posting online details of consultations and drafts and seeking feedback on them.

It is important that those wanting to be part of the reaccreditation process check the site regularly.

Log on at: <http://tls.vu.edu.au/cf/sitntalk/main.cfm>

More information on SITN Talk will be included in the March edition of Literacy Link.

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5. NCVER breakfast briefings

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) will host a series of capital city breakfast briefings for training providers. The briefings will synthesise the key findings from research that provides a clearer picture of how Australian employers are largely satisfied with the VET system in meeting their skill needs but have many suggestions for how to improve its relevance.

For information on where and when contact Colleen Young or Anna Payton at NCVER on 08 8230 8400 or visit <http://www.ncver.edu.au/>.

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6. 2006 Flexible Learning Toolbox Development

The Request for Tenders to develop E-Learning Resources (Flexible Learning Toolboxes, Series 9 Australian Flexible Learning Framework) were advertised in The Australian newspaper on February 1 and February 4. The closing date for applications is February 24.

To find out more about the tender and the project or to view Toolboxes visit the Toolbox:

<http://toolboxes.flexiblelearning.net.au/index.htm>

For any questions about the applications, contact the Toolbox Project Team at e-Works, linda.stannard@eworks.edu.au 03 9661 8723 or lisa.wait@eworks.edu.au 03 9661 8714

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

Coming up in the March edition of Literacy Link:

- Rethinking Literacy: new words, new thoughts and new ways to use them by Sharon Brown
- Essential Skills: Essential Confusion? By Nancy Jackson
- What do I do next? - literacy for a sustainable community by Maree Keating
- Review of the National Reporting System by Linda Wyse, Philippa McLean and Kate Perkins and much, much more...

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8. Literacy Live events

The Literacy Live Forum <http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=221> is home to ACAL's 'how to' guide, along with details of upcoming virtual meeting room events and past recordings and files.

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9. Contact details for Adult Literacy Tutor Training and Resource Manual

In the November edition of ACAL eNews we mentioned an Adult Literacy Tutor Training Manual and Resource produced by Bright Adult Education, in Victoria's North East. The contact details for the centre and resource writer have since changed.

For more information or to purchase the manual contact Louisa on Tuesdays on:

Phone: 03 5750 1243

Email: admin@brightadulthoodeducation.org.au

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10. State news

10.1 ACT

Calling adult language, literacy and numeracy teachers living and or working in the ACT. The ACT

Council of Adult Literacy wants you to get involved. To find out more visit their website and download the membership form. <http://www.acal.edu.au/actcal/what'snew.htm>

10.2 NSW

Congratulations to Renata Atkin. Renata is the new Executive Officer for the NSW Adult Literacy Council and is arranging her contact details, but in the interim is using the current email address of leslie.stein@uts.edu.au. The next edition of ACAL eNews will include the updated contact details.

10.3 NT

An NTCAL team is working on the audit of WELL funded Adult Literacy and Numeracy project last year. Helen Spiers is our project officer, and Helen has identified and interviewed a wide range of providers. John Guenther has drafted a website for us, which will serve both as the NTCAL website and as a channel for information and good practice across the Territory. In a few months, NTCAL hopes to have some illustrations and cases of the types of challenges we have up here, and how the creative and innovative providers we have a meeting those challenges. Watch this space!

10.4 QLD

Shirley Beall is the new ACAL representative in Queensland and she is happy to be on board. Shirley hopes that Queensland adult literacy practitioners will be in touch with her so that she can spread the word about the good works, projects and research happening throughout the state. Shirley can be contacted at bealls@missionaustralia.com.au

10.5 SA

Literacy: It's Everyone's Business: the 2006 National ACAL Conference

The South Australian Council for Adult Literacy (SACAL) is hosting the 2006 National ACAL Conference in Adelaide on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October 2006. SACAL is also negotiating a related event on Thursday 5th October, to be announced shortly.

In the next few days a link will appear on <http://www.acal.edu.au/> and you'll be able to find out about updates on the venue and the Call for Papers.

10.6 VIC

In January, the VALBEC committee members participated in a Strategic Planning day with facilitator, Allan Meers, from the Q Alliance, Business Consultants, reviewing operations and services to members and setting strategic goals for the 2006 and beyond. It was a valuable and worthwhile day and all felt very positive at the outcomes that will drive future planning. The VALBEC State conference is planned for Friday May 5th. Practitioners and researchers are invited to share their knowledge, wisdom, strategies, observations, research and proven practices with others from across Victoria and Australia by submitting a presentation proposal for the 2006 VALBEC conference RItHre RItNow. Check the website for more information <http://www.valbec.org.au/>

10.7 WA

The new ACAL representative from WA is James Plumridge. James is a former schoolteacher, teacher educator, and TAFE CGEA teacher and manager. He has degrees in education, including a PhD, and an MA in Applied Linguistics, and is currently studying for a diploma in modern languages at UNE. He now works as a consultant on language and education issues and retains an interest in the qualifications and professional development of literacy teachers. He is also interested in how teachers cope with the transition from working in schools to teaching adult literacy in RTOs, and what additional skills they need to acquire. He enjoys reading about language, the history and politics of the Spanish Civil War and radical movements in 17th century England, but those pursuits fade into insignificance compared with the simple pleasure of taking his dog Arthur for a walk.

James (more usually 'Jim') can be contacted on bljp@westnet.com.au.

A student from the LLNP program at Centacare has just been accepted into the Fine Arts degree course at a WA University. He came into the course last February and when he arrived, he was very frustrated with his skills and with the education system. His work over the last 12 months has focussed on topics of interest to him and he has grabbed every opportunity to learn in an adult

environment with the right amount of time, space and support needed for him to achieve his immediate goal. The staff at Centacare send their congratulations.

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11. Subscribe to ACAL eNews

Click <mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Pls_put_me_on_the_ACAL_eNews_list> and send us your name and contact details in the body of the email.

We'll put you on the ACAL list and away we go!

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12. Contact ACAL

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