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ACAL eNews
April 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. Last Literacy Link

The slight sobbing you can hear is for the passing of one of our main publications 'Literacy Link'

President, Margaret McHugh has written "It is with great regret that I must let you know that, for the foreseeable future, there will be no more issues of Literacy Link. ACAL has been distributing, free of charge, around 1800 copies of Literacy Link to individuals and organisations all over Australia since 1998. Production and distribution costs were covered by grants from the Australian Government With the loss of the Adult Literacy National Project, DEEWR no longer has a fund from which to provide grants to ACAL. The national funding which they recently lost also paid for the Reading Writing Hotline which, at the time of writing, cannot be guaranteed a future because no ongoing source of funding has yet been identified."

The last issue of Literacy Link will be posted shortly.
ACAL eNews (what you're reading now) will continue.

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2. *From Strength to Strength*

ACAL 32nd Annual Conference, 1-3 Oct 2009

ACAL Conference 2009 – put it in your diary now!

Submit a call for papers

Got a bee in your bonnet or a hobby horse? Put your idea down on paper and submit it here <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/fullcall.htm>

Check out the fee structure

You can plan ahead – see the fee structure at <http://www.waalc.org.au/O9conf/fees.htm>

Plan Spring in WA

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/fullcall.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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3. Multi-literacies, New York, cell phones and very short films

'Mankind is No Island' is the winner of the tropfest Film Festival, shot entirely on a cell phone (mobile phone) and highlights a way to work on multi-literacies with adult learners and at the same time draw on some of the familiarity adults have with cell-phones. The film uses found signage on the streets of New York and Sydney to tell a touching story from the very heart of two cities. The entire budget for the film was \$57.

You can see it at <http://www.tropfest.com/ny/>

Thanks to Sue Shore and Bruce Underwood UniSA

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4. National Symposium on Assessing English as a Second/Other Language in the Australian Context

20 & 21 February 2009

The outcomes of the Symposium are about to go up on the web at <http://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/news/nationalsymposium/index.html>. Group reports are almost ready to post.

Thank to all for the various contributions to this very successful initiative.

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5. 'Navigating Laneways' VALBEC Conference - May 8, 2009

at the William Angliss Conference Centre, Melbourne

Pre-conference sessions May 7

Full program at <http://www.valbec.org.au>

The conference title reflects the many complexities and constraints that practitioners find themselves steering through and around in a changing, and increasingly regulated, education and policy environment. The signposts and maps of the past that have provided direction to the teaching profession and the wider ACE and adult education fields have been revised and rewritten so that new ways of working are required.

Call for papers closes February 23.

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6. RaPAL Conference 2009

University of Wales, Newport. 25-27 June.

'Sustainable Literacies'

The word sustainability can be applied to many things, such as agriculture, communities, cities, architecture and development. It is connected with ideas about encouraging diversity and thinking about the long-term consequences of different

courses of action. We would like to invite conference participants to apply the idea of sustainability to literacies.

Information <http://www.nala.ie/index.cfm/section/news/top/1/ext/news/>

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7. Scholarship building

The Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (ALAA) and The Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA) are seeking donations for The Penny McKay Award for Promising Doctoral Research in School-Based Language Development, Curriculum and Assessment.

This collaborative initiative between ALAA and ACTA seeks to honour and advance Penny's contribution to education. The award will consist of a certificate and cash sum. Funds to support the award are sought from individuals and institutions in Australia and overseas. These funds will be invested securely in a manner agreed by both associations according to the normal procedures governing such funds. The amount of the award will be determined according to the funds raised and reputable financial advice.

Donate by making your cheque or money order payable to:

Applied Linguistics Association of Australia - Penny McKay Award

Or by bank transfer to National Australia Bank BSB No: 084-502 Account Name:

Applied Linguistics Association of Australia - Penny McKay Award

Account No: 831816721

Please provide the following to receive a receipt:

Name, Address, Amount Donated.

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