

# Literacy Live



## Literacy Live - ACAL newsletter Vol 1 No 2

November 2005

Literacy Live 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.

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### In this issue

1. 2006 ACAL Executive
2. Subscribe to Literacy Live
3. Literacy Link
4. Literacy Live virtual meeting room events
5. LearnScope
6. VETASSESS news
7. Adult Literacy Tutor Training and Resource Manual
8. State news
9. Unsubscribe
10. Contact ACAL

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### 1. 2006 ACAL Executive

At the recent ACAL AGM in Brisbane new office bearers were elected. The two Co-Presidents, Jan Hagston and Pauline O'Maley achieved a great deal in 2004-2005 but did not want to continue in the role. Margaret McHugh (WA) was elected President unopposed. Robyn Jay (NSW) is the new Vice-President and Wendy Stothers (Tas) is the new Secretary. Lorraine Sushames (NT) retains the role of Treasurer. ACAL's thanks goes to four retiring members, Karen Dymke, Stephen Ward, Rosie Wickert and Jim Thompson. Jim leaves after 6 years on the ACAL Executive, 2 of which were as President. Each retiree hopes to maintain their links with ACAL in different ways. Shirley Beall is the new state council representative for Queensland. For news on the ACAL Forum look out for the December issue of Literacy Link.

Contact your state rep to learn more: <http://www.acal.edu.au/executive.shtml>

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### 2. Subscribe to Literacy Live

Distribution of the first few issues of Literacy Live newsletter is through state associations. Apologies if you receive duplicate emails.

You can fix these glitches by subscribing direct to 'Literacy Live' at ACAL.

Click <[mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Literacy\\_Live\\_SUBSCRIBE](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Literacy_Live_SUBSCRIBE)> 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!

This newsletter is part of ACAL's Literacy Live suite of eTools <http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=221> that will improve ACAL's communication to, and support of adult literacy practitioners nationwide.

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### 3. 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 <[mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Send\\_Literacy\\_Link](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Send_Literacy_Link)>. Recent back copies can be downloaded from <http://www.acal.edu.au>

Coming up in the December edition of Literacy Link:

- Rethinking Literacies: a report on the ACAL Forum by Jane Gunn
- Moving forward on literacy costs and benefits research by Robyn Hartley
- Food for thought: a personal view by Ian Falk
- You got me going now: Read on the Web by Kaye Lowe
- Un-Learning Literacy in Canada and the United States by Tom Sticht

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#### 4. Literacy Live virtual meeting room events

Well, it had to happen... we've had interlopers (Syrian) in our room and we've had to change the entry details. You now need to go to <http://literacylive.ivocalize.net> and enter with your name and a password (available from robyn.jay@det.nsw.edu.au or from your State/Territory rep). Please do not post the password on a website.

Our Forum address remains the same <http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=221> the updated Literacy Live 'how to' guide is on the site along with details of upcoming sessions and past recordings and files.

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#### 5. LearnScope

Would you love some money to cover time, access to suitable expertise, travel costs and catering etc to learn more about technology, e-learning and how to enrich your programs?

Well you CAN! Funding for the LearnScope program looks like it will go ahead again in 2006. Visit the national website at <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/LearnScope/> and click on your State for more details.

Literacy Live's next online event will focus on LearnScope: what it involves, how you access the funds. Hear from some literacy teachers who are LearnScope 'groupies' and the types of projects they have undertaken.

Join us in the room at 5pm (EDST) on November 29, be inspired and have all your questions answered.

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#### 6. VETASSESS news

VETASSESS is an RTO providing assessment advice and support to the VET sector. They are currently developing a resource for the elective unit of competency Address language, literacy and numeracy issues within learning and assessment practice in the Certificate IV in Training (TAA40104). This new resource is funded through DEST's Workplace English Language and Literacy Programme (WELL) and is soon to be completed.

"All trainers and assessors need to know how to support their learners' language, literacy and numeracy needs within their vocational program," said Louise Wignall, consultant to the project. "It's a matter of adjusting their practice and ensuring that training and assessment methods are appropriate. They should also know when to get assistance and advice from specialist LLN practitioners and how to develop effective delivery partnerships."

The resource includes a Learner Guide and a Resources Pack that practitioners can add to and utilise in their future practice. A recent national trial across 35 sites resulted in positive feedback from vocational and LLN practitioners alike. Feedback from the trial has been incorporated in the final resource that is now entering the design phase.

To be notified when the resource is available email Jenni Oldfield: [jennio@vetassess.com.au](mailto:jennio@vetassess.com.au)

Or visit <http://www.dest.gov.au/literacynet> and check the 'What's New' section in December 2005.

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#### 7. Adult Literacy Tutor Training and Resource Manual

Bright Adult Education, in the Victoria's North East, has launched the new 'Adult Literacy Tutor Training Manual and Resource'. With the North East Region Literacy and Numeracy Network, Louisa Vale has produced a new manual for teachers in the ACE and TAFE sectors to teach 1:1 literacy. The manual is designed to help new tutors to develop understandings of adult learning principles, planning and reviewing of sessions, barriers to learning and general theory behind adult literacy work. A volunteer manual was first produced at Bright in 1990 and has since been used by education providers throughout Victoria. Louisa Vale said 'The success of the early manual told us

there was a need for a new resource for volunteers to use.' The new manual is a book for the 21st century, including computer literacy and a 'recipe' section for teachers as well.

Bright Adult Educations 'Words on Wheels' project is one of a handful of free 1:1 literacy training projects in operation in Victoria. The project rests largely on the hard work of volunteer tutors as well as trained project support staff.

For more information or to purchase the manual contact Louisa at: [wordsow@yahoo.com](mailto:wordsow@yahoo.com)

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## 8. State news

### 8.1 NSW

The Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council of NSW held a successful forum on Friday, October 28. The 40 participants also celebrated the launch of a book of student writings, 'Red pocket rabbit's foot – tales of luck'. Contributions came from students of literacy from all around NSW. It is an excellent teaching resource. Details of how to purchase are on the Council's website <http://www.nswalnc.uts.edu.au/>.

The NSW Council has been debating a number of issues this year: the changes to the LLNP; its concern regarding the casualisation of the workforce and shrinking budgets for literacy and numeracy program delivery, and the ongoing problem with Council membership. Its small membership base makes projects such as student writing competitions; publication of student writings; the Council journal and newsletter and conducting 2 PD forums a year extremely difficult.

To add to Council woes, their Executive Officer for the 5 past years Leslie Stein, is leaving at the end of the year. NSW Council thanks her for the excellent service she has provided. Anyone interested in performing this role for 1 day per week can contact council at:

<http://www.nswalnc.uts.edu.au/> and leave an expression of interest. It is a paid position.

### 8.2 South Australia

South Australia will host the next **ACAL National Conference in Adelaide on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October, 2006**. (There may be a related event on the 5th). Please mark these dates in your diary and watch for more information soon.

The recent SACAL AGM was well attended (about 28) and some new members are joining our committee. Sue Nichols from the University of SA spoke on issues relating to masculinity, literacy and fatherhood in a provocative and well-received presentation.

Contact: Jane Gunn [janegunn@proteatraining.com.au](mailto:janegunn@proteatraining.com.au) for information or enquiries.

### 8.3 Victoria

VALBEC held its September Spring Forum: Assessment into Practice at Victoria University. Pauline O'Maley presented an engaging talk on Assessment: practice, purpose and possibility, discussing the relationship between literacy and assessment and what that relationship tells students about our beliefs and values. Is it really possible to have one assessment for all purposes? Pauline went on to place assessment in the broader, global context including policy and practice. Why assess? Why do we choose certain forms of assessment? Do they reflect our own values? Pauline suggested that our challenge as practitioners is to examine our beliefs and understandings about our own assessment practice. In conclusion, Pauline quoted MacGintie (1993, p.599) encouraging us to '..... stop thinking of assessment as a way of making categories and start thinking of assessment as a way of making opportunities....'

Sarah Deasey and Jane Lucas spoke about a project between Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre and North Melbourne Language and Literacy. Their project explored language and literacy course assessment, procedures and processes. Jane presented case studies highlighting the positives and negatives associated with adult literacy and student involvement in assessment. Sarah and Jane highlighted the need to improve students' understanding of their role in learning and assessment.

Rob McCormack spent seven years in the Northern Territory exploring and engaging with theory and practice to use and develop a curriculum for an indigenous context. At the forum he led a lively experiential workshop on language, values and community using epideictic rhetoric. It is the rhetoric that plays with language to make it more powerful. The workshop was sharp, clear and

effective giving us a glimpse of Rob's work in the NT. (More on this in the December edition of Fine Print).

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

CMM CGEA Forum on the 2006 Reaccreditation

NEWPORT; 2pm – 4pm FRIDAY, 18th NOVEMBER 2005

Victoria University, Newport Campus Auditorium, Building A, Ground Floor,

80 Champion Road, Newport

To register email to [sharon.veal@vu.edu.au](mailto:sharon.veal@vu.edu.au)

[http://trainingsupport.otte.vic.gov.au/a\\_tnndetail.cfm?teachernetID=53&contentID=794](http://trainingsupport.otte.vic.gov.au/a_tnndetail.cfm?teachernetID=53&contentID=794)

## 8.4 Western Australia

WAALC members have started a reading circle to discuss adult literacy issues and teaching practices. Their first book: 'The Myth of Ability, Nurturing Mathematical Talent in Every Child' is by Canadian John Mighton. Out of stagers who would like to contribute could join a reading circle via the ACAL virtual meeting room. To find out what other books WAALC will discuss in the future visit <http://www.waalc.com/>

CGEA courses comprise a large percentage of adult education programs in Western Australia. The CGEA Network in WA is currently preparing a discussion paper to submit to the review component of the reaccreditation process.

A former adult literacy student recently had his writing published. Moza's Story is the true story of a political refugee from Iran, and a victim of the Ashmore Reef incident.

Total Price: \$17.55 including GST, it is available from <http://www.kaleidoscopepublishing.com.au>

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## 9. Unsubscribe

If you no longer wish to receive Literacy Live, send us an email with

[<mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Pls\\_Unsubscribe\\_me\\_from\\_Literacy\\_Live>](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au?subject=Pls_Unsubscribe_me_from_Literacy_Live) or send an email to [acal@pacific.net.au](mailto:acal@pacific.net.au) with 'Unsubscribe Literacy Live' 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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## 10. Contact ACAL

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