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ACAL eNews
February 2007
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.
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1. ACAL's Literacy Live Forum:
Thursday 22 February at 8:00pm AEDST (daylight savings)
In the next six months, ACAL will be facilitating national events, some of them with international speakers, in a virtual classroom space. Each of the six sessions will build on skills in using *new technologies* in *new ways* with loads of hands-on activities and examples of how practitioners can then use these skills in their own workplace.
Session 1: Practice in the Virtual Classroom
The first *Literacy Live* forum for 2007 will take place on 22 February at 8.00 AEDST. (Daylight Saving**)
Find us at http://literacylive.ivocalize.net/
In this session Michael Coghlan will introduce participants to the world of virtual classrooms and demonstrate the kinds of activities that are possible in these learning environments. There will be opportunity for discussion on how to effectively employ virtual classrooms in your teaching and professional life.
** you can check Australian time zones at http://www.abc.net.au/backyard/timezone.htm
Book a space in this workshop:
The Literacy Live Meeting room is limited to 20 places and preference will be given to ACAL members. To register for this workshop, send an email to ACAL (acal@pacific.net.au). Once your registration has been received a Password will be sent to you.
What you will need
You will need a computer with internet access and a set of headphones with microphone (usually available from any electronics store for about $15 - $20.)

Instructions for setting up and using Literacy Live are also on the ACAL home page. You should go there now and see what you need to do!

Your computer will automatically check to see if any software needs to be downloaded. If required (and it often is), the software will be automatically installed. If you're doing it from an institution, you may need to check with your IT people.

More details are available from the ACAL web site at http://www.acal.edu.au/

Future Literacy Live Forums are
March 15: What do teachers need to know to teach technology? (time tbc)
April 18: New learning technologies: what are they and how do I use them in the virtual and face-to-face classroom? (time tbc)
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2. ACAL Conference in New Zealand

ACAL is pleased to announce that the ACAL Conference for 2007 will be held in Auckland, New Zealand on **28** & **29 September** with special pre-conference activities and visits set aside for Thursday 27 September. The Conference is being co-hosted by **Workbase**, NZ in collaboration with **Literacy Aotearoa** and the **National Association of ESOL Home Tutors.** Keep an eye on the ACAL website http://www.acal.edu.au for links to the conference organiser.

A call for presentations and workshops will be made in the next few weeks along with details for early bird registrations. More details are available through phoning Workbase on 0011+64+9 3613800 or email admin@workbase.org.nz.
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3. Literacy and Numeracy Minister's Awards

Nominations are now open for National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2007 Minister's Awards
The National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) 2007 Minister's Awards recognise and acknowledge the outstanding work being carried out by individuals in the community who are making a difference to literacy and/or numeracy education. The 2007 Minister's Awards are cash awards provided by the Australian Government, to recognise individuals in the Australian community who are making a major contribution to improving literacy and/or numeracy in early childhood, school or adult education settings.

Nominations close 5pm AEST Friday, April 27, 2007

Details http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/ministersawards/
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4. Literacy and Numeracy Studies - An International Journal in the Education and Training of Adults

Special Issue Announcement
The editors of LNS are pleased to announce that Dr. Alisa Belzer of Rutgers University in the U.S. and Dr. Ralph St. Clair of University of Glasgow in Scotland will edit a special issue of LNS to be published early in 2008. This issue will focus on how national accountability systems are influencing practice at the program and classroom levels. The guest editors are seeking submissions of papers that explore the choices and compromises and the costs and benefits of increased demands for standardized accountability and reporting procedures. They are also interested in papers that document how teachers and learners are developing and maintaining "responsive" practices in this time when increasingly narrow accountability and curricular systems seem to be reducing the options open to educators and learners. They would like especially to urge practitioners to contribute, either as solo authors or in collaboration with researchers or policy people. Papers should be submitted by July 7 2007 at the latest. If you would like to contact our guest editors directly, email Dr. Belzer at belzera@rci.rutgers.edu and/ or Dr. St. Clair at rstclair@educ.gla.ac.uk.
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5. Poor outcomes for lower-level courses

NCVER published a report last year analysing data from the national VET statistical collection that showed that there are very low levels or either vocational or further learning outcomes from certificates I and II. (Around 75% of literacy and numeracy delivery is at certificate I and II levels.) One section of the report deals specifically with 'enabling' or 'participation' courses. The report is worth consideration since, under COAG, the state training systems have agreed to 'grow' higher level qualifications (Diploma and Advanced Diploma) by 2% per year and at the same time, maintain delivery at current levels of certificate III and IV levels.

Download the report from http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1655.html   The author is John Stanwick if you need to search for the publication.

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6. Flexible Learning Funding

More than $5.8 million is being made available through the Australian Flexible Learning Framework to organisations wanting to incorporate technology into the delivery of training programs in the classroom, out in the field and in the workplace. State Councils may be eligible to apply for some of this funding.

For more details click on the link to: http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/go/home/projects/2007

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7. Setting Research Priorities

NCVER are conducting consultations with VET stakeholders to identify the priorites for research funding. The consultation documents can be found on the NCVER website at http://www.ncver.edu.au/ ACAL will be providing a response and invites you to contribute you ideas. Please contact Pauline O'Maley via ACA acal@pacific.net.au

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8. Research from the UK

The National Research and Development Centre (NRDC) in the UK is publishing some very interesting research reports. Download these for free: "You wouldn't expect a maths teacher to teach plastering…." Embedding literacy, language and numeracy in post-16 vocational programme - the impact on learning and achievement. http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications_details.asp?ID=73 and

Developmental Dyslexia in adults: a research review   http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications_details.asp?ID=11

Check out the other resources on the NRDC website.

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9. State news

9.1 Western Australia http://www.waalc.com
Grant to Centacare

Carmel Jennings of Centacare in Perth reports that some of the $10,000 which accompanied her Minister's Award for 2006 will be used to purchase a video camera with tripod and a machine capable of recording whole-class sessions. However, most of the money will fund a mainstream student publication with perfect binding and a print run of 2000. This last project will be managed by a student publishing committee and is likely to lead to further activities, for example production of a DVD and of a movie showing stages in developing the book.

WAALC Annual Conference – July 12, 2007

The Western Australian Council for Adult Literacy (WAALC) will hold its annual conference at Central TAFE in Perth on Thursday 12 July 2007. The theme of the conference will be 'Expanding Literacy: exploring outcomes, content and practice in 2007'. The aim is to review, discuss and

critique current developments in the field of Adult Basic Education (ABE) and their impact on students, teachers and the general community.

WAALC invites proposals from practitioners and others for presentations and workshops on the following and related topics:

What are social capital outcomes and how can we improve them?

Project-based learning and enterprise education.

Where to now? Helping students move on from literacy.

Expanding the ideas pool - sharing your success and learning from others.

Technology in the classroom - ideas and packages that work for ABE.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 8 May 2007 to cjennings@centacarewa.com.au or by fax to Carmel Jennings 08 9322 2448.

Interstate colleagues are warmly encouraged to attend and contribute to the conference which, judging from previous years, promises to be an outstanding success.

9.2 Victoria http://www.valbec.org.au
Living Literacies - 2007 VALBEC Conference,
Friday, May 4 at the William Angliss College, LaTrobe Street, Melbourne.

- Conference keynote speakers: Margaret Somerville, Professor of Education (Learning and Development) at Monash University Gippsland and Arnold Zable, award winning writer, storyteller, educator, and human rights advocate.

- Call for Papers Proposals need to be received by February 23rd 2007.

- Registration The early bird date (April 10) falls in Victorian school holidays, so watch your email for reminders and further details.

More information about speakers, call for papers and eventually registration is on our web site http://www.valbec.org.au

CGEA Workshops
Four Practical Matters workshops on the CGEA will be conducted as a pre-conference activity Thursday May 3, 3.00 — 6.00pm at Victoria University, Footscray Campus

9.3 ACT
On 6 December 2006 ACTCAL members voted unanimously to wind up the Council. ACTCAL members are encouraged to take up membership with ACAL.

9.4 Queensland
See http://www.qcal.org.au/
9.5 South Australia
See http://www.sacal.sa.edu.au/
9.6 New South Wales
See http://www.nswalnc.uts.edu.au/
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10. 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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11. 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 > 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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