

Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council



Annual Report 2016

Annual Report 2016 – January to December

(presented to the AGM in May, 2017)

Presidents' Report

Throughout the year, the VALBEC committee was active in planning and participating in a range of professional development activities with the needs of practitioners and learners as the central focus. At each monthly meeting issues were raised and discussed with work done between meetings to respond to various issues and concerns. The VALBEC committee continues to have strong connections with ACFE, other peak bodies and maintains ongoing representation on Australian Council for Adult Literacy (ACAL).

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Learn Local and vocational education and training (VET) sectors. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the work of making VALBEC both relevant and effective in serving the needs of members and the broader LLN field.

VALBEC projects in 2016 involved:

Highlights and activities of 2016

The list below provides a summary of the roles and main activities of the committee.

- VALBEC planning day set activities for the year
- Discussions at monthly meetings of issues and concerns related to policy and practice,
- Formation of a sub-committee within VALBEC to specifically work on marketing and social media
- Promotion of events, activities, resources, employment opportunities, funding and grants available through the government and non-government sectors
- Planning for the celebration of 40 years of VALBEC to coincide with the ACAL 2018 conference.
- Attendance at the 2016 ACAL conference in Perth, WA.
- Conference and Forums include:
 - 2016 Annual VALBEC Conference, May 20.
 - Adult Learners' Week VALBEC Forum - Focus on Assessment – three perspectives from the field. The speakers were Lindee Conway, Rhonda Pelletier and Karen Manwaring.
 - Launch of A Fuller Sense of Self - 5 years on, a video production available on Youtube and the VALBEC website. The digital stories from three of the students who contributed their stories to the 2011 publication looks at where those learners' are 5 years down the track.
- Attendance and promotion of VALBEC and other peak bodies at the Learn Local conference 30 -31 August
- Fine Print: three editions published to schedule.
- Modification to website to improve design and access
- Responses sent to email questions to info@valbec on a range of issues
- Advocacy and consultation
- Committee members attended and contributed to
 - CMM GS&FE advisory group
 - ACE peaks group
 - CGEA Champions
 - EAL Curriculum Advisory group
 - Neighbourhood Houses Victoria annual conference
 - ACFE Flagship project
 - Reading & Writing hotline advisory group
 - Attendance at ACAL conference; presentation of awards in Adult Learners Week
 - National Foundation Skills & Professional Standards Framework
 - VET funding review
 - Workforce Training Innovation Fund
 - ACFE Quality framework review
 - Victoria Training Awards review
 - VET Ideation workshop
 - State Library of Victoria 's Adult Literacy Roundtable forum.
 - Support for ACAL in lobbying for funding for national coordinated activity and ongoing involvement of executive and state representative

- Professional development events, conferences and meetings
- Strategic Planning Day: 22 January
- Monthly meetings: 24 February, 23 March, 20 April, 18 May, 22 June, 20 July, 17 August (teleconference), 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 7 December.
- Annual General Meeting: 23 March
- Fine Print: 3 editions published May, August, and December
- e-valbec: 11 editions , first of the month to distribution list (1,100)

Committee thanks

Thank you to all the committee members who have so generously given their time and energy to attend the VALBEC monthly meetings, organise and facilitate professional development activities and contribute to all the other business that required attention throughout the year.

In 2016, we welcomed back Digna Libera and new members to the committee Melinda Eason, Rhonda Raisbeck, Kim-chi Forrest, Anna Cranney and Liz Gunn.

We farewelled Barbara Van Leest and Sally Hutchison who stepped down from the committee.

Thanks to all the committee for yet another successful year.

2016 Committee

Meg Cotter	Co- President
Linno Rhodes	Co- President & Fine Print Liaison
Rhonda Pelletier	ACAL representative
Digna Libera	Secretary & Public officer
Ann Haynes	Treasurer

General Committee members:

Sandra Wolfe	Elsbeth Collie	Lynne Matheson	John Radalj
Melinda Eason	Rhonda Raisbeck	Kim-chi Forrest	Liz Gunn.
Anna Cranney			

Administration and Financial Management

Don MacDowall expertly managed the day to day administration, finances, archive, book sales and website development and maintenance. We wish to thank him and acknowledge the high standard of his work that keeps things ticking over so efficiently.

ACFE Support

We would like to acknowledge the support of the ACFE board and the partnership with ACFE that allows VALBEC to continue to play such an important and vital role in the LLN field.

Meg Cotter and Linno Rhodes

Co- Presidents

Conference report

The 2016 VALBEC Annual Conference, 'Joining the dots: multiple literacies in multiple contexts,' was held on Friday May 20th at the William Angliss Conference Centre.

The theme of this conference sought to explore the ways LLN practitioners constantly grapple with new ways of connecting learners and learning in our complex contemporary society. We were very fortunate to have Tony Dreise, ACER research fellow as the keynote speaker who provided thought provoking and inspiring stories on adult learning through indigenous education. In particular he acknowledged the significance of 'well being' as being both fundamental to learning and as an indicator of achievement in and of itself. Participants described Tony's address as a "A great combination of practice, research and vision." Excellent- Fantastic reflections on indigenous

learning and 'all' learning." "Excellent-right on the mark! Did what a keynote should do, set the scene and got me thinking."

Other conference presentations covered literacy in health, civics, work, finance, prisons, libraries and the digital world. In 2016 we also offered practitioners to present a 'visual display' to be presented informally over the lunch break. We had three visual presentations covering literacy in Timor-Leste, visual literacy and mobile phone apps.

Participant feedback for the day was overall very positive. Of particular note was the presentation of Rosalie Martin who received 5 out of 5 in feedback from participants. One person noted, "Every word was gold!" As we know Rosalie later in the year became Tasmanian of the Year for her work in teaching prisoners to read, and was nominated for Australian of the Year.

We were also very appreciative of the entertainment on the day, opening with The Glenroy Harmonizers and led by Chris Falk. Monica Dullard enlivened everybody after the lunch break with her hilarious tales of a librarian.

Attendance: 103

Evaluations received: 66

Ratings for keynote and presentation/workshops rated from 2.96 to 5. The median rating was 4.01.

Generously supported by ACFE, The Bookery, Mutlifangled, The Urban Lyrebirds and Parliament Victoria.

Many thanks to all who participated and contributed, with special mention and thanks to Don MacDowall and Manny Kaiafas and his team at William Angliss.

Meg Cotter

Conference convenor

Professional Development Report 2016

23 March Forum 1

Guest speaker: Karen Manwaring

Attendance (15)

6 September ALW Forum 2 Focus on Assessment – three perspectives from the field

Guest speaker: Karen Manwaring, Rhonda Pelletier, Lindee Conway

Attendance (30)

Fine Print

The Editorial committee collaborated closely with commissioning editor, Lynne Matheson, to source relevant and interesting articles for the three editions published in April, August and November 2016.

Fine Print continues to provide a wide range of articles, reviews, profiles, resources and information for teachers, managers, practitioners and volunteers working in the adult literacy, language and numeracy fields. High quality feature articles were sourced from local and overseas writers. There was a focus on teaching practice in each of the issues with regular sections of Practical, Numeracy and Technology Matters providing practitioners with teaching and learning ideas and strategies.

Open forum was written by three guest columnists, Ann Haynes, Rhonda Pelletier and Linno Rhodes, who each reflected on different aspects of the LLN field and changes they have observed in the past decade. The Beside the Whiteboard section allowed us to again showcase the wonderful work and dedication of our colleagues in regional and metropolitan settings.

Fine Print is the only remaining journal in Australia dedicated to adult language, literacy and numeracy and it continues to present current, interesting and reflective content to VALBEC members. Fine Print is a great forum for local practitioners and researchers to share their work, ideas and observations and we encourage people to consider writing or providing input and

feedback. Each Fine Print edition was promoted in e-valbec. Distribution was around 270 copies each edition.

Thanks to Editorial group members: Sarah Deasey, Linno Rhodes, Liz Gunn, Lindee Conway and Lini Kane. Thanks to Sarah Tuke for her excellent design and production work which ensures the high quality of the journal.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mick Kannegiesser (digitalenvirons) for his excellent work designing and producing Fine Print over 20 years.

Thanks to Don MacDowall for his role in ensuring the journal is distributed and archived on the VALBEC website.

Linno Rhodes

Fine Print Liaison

Treasurer's Report

VALBEC continues to maintain a financially sound position. In 2016, main sources of income were membership fees, the conference and the ACFE grant. This income covers major costs, while a working reserve is retained to enable projects and activities for the benefit of the members.

Main expenses were the annual conference, the production of the journal, 'Fine Print', and the administration and management of the association, including the compilation of the monthly newsletter, eVALBEC.

Accumulated funds were used by the committee to provide various opportunities for the membership to take part in professional development forums throughout the State.

Please refer to attached, audited financial statements for a detailed breakdown of expenditure.

Ann Haynes

Treasurer

ACAL Report

ACAL continues to work for the LLN field in the national context and the executive works tirelessly to sustain and build activities that benefit members and more widely, colleagues nationally and internationally.

Major activities for 2016 included:

ACAL teleconference meetings – one face to face in Sydney

The 2016 Conference in Perth was a challenging and highly rewarding event working cooperatively with WAALC and ACTA to provide a four-day networking and professional development event for teachers and professionals in the LLN field.

Planning for the 2017 ACAL conference in Darwin focussed on extending this networking and opportunity by using the location as an opportunity to attract international participants as well. The program is extensive and proposals are very strong.

'Resilience: Stories of Adult Learning' was published through the ACAL website. This the result of a joint project between ACAL and sister organisation in the UK, Research and Practice in Adult Literacy (RaPAL). Learners were encouraged to write their stories. The publication is available as a PD; e-book or print copies on ACAL website.

There was also a joint project between NCVET Foundation Skills Literature Review Project and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to produce literature reviews of the LLN field. These are available on the NCVET website.

ACAL actions in reinvigorating the Reading and Writing hotline includes a refreshed data base of providers able to support LLN needs in a wide range of contexts, including the workplace. The Hotline now has a representative from all states. Victoria is represented by Bronwen Heathfield, Director Participation Branch from Department of Education and Training.

VALBEC continues to be a part of ACAL and despite the difficulties of distance and the spread of members, sees it as an important connection to sustain.

Rhonda Pelletier

ACAL representative

Patron
Hon. Joan Kirner (dec.)

VALBEC Life Members 2015

Delia Bradshaw
Bev Campbell
Jenny Dyer
Daryl Evans
Jan Hagston
Heather Haughton
Nance Hovey (dec.)
Julie Hurley
Robin Kenrick
Robyn Logan
Helen Macrae
Rosa McKenna
Pauline O'Maley
Fran O'Neill
Noel Simpson
Sally Thompson
Sam Thomas
Aileen Treloar-Coates