

eVALBEC April 2009

This is the electronic newsletter of VALBEC, the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council, and is sent to about 850 practitioners on the first of each month (other than January). It is also available in the 'News' section of our web site <http://www.valbec.org.au>

Disclaimer: The activities, goods and services mentioned in eVALBEC are not endorsed by VALBEC in any way. People should make their own judgment about the suitability of each item.

How to submit items: <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/news.htm>

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1. Navigating Laneways: Finding new ways to work in adult literacy, language and numeracy VALBEC 2009 Conference

Friday May 8, at William Angliss College, 9.00am - 4.30 pm

Pre-conference workshops will be conducted on Thursday May 7, 3.00 -5.30pm

Early Bird closing date April 9

Conference speakers include: Rebecca Lister, David Rose, Wendy Cowey, Kate Burridge.

Register at <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf09/reg.htm>

Program at <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf09/ProgGlance.htm>

Early bird fees only apply to members so ensure that your membership is current.

2. Contribute to the special Fine Print Student Writing edition

Following the success of the 2008 edition, we want to celebrate the learnings and insights of ALBE students through publishing their writing. We also want to celebrate the work of teachers. This time we ask students to use the broad theme of "memory", as an inspiration. This could include memories of people, places turning points, precious objects, holidays, emotions, or anything else that has been significant. Both poetry and prose are welcome.

We ask teachers to write about how you help your students with not only the processes and mechanics of writing but also how you inspire, build confidence, and help your students find a voice.

Submission Guidelines

Electronic texts only. Word limit for teachers: between 250 and 500 words. Word limit for students 250 words

Please include a title for the piece, your name, learning institution, and place where you live.

The editorial committee will select pieces that best fit the guidelines and represent a diversity of learners and teachers.

Please email all contributions to VALBEC at info@valbec.org.au

Deadline: June 19th

3. Reading the Fine Print: A history of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC) 1978 – 2008

Book Launch • Thursday May 7 at William Angliss Conference Centre 6.00 – 7.30 pm

The long awaited and much anticipated Reading the Fine Print: A history of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC) 1978 – 2008 will be launched by Rosie Wickert at this special event prior to the annual conference. This important book is an engaging and comprehensive account of thirty years in the life of VALBEC. It recounts some of the policy and pedagogical struggles of the adult literacy field that have shaped VALBEC's identity. The book will be on sale at a special conference price. More details will be sent out soon.

4. Next Fine Print

Fine Print is available free to members

Here's a taste of the the next FP ...

- The Accelerated Literacy program and its relevance to the discourse of adult literacy acquisition by Wendy Cowey

- Scaffolding Literacy into Community Services by Julianne Krusche
- Josie Rose describes the AccessACE project. She identifies lessons learned and outlines factors that may influence a clever use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the future.
- Iris Ralph writes about her work with ESL students, researching indigenous history and stories about and by indigenous Australians, through web-based learning.
- Jane Westworth and Sally Hutchinson ask *Have You Clicked On?* They provide a handy list of website addresses, together with brief descriptors, useful for teachers and students alike.
- Michele Gierck reflects upon her own experience as a writer and how this experience shapes and influences her teaching of writing.
- With Adult Literacy National Project Funding slashed and in doubt we reprint an article from Literacy Link demonstrating the value of the Reading and Writing Hotline, together with a letter outlining VALBEC's dismay, following the Federal government's decision to cut funding.
- A profile of Sue Paull, joint Winner of the Victorian Adult Community Education Award for Outstanding ACE Practitioner.
- Sheila Stewart, based at the University of Toronto, outlines a reflective practitioner research project about story and diversity.
- Jill Rodgers reviews *Good Better Best 3* an intermediate grammar teaching resource while Julie Palmer reviews *Family Literacy*, a publication aimed at raising a greater understanding of family literacy programs.

5. VALBEC Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in June

Date and Venue to be confirmed

Reports will be presented for 2008 activities and the election for the executive committee positions will be conducted.

There will be a Twilight forum preceding the AGM with guest speaker to be announced.

6. Investing in Community Education

ACFE has sent the following information in Memo 2009/12

The Federal government has made available \$100m under the Investing in Community Education program for not-for-profit Community Education and Training (CET) Providers across Australia. The funding aims to boost capacity to deliver training and contribute to individuals' employability, literacy, numeracy and job skills. Guidelines and administrative arrangements (including the application process) are currently being developed in consultation with States/Territories and are expected to be finalised in June 2009. Start planning now!

Further details can be found on the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR) website at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/TLCF/Pages/TLCF.aspx>

7. Adult Learners' Week 2009 Grant Funding

Organisations are invited to apply for funding of up to \$250,000 to support innovative and strategic approaches to Adult Learners' Week (ALW) in 2009.

Proposals which explore creative ways of communicating the importance of adult learning, and which respond to the goals and strategies embodied in the 2008 Ministerial Declaration on Adult Community Education, will be particularly well regarded.

Proposals might be national in approach, and include some co-ordination or linking of ALW activities taking place at state and territory level; or they may be local or regional in scope.

Guidelines and application form available online at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/adultlearnersweek2009>

8. Workplace English Language and Literacy Program (WELL)

2008- 2009 Funding for training Projects

Application forms, guidelines, and other relevant information are available on the WELL website at www.deewr.gov.au/well <<http://www.deewr.gov.au/well>>

9. 2009 ACAL conference: From Strength to Strength

October 2-3 2009 Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia

The sub-themes are:

- Language diversity, educational outcomes and literacy
- Building on our strengths
- Literacy, equity, justice and human rights

VALBEC members and friends are invited to pass on the news to potential presenters who can unpack the theme *From Strength to Strength* or any of the sub-themes.

Call for Presentations and fee structure - visit <http://www.waalc.org.au/09conf/>

10. Literacy in the street

Mankind Is No Island uses found signage on the streets of New York and Sydney to tell a touching story from the very heart of two cities and was shot entirely on a cell phone. The entire budget for the film was \$57. It won the top \$20,000 prize at Tropfest NY, the world's largest short film festival.

Sue Shore Uni SA commented "It struck me as a fascinating way to work on the idea of multi-literacies with adult learners and at the same time draw on some of the familiarity adults have with cell-phones."

See it at <http://www.tropfest.com/ny/>

11. Take a bow

If you've paid your membership fees take a bow.

The rest - we'll be chasing you shortly.

The fees are

Individual membership - Employed Full Time (or on a time fraction 0.6 or above) - \$90

Individual membership - Part time and Sessional - \$56

Full time tertiary student or unemployed teacher - \$40

Institutional membership - Small Organisation (less than 3 EFT staff) - \$140

Institutional membership - Base rate - \$180

Institutional membership - Multi-Campus (includes 5 copies of 'Fine Print') - \$335

12. Additional Fine Print

Members are now able to subscribe for extra copies of Fine Print. Currently all categories, with the exception of Multi-campus, receive one copy of Fine Print as part of the membership fee. Renewal invoices allow members to choose additional copies of Fine Print posted to the same address.

13. Book Lovers Wanted!

The MS Readathon will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2009 and this year we are looking for Book Clubs and Adults to join in the fun! Help us start a new chapter in MS research and support services by turning the pages of your favourite books this June.

Register yourself or a group to read and raise funds for multiple sclerosis (MS) at <http://www.msreadathon.org.au/>

Have you done the MS Readathon before?

As part of our 30th year celebrations we would like to hear from past participants. Email us at

msreadathon@msaustralia.org.au

14. National Curriculum Board seeks expressions of interest from writers

The National Curriculum Board is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced people for inclusion on a register of curriculum writers and advisory panel members for English, mathematics, history and the sciences.

A small team of writers for each subject/learning area will be appointed. Each writing team will include people with particular expertise across the stages of schooling (early years, primary, middle, senior). Depending on their current employment situation the selected writers may be contracted or seconded to undertake the writing.

Advisory panels will assist curriculum writing teams by providing advice on draft materials at key stages in the development process. Advisory panels will be of two types:

- subject/learning area panels (one each for English, mathematics, the sciences, and history)
- stages of schooling, equity and diversity panels.

Further details at http://www.ncb.org.au/get_involved/expressions_of_interest/info.html

15. Australian Copyright Council's 2009 Training Program

Everyone uses copyright-protected material, but not everyone understands their rights and obligations under copyright law in Australia.

Australian Copyright Council training will help you work out when you're faced with a copyright issue and what to do about it. Some sessions deal with certain activities, and others are targeted at certain organisations, such as educational institutions and libraries.

The Australian Copyright Council's 2009 Melbourne training sessions will be held on 12-15 May 2009. The Council is a non-profit, non-government organisation.

Program overview at <http://www.copyright.org.au/training2009>

16. Update your course details

One of the most visited parts of the VALBEC website lists the courses offered by organisations in the TAFE and ACE sector.

You can see your listing or update it at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/contacts/contacts.htm>

17. Subscribe to eVALBEC?

Click this link <mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=eVALBEC_Subscribe> and we'll put you on the list to receive this monthly e-newsletter.

18 Unsubscribe?

Just click this link <mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=eVALBEC_Unsubscribe> (no typing required!) and hit Send or, send an e-mail with the word Unsubscribe in the subject.

19. Contact VALBEC

eVALBEC is the monthly electronic newsletter of (VALBEC) the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council.

E-mail: info@valbec.org.au

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

Postal: Box 861 Springvale South VIC 3172

Ph: 03 9546 6892

Fax: 03 9546 0421