

## **eVALBEC February 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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### **Welcome to the first eVALBEC for 2009!**

#### **1. "Navigating Laneways" Call for Presentations for the 2009 VALBEC Conference May 8, 2009 at William Angliss College**

Already we have had much interest and would particularly like to hear from teachers who would like to present examples of teaching practice or projects that have been successful with diverse learners. The conference provides a great opportunity to share and affirm your practice with colleagues so step up and put forward a proposal. The proposal form can be completed online at <http://www.valbec.org.au> and should be submitted by February 23, 2009

#### **2. VALBEC Strategic Planning Day - January 16**

The VALBEC committee spent a very productive day reviewing our operations and achievements and planning for the years ahead.

We revisited our focus and core activities affirmed the following:

Vision: Active Committed Practitioners

Mission: To lead the theory and practice of adult literacy, language and numeracy in Victoria.

Goal: To build and maintain VALBEC's role as a leader in adult education

Goal: To be actively involved in the changing policy environment in which VALBEC operates

Goal: To support and advocate for adult literacy, language and numeracy learners and practitioners.

We have submitted a proposal to ACFE for funding for a program of professional development that will include Good Practice and Twilight forums, the annual conference and pre conference workshops, Fine Print, eVALBEC and an upgrade to our website.

#### **3. Future Fine Print**

After input from the Fine Print Editorial Committee and much discussion it was decided that from 2009 we will move to three editions of Fine Print each year. This was a difficult decision as we do not want to compromise on the content and high quality of Fine Print and acknowledge the history of Fine Print as the flagship of VALBEC over 30 years. However, the decision has come in response to changes in the adult literacy and numeracy sector with the demise of research funding and activity and pressures of time for the editor and volunteer editorial group.

We are confident that the Semester 1 & Semester 2 editions will exceed expectations and the Student Writing edition to be published for Adult Learners Week (September) will become a regular and much valued opportunity to celebrate our learners.

Student Writing Edition

There was a large and enthusiastic response to the 2008 Student writing edition. More details in the next eVALBEC but the deadline for submission will be **June 26** which allows it to be part of the celebration of Adult Learners Week in September.

#### **4. Fine Print - Special Student Writing Edition 2008**

VALBEC members and Fine Print subscribers will have seen the recent edition of Fine Print with some inspiring examples of student writing.

Additional copies can be purchased for \$5 per copy, including postage and GST (within Australia).

Payment or purchase order is required in advance. Only available while stocks last.

Go to <http://www.valbec.org.au> and follow the links to see some extracts and get purchase details.

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## 5. Loss of funds for the Adult Literacy National Project

VALBEC recently wrote to the Federal Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, expressing concerns about the loss of funding for the adult literacy national project which includes the Reading and Writing Hotline and ACAL.

You can see the response at <http://www.valbec.org.au> then follow the links.

We encourage members to write to their state and federal politicians asking about the fate of funding for adult literacy and in particular, ACAL and the Reading and Writing Hotline and give examples from your experience of the service putting learners in contact with programs.

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## 6. ACAL conference 2009 – From Strength to Strength'

The ACAL conference will be held in Fremantle in October 2009

You can register your interest and keep an eye on developments at <http://www.waalc.org.au/09conf/>

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## 7. VALBEC membership fees and additional Fine Print

There will be no change to the membership fees which fall due on March 1.

Invoices will be sent to members in the next few weeks. 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

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## 8. Additional Fine Print

Members will now be 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 going out soon will allow members to choose additional copies of Fine Print posted to the same address.

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## 9. Information Sessions – Australian Flexible Learning Framework - Victorian E-Learning Innovations

RTOs are invited to apply for funding to develop innovative e-learning solutions that will develop strategic solutions tailored to meet local education and training priorities.

Funding will be awarded to projects that focus on either of the following: business-training provider partnerships or empowering individual learners through stimulating demand, providing greater choice, or responding to the needs of disadvantaged learners.

To assist you in building a business case for your applications, e-Works will be conducting the following E-learning Innovations information sessions in Shepparton (2 February), Traralgon (4 February) Melbourne (6 February), or via Elluminate (9 February)

Applications for Victorian E-learning Innovations funding close on **5 March**. For more information on Briefing Sessions and funding guidelines, visit: <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/VIC>

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## 10. Women's empowerment through literacy

'Fancy Footwork' written by a group of women adult educators was launched at the VALBEC conference in 2007. An article with extracts from this book is now a chapter in 'Empowering Women Through Literacy: Views from Experience' by Mev Miller & Kathleen P. King, editors.

This is the first comprehensive collection of writing from the field by everyday educators who experience the joys and challenges, creativity and barriers to acknowledge or integrate innovative solutions to support women's learning needs in adult basic education and literacy settings. It reveals the many ways in which addressing women's empowerment through literacy continues to impact lives.

Copies of these publications are now available

Purchase 'Fancy Footwork' <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/fancyfoot.htm>

More details and how to purchase 'Empowering Women Through Literacy: Views from Experience' at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/docs/WLEmpowerflyer1.pdf> (PDF 125KB)

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## 11. ACFE region merger

The ACFE Northern and Western Metropolitan Regions are being merged and expressions of interest are sought for Council membership. EoI close on **February 6** and see <http://www.acfe.vic.gov.au> for details.

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## 12. New NCVER wiki

Generating and sharing ideas within the adult language, literacy and numeracy community is the aim of new new 'wiki' developed by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

<http://www.adultliteracyresource.edu.au> brings together key messages from the Adult Literacy Research Program (ALRP), a comprehensive body of research that explores a wide range of literacy and numeracy topics.

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## 13. Teacher needed

Adult Literacy Teacher needed for sessional teaching in Reservoir. Thursdays 12.30-.3.30 and Fridays 9am to 1pm. Phone Libby at PRACE for more info 94626077. or email [libby@prace.vic.edu.au](mailto:libby@prace.vic.edu.au)

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## 14. 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>

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**15. Subscribe to eVALBEC?**

Click this link <[mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=eVALBEC\\_Subscribe](mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=eVALBEC_Subscribe)> and we'll put you on the list to receive this monthly newsletter.

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**16. Unsubscribe?**

Just click this link <[mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=eVALBEC\\_Unsubscribe](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.

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**17. Contact VALBEC**

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

E-mail: [info@valbec.org.au](mailto: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