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Committee

1. VALE Joan Kirner

The VALBEC committee and wider LLN community are saddened by the passing of Joan Kirner, OA, former Victorian Premier and original patron of the Victorian Adult Literacy Council (VALC, 1984) the pre-cursor to VALBEC. A fierce advocate for social justice and fairness, her passion for women's rights, education and conservation raged throughout her long career.

Joan Kirner is referred to as one of the friends of VALC in *Reading the Fine Print: a history of VALBEC 1978 – 2008*. She was instrumental in the development of state adult literacy policy in the early 1980's. In a quote from her Arch Nelson address at the 1984 ACAL/VALC conference in Melbourne, she refers to the influence of Paolo Friere:

Friere saw literacy as a weapon to be used in the transfer to power from the powerful well resourced few to the disempowered under resourced many - the working class - I share this view.

VALBEC was fortunate to have Joan present the opening at the 2010 *I learn You learn We learn* conference. She gave a rousing speech reflecting on her passion for education and the power of grass roots activism. We were indeed fortunate to have her as a patron and advocate for adult literacy education.

Joan Kirner will be remembered as a ground breaking first woman Premier of Victoria, for her input to education reforms, establishment of Landcare, campaigning for women's rights and for people with special needs and the work of Emily's list to rectify the gender imbalance in parliament. She was indeed a friend to many and we extend our condolences to her family.

Professional development

2. ACAL Conference • Early bird registration now open

- Early bird registration closes on **July 31**, plenty of time to save! Discounts apply for SACAL and ACAL members as well as non-members but get in before July 31
- A delightful optional extra is to join the Sumatran Tigers for afternoon tea (join them, not be the afternoon tea!).
- Session details are due to be announced shortly.

[More](#)

Fine Print

3. Next edition of Fine Print (free to members)

Thank you to all those who submitted pieces of writing for consideration for the student writing section of edition #2. Our feature article section includes an article from Lisa Hall on building resilience with indigenous learners; developing workplace readiness in the SLPET program and Stephen Reder reflects on his presentations at the ACAL conference, VALBEC seminar and travels last October.

Fine Print edition #2 will be a great read for both students and teachers.

[Fine Print Archive](#)

Resources

4. Free numeracy resources for everyone

'Getting Started', 'Exploring Numbers', 'In the Head Calculations', 'Fractions' and 'Percentages' are available to everyone at no charge.

[Free download](#)

[View the webinar](#) created by ACAL with the resources author Beth Marr as she introduces the free resources.

5. New 'Decimals' and 'Measurement' resource

'Decimals' and 'Measurement' are free to VALBEC members and can be downloaded for a small fee by non-members.

[Explore samples of 'Decimals'](#)

[Explore samples of 'Measurement'](#)

6. The International Year of Light - lesson ideas

VALBEC is observing 2015 as the International Year of Light (and light based technologies). Each month a VALBEC committee member will provide some resources, inspired by the Year of Light, for the classroom or of general interest to students to use as a springboard for thinking, researching, talking or writing.

In this issue Meg Cotter offers some ideas on

- Aurora Australis
- Light bulb jokes and
- Light pollution.

[More](#)

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eVALBEC

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