

eVALBEC November 2008

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>

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

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1. Master Class with Colin Lankshear

Colin Lankshear will be speaking at the annual Learning Matters Symposium at Victoria University. VALBEC members are invited to attend a late afternoon Masterclass on December 8 at VU. More details later. Colin is a Professor at James Cook University and internationally acclaimed scholar in new information technologies and researching literacy. His current job in James Cook University is half time and he is a part time Visiting Scholar at McGill University.

He works in language and literacy research, with a particular interest in 'new' literacies associated with the explosion of the internet. His doctoral thesis looked at freedom in education. In the middle of his PhD he got interested in a conception of freedom as liberation that had been developed by the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. Colin spoke at an Twilight Forum several years ago and interest was high.

Registration will be required but there is no fee (Thanks VU)

Colin Lankshear's blog with Michele Knobel at <http://everydayliteracies.blogspot.com/>

Colin Lankshear's articles and book links at <http://www.geocities.com/c.lankshear/>

2. The Australian Core Skills Framework now available

The Australian Core Skills Framework, ACSF, (revised NRS) is now available. To order your free copy of the full document and the summary document go to <http://www.deewr.gov.au/well>

3. EngageMe

AMES have been commissioned to facilitate – **EngageME**, designed to support teachers working with young learners in ACE.

Open to all Youth Pathways Program (YPP) and Youth Guarantee in ACE providers. Other ACE organisations who deliver **accredited** programs to youth will also be invited to participate.

The EngageME project will work closely with ACFE Regions to identify and promote a range of relevant professional development and support activities for youth providers in their region. The program managers will consult in the remainder of 2008 to ensure that activities are integrated into curriculum planning for 2009.

For **teachers** the project will broker a range of professional development opportunities that will:

- Improve their capacity to deal with student welfare, student support and classroom management issues;
- Upgrade teachers' knowledge of tools/strategies to support innovative delivery and assessment practices;
- Provide advanced ICT skills training, as requested by providers, as part of a suite of sessions brokered through agencies such as Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

For **young learners** the project will:

- Provide advanced ICT skills training and support for students who would benefit from workshops offered by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and other similar organisations;
- Broker the involvement of students in programs organised by expert organisations such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Outward Bound etc or other organisations with a focus on individual, teamwork and confidence building programs for young people;
- Showcase the achievements of young learners in ACE.

Questions? How to get involved? Contact Josie Rose at AMES on 9926 4741, rosej@ames.net.au or Jan Aitcheson on 0427 732 369, or aitchesonj@ames.net.au

4. VCAL: on the move

20 & 21 November at the CAE 253 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Erica Frydenburg, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, The University of Melbourne, will be the Keynote speaker discussing 'Young people and their coping skills. What to teach and how to teach VCAL students'. A variety of presenters will be available on both days, gearing their material around partnerships, themed programs, engaging individuals and consumer materials. \$250 registration for both days (includes lunches).

Ph 9652 0732

5. Study Circles Australia

Martha McCoy and Dr Patrick Scully from Everyday Democracy, USA (Formally the Study Circles Resource Center)

Thursday, November 6, 2008, 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Victoria University, Footscray Park

Booking is essential:

Email your name, position and organisation to coral.cara@vu.edu.au

Bookings close on Monday 3rd November, 2008.

Martha McCoy, Executive Director and Dr Patrick Scully Deputy Director of Everyday Democracy in Connecticut, US have made significant contributions to the fields of deliberative democracy and community problem solving by organising community wide study circle programs. In 1998, Everyday Democracy worked with President Clinton's Initiative on Race, which named study circles as one of the top four "best practices" in race dialogue.

The ultimate vision of Everyday Democracy is that local communities create and sustain public dialogue and problem solving. Strong local democracies are seen as the cornerstone of a vibrant national democracy.

<http://www.everyday-democracy.org/en/Page.Vision.aspx>

Martha McCoy is a Keynote Speaker at the Adult Learning Australia 48th Annual National Conference 2008, October 30 to November 1, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Study Circles Australia <http://studycirclesaustralia.blogspot.com/>

6. Ice-Breakers and Group Games • Inspire workshops

OFFER #1: FREE Activity Book

Would you like to get your hands on the Ten Easiest & Most Successful Ice-Breakers and Group Games Ever?

Go to <http://www.inspireyourgroup.com/valbec.htm> to instantly download your FREE copy. Thirty pages of the best group games ever!

OFFER #2: 'Soft Skills' Professional Development workshops

<http://www.inspireyourgroup.com/profdev.htm>

- Are you looking to develop or refresh your group facilitation skills?
- Do you want to add dozens of new and fun group activities to your repertoire?

An innovative professional development workshop - 'MORE THAN JUST FUN' - will inspire you to design and deliver programs that produce great results. Mark's programs are always 100% fun, this workshop will particularly emphasise the critical soft skills that are proven to engage groups in a safe learning environment.

Sunday 16 November 2008 • 9.30am – 4pm • Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh

Register at <http://www.inspireyourgroup.com/profdev.htm>

7. Free double pass

"Nelly Thomas is Not a Yummy Mummy: The Dance Spectacular Remix!"

Don MacDowall (who provides admin services to VALBEC) is offering a free double pass to "Nelly Thomas is Not a Yummy Mummy: The Dance Spectacular Remix!"

Yummy Mummy (<http://www.nellythomas.com/YumMum/YumMum.htm>) was a hit show at the 2008 Melbourne Comedy Festival and is being revived for one night only - Thursday, November 13, 7.00 pm at Comedy@Trades, Trades Hall, Cnr Lygon and Victoria Sts, Carlton.

To be in the running for a free double pass (you must be a financial VALBEC member), send an email to info@valbec.org.au by Nov 6 with "Yummy Mummy Free Pass" in the subject line.

One winner only, notified by email by Nov 7.

8. 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 enewsletter.

9. 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.

10. Contact VALBEC

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

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