

eVALBEC August 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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Early bird registrations close August 19

1. ACAL Conference 2008 • 'Surfing outside the flags: catching waves, avoiding rips' Surfers Paradise on October 2 to 4, 2008

Register online <http://www.astmanagement.com.au/qcal8/>

Pre-Conference Forum – Thursday 2 October

Adult literacy, numeracy and lifelong learning: a cross-sectoral dialogue

Join Senator Ursula Stephens (Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion) and Dr Chris Duncan (ABS) in examining the implications of the ALLS survey for different sectors and work towards developing a framework for social inclusion through building literacy into a whole of government approach to policy development.

2. ACAL Literacy Live Room Tuesday 19th August at 8pm

Aboriginal Literacy: Bridging the Distance to Learning • A Snapshot from Canada

The Sioux Hudson Literacy Council is making groundbreaking strides to reach adult Aboriginal learners who reside in 35 remote, isolated communities of Northwestern Ontario, Canada, often only accessible by plane in the summer months and ice roads during the winter. Over the last three years, the Sioux Hudson Literacy Council has been offering solutions for the literacy learner at a distance with a unique website with direct links to synchronous online classrooms and offers a solution to the growing number of Indigenous learners who have little or no education. Presenter: Michelle Eady is the Distance Projects Coordinator for the Sioux Hudson Literacy Council in Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Canada and a Ph D Candidate at the University of Wollongong, NSW.

More details and registration at <http://www.acal.edu.au/litlive.htm>

3. Course contacts

What courses and programs do you offer? One of the most frequently visited page of the VALBEC website is where we list YOU!

Check your listing at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/contacts/contacts.htm>

Add or amend information at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/contacts/addnew.htm>

4. Fine Print • Spring 2008 edition

FP is being prepared at the moment (free to members)

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- VALBEC Celebrates 30 years by Lynne Matheson
 - Learning in Community – the theory, the practice and the big questions by Liz Suda
 - The Healthy Multicultural School Canteen as a Site for Adult Learning by Frances Newell
- Practical Matters
- Are you hearing what I'm saying? by Chris Tully and Vicki Doukas
- Beside the Whiteboard
- Profile of North Melbourne Language and Learning featuring Natalie Warren and Lisa O'Farrell
- CGEA Update
- Part 1 – CGEA Youth Program – Swinburne TAFE
 - Part 2 – The Ceeja Change We Had to Have? by Gail Pratley
 - CGEA Moderation Western Metropolitan Region of ACFE Providers by Lisa Bartels
- Open Forum
- Watch this Space – Stakeholder responses to the Securing our Future Economic Prosperity Discussion Paper June 2008 by Lynne Matheson
- Foreign Correspondence
- Skills for Life in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or Be Careful What You Wish For by James Simpson
- Book Review – True Blue? On Being Australian By Jacinta Agostinelli
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5. Numeracy training for the staff of the Ministry of Finance in Dili

The skills involved range from very early level arithmetic, particularly subtraction and division, through to using simple formulae. There is a major focus on concepts of fraction, decimal and percentage and on using short cut methods to calculate these, rather than the formal algorithmic approach. Training will continue until at least the end of November and possibly through next year but we are one teacher short at the moment. Adult numeracy teachers who can come for approximately two month blocks on a rotating basis to keep the training program lively and fresh for its duration are welcome. Longer stays would also be possible. Suitable teachers should have had experience working with adults and definitely some numeracy teaching experience are required. It would also help if they had worked with interpreters in the past and /or had experience teaching indigenous Australians or African refugees. Email Beth Marr on bmarr@mof.gov.tl or bethmarr@westnet.com.au ASAP.

6. VALBEC Spring Forum – Friday 26 September at CAE – Numeracy and more

Presenters will include Noyona Chanda, adult numeracy specialist at LLU+ (formerly the Language & Literacy Unit) at London South Bank University. Noyona will be in Australia to speak at the ACAL conference on the Gold Coast in early October. More details available later via eVALBEC and <http://www.valbec.org.au>

7. Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 7 at the Royal Standard Hotel, North Melbourne at 6pm. Co – Presidents Ann Haynes and Lynne Matheson, Secretary Jeannie Turnbull, Treasurer and ACAL rep John Radalj, and general committee members Teresa Cusack, Pauline O'Maley, Dianne Parslow, Gail Pratley, Kerrin Pryor, Corinna Ridley, Yvonne Russell, Debbie Soccio and new members Marie Bonne and Sandra Wolfe. If you'd like to attend the meeting please let us know.

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