

eVALBEC May 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>

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.

IN THIS ISSUE OF eVALBEC:

1. VALBEC night of nights – event of the year • *30 years of VALBEC Celebration Dinner*
 2. VALBEC Annual Conference 2008 • *Still glides the stream VALBEC conference 2008*
 3. Annual General Meeting & Twilight Forum
 4. Fine Print Editor position
 5. Help us with our special Summer 2008 Edition of Fine Print "Celebrating ALBE Students and their Writing"
 6. Invitation to join FP editorial committee
 7. ACAL online PD sessions via the Literacy Live
 8. Skills Reform Discussion Paper released
 9. Member offer - new resource CD
 10. Call for Writings from ABE Practitioners (especially teachers)
 11. The Centre for Literacy (Canada) Summer Institute 2008: ESL and Literacy, June, 2008
 12. National Institute for Literacy
 13. Educators and Trainers Network Administrator
 14. CAE workshops
 15. Adult literacy, numeracy and ESL teachers required at CAE
 16. On the lighter side
 17. Subscribe to eVALBEC?
 18. Unsubscribe?
 19. Contact VALBEC
-

1. VALBEC night of nights – event of the year

Tables are filling fast – have you bought your ticket yet?

Don't miss out on this special occasion for all the people who have been associated with VALBEC over three decades to come together and celebrate.

30 years of VALBEC Celebration Dinner

Thursday May 15, 2008

7.00 – 11.00 pm

RACV Club Restaurant, 501 Bourke St Melbourne

Cost \$75 – three course meal with drinks at bar prices

Details <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/dinner.htm>

2. VALBEC Annual Conference 2008

William Angliss conference centre, corner La Trobe and King Sts, Melbourne

Pre-conference workshops **FULL**

Thursday May 15, 3.00 – 5.30pm

Still glides the stream VALBEC conference 2008

Friday May 16 8.30am – 4.30pm

Some sessions are already full so make sure you check the website for current program information.

More <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/reg.htm>

3. Annual General Meeting & Twilight Forum

Members please note that the meeting will be held on Thursday June 19 at 7.00pm

(venue to be confirmed) All positions on the committee will be open for election. Please consider nominating, attending or encouraging others to join.

4. Fine Print Editor position

Sadly we have accepted Karen Manwaring's resignation as Fine Print Commissioning Editor due to her increased workload completing her book for publication in 2009.

The Winter edition of Fine Print will be her last after a tenure of over two years. We will miss her passion and enthusiasm and thank her for her professional approach and expertise.

Expressions of Interest are called for the position of Fine Print Commissioning Editor for immediate start. We are looking for a person with writing, editing and publishing skills as well as knowledge of the adult literacy, numeracy and basic education fields.

Contact Sarah Deasey 93477072 or Lynne Matheson 92691376 for more information or info@valbec.org.au for a role statement.

5. Help us with our special Summer 2008 Edition of Fine Print "Celebrating ALBE Students and their Writing"

We want to celebrate the work of adult literacy students by publishing their writing. We want to build a picture of the diverse learning contexts, the life experiences, and the goals and thoughts of our learners.

We also want to highlight teaching approaches to writing by publishing short reflections from teachers.

Talk to your students about the reason for this edition, ask them to write a reflective piece and contribute a brief reflection of your own on how you approach the teaching of writing, preferably with reference to the students writing piece submitted. We would like to hear how you inspire your students, and how you facilitate the writing process.

Deadline September 28, 2008

More details and guidelines <http://www.valbec.org.au/studentwriting.htm>

6. Invitation to join FP editorial committee

Fine Print is the highly regarded journal of VALBEC and relies on input from many volunteer authors as well as an editorial committee. Vacancies exist at the moment on the editorial committee. If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne Matheson on lynnematheson@optusnet.com.au

7. ACAL (Australian Council for Adult Literacy) offers online PD sessions via the Literacy Live Next Literacy Live: Wednesday 7 May (8.00pm AEST) • Free and at your own computer "Everything you wanted to know about mobile learning but were afraid to ask"

Caryl Oliver

Many of us have heard the term mobile learning. But do we really know what it means or can encompass? In this session participants will have the opportunity to understand what mobile learning is all about and to gain some insight into how people are using mobile learning in the educational sector. Caryl will explain some of the issues and give participants strategies to have-a-go at getting going...

In this session Caryl will share some examples of mobile learning activities (with plenty of time for questions and having fun.)

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

Remember, you must register.

RSVP to info@acal.edu.au and we'll send you the password.

Tuesday 13 May 8:30pm (AEST) • Free and at your own computer "Less Teaching and More Learning: Promising Practices in Adult Literacy" Dr Heide Spruck Wrigley, New Mexico, USA (International Guest Speaker)

This session will present findings from several studies in adult literacy with a special emphasis on adult English language learners. We will present and discuss examples from the field that illustrate what works for teachers and learners and highlight those practices that match up with recent research results. Examples will include activities that engage learners and connect the classroom with language and literacy use in students' lives. Video and audio will be used to illustrate multi-modal teaching, designed to deepen learning.

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

Remember, you must register.

RSVP to info@acal.edu.au and we'll send you the password.

Tuesday 3 June 8:00pm (AEST) • Free and at your own computer "The VALBEC History Project"

Beverley Campbell

Find out more about Literacy Live and using the virtual meeting room at <http://www.acal.edu.au/litlive.htm>

8. Skills Reform Discussion Paper released

The Brumby Government wants to encourage more Victorians to take up training for the first time and also encourage others to upgrade their qualifications. The jobs of the future will be more competitive and will require higher levels of skills. To meet these future workforce needs we need to remove current barriers to training and engage industry, business and individuals in more training. To achieve these goals, reforms have been proposed to the vocational education and training (VET) system. The discussion paper *Securing our future economic prosperity* outlines proposed reforms of the vocational education and training (VET) system based on the following four objectives:

- A boost in the numbers of individuals and businesses accessing training, leading to a big increase in the skills of Victoria's workforce;
- A VET system that engages more effectively with individuals and businesses and is easier to navigate;
- A VET system that is more responsive and flexible to the changing skill needs of businesses and individuals; and
- Creating a stronger culture of lifelong learning.

Download the paper and see how to make a submission at <http://www.otte.vic.gov.au/skillsreform.asp>

9. Member offer - new resource CD

'Creating the Connections' is a new resource CD to guide and support teachers through the process of using digital storytelling with students. Suitable for students studying the CGEA and CSWE, tasks and handouts develop oral and written communication skills, as well as ICT, project planning and employability skills. These are built up over a series of ten sessions during which students work together to create digital stories about their local community.

The resource kit was developed by AMES, in conjunction with Goulburn Ovens TAFE, on behalf of the National Training System and funded under the Adult Literacy National Project. More info at

<http://www.ames.net.au/shop/createconnections/>

Explore the resource at a VALBEC pre-Conference workshop with Lynda Achren and Barb Cockroft on Thursday 15th May.

VALBEC has 20 copies of Creating the Connections to give away. To be in the running for the free copy, go to <http://www.valbec.org.au> then 'Member Offer' on the right-hand side, complete and send the form by May 10, we'll draw names (you must be a member) and AMES will send 20 lucky people a copy of the resource.

10. Call for Writings from ABE Practitioners (especially teachers)

Empowering Women through Literacy: Views from Experience

Edited by Mev Miller, Ed.D. and Kathleen King, Ed.D.

Practitioners working in adult basic/literacy education -- classroom teachers, educators, tutors, administrators, and researchers — are invited to make a proposal for what they'd like to contribute to a book of writings and artwork by adult basic education teachers/educators addressing women's literacy issues.

Topics Explored: Barriers and Challenges to Discussing Women's Issues in Literacy Classes or Addressing Them in Programs; Experiences Empowering Women in Literacy; Contextual Approaches for Empowering Women in Literacy

Deadline for Proposals: May 30, 2008

Details: <http://www.litwomen.org/educators/newbook.html>

Women's Perspectives #3 is now available

This issue focuses on Women & Money. Details: <http://www.litwomen.org/perspectives.html>

11. The Centre for Literacy (Canada)

Summer Institute 2008: ESL and Literacy

June 26 - 28, 2008

Recent studies acknowledge that many second-language learners, including some who lack mother tongue literacy, enroll in adult literacy programs. The 2008 Summer Institute will bring together participants to meet with organizations and individuals who have done the early research. We will explore the implications of what we know for practice and policy, and propose strategies to bridge the traditional gap between ESL and literacy providers.

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/sli2008/index.htm>

12. National Institute for Literacy

A useful web address. Here is the URL for subscribing to the list:

<http://www.nifl.gov/mailman/listinfo/Englishlanguage> and participating in the discussion on adult ESL reading (or just lurking for that matter)

13. Educators and Trainers Network Administrator

The Financial Literacy Foundation (Department of Treasury) has just distributed the April newsletter. To see it and subscribe to future issues, go <http://www.understandingmoney.gov.au/> Click on Educators and then Network.

14. CAE workshops

13th June CGEA revisited

Having survived the first semester, this day will give practitioners the opportunity to revisit the new CGEA and gain ideas and strategies by working with colleagues on the planning, delivery and assessment of the CGEA. Come along to some facilitated sharing and moderation sessions. A great chance to share, contribute and learn from colleagues.

23rd July Numeracy for all

Teaching and Learning for VCAL, CGEA & Middle years

Feel alone and unsure about how to teach numeracy and maths in VCAL or the CGEA or in the middle years? New to teaching numeracy and maths and don't feel confident about how to teach it in an applied way or how to teach the underpinning maths skills? Don't know where to go for resources or help? Do you need some help and want to find some new ideas?

To enrol go to <http://www.saalt.com.au/profdev.html>

15. Adult literacy, numeracy and ESL teachers required at CAE

CAE is seeking expressions of interest from qualified adult education teachers interested in doing emergency teaching in 2008. Teachers may be required for CGEA literacy, numeracy, science, computing or ESL Frameworks.

Day and evening classes. Located in CBD. Submit Expressions of interest with CV to access@cae.edu.au.

More details <http://www.cae.edu.au> then 'Employment'.

16. On the lighter side

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are this year's winners. Read them carefully. Each is an artificial word with only one letter altered from a real word. Some are terrifically innovative.

1. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
2. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
3. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people, that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The Bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
4. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
5. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
6. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

7. Inoculate: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
8. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
9. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
10. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
11. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
12. Glibido: All talk and no action
13. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
14. Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
15. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
16. Caterpollor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
And, the pick of the lot.
17. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

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 enewsletter.

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

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