

eVALBEC April 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 Annual Conference 2008 'Still glides the stream'
 2. Thirty years of VALBEC Celebration Dinner
 3. Free pre-conference workshops
 4. Graduate Certificate of Social Science (Literacy and Numeracy Teaching in VET)
 5. VALBEC congratulates Helen Macrae on her induction into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll
 6. Implementation Guide for the new CGEA
 7. Join the committee for dinner
 8. Seeking a Volunteer Tutor
 9. 2008 Victorian Training Awards
 10. The Advanced Diploma of Language Literacy and Numeracy Practice in VET
 11. 'Working from strengths: Venturing towards strength-based adult education' NCVER
 12. 23 Things You Can Do On the Web
 13. Innovative e-Journal seeks editor
 14. More on adult literacy levels – an industry view
 15. The New Zealand experience
 16. Addressing the training and assessment needs of adults with low basic skills in Australia
 17. Ooops ... I forgot ...membership renewal
 18. Want to put something into eVALBEC?, Subscribe to eVALBEC? Unsubscribe? Contact VALBEC
-

1. VALBEC Annual Conference 2008 'Still glides the stream'

**William Angliss Conference Centre, corner La Trobe and King Sts, Melbourne
Friday May 16 8.30am-4.30pm**

Seventeen sessions to choose from plus keynotes plus dinner!

'Still glides the stream' is a motif for endurance that typifies the spirit, commitment and passion of VALBEC in its 30th year and provides the theme for the annual conference.

The VALBEC conference will provide practitioners with a forum to explore new ideas and effective approaches to deal with changing student cohorts, challenging workplace conditions, variations in curriculum and compliance requirements.

Full session details <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/sessiondetails.htm>

Online registration or download a form <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/reg.htm>

Early Bird Member Rate finishes on April 18, 2008

2. Thirty 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

VALBEC invites members past and present, colleagues and friends from around Australia to join us for a celebratory dinner. The 30 years of VALBEC Celebration Dinner will provide a special occasion for people who have been associated with VALBEC over three decades to come together and celebrate.

Details, online registration or download a form at <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/dinner.htm>

3. Free pre-conference workshops

These interactive sessions will focus on numeracy, science and ICT.

Thursday May 15, 3.00 – 5.30pm

Four practical sessions at the William Angliss Conference Centre, corner La Trobe and King Sts, Melbourne

Full session details <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/sessiondetails.htm>

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

4. Graduate Certificate of Social Science (Literacy and Numeracy Teaching in VET)

Swinburne are offering a new course, the Graduate Certificate of Social Science (Literacy and Numeracy Teaching in VET). For more information <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/postgrad> or contact Sharon Templeman, School of Social Sciences Incubator, Swinburne University of Technology (TAFE Division) at STempleman@groupwise.swin.edu.au or by phone (03) 9214 6848

5. VALBEC congratulates Helen Macrae on her induction into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll

The Age of March 8, in reporting Helen's induction quoted her 'My primary paid work for the last 30 years has been in the field of adult and community education. Beginning in the '60s, there are now about 500 learning centres and neighbourhood houses across Victoria. In 1974, I was employed as the co ordinator at the Diamond Valley learning centre and in those days we did an enormous amount of work with women who were wanting to get back into the workforce after having children. I also worked at the Council of Adult Education for 13 years in adult literacy. A lot

of adults needed a private and supportive environment because they were exceedingly self conscious as learners. Now I'm on the committee of the Venus Bay Community Centre; with a community of only 300 people, the community centre is an even more important part of the little town's infrastructure.'

Congratulations Helen.

6. Implementation Guide for the new CGEA

Are you using the CGEA Implementation Guide? Can you suggest any improvements? During 2008, the CMM will be reviewing and revising the CGEA Implementation Guide. They are conducting an online survey to get feedback on the Guide. It only takes a few minutes to complete. Go to

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qJwf8RDqPhjm4OCgdWMPWg_3d_3d

Your feedback on the guide can also be sent to the CMM via email to sicmm.generalstudies@vu.edu.au.

7. Join the committee for dinner

The VALBEC Committee normally meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6pm at The Royal Standard Hotel, 333 William St West Melbourne, VIC 3003

VALBEC members are welcome to attend as observers. Join us for a meal (at your own expense) and a chat.

The next meeting will be at 6 pm on April 10. (we know it's not the first Thursday but we're avoiding the school holidays)

8. Seeking a Volunteer Tutor

Holden Street Neighbourhood House run an "English for Pleasure" class for older Italian women to improve their English skills.

The class is an informal and friendly group of 10 women, and offers English conversation, reading and writing for pleasure and social activities.

The informal nature of the class allows the Tutor flexibility in running the class and materials used. Access is available to the resources in the House, including basic literacy, numeracy and ESL materials, computers, television, data projector, CD player, etc.

When: Monday's during school terms, 10am-12 midday, 128 Holden Street, North Fitzroy

Call Kim for more info on 9489 9929 or kim.hsnh@internode.on.net

9. 2008 Victorian Training Awards

Nominations for the 2008 Victorian Training Awards are now open and information and nomination forms are available online at <http://www.otte.vic.gov.au/awards> Nominations close on Monday 12 May 2008.

The Victorian Training Awards recognise outstanding students, innovative training providers and programs, and exceptional commitment and talent among teachers, trainers, support staff and industry partners.

10. The Advanced Diploma of Language Literacy and Numeracy Practice in VET

In 2008 CAE will commence delivery of this national qualification that has been designed to provide the required learning and career pathways for specialist educators and VET Language Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) practitioners. This will include delivery of the four core units, initial assessment, literacy, numeracy, TESOL. (RPL and Credit Transfer available for all units.) May to September 2008.

This course is an approved for WELL and LLNP.

For more information please contact Philippa McLean philippa@cae.edu.au

11. 'Working from strengths: Venturing towards strength-based adult education' NCVER

NCVER has just published 'Working from strengths: Venturing towards strength-based adult education', this new resource introduces adult literacy educators to the principles of strength-based practice, a technique that concentrates on the strengths, capacities and aspirations of individuals and uses these as a catalyst for change and growth.

Copies of the resource can be purchased for \$40.15 or downloaded, free of charge, from

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1956.html>

12. 23 Things You Can Do On the Web

This program encourages people to take control of their own learning through exploration and play, becoming familiar with Web 2.0 tools such as blogs, wiki, flickr and podcasts.

<http://nswpubliclibrarieslearning2.blogspot.com/>

Highly recommended

13. Innovative e-Journal seeks editor

The Knowledge Tree: an e-Journal of Learning Innovation, published by the national training system's e-learning strategy, the Australian Flexible Learning Framework (Framework), is seeking an editor who will oversee the production of two editions of The Knowledge Tree in July and October 2008.

Expression of Interest from Cathy Baxter, Project Officer, Access to E-learning Knowledge and Know-how:

cathy.baxter@cit.act.edu.au

14. More on adult literacy levels – an industry view

See the views of the Industry Skills Council

http://www.tpdevelopment.com.au/clients/isc/display_page.php?id=4

"... Individuals are facing increasing literacy and numeracy demands both at work and at home due to greater use

of information technology, increasing regulation, documentation and information provision, and ever-expanding consumer choice.”

15. The New Zealand experience

“Facing the Challenge: foundation learning for adults in Aotearoa New Zealand” is the first book that focuses exclusively on adult literacy, language and numeracy teaching in New Zealand. Written by experienced tutors, managers and researchers, the book describes and analyses the different contexts in which foundation learning tutors work and the teaching and learning issues they face. Order copies from books@dunmorepress.co.nz

16. Addressing the training and assessment needs of adults with low basic skills in Australia

Just released on the OECD website is the Country background report at

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/38/11/40015669.pdf>

The Australian report is a text downloadable document from the OECD website and written by Josie Misko, member of the SACAL executive. The background paper forms part of a larger international study: Teaching, Learning and Assessment for Adults: Improving Foundation Skills

http://www.oecd.org/document/42/0,3343,en_2649_37455_40026026_1_1_1_37455,00.html

This study looks specifically inside the programmes for adult LLN learners, with a focus on formative assessment – referring to the frequent assessment of learner understanding and progress to identify needs and shape teaching and learning.

17. Ooops ... I forgot ...membership renewal

Is it there underneath the last staff bulletin,? Beneath the to do list?

VALBEC membership renewal invoices were sent out about three weeks ago. Many have been returned with payment. Has yours?

You can renew online at <http://www.valbec.org.au/08renewal/index.htm>

Many thank to those who have renewed promptly.

18. Want to put something into eVALBEC?

Certainly. More about how and when at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/news.htm>

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.

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.

Contact VALBEC

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

E-mail: 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