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## Committee News

### 1. Update

Thanks to the 110 members ( individuals, small and large institutions) who have paid their memberships for 2012. We are pleased to note that 1100 people receive eVALBEC (including some from interstate and overseas). Items of interest from our teleconference on 18 July: Sandra Wolfe is the VALBEC representative on the steering committee for the ACFE literacy and Numeracy project and the Learn Local / ACE learner awards selection panel. She attended the ACE Peaks Stakeholders / ANHLC Issues working group meeting and reported on issues concerning providers such as reduced funding, pressure on their capacity to offer courses and to conduct moderation. The committee will continue to discuss ways in which VALBEC can support LLN practitioners with resources and professional development. The A-frame will be a focus for an article in the next edition of Fine Print.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 August.

We welcome feedback and ideas so please send to [info@valbec.org.au](mailto:info@valbec.org.au)

### 2. 2012 is the National Year of Reading

"People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading." - Logan Pearsall Smith

Pauline O'Maley, VALBEC committee member, continues her series of meditations on reading and responds to a reader with some interesting observations.

Read Pauline's August piece on the [VALBEC website](http://valbec.org.au).

You can see [Pauline's pieces from previous months](#) too.

## Professional Development

### 3. 'Joining the pieces: Literacy and numeracy one part of the picture' ACAL 2012, Hobart Tasmania

#### Pre-conference forum

##### More

- Susan Devereux, General Manager of the Foundation Skills Branch
- Anita Roberts, Innovation & Business Skills Australia
- Jane Forward, LINC Tasmania, Department of Education
- Dr Pat Strauss, Associate Professor, Auckland University of Technology

#### Keynote speakers

##### More

- Pat Strauss, Associate Professor, Auckland University of Technology
- Anita Roberts, Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA)
- Bob Boughton, University of New England, NSW
- James Toomey, Mission Australia

#### And over forty conference sessions!

##### Lots more

### 4. VALBEC Forums

Planning is in progress for two VALBEC forums to be held in October – one will be hosted by Holmesglen and the other by The Gordon in Geelong. More information will be made available in the next eVALBEC.

### 5. Learn Local Metro Expo • 18 & 19 October

Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth St. Melbourne

This is a conference not to be missed. Suitable for managers, practitioners and Board members of Adult Education organisations, this conference will focus on the emerging opportunities in the sector. Workshop topics include; marketing, e learning, partnerships, economic development, human resource management, career development, grant writing and more.

Registration kits will be distributed by ACEF in mid August. For more information contact the Conference Planner, Leanne FitzGerald (97587081 or [leanne@coonarahouse.org.au](mailto:leanne@coonarahouse.org.au)) \$285 per person full registration. Accommodation available at The Jasper (quote conference code CONR2)

## 6. ACER conference outcomes and adult LLN in VET workshops

As a follow up to the successful ACER national adult LLN conference in May, a brief but informative video about some of the key messages from the day has been produced and is available online at: <http://www.acer.edu.au/vawe>. As well, the website has links to a number of upcoming ACER workshops about adult LLN in VET.

## 7. Adult Learners' Week 2012 - Short Story Competition

### "It's never too late ... to learn to read" writing competition

\$30,000 in prizes for Australian writers. Competition closes 6 August 2012

The National Year of Reading 2012, in partnership with the Tasmanian Writers' Centre, has been given a grant by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, to fund a [writing competition as part of Adult Learners' Week 2012](#) (ALW)

"It's never too late... to learn to read" is a short story competition for unpublished, new, emerging and established Australian writers. For some, it will be the chance to tell their own stories; for others, it will be the opportunity to imagine the experiences of an adult learning to read. Our aim is for the creation of exciting, inspiring and challenging stories to support and encourage adult learning, and to highlight the fact that "it's never too late... to learn to read". Published writers will have the opportunity to win a \$3,000 cash prize for their work, and unpublished, emerging writers, \$1,000. The judges will be looking for stories that excite, inspire and challenge audiences. Fourteen stories (8 from published authors, 6 from unpublished) will be chosen as winners, and these will be announced during [The Reading Hour 2012](#)

### People's Choice voting

We've also added an additional component to the competition this year - People's Choice voting. We want to encourage everyone to participate in Adult Learners' Week by asking them to vote for a winning entry of their choice. This will be in addition to the judges' voting. People's Choice voting will be launched at [The Reading Hour 2012](#) on the 25 August 2012.

## 8. Curriculum Maintenance Manager (CMM) Service

### Certificates in General Education for Adults

The Certificates in General Education for Adults are being reaccredited during 2012/2013. The reaccreditation will take into account any impact of the Foundation Skills Training Package, currently under development. Phase 1 of the reaccreditation process focused on research and consultation with key stakeholders and was completed in June. The project is now entering phase 2 which will involve the redevelopment of the curriculum. The reaccredited curriculum is scheduled for publication on the Training Support Network website in April 2013. A focus group will be held in Melbourne on 9 August to consult on potential changes to the curriculum. For further information contact the CMM on 99195300/5302.

### CGEA Professional Development

A half day professional development session with a focus on the CGEA numeracy units will be conducted on August 15th. For more information contact the CMM General Studies and Further Education at [sicmm.generalstudies@vu.edu.au](mailto:sicmm.generalstudies@vu.edu.au)

## Other information

## 9. Olympics and literacy .... yes even here.

A regular newsletter about web design has commented about on literacy-levels in relation to the Olympics website. The [article](#) is titled 'Official Olympic Website: UI Silver — but UX DQ'(I think that's 'user interface', 'user experience' and 'disqualification'.)

## 10. Employment opportunities

ACEF, ACE, RTO and TAFE managers can post adult literacy, language and numeracy practitioner job ads in eVALBEC. Send your request (50 words limit) to [info@valbec.org.au](mailto:info@valbec.org.au) by the 26th of the month.

## 11. On and off

### Subscribe to eVALBEC?

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### Contact VALBEC

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

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This is the electronic newsletter of VALBEC, the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council, and is sent to about 1000 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.

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