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Committee News

1. 2013 reflection

The last committee meeting (13 Nov) was held via teleconference and our final meeting for the year will be on 4 December. It has been a busy year and committee members have managed to weather the challenges of work and life. The strength and commitment of the committee has enabled members to step up where needed and to keep connected. These qualities and capabilities are certainly reflected in the LLN field that VALBEC continues to represent. Linno Rhodes and Sandra Wolfe have provided strong leadership and Sandra will continue in the role of Victorian ACAL representative. A productive meeting was held with ACFE representatives to discuss ACFE board funding support for VALBEC activities in 2014. More detailed planning will take place at the annual planning day in January. The VALBEC committee would like to extend special thanks to all our members for their support throughout the year. We would also like to thank ACFE staff and the ACFE board for their ongoing support. We wish you all a safe, healthy and happy festive season and look forward to working together again in 2014.

2. Fine Print editor changes

A huge vote of thanks to Jacinta Agostinelli for her work over the past three years. We have enjoyed each 'bumper' edition and wish her well in her future endeavours. She will be staying connected to Fine Print as a member of the editorial committee. We also welcome Lindee Conway onto the editorial committee. Next meeting will be in mid January.

Lynne Matheson is the new commissioning editor.

[More](#)

3. 2013 International Year of Statistics

VALBEC has adopted the International Year of Statistics as our theme for 2013. Each month a VALBEC committee member will be digging up some fascinating numbers that you may find interesting and potentially useful in classroom activities. This month it's Tracy Pearman.

So you think you're busy.....

Stop a moment to think about Santa Claus.

- On Christmas Eve, Santa Claus has to travel 175 million miles, which is the same as a round trip to the sun.
- He has to visit 132 million homes.
- If every household asks for a Furby (a type of soft cuddly toy) his sleigh will have to carry 89.8 million kgs, which is equal to 15 Great Pyramids of Giza.
- And to deliver all those presents in time, he'll have to travel at 9 million KMPH!!!
- Assuming an average reindeer can carry 150 kg, he'd need 598,600 reindeers! That's about 74,000 Rudolphins!
- If everyone leaves him a mince pie and a glass of milk he'll have to drink 33 million litres of milk, which is equal to the annual production of 3479 cows and
- if he eats it all, he'll have consumed 48.2 billion calories which is the equivalent to the daily intake of 19.3 million men.

4. What I'm reading at the moment.....

Nothing...the silly season is upon us and I'm either working late, Christmas shopping or out socialising with all those friends, acquaintances and relatives I haven't caught up with since last Christmas.

However, on my bedside table is the latest and final installment in the Thomas Covenant series by fantasy writer Stephen Donaldson. I've been waiting for a while for it to be published so I guess I can wait until Boxing Day....

A Christmas Quiz.

- Because of Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Eve 1974, Santa never made it to which Australian city?
- Who sang an Australian Christmas song about six white boomers?
- What Australian Christmas tradition began in Melbourne in 1937?
- Australia's Christmas Island has an amazing annual migration of which creature?
- In the Australian version of 'Jingle Bells' what mode of transport is used instead of the one horse open sleigh?

Fine Print

5. New issue

The next issue of [Fine Print](#) is about to be posted, watch your mail box.

6. New editor

See above, welcome Lynne Matheson.

7. Past issues

Visit the [Fine Print archive](#).

Professional Development

8. VALBEC's 2014 Conference

Diary date - Friday 16 May, 2014 at the William Angliss Conference Centre, Melbourne

9. ACTA 2014 International Conference - TESOL Meeting the Challenge

Melbourne 30 September - 3 October

Call for Papers deadline: 1 December 2013

Keynote Speakers - Professors Joe Lo Bianco, Chris Davison, Amy Tsiu, Viv Edwards and Ass Professor Ester De Jong.
[More](#)

10. VicTESOL - the new EAL Framework

Thursday 6 February 2014, Statewide Resources Centre, 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton

VicTESOL will host a presentation by Nadia Casarotto and Cheryl Bartolo, Victoria University to introduce the newly accredited EAL Framework for adult learners. A special workshop on teaching and assessing pronunciation led by Shem Macdonald, Victoria University will follow the overview.

[More](#)

11. NCVER Research Forum – Realising our potential: widening participation through education and training

Thursday 3 April 2014 • Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

In recent years, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has funded a significant amount of research focused on informing issues around the role of tertiary education and training in social inclusion, and particularly in workforce participation.

Findings from this research will be showcased at a one-day research forum about the role of education and training in overcoming complex disadvantage. The forum will also provide a greater understanding about the barriers to educational participation, completion and outcomes for disadvantaged learners.

[More](#)

12. ACER National Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Conference 2014

May 1 and 2, 2014

'Foundation skills and lifelong learning – what does the evidence from international assessments tell us about improving work and life skills?'

The will examine the latest results of both the Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) surveys undertaken across Australia in 2011 and 2012. The conference will also discuss the implications for both policy and practice, for not only all education sectors (school, higher education and VET) but also for lifelong learning and full participation as an individual, as a community member and as a worker.

[More](#)

Courses

13. Graduate Diploma in Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy Practice

Holmesglen Institute's Graduate Diploma in Adult Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) Practice provide the skills to be a trainer or tutor skilled in delivering language, literacy and numeracy.

The course is delivered online and blends theoretical understanding with the implementation of practical strategies. It is designed for LLN teachers wanting to gain a recognised qualification; for vocational trainers wishing to gain an adult LLN specialisation and develop the skills to integrate language, literacy and numeracy skills development into their field of work; and for individuals with prior relevant training in education wishing to add an adult LLN specialisation.

[More](#)

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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](#)

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