

eVALBEC February 2006

This is the electronic newsletter of VALBEC, the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council, and is sent to about 900 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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1. 2006 VALBEC Conference

RItHre RItNow

Friday, May 5, 2006 at the William Angliss College, Melbourne

Call for Presentations and Workshops

In step with the rhythm of the times, the 2006 VALBEC conference questions the place of adult literacy and numeracy in 21st century contexts.

- Do we keep alive the language of human and social capital or have times changed?
- How do the demands for multi-literacies affect the workplace, the worker and the adult learner?
- Are new paradigms and methodologies being developed to meet these demands?
- How do we cater for literacies across personal, community, economic and workplace domains?
- Are we any closer to achieving greater access and equity for all?
- Just what does the adult literacy learner *need* right here, right now?

These key questions will drive the discussions and dialogues at the 2006 conference.

Practitioners and researchers are invited to share their knowledge, wisdom, strategies, observations, research and proven practices with others from across Victoria and Australia by submitting a presentation proposal for the 2006 VALBEC conference RItHre RItNow.

VALBEC wishes to hear from those involved in

- Innovative projects, collaborations or partnerships
- Successful curriculum development or proven classroom practices
- Progress reports or outcomes of relevant and crucial research
- Policy review and critique

Submit your presentation proposal or encourage others to submit, keeping in mind that the presentation should:

- stimulate thought and discussion on relevant issues and practice
- describe and reflect on current practice and examples of successful work
- be interactive and encourage dialogue
- display innovation and flexibility in practice/research
- demonstrate effective practice in a range of settings
- exemplify adult learning principles
- critique changes in state and federal government policies and priorities.

Visit the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> to download a form to submit a **Call for Presentations and Workshops** or complete it online.

Proposals must be submitted by March 1st 2006.

Presenters will be notified by March 15th 2006 of their inclusion in the Conference program.

Conference updates and further information at <http://www.valbec.org.au> or contact Don MacDowall, Conference Organiser conf@valbec.org.au Phone 03 9546 6892

2. The Financial Literacy Foundation

The Financial Literacy Foundation has been established with significant federal funding to deliver the Australian Government's commitment to give Australians the opportunity to better manage their money.

2006 will be a landmark year with the launch of a national information campaign to raise awareness of the immediate and long-term benefits of improved financial literacy, and to encourage consumers to engage with financial literacy information and resources.

A VALBEC committee member attended a recent Melbourne meeting and was impressed with the intentions of the Foundation.

The Financial Literacy Educators and Trainers Network has been established and members of the Network will receive regular updates on financial literacy news and member events. Education materials will eventually be available to help deliver financial literacy education and training. The Foundation will also seek the advice of members on resources, events and support needs.

If you wish to join the Network, download and complete a form at

<http://www.understandingmoney.gov.au/>

3. ACE Resource Bank

The Resource Bank is for ACE teachers to share teaching resources. It is self-managed and, like a generous bank, what you put in is what you get out. The more resources that are deposited, the better the facility.

You can download useful resources and, if you choose, upload some of your own work and ideas.

Registration is free. Visit <http://www.acebank.vic.edu.au>

4. VALBEC Planning

Members of the VALBEC committee and Don MacDowall spent the day locked away in the meeting room of the Carlton branch of the Yarra- Melbourne Regional library (a great venue for small meetings and close to good coffee and food!). We spent the morning examining and evaluating our strengths in what we do, how we meet the needs of our members and discussing what we might do better. After lunch we got down to the harder task of identifying the areas for our strategic goals for the next three years. Allan Meers from the Q Alliance, Business Consultants, facilitated the day and was insightful and gently directive in keeping us 'on track'. We felt very positive by day's end and it was a truly worthwhile activity to enhance our planning, operations and service provision for 2006 and beyond. A more detailed report will appear in Fine Print.

5. Member Offer

Free Directory of Residential Campsites - from the Australian Camps Association. The directory lists group accommodation in bunkhouses

and lodges available for hire. Many venues offer activities and support staff. The Australian Camps Association have offered ten copies to members. To be in the running to get a copy, visit the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> (ten names drawn on February 15). Visit the ACA web site (<http://www.auscamps.asn.au>) for more information.

If you'd like to offer a product or service for our 'member offer', contact VALBEC on info@valbec.org.au

6. Non-Member Offer (Extended membership)

Visit the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> for more details - join now and renew in March 2007.

7. VALBEC Committee Meeting

The first meeting for the year: Thursday February 16th, 6.30 p.m. Contact VALBEC if you'd like to attend..

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