

eVALBEC November 2004

This is the electronic newsletter of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council.

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1. Minimum Fee List

VALBEC is dismayed and appalled at the Victorian state government's decision to withdraw the minimum fee paying courses list. This withdrawal means that general education, literacy and numeracy and English as a second language students would be eligible for the full tuition fee of \$1.28 per SCH, capped at \$819 if they do not hold a Commonwealth Health Care Card, a Pensioner Concession Card or a Veterans Gold Card. VALBEC is trying to collect evidence of the impact of this policy decision on students individually, and programs and delivery in general. If you have any anecdotal or statistical information on the impact to your students and programs that could help strengthen our case to the state government, please forward this to: info@valbec.org.au.

In addition VALBEC has put together a very short student survey which has been posted to the website <http://www.valbec.org.au>. Please support VALBEC by downloading the survey and encouraging your students to complete it. It is vital that the government is made aware of the impact of these changes across the state. Please mail completed surveys to: VALBEC, Box 861 Springvale South 3172

2. "Real Texts and the CGEA" with Corinna Ridley

3.30 -5.30 pm Thursday November 18

Laverton Community Centre 12 Crown Street Laverton (Mel 53 D11)

The event is free but RSVP to VALBEC is essential.

Email info@valbec.org.au or Ph 03 9546 6982 (leave a message).

Adult literacy teachers often use 'real texts' in the classroom. Junk mail, local papers, brochures, bills and forms are all familiar materials, which adult learners will encounter on a daily basis in the world outside the classroom. They are therefore an obvious choice for teachers looking for relevant, motivating texts, which have a purpose which goes beyond the teaching of reading skills, and an audience beyond the classroom. However, 'real texts' also have a downside. They are often more complex than adapted and modified text book imitations, don't come with a set of instructions for classroom use and often defy neat classification as a report, exposition or narrative. Add to that the need to map them to a set of curriculum outcomes and you could be forgiven for thinking that using such material is fine in theory, but not so great in practice, especially for teachers and tutors new to the field.

The Real Texts resource was developed with the assistance of ANTA innovative project funding, to help reduce the load on teachers striving to offer students access to authentic material. It uses a simple approach to text analysis, which encourages a focus on the original context of the text, its audience and purpose, without using metalanguage which might be unfamiliar to teachers - and their students - and which can be applied simply to any text. It then offers a number of teaching ideas, which could be used with the text, or with a similar text, aimed at developing reading skills, building the learner's ability to critically evaluate a text and using the text as a springboard to other activities, such as further reading, writing or in tasks related to the original purpose of the text.

This workshop will provide a practical introduction to the Real Texts resource, and demonstrate how the resource can be used by teachers in planning their CGEA reading, writing and oral communication programs. The workshop will also demonstrate how the approach used can be extended to other authentic material.

Corinna Ridley has worked in the field of ESL and Literacy for more than 10 years and is currently an education officer at the CAE Centre for Language and Professional Support. She is the author of the Real Texts resource and was also one of the team of people who worked on the reaccreditation of the CGEA in 2002 and on the recent redevelopment of the CGEA website. She is an experienced workshop presenter delivering workshops on the CGEA, VCAL, ESL Literacy and on theories of reading and writing as part of the Adult Literacy Teaching (ALT) Certificate.

3. "Reading and writing weblogs: purpose, presentation and point of view" with Colin Lankshear

6.30 - 7.30 pm Tuesday November 16

Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre 20 Princes Street Carlton North

Light refreshments provided then stay on and have dinner and drinks at the adjacent Brandon Hotel

The event is free but RSVP to VALBEC is essential as numbers are limited.

Email info@valbec.org.au or Ph 03 9546 6982 (leave a message).

(if leaving a message or emailing indicate if you will also join us for dinner afterwards)

It may become just the latest technoliteracy fad; the most recent internet application for which some pedagogical use must be found. That would be a pity. The weblog is an elegant, versatile application that can be turned to diverse educational and everyday purposes. This talk will introduce the technical basics of 'blogging' and discuss ways in which it might be integrated into educationally worthwhile learning.

Colin Lankshear is a part-time professorial research fellow at the University of Ballarat, an adjunct professor at Central Queensland University, a part-time teacher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a freelance educational researcher and writer living in Mexico for most of the year. His most recent works include a co-edited book titled *Cyber Spaces/Social Spaces*. Colin has recently dabbled in the emerging environments of weblogs and has written about his explorations with Michele Knobel ***Do-It-Yourself Broadcasting: Writing Weblogs in a Knowledge Society*** that was presented to the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, April 21, 2003.

For more information about Colin Lankshear <http://uob-community.ballarat.edu.au/~clankshear/index.html>

4. **The abolition of ANTA**

You will have heard by now the announcement that ANTA will be abolished from July 2005 and its responsibilities will be taken up by DEST. VALBEC is, as yet, unsure of the implications of this for adult literacy projects, we will keep the readership of eVALBEC informed as more information comes to hand. If you would like to comment on this move you can send your thoughts to info@valbec.org.au

5. **Fine Print – Summer edition**

Fine Print is supplied to members and subscribers. Interested in membership or FP subscription? Just click this link mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=Membership_Info (no typing required!) and hit Send or send an e-mail with the words 'Fine Print Information Please' in the subject line.

Features

- ACE Community Building Hubs in action: Governance Training for Community Organisations by *Bernadette O'Connor, Sue Olney and Theresa Mitchell*
- Bottling Magic – The Partner-Assisted Learning System by *Judy Buckingham*
- Pedagogies of Employability and Life: The ACE Experience by *Jill Sanguinetti*
- Beyond words: literacy learning through drama by *Karen Dymke*

Practical Matters

Switching onto Learning through Audio by *Simon Goodrich*

Open Forum

- Finding a voice: discovering a language in prison by *Leni Shilton*
- Ministerial Statement on ACE (*varied*)

Foreign Correspondence

- Building community, training and partnerships. A postcard from Vietnam by *Mary Collins*

Policy update

- The Impact of Policy on Practice in New Zealand by *Katherine Percy*
- Not seeing the forest for the trees? Measuring achievement and attainment in adult literacy, numeracy and language UK style by *Jay Derrick*

Beside the Whiteboard with Jan Corben interviewed by Robin Kenrick

6. **ARIS Summer School**

In January 2005 ARIS will be offering CGEA and Victorian Certificates in Applied Learning workshops for teachers in ACE, TAFE and other educational settings. The topics and dates have been set. More information will be available in November/December.

- Monday 17/1/04 - Catering for ESL learners in CGEA programs(all day)
- Tuesday 18/01/04 - VCAL Literacy Planning and Resources (TAFE and ACE)(all day)
- Wednesday 19/1/04 - Planning and resourcing CGEA Reading and writing & Oral communication(all day)
- Thursday 20/01/05 - CGEA Numeracy (morning session)
- Friday 21/01/05 - Assessment options for VCAL and CGEA (all day)

Information and registration email: robbynh@cae.edu.au

7. **Adults Learning Mathematics – A Research Forum**

12th Annual Conference (ALM12)

Sun 3rd July – Thurs 7th July, 2005 Melbourne

ALM12 brings together researchers and practitioners in adult mathematics/numeracy teaching and learning in order to promote and disseminate knowledge, awareness and understanding of adults learning mathematics at all levels.

Information: <http://www.alm-online.org>

8. **Free Four Seasons in One Day Conference CD**

Papers provided prior to the Four Seasons In One Day Conference were produced on a CD and handed out to those who attended. We have a few spare and these are available free from VALBEC. Send name, postal address and number required to info@valbec.org.au. Members receive priority.

These, and papers provided after the conference, are available at <http://www.valbec.org.au/acalconf/>

9. **Contacts update**

VALBEC is updating our 'Contacts' database. It lists courses and programs conducted by neighbourhood houses and learning centres, TAFE colleges and like organisations and is available to the public electronically, in print form

and via the web <http://www.valbec.org.au/contacts/>. The project is supported by ACFE.

You can check and update your listing

1. By going to <http://www.valbec.org.au/contacts/addnew.html> and completing the form on-line.
2. Get a form at <http://www.valbec.org.au/contacts/>, complete it and post or fax it to VALBEC
3. Prefer us to send you a form? Just click this link <mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=Contacts_update_form> (no typing required!) and hit Send or send an e-mail with the words '[Contacts_update_form](mailto:info@valbec.org.au?subject=Contacts_update_form)' in the subject.

10. ACAL goes for a double

For those eVALBEC readers who were unable to attend the ACAL AGM we are delighted to let you know that ACAL has taken up the fine tradition of VALBEC to share the load and the experience and appointed co-presidents this year, Jan Hagston and Pauline O'Maley (both Victorians). The new secretary is Robyn Jay, a former co-opted member and the treasurer is Lorraine Sushames (for the moment Lorraine also fills the state representative from NT role, so she is doubly busy). Jim Thompson takes the more (but not much more) leisurely role of immediate past president. Sheryl Sinclair remains Victorian state representative, Christine O'Callaghan ACT representative and Stephen Ward Queensland state representative. We have several new state representatives; from NSW Christel Doemling, from South Australia Jane Gunn, Wendy Stothers from Tasmania and Margaret Mc Hugh from Western Australia. Finally we have two ongoing co-opted members Rosie Wickert (from NSW) and Karen Dymke (from Victoria). The new committee is looking forward to their work this year, in particular of taking forward the work the strategy subcommittee have done in promoting literacy as a whole of government/whole of life concern.

11. Next VALBEC Committee Meeting

Thursday November 25 at 6.30 pm @ Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 20 Princes Street, Carlton North.
Key agenda item: Strategy for 2005. All VALBEC meetings are open to members.

12. 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.

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

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