

eVALBEC February 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>

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1. Another year begins !!!!!

Welcome to the first eVALBEC for 2008. For many people, the year is well in progress in anticipation of students who will be starting courses in the next couple of weeks. The VALBEC committee will be meeting next week to continue planning the 2008 professional development program activities and the all important 30 years celebrations and conference. The VALBEC history project commissioned in 2007 is coming along and will be published later in the year. The Fine Print Editorial group met last week and has plans for some special features in Fine Print to highlight the achievements of VALBEC and its members over three decades.

We welcome suggestions from you as to how we can best make this year special and to continue to provide high quality services to our members, colleagues and to learners in a wide range of settings.

2. VALBEC Annual Conference 2008

Put these dates in your diary now!!!!

May 15 (afternoon) – Pre-conference workshops

May 15 (evening) - VALBEC 30 year Celebration Dinner

May 16 - Still glides the stream VALBEC conference 2008

3. 30 years of VALBEC Celebration Dinner

May 15 RACV Club Restaurant, 501 Bourke St Melbourne

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 the commitment and work of so many people and to reflect on changes and developments within the sector. There will be much sharing of anecdotes, experiences and laughter over dinner, so mark the date in your diary and spread the word to colleagues and friends.

We are compiling a contacts database to send invitations far and wide so if you would like to be included or know of others who you think would like to be invited please forward this information to conf@valbec.org.au Everyone who normally receives eVALBEC will be given information and we'll post more information on the website and give details through eVALBEC

4. 2008 VALBEC Conference Call for Presentations

Teachers, researchers, program managers, policy analysts, education and industry consultants working in the field of adult literacy and numeracy are invited to express an interest in presentation of

- a paper
- a workshop session
- a panel discussion

Proposals to be submitted by February 29, 2008

Presenters will be notified by **March 8, 2008** of their inclusion in the Conference program.

We are looking for presentations that

- reflect on VALBEC and ALBE experiences
- demonstrate partnerships and best practice in ACE
- showcase learner outcomes
- are interactive and encourage dialogue
- display innovation and flexibility in practice or research
- exemplify adult learning principles in effective practice

- stimulate thought and discussion on relevant issues, theories and practice
- critique changes in state and federal government policies and priorities

More details <http://www.valbec.org.au/conf08/callonline.htm>

Thanks to those who have already submitted proposals.

5. What's the story? The results of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALLS) Survey Forum

This forum held on Tuesday Jan 29 at the CAE was a joint event sponsored by ABS, ACAL, CAE and VALBEC. The 36 people who attended heard from Dave Tout who gave an overview of the survey and the numeracy, problem solving and health literacy sections that were introduced in the 2006 survey. Chris Duncan, Director, National Centre for Education and Training Statistics, ABS spoke in more detail about the process and outcomes of the survey in relation to other countries who participated. Pramod Adhikari, Senior Research Analyst National Centre for Education and Training Statistics, ABS explained more of the statistical detail with comparisons to the results from 1996.

This is important data to be used to influence government to develop and implement policy to address the literacy and numeracy levels of a large proportion of the Australian population. For more information and to download a summary of findings

[http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4228.0Main%20Features22006%20\(Reissue\)?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4228.0&issue=2006%20\(Reissue\)&num=&view=](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4228.0Main%20Features22006%20(Reissue)?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4228.0&issue=2006%20(Reissue)&num=&view=)

Or go to <http://www.abs.gov.au> and typw 4228.0 in the ABS search field.

Check the ACAL website <http://www.acal.edu.au/> and Literacy Link (ACAL's print newsletter) for more information

6. Swinburne's new Literacy and Numeracy Teaching qualification

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

7. The CAE CGEA & VCAL 2007 Summer School

3rd & 4th December CAE, Level 4, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne
\$330.00 including lunch

Choose from a wide range of practical workshops and forums that will enable them to gain practical lesson ideas, insight and understanding of current issues and strategies and an excellent opportunity to build those important networks.

Workshops include

- Difficult kids, tricky situations: tools for conversation building
- New to VCAL? Where and how to start
- New CGEA Units. Learning Plans/Projects
- Connecting maths with reality - teaching VCAL & CGEA numeracy
- Hi, I'm a learning object and I'm free. RU2?
- New to CGEA

For further information and enrolment at <http://www.saalt.com.au/>

8. Member offer – Having Fun with Maths: Activities and games for developing maths language and skills by Dave Tout

Dave's book is finally finished – some of you might remember his popular and fun session at last year's VALBEC conference where he shared some of these new activities. The games and activities focus on the development of fundamental maths skills through co-operative group work and the use of hands-on materials, as well as on having fun in order to build confidence and overcome maths anxiety. There are four sections: co-operative logic problems, dice games, calculator games and word games. Skill areas covered include: numbers and calculations, shape, location and direction and introductory algebra.

Availability: Various outlets including Multifangled P/L, web: <http://www.multifangled.com.au/> and go to the Publications page for an order form; fax: 03 9687 3553; email: multif@multifangled.com.au.

But it is also available from Bookery, CAE, AAMT, MAV.

Cost: \$29.70 plus postage and handling.

VALBEC has three copies of 'Having Fun with Maths' to give away.

If you'd like to go into the draw for a copy of 'Having Fun with Maths' visit our web site and follow the links to 'member offer'. You must be a member. Follow the links from <http://www.valbec.org.au/>

9. Call for Papers - The Australian Library Journal - Special Issue on Community and Workplace Information Literacy

Contact: Helen Partridge Email: h.partridge@qut.edu.au

Full papers due: February 15 2008

This special issue is seeking papers on any aspect of information literacy within community and workplace contexts. Information literacy refers to the ability to access, evaluate and use information from a variety of sources. Whilst information literacy has rapidly become an object of scholarly interest in the education and the library and information science disciplines, the majority of this interest has been confined to educational settings. Little research has been conducted exploring information literacy within the community or workplace setting.

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