

eVALBEC June 2005

VALBEC: Active, Informed Committed Practitioners

This is the electronic newsletter of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council sent on the first of each month to over 800 practitioners.

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1. VALBEC AGM and Twilight Forum – June 1

It's tonight!

Wednesday 7 pm on June 1st, 2005 at Kew Neighbourhood House, 2-12 Derby St, Kew. Melways 46 D5

Light supper provided

● Twilight Forum

Guest Speaker : Dr. Bev Campbell

Acting in the middle: the dialogic struggle for professional identity in adult literacy and basic education in Victoria

Bev has been involved in adult literacy education for the past twenty years, where she worked in the community sector, teaching and delivering professional development programs, and in universities writing and teaching postgraduate courses. Bev was President of VALBEC from 1989-92. Most recently Bev has been engaged in full-time doctoral studies at Monash University. Her study was a history of the ALBE field between 1974-2002. In her presentation Bev will give an overview of her recently completed research project in which she explored the idea of professional identity as a struggle between different eras of pedagogy and contradictory models of the self. She will use interview extracts to illustrate how the formation of professional identity is an on-going, dynamic process, constituted by engagement in multiple discursive and social practices.

● AGM

Members are invited to attend and hear reports on the 2004 VALBEC year and elect their representatives for the coming year. Nomination forms have been sent to all financial members and additional copies are available <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/docs/2005AGMnomforms.pdf>

2. Creating Digital Stories in a day - Using Movie Maker 2.

Friday 8 June 2005 from 10:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Victoria University, D409, 4th Floor Hoadley Building, Cnr of Albert Street and Buckley Street, Footscray Nicholson Campus Melbourne

Would you like to learn how to put together a digital story using Movie Maker? Come along to this session and learn the fundamentals to get you going. You will walk away with a digital story. We will also discuss how you can use digital storytelling as part of your classroom teaching.

Participants need to bring some digital photos/video clips (these can be related to something you are doing in the classroom, or your own personal photos).

You can also bring music on CD (if you wish, although we will have some for you to use) and a sense of enthusiasm to have a go!

For those who came to the last Practical Matters session, this will be a follow on using a new package.

For those who are new to Digital Storytelling - this is only just the beginning!

The Practical Matters session will be conducted by Debbie Soccio from Victoria University.

RSVP to Debbie Soccio at 9919 8762 or email debbie.soccio@vu.edu.au

There are 18 vacancies for this workshop. This is no charge for VALBEC members for this workshop but booking is essential and numbers are strictly limited.

3. Fine Print

The Winter edition of Fine Print will have the following feature articles

- Digital storytelling as a teaching tool by Louisa Ellum
- Writing wrong: Conundrums of literacy and human rights by Catherine Kell
- Professional practice: a personal patchwork by Peter Waterhouse
- Blended learning: getting the best from flexible delivery by Debbie Soccio

4. Free copy (members only) - 'Getting Your Message Across In Print'

VALBEC is pleased to offer **five** free copies of this excellent publication for organisations who want to produce better brochures, letterheads and advertisements. There's nearly fifty pages of clear, concise tips and guidelines for planning and designing –whether you're doing it yourself or talking to a printer/designer.

'Getting Your Message Across In Print' suggests methods of improving communication and image through a better understanding and application of type and design techniques, rather than spending more money.

It gives hints on choice and use of typefaces, photographs, illustrations and other graphics, and stresses the importance of all of these in presenting printed items which will be readable, pleasing to the eye and inviting to clients.

Leon Costermans originally wrote this for campsite operators but the principles apply to all of us who use printed materials.

If you're a member and you'd like a free copy, go to the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au/memboffer.htm> and follow the links.

5. Geelong Initial Literacy Workshop

For educational staff supporting teenage and adult learners with low level literacy skills

Need extra support? Feeling isolated? Let's support one another!

10th June at Gordon TAFE

Outcomes include: Best practice, Resources, Network, Forum

For more information please visit <http://www.initial-literacy.org.au/>

6. Portraits and Visions: keeping the learner in sight – 2005 VALBEC Conference

A great conference – thanks to all our presenters, displays and sponsors.

7. VALBEC Membership – pro rata fees

Thinking of joining? Now's an ideal time as you can get pro rata membership fees in all categories. Individuals engaged full-time in the field can join now for \$60 while part-time staff pay just \$37.50. Renewal falls due in February 2006.

Submit a form online at <http://www.valbec.org.au/05/memb.html> or get a PDF form at

<http://www.valbec.org.au/05/docs/VALBECMembForm2005.pdf>

8. How Lower-Literacy Users use the Web

Jakob Nielsen at <http://www.useit.com> produces free regular newsletters about 'Current Issues in Web Usability' (an excellent general source for those into web design)

A recent edition highlighted how low literacy users "exhibit very different reading behaviors than higher literacy users: they plow (sic) text rather than scan it, and they miss page elements due to a narrower field of view." This particular report is available at

<http://www.useit.com/alertbox/20050314.html>

9. 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 words Unsubscribe in the subject.

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

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