

eVALBEC September 2005

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).

This newsletter is also available in the 'News' section of our web site <http://www.valbec.org.au>

Disclaimer: The activities, goods and services mentioned in eVALBEC are not endorsed by VALBEC in any way. People should make their own judgment about the suitability of each item.

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1. VALBEC Professional Development

Twilight Forum – Tuesday, September 6- Part of Adult Learners' Week 'Tests and ptarmigans'

Peter Lavender, Director for Research, Development and Information, NIACE. (more on NIACE at <http://www.niace.org.uk/>)

North Fitzroy Star, 325 St Georges Road SOUTH, Fitzroy North 6.15 pm for a 6.30 pm start

Fee: Free of charge but it's essential you register with VALBEC info@valbec.org.au by Friday Sept 2 as numbers are limited.

Peter will present his observations about government targets in the UK and national tests in relation to the 'adult basic skills strategy' in England. The national targets have been designed for the best of reasons but there are unintended consequences and some poor effects. He calls this 'the ptarmigan effect'. He will also draw a parallel with the 'Education for All' UNESCO program. EFA also relied on the achievement of numerical targets which have led to distortions in educational systems, as evidenced by Harvey Goldstein in a forthcoming publication. Peter will conclude with a call for a balance of ways of measuring achievement for learners and a more flexible use of opportunities that make a link between formative and summative assessment.

(What's a ptarmigan. See http://www.arkive.org/species/ARK/birds/Lagopus_mutus/more_info.html)

2. VALBEC Spring Forum "Assessment into Practice"

Friday, September 30, Victoria University, Buckley Street, Footscray

9.15 Welcome

9.30 am

Assessment: practice, purpose and possibility - Pauline O'Maley

Pauline will talk about the relationship between a conceptualisation of literacy as situated sociocultural practice and assessment. Our attitudes, approaches to and enactment of assessment in the adult literacy and numeracy classroom tells our students much about our conceptions of literacy and what we value (and by association what they should value).

Building Assessment into Our Classroom Practice: Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre and North Melbourne Language and Literacy

Sarah Deasey and **Jane Lucas** will talk about this joint project (funded by ACFE) to explore language and literacy course assessment procedures and processes. They looked at formative and summative teacher assessment, student self- assessment and record keeping models. The teachers worked as a group, and documented their "on the ground" classroom practice and developed a range of assessment tools. These feed into a model for assessment that takes into account the slow but incremental progress of literacy learners at CGEA Level 1 and Introductory, and the CELL.

Morning tea 11.00- 11.30

11.30 am - 12.30 pm

Language, Values, Community: a workshop in practical rhetoric - Rob McCormack

This experiential workshop will explore some of the teaching/learning strategies of traditional rhetoric as an apprenticeship into the practices of citizenship and community.

The VALBEC Spring Forum is free but you must register your attendance with VALBEC at

info@valbec.org.au

Room D401 Level 4, Hoadley Building, Footscray Campus, Victoria University, Nicholson St, Footscray
Metered Parking (\$1.00 per hour) is available around the Footscray Nicholson Street Campus, in Albert Street, Bristow Street and limited parking in Pilgrim Street. Limited metered parking is available in a university campus parking space located in Pilgrim Street.

3. VALBEC Practical matters - 'Adult learning and learning styles'

Friday October 21 10am – 12.30pm

Longbeach Place Community Centre 15 Chelsea Road, Chelsea

Presented by Robyn Hodge

Engaging learners in conversations about how they learn, and how they can **learn better** is a valuable way of challenging learner expectations about what they do and why they do it in the adult education classroom.

The workshop will discuss

- definitions of learning and adult experiences from teacher and student perspectives.
- conditions of learning for adults and teaching implications
- personal education philosophies/positions
- identifying different learning styles
- developing activities and/or conversations to support varied learning styles

To register contact Josie Rose rose.josie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au <<mailto:rose.josie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au>>

This Practical Matters will be presented by Robyn Hodge. Robyn has worked in adult education for about 15 years. She has worked in ACE in Melbourne's West, and was lucky enough to see the best of ACE throughout Victoria during 6 years at ARIS. She edits VALBEC's journal Fine Print and is on the VALBEC Executive.

4. Office Professionals' Conference – "Knowledge Management: Well Informed. Well Directed"

Tuesday, September 27, 2005 Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE, Epping Campus

The conference will highlight latest trends in knowledge management and self-development with a focus on the ever-changing role of the Office Professional.

Keynote speakers:

- Microsoft the upcoming products for both corporate/work and home environment - wireless networks, Windows Media Centre

- CK Recruits on the Role of the Admin and how it has changed.

Workshops:

Setting Goals & Career Paths, Stress Management in the Workplace, Business Writing, Creating a Web Site, Speaking with Confidence, Corporate Image etc., plus networking opportunities and much more!

Cost: \$49.50 incl GST

Full program and registration - Rita Hawkins ritah-as@nmit.vic.edu.au or Ph 9269 1081.

5. Launching the ACAL Literacy Live Meeting room

Tuesday September 13 4:30pm – 5:30pm

ACAL will be launching its virtual meeting room with a panel discussion *Cool Results in eLearning* This online event is part of the National Flexible Learning Framework. The session will be held at <http://67.19.1.138/v4/login.asp?r=33662592&p=0>

Instructions are on the Forum site -

<http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=221>

Scroll down to 'How to log into the meeting room for the first time' to get detailed instructions.

You need to download a small piece of software (the instructions will take you through that) and you need a headset (about \$10-12 from Officeworks).

6. ACAL 'Literacy Live' electronic newsletter

ACAL (<http://www.acal.edu.au>) have launched a quarterly electronic newsletter about national adult literacy matters. Readers of eVALBEC will automatically receive a copy. Eventually you can subscribe to it. To go on the list send an email to acal@pacific.net.au

Watch your electronic mail box for the first issue being distributed about now!

7. NCVER 2005 adult literacy research program funding

We have been advised that the NCVER 2005 adult literacy research program funding round is now open.

An information kit, including a template for proposals, can be obtained from the NCVER website

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/tenders.html>.

The closing date for submissions is Monday 26 September 2005.

8. International Exchange

A literacy development worker from North Ayrshire county of Scotland, UK is interested in creating an e-mail forum between Scottish

learners and Australian adult literacy learners.

Many of their courses have recently included the integration of literacies and ICT, with an interest shown in introductory computing and e-mail & internet basics.

The person, Sharon, thought it could be interesting to maybe have learners communicating their e-mail skills to e-mail buddies abroad.

If you're interested contact Sharon McNamara ICT Literacies Development Worker Focus Learning Centre Saltcoats,

North Ayrshire
Scotland via email smcnamara@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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10. Haven't seen Fine Print?

We're offering a free copy of this issue of Fine Print to 10 people. To be in the running, visit the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> and follow the links from Fine Print Offer.

Coming up in the Spring edition of Fine Print

- Songs and stories from the field by Beverley Campbell
- The road to mobile learning by Caryl Oliver
- Doing sums I've never done before by Ellen Lawson and David van Heurck
- Urban Adventures in VCAL by Michael Cole and Michele Farrar

Back copies of Fine Print can be downloaded at <http://www.valbec.org.au>

11. Takeaway2 Conference Handouts

Many of the sessions at the takeaway2 Conference produced useful handouts for participants. Some are available at <http://www.bassinternational.com.au/takeaway>.

12. Next VALBEC Committee meeting

The next meeting of the VALBEC Committee is scheduled for 6.30 pm on Thursday, September 15 at the Royal Standard Hotel, Corner of William and Walsh Street West Melbourne. Members are welcome. Please confirm your attendance in advance.

13. 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.

E-mail: info@valbec.org.au

Web: <http://www.valbec.org.au>

Postal: Box 861 Springvale South VIC 3172

Ph: 03 9546 6892

Fax: 03 9546 0421