

eVALBEC December 2007

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>

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 Annual Conference 2008

•• Still Glides The Stream Celebrating 30 years of VALBEC ••

Put these dates in your diary now!!!!

May 15 – pre-conference workshops (afternoon)

May 16 Celebrating 30 years of VALBEC

See next item

2. 2008 VALBEC Conference Call for Presentations – out next week

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

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

Next week you'll be invited to suggest papers and presentations for the Conference. Watch your inbox.

3. ALLS Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey

On November 28 the results of the Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALLS) were released in Australia. Check the ABS website for the survey summary data <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

ACAL, VALBEC and other state organizations will be lobbying politicians to raise awareness across governments and in the wider community of the need to expand funding and provision of language, literacy and numeracy in Australia.

VALBEC sent this letter to 11 Federal House of Representatives candidates prior to the election.

Check the ACAL website <http://www.acal.edu.au/> and Literacy Link for more information and how you can become involved.

Dave Tout, ACAL spokesperson, was interviewed 7 times on Wednesday about the ALLS data and VALBEC Committee member and CAE teacher, Dianne Parslow was interviewed by Ernie Sigley on 3AW on Thursday to comment on the situation in Victoria. Dianne was also reported in The Herald Sun. See it at

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,22839489-2862,00.html>

4. Fine Print

Fine Print is provided free to members; the next issue is being printed now.

Contents of Fine Print Summer edition '07

- 'Reflections on the power of AND: the 2007 International Adult Literacy Conference' a comprehensive overview of the recent conference by Corinna Ridley
- 'Partnerships for social capital outcomes: literacy and the health sector' by Stephen Black
- 'An organic association: the VALBEC history project' by Beverley Campbell
- Practical Matters has a musical theme with articles on community and classroom singing by Jane Coker, Chris Falk and Lyndal Chambers
- Technology Matters continues with the latest instalment on using Powerpoint – by Debbie Soccio
- Open Forum includes Helen Macrae's opening address to the Women in Adult & Vocational Education's national

conference and Jacinta Agostinelli's reflections on changes to the CGEA

- In What's Out There, Robyn Hodge reviews *Fancy Footwork*, a collection of writing by adult educators and Debbie Soccio's review of *Read Series Two*, a set of five books for adult literacy and ESL learners.
- In Policy Update, Liz Davidson examines the ESL Framework reaccreditation due in 2008
- In Foreign Correspondence Helen Keane writes about teaching ESL in China
- In Beside the Whiteboard, Dawn Doherty reflects on her teaching years in the corrections system.

5. Another year comes to a close.... Time for thank yous

Well here we are in December again and so it is time to send out some thank yous!!

Thank you to all the members who supported VALBEC this year by paying their fees, presenting at or attending our professional development program, writing for Fine Print and keeping in touch through this monthly newsletter.

Thank you to the VALBEC committee for their commitment and tireless activity to make it all happen – attending the monthly meetings, organizing and attending professional development activities, representing VALBEC on reference groups, committees and boards, working on Fine Print and many other things along the way. We have a great team ably assisted by the multi talented Don MacDowall and thanks to him for keeping us on track!

Thanks to ACFE for their funding support, liaison and networking opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to working with you in 2008 – out thirtieth year.

Lynne Matheson and Ann Haynes

(Editor's unauthorised note: The VALBEC committee are volunteers with busy professional and personal lives who give very generously to something they feel passionate about – adult literacy. I dips me lid.)

6. NCVER Research Overview

The latest suite of the popular Adult literacy research overviews is now available and likely to be of interest to your members. The 2007 suite covers:

- * Community adult language, literacy and numeracy provision in Australia: Diverse approaches
- * Creating learning spaces for refugees: The role of multicultural organisations in Australia
- * Provision and development: Exploring employers' views of literacy, numeracy and employability
- * Sudanese refugee learners: Classroom management strategies to address their English language needs
- * Thinking beyond numbers: Learning numeracy for the future workplace

The suite can be downloaded, free of charge, from <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1485.html>

Previous year's Research overviews are also available from the above address.

Further information Anna.Payton@ncver.edu.au

7. ACE Longitudinal Survey report

The Final report of this long awaited research study is now available on the ACFE website.

<http://www.acfe.vic.gov.au/abtresearch.htm>

8. Member Offer - Series3 PageTurners

A brand new series of these popular books is now available!

Series3 PageTurners has 10 new, easy to read stories with entertaining pictures to aid understanding. This series also has audio CDs to help reading and listening. Suitable for beginning readers aged 15+.

Published by PRACE- a community education provider.

To order Email to: office@prace.vic.edu.au or visit the PageTurners website: <http://pageturners.prace.vic.edu.au>

Or Phone PRACE: (03) 9462 6077

ABN: 93 736 262 050

VALBEC has two sets of Series 3 PageTurners with CDs to give away.

Go to the VALBEC web site www.valbec.org.au and click on the member offer link

If you'd like to go into the draw for a set of 'Series 3 PageTurners' visit our web site and follow the links to 'member offer'. You must be a member and if you have a preference, let us know. Follow the links from

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

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11. Contact VALBEC

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