

eVALBEC November 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). It is also available in the 'News' section of our web site <http://www.valbec.org.au>

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1. Online Professional Development

ACAL offers some online professional development as part of the National Flexible Learning Framework. The session will be held at <http://literacylive.ivocalize.net/?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).

November 29 at 5pm EST

LearnScope: workbased funding for upskilling teams in ICT use

- what is available? how do I apply? what sort of projects can we do?

December (tbc) - Digital Storytelling - how literacy practitioners are using the methodology nation-wide

2. CMM CGEA Forum

Friday 18 November 2005 2-4 pm

Open forum on the redevelopment and reaccreditation of the Certificates in General Education for Adults. There will also be a demonstration of an online program which we will use to enable discussion and collect feedback on the curriculum.

Venue: Newport Campus, Victoria University, 80 Champion Road Newport in Building A. Melways Ref Map 55 H6.

Please email Vi.Kacevska@vu.edu.au to indicate your intention to attend.

For more information about the CGEA, contact Lynne Fitzpatrick 9919 8375 or Liz Davidson 9919 8327

3. Fine Print – in the forthcoming Summer edition

- Adult Learning: Removing barriers, not creating them by John Cross
- Identifying and accommodating preferred learning styles by Marilyn Allen et al
- Epideictic Discourse: The Rhetoric of Memory, Praise and Hope by Rob McCormack
- Literacy support and Aged Care students by Kerrin Pryor

4. Advance advance notice for the 2006 VALBEC Conference

Mark in your diaries 'VALBEC Conference' May 5, 2006 at William Angliss Institute of TAFE

More details next month.

5. Successful first VALBEC online meeting

Our regular monthly VALBEC committee meeting was held online in the ACAL sponsored Literacy Live meeting room on Thursday October 20th. The Literacy Live meeting room is a virtual synchronous meeting room that enables participants to talk to others via the web as well as type messages and view a common file in the private shared space. It was a new experience for most of the 8 committee members who made it into the virtual room at 6.30pm from their respective homes or the computer training room at Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, where 4 of us tuned in. The meeting went quite smoothly and finished earlier than usual. Discussion was kept to the topic and business conducted efficiently, with the added advantage of the minutes typed as we went and sent out the next day. Feedback was generally positive but it was felt that the collegiality of face to face meetings and the quality of communication was somewhat diminished in the online environment. As all our committee members have busy work and personal lives plus the regional committee members have several hours of travel each month it was worth trialing the online format and we will probably schedule another online meeting next year. Thanks to ACAL and Robyn Jay for the opportunity to use the Literacy Live meeting room.

The room is available for use by any adult literacy team Australia wide. Contact Robyn robyn.jay@det.nsw.edu.au for more information.

6. ACAL Forum Rethinking literacies: literacy and numeracy across the domains of social life

The forum in Brisbane was a successful day with over 85 participants from around the nation and all parts of Queensland. The program focused on essential skills and how literacy is defined as part of a possible framework for essential skills for the 21st century. The Victorian state representative, Lynne Matheson attended the AGM and the subsequent planning day that examined the workplan and strategic directions for 2005/2006.

More information will become available on the ACAL website and in the next issue of Literacy Link.

7. VALBEC Member Offer – Narkaling Reading Kits

Narkaling Reading Kits are proven to be a great help with reading/listening skills for all people with reading difficulties – for example ESL students and adult literacy students. These kits are narrated at a range of slow speeds from 40wpm to 120wpm. Reading Kits contain a copy of the book with a cassette/CD. The range of 320 titles available at <http://www.narkaling.com.au>

Narkaling have generously made available some copies of 'Unusual Lives, Five Extraordinary Australians' at levels 0 & 3. If you'd like to go into a member draw for a copy, go to the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> and follow the links to 'Member Offer'.

See more about Narkaling at <http://www.valbec.org.au> or contact marionslany@narkaling.com.au

8. CAE still selling adult literacy, language and numeracy resources.

Although CAE Press has closed down, the CAE is still going to sell the most popular of its language, literacy and numeracy resources. To purchase the ones being maintained for sale you can visit the new SAALT (old ARIS) website where there is a list of the resources plus access to order forms etc. The web address is <http://www.aris.com.au/resources.htm>

Many of the popular former CAE Press and Language Australia publications in the areas of languages and cultures are to be distributed by Bookery of Carlton.

9. VALBEC Member Offer – showcasing a new CAE resource

'A Word on Words' by Pam Peters, published in 2005 by CAE Press - CAE have made four free copies available to VALBEC members

Ever wondered whether you should fill 'in' a form or fill it 'out'? Why it's 'hippopotamuses', not 'hippopotami'? And how do new words make it into the dictionary, anyway? A Word on Words explores real English and real language usage in an engaging and accessible way. Helping readers to understand the puzzles of contemporary English, dictionary editor and linguistics specialist Pam Peters opens the door to a wealth of words and expressions. The book tracks changing elements of grammar and new language and new language phenomena, looking at language in the context of our culture and history.

If you have a natural interest and curiosity in words, or if you want to improve your writing and hone your your skills, A Word on Words offers insights into the resources of the English language.

"Pam Peters is ... a delight to read, informative, and sensible... I don't need to tell you to enjoy this book - you will."

Kel Richards, WordWatch, ABC NewsRadio

CAE Press have made several copies available top VALBEC members. If you'd like to go into the draw for this member offer, go to the VALBEC web site <http://www.valbec.org.au> and follow the links to 'Member Offer'.

10. Next VALBEC Committee meeting

The next meeting of the VALBEC Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 17. Members welcome - contact VALBEC for venue details.

11. 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.

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