



L-R, Karise Eden, Jenny Macaffer and Brian Nankervis at ALW launch

# QUEST

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## It's never too late to celebrate adult learning

Interrupted schooling, undiagnosed conditions which made previous learning too hard, and teachers who never gave up were threads which ran across all speakers at the launch of this year's Adult Learners Week – with all living and breathing embodiments of the Week's *It's never too late* theme.

The event started with an evocative performance by **Brent Watkins**, didge player, before MC **Brian Nankervis** talked about how he has needed to be prepared to take on new challenges to stay in the entertainment industry. 'It is never too late,' he said. 'It is always time to make a start, to have a crack.'

In addition to a beautiful Welcome to Country which included the importance of cultural knowledges and Indigenous languages, **Mandy Nicholson**, Wurundjeri-willam artist and Traditional Custodian of Melbourne and surrounds, spoke about her own return to study after a 10 year gap.

Ultimately, Mandy said she kept on returning to study because she wants to 'make a change and leave a legacy'.

Much-loved author, **Jackie French** AM, told attendees that she feels 'profound joy' that teachers today have the techniques needed to teach people to read 'at any age'.

Diagnosed with dyslexia as an adult, Jackie said she doubts she would have even tried to be an author if she had not had the support and dedication of teachers willing to grapple with her inability to spell and, often, indecipherable, writing.

She 'learnt to cope' and, luckily for all her children and adult readers, went on to write more than 300 books, many of which have sold millions of copies and won more than 60 awards in Australia and internationally.

(Story continues on p. 3)

Coping with the inevitable age differences as a mature age student, Mandy also had to seek out subjects where she felt culturally safe. Mandy talked about the need for all education providers to ensure that any course relating to First Nations people draws on First Nations' perspectives and educators. 'That is one big gap that needs to be filled,' she told the audience.



Mandy Nicholson

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# Message from the CEO



Our recent Adult Learners Week served as a platform for local communities to highlight and celebrate the ACE sector's invaluable contributions.

In January 2024, a five-year National Skills Agreement is set to begin. Recent efforts, including the release of the Australian Government's White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities, known as 'Working Future' have been focused on shaping the nation's future labour market. This roadmap outlines practical steps and reforms aiming for full employment, job security, wage growth, enhanced productivity, skill fulfilment, and the removal of employment barriers.

Although lifelong learning is referenced in the White Paper, specific policies in this regard are absent, and the role of Adult and Community Education (ACE) is not included. The directions presented include expanding Free TAFE, the rollout of Jobs and Skills Councils, aligning VET and universities, revamping foundation skills (SEE program into two streams including one for First Nations), replacing the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) with a JSA study on LLN, and introducing a National Skills Passport system.

In contrast, our recent Adult Learners Week 2023 engaged a diverse audience with over 500 exciting events, all under the inspiring theme of #ItsNeverTooLate. These events ranged from advanced English classes to cybercrime prevention workshops, resume and job application guidance sessions, and taste tester days, where participants explored new courses such as fire extinguisher safety and working in confined spaces.

Our 2023 launch marked our first in-person gathering since COVID-19. We also offered a livestream option to enable people across the country to share in the celebrations. Brian Nankervis, our MC, guided the proceedings, with guest appearances by author Jackie French and musician Karise Eden. They shared their personal stories of how they have overcome challenges in their learning journeys.

We are proud of our 2023 Learner Ambassadors, and we extend a special acknowledgment to our ALW scholarship recipients which you can read more about in this edition. Selecting the three best event winners was a tough task, but we ultimately recognised Westgate Community Initiatives Group, Tamworth Community College, and Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre.

During ALW, I had the privilege of visiting Parliament House in Canberra with Hayley, one of our scholarship recipients from Canberra Institute of Technology, alongside a previous ALW Canberra scholarship recipient, James (pictured here with me). Together, we met with the Minister for Skills and Training, Brendan O'Connor, who acknowledged ALW in his national statement and expressed his passion for lifelong learning. Our learners were thrilled to experience Parliament for the first time and to meet the minister in his office later.

This year's ALW drew significant interest from the media, particularly in relation to our theme, 'It's Never Too Late' with radio coverage being especially notable. President Kathleen Priestly and Vice President Annette Foley conducted numerous interviews, as did the Learner Ambassadors. However, a standout moment for me was a visit to the ABC studio in Melbourne, where Learner Ambassador Sunil and I spoke live on air with Trevor Chappell, who displayed a keen interest in adult learning.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all adult and community education providers, adult learners, and volunteers who generously shared their events and stories. Special thanks also go out to the participants, ALA Board, and our dedicated staff, whose support made the launch a great success. It was also heartening to witness so many individuals and organisations coming together through our #ALW2023 social media campaign.

Jenny Macaffer, CEO





## ALW Ambassadors tell their learning stories

(story continued from p. 1)

While becoming the inaugural winner of The Voice Australia in 2012 set singer and songwriter, **Karise Eden**, up for a long career in music, she continued to feel that she needed more education. Having left school at Year 7 because of family circumstances, and now the mother of two children under 10, Karise is studying online through TAFE Queensland.

Karise believes that her studies are also helping her songwriting. 'I think it has helped me with the way I write, the way I express myself and it has given me confidence in who I am and what I'm doing'. Karise performed a beautiful version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, one of the songs which helped her to win The Voice.

After the launch, Karise and ALA CEO Jenny Macaffer spoke to *The Guardian* - [theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/oct/06/the-voice-australia-first-original-winner-karise-eden](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/oct/06/the-voice-australia-first-original-winner-karise-eden)

Adult Learning Australia President, **Kathleen Priestley**, returned to study with a young child and another on the way after being retrenched two decades ago. Studying adult community and vocational education, Kathleen now manages eight public libraries across Tasmania and loves that she can be involved 'every day in changing

people's lives' through adult education.

Kathleen always encourages people to not be put off by previous negative educational experiences. 'Learning as an adult is a totally different experience than learning as a child', she said.

Minister for Skills and Training, **Brendan O'Connor**, thanked everyone for their commitment to adult education and acknowledged the important role of Adult Learners Week in 'highlighting the power of knowledge acquisition and opportunities available, particularly for adults who are thinking about re-engaging with learning after facing challenges and barriers'.

With the OECD estimating that 3 million Australian adults lack core literacy, numeracy and digital literacy skills, Minister O'Connor said that the Government understands the importance of such foundation skills. 'Not only are they fundamental to education and work, they are fundamental to life,' he said.

## Adult Learners Week Learning Ambassadors

Three 2023 Adult Learners Week Learning Ambassadors also told their stories during the launch.

**Sunil Abbott** said he was 'very proud' to have been chosen as one of the ambassadors.

Sunil migrated from India to Australia with a strong grasp of English and long experience working for multinational businesses. He had, however, no hands-on experience of computers and technology. Taking up managing front of house of a restaurant where his children were the chefs, Sunil had never encountered an EFTPOS machine, for example.

After a short time, Sunil decided that he needed further study and found his way to the Wyndham Community and Education Centre. Initially learning



Jackie French AM wished everyone a happy ALW



## Commemorating ALW 2023

basic and then more advanced computer skills, Sunil moved onto short courses in citizenship and health. 'Because I was always passionate about education, I was always being invited to join other opportunities,' he said.

Sunil now runs two busy restaurants, but has not lost his passion for learning. Having completed a Certificate III in Commercial Cookery, he is now undertaking a Certificate IV so that he too can work as a professional chef.

With connections and confidence from his learning, Sunil has also set up Club 60, which provides opportunities for older migrants to connect and learn

about navigating Australian systems. More than 700 people have been involved with Club 60, which gives Sunil great joy.

English-born **James** was able to recover from addiction when he moved to Melbourne and went into rehab. Living in crisis accommodation afterwards, James decided he didn't want to return to construction. Instead, he enrolled to study a Certificate IV in Community Services, fuelled by a desire to 'use my own experience to help others'.

'School wasn't really for me,' James said. 'I was never really interested.' So, when returning to study, James decided he needed to study something he would enjoy, as well as equip him for a new working life.

After struggling through school and being labelled below average academically, an adult ADHD diagnosis made a lot of sense to **Deanie De Boer**. It also gave her the confidence to try education again.

And that was very much the right decision for Deanie, who completed a Business/Administration course and then – with the help of her local library in Tasmania – successfully undertook an online Behavioural Studies Degree.

Deanie is now working towards a Master's Degree, while running her own counselling business. She told the audience that she thinks the best outcomes from her adult education journey have been the 'confidence building' and the 'lifelong friends'.

'Leaving school left me with so many stories that weren't true about myself and so I've been able to challenge those stories. For a long time it was tears driving to university, but then it was excitement.'



Brent Watkins of Culture Evolves welcomed in the audience with a didge performance.



# Inspiring ALW Scholarship Winners

Meet our five outstanding adult learners who are this year's scholarship winners.



ALA Vice President Annette Foley congratulates Tim Purvis

## Tim Purvis - Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House

Tim Purvis couldn't wait to leave school at 15, Tim's excitement about the further study he can now do is very easy to see.

Diagnosed with ADHD and autism as an adult, Tim, 43, spent most of his life after school 'falling in and out' of work rather than following a plan. After an apprenticeship, he spent 20 years in the coffee industry, including a decade running his own coffee machine repair business. A stint at Bunnings followed before his diagnoses led to him rethinking possible study.

Tim says that included in his ADHD report was a note saying that he could only focus for more than 20 minutes if the topic was of interest to him. Taking this as his yardstick, Tim decided that he would see if his interest in gardening helped him return to study. And he found that it made all the difference.

Successfully completing a horticulture course at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, Tim has since completed several other related courses and is currently completing a Permaculture Design course. He has joined a local beekeeping group to 'learn everything before I keep bees myself' and is keen to play a big role in building a new community garden at the Neighbourhood House.

His five children are currently the main beneficiaries of his cooking – 'they love what I cook, so that is really nice' – but it may be that others get to enjoy his passion and new skills in the future.

And as a 'real foodie' who loves cooking and is interested in growing food, Tim plans to use his scholarship to move into cookery related courses.

## Rebecca Symes – 26TEN

Rebecca Symes used to avoid any form of writing because she didn't want people to be aware how difficult it was for her. However, in her mid-20s and newly engaged, she wanted to do something so that she could be more independent.

Going along with a friend to a 26TEN program, Rebecca started her journey to learning how to read and write – and she has never looked back.

Rebecca was 'very excited' when she found out she was a 2023 Scholarship winner and hopes to use her prize to take on a barista course. Rebecca's scholarship was made available through the Learning Changes Lives Foundation.

A Launceston resident, Rebecca, 28, works on her literacy skills each Wednesday morning with Sharon Wagner from the Northern Suburbs Community Centre.



Rebecca Symes





Hayley meets Minister Brendan O'Connor

Sharon has become a trusted advisor and Rebecca plans to chat to Sharon about her plans to do a barista course. Rebecca says that Sharon keeps her moving forward, often throwing in a surprise spelling test to keep her on her toes!

Rebecca keeps a written record of her daily activities and appointments. And she has started recording her thoughts and ideas in a journal – an interest she shares with her future mother-in-law.

A much more confident person now, Rebecca has been able to achieve her goals through hard work and perseverance. And she has a wedding to look forward to next year too.

## Hayley Drummond – Canberra Institute of Technology

Hayley Drummond said she felt ecstatic at the idea of being able to study for a Certificate III in Individual Support.

Hayley's school education was not a happy experience, with disruptions caused by bullying and changes of school. However, she appreciated the help of a support worker and now hopes to take on such a role herself.

'Having autism myself, I feel like I could provide a unique perspective and help other people. I also think that sometimes it takes someone who understands what others are going through to make things change.'

After COVID prevented Hayley finishing her Year 10 studies, she enrolled in a Foundation Skills course at the Canberra Institute of Technology. Initially concerned that her literacy and computer skills and previous mental health issues would prevent her being able to cope, not only did Hayley thrive, she also felt confident enough to help other students.

'I didn't realise how much better schooling as a young adult would be compared to high school and I didn't know how good learning could be until I came here.'

## Darren Kelly – Read Write Now

After leaving school at 17 in his native Ireland and working in construction, repeated back injuries and surgery forced Darren to look for a different working future. A history of alcohol and drug addiction fed a desire to help others in a similar position, so he enrolled to study for a Certificate IV in Community Services.

Realising that he didn't have the computer skills he needed, however, he sought out such training through Perth's Read Write Now.

Working in a drug and alcohol detox centre after his course, Darren felt that he wanted to be able to do more



Darren Kelly





Our ALW launch audience

to help his clients. So, he took the next step and enrolled in a Bachelor Degree in Counselling.

Early on in the course, Darren succeeded in passing two online reading and writing assessments that he would never have thought possible only a short time before.

From being unsure how to use technology, Darren – through persistence and seeking help – became a student able to complete complex essays and use technology with confidence.

Darren has successfully passed every unit he has studied to date and is now in the final weeks of his three year degree.

And while he has decided he is 'not really an academic kind of guy', he may go on to do a Masters in the future. In the meantime, his scholarship will enable him to study some shorter, more targeted courses in areas such as mental health and working with young people.

As Darren says, the 'world is my oyster right now'.

## Mikayla Quor – Deniliquin TAFE

Mikayla was 'very appreciative at just being nominated' for a scholarship, so she was 'shocked' to find out she had been successful.

In 2019, at age 15, Mikayla started a Certificate II in Career Pathways at Deniliquin TAFE because she felt disconnected from school. Adapting well to the new environment, she proved to be a good student, and completed several units.

After having her first child in 2020, Mikayla enrolled in a Statement of Attainment in Foundation Skills Support and completed units in digital technology and writing in preparation for completing Year 11 and 12 equivalent courses.

With her second child born in 2022, Mikayla combined

a very busy life with completing pathways to further education and preparation for tertiary education.

While Mikayla is taking a gap year now, she remains motivated by her desire to complete a bachelor's degree in a field in which she can work and provide for her family. Her father is also a motivating factor – he completed Year 11 and 12 equivalent courses at the age of 44 and went on to complete another qualification.

And while Mikayla is a single mother of two very young children with health conditions which require extra time and attention, she is keeping focused on her long term goals.

Mikayla's scholarship was made available through the Learning Changes Lives Foundation.

Visit [learningchangeslives.org.au](https://learningchangeslives.org.au) to see more of the Foundation's impact.



Mikayla Quor



# Telling learning stories to encourage others



L-R, James, Grahame, Deanie, Belinda, Terrence, Sunil and Trudy

Every year, a small group of extra-impressive learners are chosen as Adult Learners Week Ambassadors. The inspiring stories of these learners provide fantastic examples of how people can change their lives through learning.

**Sunil, Deanie** and **James** took part in the Adult Learners Week launch (see earlier story). Here are the other 2023 Ambassadors.

**Grahame Neville** worked in the same laundry job at his local hospital for almost 30 years. He wasn't able to get a promotion because of his difficulty with literacy and numeracy.

In 2021, Grahame decided to get help with reading and maths through the Tamworth Community College. With new skills and confidence, he then went on to complete a Certificate II in Work and Vocational Pathways and Computing for Work. He is still studying, with a new focus on leadership and development.

Fans of the SBS Lost for Words series might recognise Grahame, who appeared on the show in 2022 – the same year that he won the Community Colleges Australia Student of the Year Award.

Behind in reading and writing due to illness-related absences during his primary schooling, **Terrence Lennon-Wingfield** dropped out of high school and started looking for work. Picking up odd jobs between stretches of unemployment, Terrence realised that his literacy skills were holding him back.

In 2020, tired of struggling to read text messages, fill out job applications and rely on others to read for him, Terrence enrolled in a Certificate 1 in Access to Vocational pathways course at Taoundi Aboriginal College in Port Adelaide.

With improved skills and confidence, Terrence

completed basic infection control training and became a volunteer COVID 19 Marshall during the pandemic. He then completed the Certificate III in Community Services in 2021.

And Terrence's advice to others thinking about adult learning? 'You've got to ask questions and be prepared to make mistakes.'

**Trudy Shan Walder** left school at the beginning of Year 11 and, in her 20s, experienced domestic violence and injuries which will remain throughout her life. Despite facing obstacles, Trudy enrolled into an Aged and Disability Care program and worked so hard to pursue her studies, she was given the nickname, 'Dr Trudy'.

In 2019, Trudy undertook Foundation Studies and later enrolled in Psychology at the University of South Australia. She also learned to play the saxophone and now plays with a local band. When she finishes her psychology course, Trudy wants to work in education so she can support other students achieve their own learning goals.

**Belinda Flavel**, a West Australian single mum to a daughter, started university at 35. Belinda was unable to finish Year 10 after a horse riding accident left her in a coma and months of rehabilitation.

After her long recovery, Belinda worked in retail and as a bookkeeper but struggled with mental health issues and alcoholism. She eventually completed certificates in bookkeeping, OHS and computing and, at 31, decided that a Diploma of Community Services would help her to help other people.

Since graduating, she has established a counselling practice that combines equine assisted and play therapy for people of all ages.



# Celebrating learners and learning – ALW event winners



BCAL learners in action

Around Australia, hundreds of events celebrated Adult Learners Week in libraries, councils, neighbourhood houses and centres, TAFES and community colleges. All the events focused on the benefits and joys of lifelong learning.

The three awards for 'Best ALW Events' went to WCIG (Westgate Community Initiatives Group), Bass Coast Adult Learning and Tamworth Community College.

## **WCIG (Westgate Community Initiatives group)**

As a not for profit working to empower people to meet their goals, WCIG teachers are always looking for new ways to make learning fun, challenging and effective.

During ALW, teachers Alan Dosky and Chinh Nguyen decided to take their English as an Additional Language (EAL) students out of the classroom.

As Branka Stevanovic, WCIG RTO Training Manager says 'Learning knows no boundaries or age restrictions. We wanted to celebrate the fact that it's never too late to embrace new knowledge and skills'.

Chinh took his eager learners to the local Sunshine Library, where they explored the resources available to enhance their learning journey. These resources ranged from printed to digital tools and students were amazed at the wealth of information available to assist them as they learn.

Meanwhile, Alan took students from his St Albans and Werribee classes to their local park. Alan's students have chosen the phrase 'Use it or lose it' to motivate their learning so the 'park offered the perfect backdrop for a leisurely walk and a delightful picnic where our avid learners got to apply their language skills in various conversations while enjoying the sunshine,' Branka said.

This day out showcased to students the power of continuous learning and gave them a chance to embrace the great outdoors as a new classroom.

## **Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre**

Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre (BCAL) wanted ALW to be an opportunity for the centre, its members and visitors to 'live the philosophy of lifelong learning'.

Centre Manager, David Leslie, said 'students of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and futures came together to celebrate each other'.

BCAL is a community-based RTO which provides pre-accredited and accredited education and training in classrooms and online.

On Tuesday, 5 September, students undertaking the Centre's award winning music program performed to a very appreciative audience. Facilitated by professional musicians, radio presenters and industry experts, this course includes weekly music sessions, excursions to music venues and opportunities to perform and appear on community radio.

NDIS Capacity Building participants then cooked an array of delicious food, which was complimented by



WCIG learners at their local library





Tamworth Community College encouraged all to test out their fire extinguishing skills

home cooked delicacies brought in Migrant English students.

The following day, demonstrations showcased the talents of students from the BCAL Horticulture and Hair and Beauty courses.

What made Melissa Harrison, BCAL Capacity Building Coordinator, so proud was that students took these opportunities to share with each other what they had learnt and to even engage in some hands on trying.

She said it was amazing to see a '16 year old salon assistant student delighting in the cooking tips of a middle aged NDIS participant. Or a young IT student getting his perfectly manicured hands dirty, potting seedlings with the Horticulture group'.

### Tamworth Community College

Tamworth Community College (TCC) wanted Adult Learners Week to be an opportunity for local community members to feel encouraged to drop in, look around and perhaps get a taste for something they might like to learn or study.

The College's Open Day on Monday, 4 September, was set up to be a casual event where prospective students could try their hand at the coffee machines and enjoy a free coffee, test out their skills using fire extinguishers, try on the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and even climb into the trailer on site which students use during Heights and Confined Spaces training.

Acting CEO, Jade Vermeer, says there has been a significant increase in people experiencing anxiety and mental health problems in the local community, so the College strives to be as welcoming and supportive as possible.

'We have a lot of young and mature aged people

seeking support to enter the classroom, so we do a lot of one-on-one and small group training. We chat to each student about their needs and goals and do some pathway planning to help them achieve their version of success.'

Jade said there is also increasing demand for foundation and digital skills from people entering the workforce and those re-skilling who are completing training and apprenticeships. The College steps in to help ensure that students can keep progressing.

Tamworth Community College has been a part of the Tamworth community since 1984. Initially providing a range of lifestyle and general interest courses, TCC expanded into career-oriented training in the 1990s. The College has been a RTO since 1995.

Jade said the staff 'really enjoyed the Open Day' and were glad when many attendees told them they had never been to the College before but now intended to return to learn.

**Visit the [Adult Learners Week Facebook page](#) if you would like to see how so many others celebrated Adult Learners Week.**



BCAL celebrating ALW with a cooking class



# Member round-up



**WA's** LinkWest has welcomed Jane Harwood as its new CEO. Jane was previously Stakeholder Engagement Manager at the WA Primary Health Alliance. Linkwest Board Chair, James Jarvis, said the Board "felt her passion, and recognised the impact that will have on the leadership of Linkwest and on sector development and advocacy".

In **NSW's** central west plains, Coonamble's recent first Aboriginal Adult Literacy Campaign Graduation (pictured above) meant that there have now been more than 400 students who have completed training provided by the Literacy for Life Foundation. The Coonamble Times was on hand to record the graduation of eight adult students who completed basic literacy and digital literacy training under the guidance of local Aboriginal staff. [lflf.org.au/2023/10/coonamble-celebrates-as-literacy-for-life-foundation-passes-400](https://lflf.org.au/2023/10/coonamble-celebrates-as-literacy-for-life-foundation-passes-400)

Congratulations to **ACT's** Canberra Institute of Technology and all the finalists and winners of 2023

State and Territory Training Awards (pictured below). CIT took out the ACT Large Training Provider of the Year, while CIT teachers, students and industry partners won in four other categories. Check to see the results in your own area at [australiantrainingawards.gov.au/state-and-territory-training-awards](https://australiantrainingawards.gov.au/state-and-territory-training-awards). Winners from each state and territory will find out if they have won an Australian Training Award on 17 November.

In **VIC**, it is congratulations to PRACE as it celebrates its 30th Birthday. Prace - a RTO, Learn Local provider, neighbourhood house, charity and independent school – is holding a birthday event on 19 October. [prace.vic.edu.au](https://prace.vic.edu.au)

MTC Australia has released a guide to the best games to teach English. As author, Amber Weiss says, games can "make learning English more enjoyable, increasing motivation and engagement". The guide showcases games across traditional, digital, and interactive categories. [mtcaustralia.com.au/blog/best-games-to-learn-english](https://mtcaustralia.com.au/blog/best-games-to-learn-english)



# ACE Update

As it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the **Adult Migrant English Program** (AMEP) has launched an updated free English language learning website. AMEPOnline has been designed to be available to anyone through mobile phones and computers, including people not enrolled in AMEP. [ameponline.homeaffairs.gov.au/](http://ameponline.homeaffairs.gov.au/)

**Neighbourhood Houses** across Victoria have until 30 October to enter the 2023 NHVic Awards and be recognised for their local impact towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The Awards are given in six categories – Reducing Inequalities, Climate Action, Community Resilience, Gender Equity, Social Enterprise and, new this year, Good Health and Well-Being. Enter here - [www.nhvic.org.au/awards](http://www.nhvic.org.au/awards)



A new, free guide has been developed for **educators and providers** supporting learners to build their digital skills so they can fully participate in further education. Researcher and educator, Dr Deniese Cox, has developed the practical guide after two years of focus groups, interviews and field testing digital testing and teaching tools. Download the guide here: [teachingonline.com.au/digital-skills-gpg](http://teachingonline.com.au/digital-skills-gpg)

The **2023 Community Centres SA Conference** will be held in Adelaide on 9 November. The theme for this year's conference is People First: Prioritising Community Wellbeing. Andrew Plastow, founding Director of Ngutu College, a SA not-for-profit, socially just college – will give a keynote address on culturally welcoming spaces. [communitycentressa.asn.au/conference-2023](http://communitycentressa.asn.au/conference-2023)

On 8 December, the **NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council** will host its annual conference around Teaching adult literacy and numeracy: more than skills. The conference will discuss how best to ensure that adult learners can access more than 'basic skills' when they attend adult literacy and numeracy classes. [nswalnc.org.au/conference23.htm](http://nswalnc.org.au/conference23.htm)

With the **Australian U3A sector** celebrating 40 years next year, it is timely that the sector has a new national voice. The former U3A Australian Alliance (U3AAA) of State U3A networks is now known as U3A Australia. [u3aaustralia.org.au/](http://u3aaustralia.org.au/)

Registration is now open for the **11th ICAE World Assembly** to be run in Indonesia from 27 November to 1 December. This year's event – which celebrates 50 years of the international council for adult education – will discuss moving towards a learning planet. Registration and further information about the World Assembly and the current programme can be found at [icae-wa2023.com/](http://icae-wa2023.com/)

Visit our website to find previous issues of Quest and individual stories for sharing. [ala.asn.au](http://ala.asn.au)

## QUEST

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