

Editorial

As we go into production of this Winter edition, one can ask the question 'where has 2004 gone'? This edition highlights some of the activity that has been undertaken so far this year.

Briefs mention some interesting work that has been completed and directs you to the websites for these projects.

Balancing life-work is an issue that continues to dominate much of our personal agendas and John Cross reflects on a recent Families Australia Conference held in Brisbane around this theme.

Adult Learning Australia fulfills many tasks for its members and stakeholders. One very important task that we share with colleagues in all the states and territories is Adult Learners' Week, when we celebrate the achievements of learners and providers in various ways. Linked with this important week is Learn @ Work Day. ALA would like to see this feature grow into as much of a celebration of 'workplace' learning as Adult Learners' Week is for community learning.

This Winter edition of Quest also further develops some ideas and applications behind the concept of a learning at work day. I hope these ideas trigger some thought for you about how you might use the concept in your workplace.

In our Guest Spot, Suzanne Curyer writes on a new national on-line career information and exploration service that helps link together lifelong learning, career development and planning. myfuture.edu.au is an interesting exploration tool for the world of work and beyond. Yes, for those who may have forgotten there is a life outside of work.

Our International page in this edition contains an interesting perspective on England as a Learning Society by Alastair Rylatt.

Cheryl Lewis-Fitzgerald talks about the latest learning circle project, its aim is to create an enabling adult learning environment for people with disabilities.

Susannah Thackray has contributed a very interesting profile on Leanne Isaacson, one of the Leaders who emerged from the 2004 Learning Leaders Project, and yes, this is the profile of a real achiever.



Lifelong learning almost by definition implies history and Jim Nicholls draws our attention to the fact that ALA will have a history of 50 years in the year 2010. Jim makes some timely points about how a planning agenda needs to be developed now.

On the Ground contains some interesting examples of our diversity as a membership organisation.

We have a report on a seminar with Charles Landry on Creative Cities from Vaughan Croucher. There is a book by Charles Landry of the same name which comes as recommended reading for those involved with the learning communities catalyst. We also have a report on U3A in Victoria and a very successful learner centred Seniors Computer Club in the Blue Mountains. Finally, the Gondawana Centre in South East Queensland has a very exciting program coming up for August.

Remember On the Ground is an opportunity to showcase your successful learning stories and as long as you're a member, it is free and you should use it.

Speaking of learning curves and the like, your new Executive Director is riding one at the moment, and looks forward to catching up with old members as well as meeting new ones over the coming months.

As part of the national office work we have existing and some proposed new projects which we look forward to sharing with you throughout the course of the year. One such project is the development of a Register of Researchers about which we will have more to say in the next edition of QUEST.

Ron Anderson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR