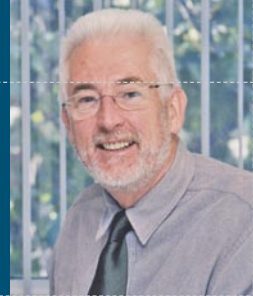


Editorial



Welcome to the Spring Edition of Quest.

Spring is a much welcomed season here in Canberra, still with frosty mornings, but relatively warm days and new blossoms appearing on the trees. Floriade is also well underway and brings new colour and a sense of excitement to the national capital.

The team at the national office has put together another interesting range of stories for this edition.

As all of you would know, we have another successful Adult Learners' Week, (ALW) behind us now, but the planning goes on for 2007. Due to time and publishing deadlines only brief reference is made in this edition to some of the key events for this year where we saw over 900 events celebrated around the country.

Minister Gary Hardgrave officially launched ALW 2006 at Griffith University in Brisbane from the EcoCentre set in bushland within the Griffith Campus. Guests were also welcomed by the Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor.

ALA's President Garry Traynor thanked the Minister and the Vice Chancellor on behalf of ALA.

The launch was also attended by a wide range of local and interstate guests, representing different levels of engagement with this event.

Financial literacy is once again featured in Quest. This time, an interview comes from the CEO of Money 101 - Money for Life, Catherine Birchall. The article will be of interest to many as Catherine provides practical suggestions about managing money and the importance of financial literacy.

This edition also features brief articles about ALW, in particular the launch of Learn @ Work Today with Marrickville Council and a visit by a Korean delegation at the Macquarie Community College in Sydney. The visit was an opportunity for the delegation to find out more about lifelong learning in Australia, community capacity building and the role of ALW in this process. It was a successful visit for all.

A highlight of ALW in Tasmania was the visit to Hobart by Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Pru Goward which is also included in this edition.

Macquarie Community College has also recently been awarded the winners of a Small Business Award which is also featured in this edition along with two stories from the E-learning Creative Communities Partnerships Project.

Tony Ryan from PBA FM, community radio as always has prepared some interesting interviews on the subject of adult learning. His program, *Take Time* features a number of interviews and his article in this edition contains more detail. Tony will also be a regular contributor to Quest keeping readers updated about his interviews.

Once again we are previewing Mike Newman's book, *Teaching Defiance*, this time in a book review. For those of you who don't know, Mike has a long connection with adult learning and two of his books have won the Cyril O Houle Award for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education. Mike will also be one of our Keynote Speakers at the ALA conference and we are looking forward to his session.

Many of you would know Roger Harris. He is currently Professor of Adult and Vocational Education, and Director of CREEW (Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work) within the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia. Roger is also the Editor of the Australian Journal of Adult Learning. Roger has had a long association with adult learning and ALA in particular. ALA is delighted to feature Roger as our guest in this edition's *In Quest of Learning* segment.

Tasmanian Communities Online Manager, Andy Norris is also featured in this edition. Andy recently won a *Learning Together Award for Educational Excellence*, from the Tasmanian Government's Department of Education.

The awards recognise and celebrate outstanding programs, projects and initiatives, as well as groups and individuals, who have demonstrated educational excellence. Well done Andy.

Community capacity building is alive and well in South Australia as Tony Ryan features an audio project produced by the Eastwood Community Centre in Adelaide. The audio is a guide for people wishing to find out more about the history of the local area. Read more in this edition about the launch of a Learning Journeys CD to mark the beginning of ALW in South Australia. The CD was launched by Senator Ursula Stephens, Senator for NSW, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Science and Water. Read also about Tony Ryan's recent interview with Pru Goward entitled *In Conversation with Pru Goward*.

Finally, Peter Kearns ALA Visiting Research Fellow looks at the value of a phases of life approach to supporting learning throughout the lifespan of people. Included in this edition is a summary of his report entitled, *Overview Report on Melbourne Three Councils Learning Project to Explore A Phase of Life Approach*.

Until next time, read learn and enjoy what your organisation is achieving through your ongoing membership and support.

Ron Anderson

Chief Executive Officer