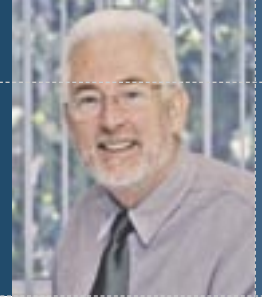


Editorial



Welcome to the Winter Edition of Quest. This time of year there is nothing better than wrapping your hands around a steaming mug of hot chocolate or warming your soul with some hearty soups and casseroles to keep those winter bugs at bay.

Fortunately I haven't succumbed to any dreaded lurgies yet. I'm not sure if I put that down to good management, or good luck. In any case I'm enjoying my good health and the clear, winter days we have in Canberra at this time of the year.

Our articles in this edition of *Quest* range from a meta-analysis report recently released on the capacity of the ACE sector to address the chronic skills shortage in Australia through to the 140th birthday of the Mechanics' Institute in Tamworth.

Co-authors of the ACE report, Dr Sarojni Choy and Dr Sandra Haukka from the Queensland University of Technology and Liz Keyes from Learning Network Queensland, suggest that the ACE sector is well placed to address the critical skills shortage in Australia's workforce.

Their report suggests one reason for this is ACE's ability to re-engage learners in training and through the opportunities the sector offers for further education and/or employment outcomes.

Financial literacy is also coming into the forefront of government policy and an article written by Treasury advisers, Gillie Kirk and Kathy Tolano outlines action being taken by the Financial Literacy Foundation in raising awareness of the benefits of improved literacy and informing Australians about ways to better manage their money.

In addition to this, Adult Learning Australia, (ALA) also has plans to launch its own financial literacy program for use by adult learning providers. We look forward to keeping you informed on the progress of this exciting project.

Deirdre Baker, Vice-President ALA and Peter Murphy, Business and Communications Manager also both share stories about their experiences at the recent ACE Aotearoa Conference in Dunedin, in New Zealand's South Island.

As well as this, Adult Learners' Week is just around the corner, 1-8 September so take a look at what your organisation is achieving in the lead up to the week at www.adultlearnersweek.org. Faces of ALW has also recently been updated so read some of the inspiring stories for 2006.

Another article includes a story about women in rural Australia. Despite the real barriers many face in these regions, a group of motivated and enthusiastic women are meeting these challenges through training in livestock management.

Tony Ryan in his *Take Time* program also has a segment with a farming family in Geranium in South Australia's Murray Mallee. Listen to the audio at www.taketimeradio.com/archives/archives_sep2005.htm.

One other inspiring story comes from a student who returned to study after twenty years out of the workforce. Pathways through the Canberra Institute of Technology have seen Barbara New embark on a new life in the workforce and her story highlights the rewards of adult learning.

Recipients of the *Sir Douglas Nicholls Fellowship* for Indigenous leaders is also featured along with a summary of this year's *E-learning Creative Community Partnerships* project, which Mary Hannan, at the National Office manages.

You will also find some inserts in this edition. This material contains information about the Australian Flexible Learning Framework and their projects. There is also an insert about the Resource Training Manual for Adult Learning Providers.

Professor Barry Golding is this edition's guest in our *In Quest of Learning* segment and award winning author Michael Newman writes about teaching defiance. There is more of this in his recently released book entitled, *Teaching Defiance*.

A student of the University of Newcastle's Industry Scholarships Scheme is also featured as he gains valuable work experience as an undergraduate chemical engineer with Eraring energy.

Finally Barrie Brennan at the Mechanics' Institute in Tamworth writes an article about the history of the building as well as the recent occasion to celebrate the building's 140th birthday on 24 May.

Read, learn and enjoy what your organisation is doing through your ongoing support and membership.

Until next time

Ron Anderson

Chief Executive Officer