



QUEST

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IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Beyond the farm gate
- ◆ Lessons in lifelong learning
- ◆ Course reduces homelessness
- ◆ Adult Learners Week 2018
1–8 Sept
- ◆ Alphabet Soup for Stawell
- ◆ ACE news

TIPS AND TRENDS

- ◆ Tips for a great #ALW2018 event

Beyond the farm gate

In May 2016 Victorian farmer Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil sat fascinated during a vet's presentation on calf rearing at a dairy women's conference in New Zealand when her phone pinged. It was a text message that would change her life. Around the room other women's phones started going off.

The message was from Fonterra dairy co-operative informing its suppliers it had dropped the price of milk from \$5.60 to \$1.91 wiping out 70% of Karrinjeet's family income. 'With one text message and no warning they grabbed over \$100,000 from our budget,' Karrinjeet says in the short film she has made about the event.

Karrinjeet's story is one of 24 put together by women farmers as part of a National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) project to teach rural women in Victoria how to tell

'The voices of rural women are missing from past and recent history and this was an opportunity for us to hear those voices and to educate and inspire others by sharing their stories.' Dr Alison Kennedy, National Centre for Farmer Health.

their stories in digital form. The result is 'From Inside the Farm Gate' a collection of stories that explore the struggles of life on the farm – from dealing with financial hardship, natural disasters, bereavement and the grief of leaving the farm altogether – and aim to educate, inspire and benefit others living in rural communities.

For Karrinjeet, the aftermath of the Fonterra decision was devastating.

'When I look back I can't remember what we did in those days I was so consumed by anger and shock. I was staying at my Mum's place in New Zealand during the conference and that night she had a whole bunch of people round to see me before I left but I can't remember who came to see me off that night, it was all a blur.

'It took our feet out from under us and we were scrambling to cope. Things were super tight, and for a while we didn't have a brass razoo. One day at the greengrocer's my debit card was declined and I had to race round to the Rural Financial Counsellor to get some IGA vouchers. But we sold lots of cows and that kept us going.

'While my husband Brian's reaction was to doubt himself, mine was to get really, really angry. I've never had issues with my blood pressure before but it shot up and I had to go

(Story continues on p. 3)

 ala.asn.au

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 **Adult
Learning
Australia**

*Lifelong and
lifewide learning
for all Australians*

Message from the CEO



Storytelling is a powerful way of making a concept like lifelong learning come alive. We need to keep on telling stories of the impact of learning on people's lives, and it's what we do in the pages of Quest.

Adult and community education (ACE) is a good investment. It helps to sustain and improve society for a relatively low cost given the many benefits it delivers. But what we are in dire need of is some national data that quantifies the economic benefit so that governments get it.

South Australia and Victoria have already done some of this work.

In 2008, the then Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development and the Adult and Further Education Board commissioned 'The Economic Benefit of Investment in Adult Community Education in Victoria' report, which found that investing in ACE 'provided a \$16 billion increase in gross state product over 25 years' and had also reduced welfare dependency.

The SA Training and Skills Commission 2016 report, 'Recognising the Value of Adult and Community Education', found that SA's ACE programs were 'expected to provide an economic benefit of up to 6.5 times the investment'.

Despite this, current public debate about post-secondary education continues to focus on TAFE and universities, and ACE's role is at best relegated to the margins and at worst, ignored altogether. This is a curious attitude and one that we need to continue to rally against because we know better.

ACE organisations go about their business in a quiet way. They just get on with it. ACE is the introvert in a world of extroverts. It's no wonder it's been dubbed the Cinderella of the Australian education system. We need to get better at making our presence felt. We need to keep beating the drum for the value of adult and community education, and demonstrate through concrete examples the many ways adults and communities benefit from lifelong learning.

Quantifiable data is not the only way to get the message through though. We need to share our stories about the many opportunities that ACE and lifelong learning bring to individuals. Storytelling is a powerful way of making a concept like lifelong learning come alive. We need to keep on telling stories of the impact of learning on people's lives, and it's what we do in the pages of Quest.

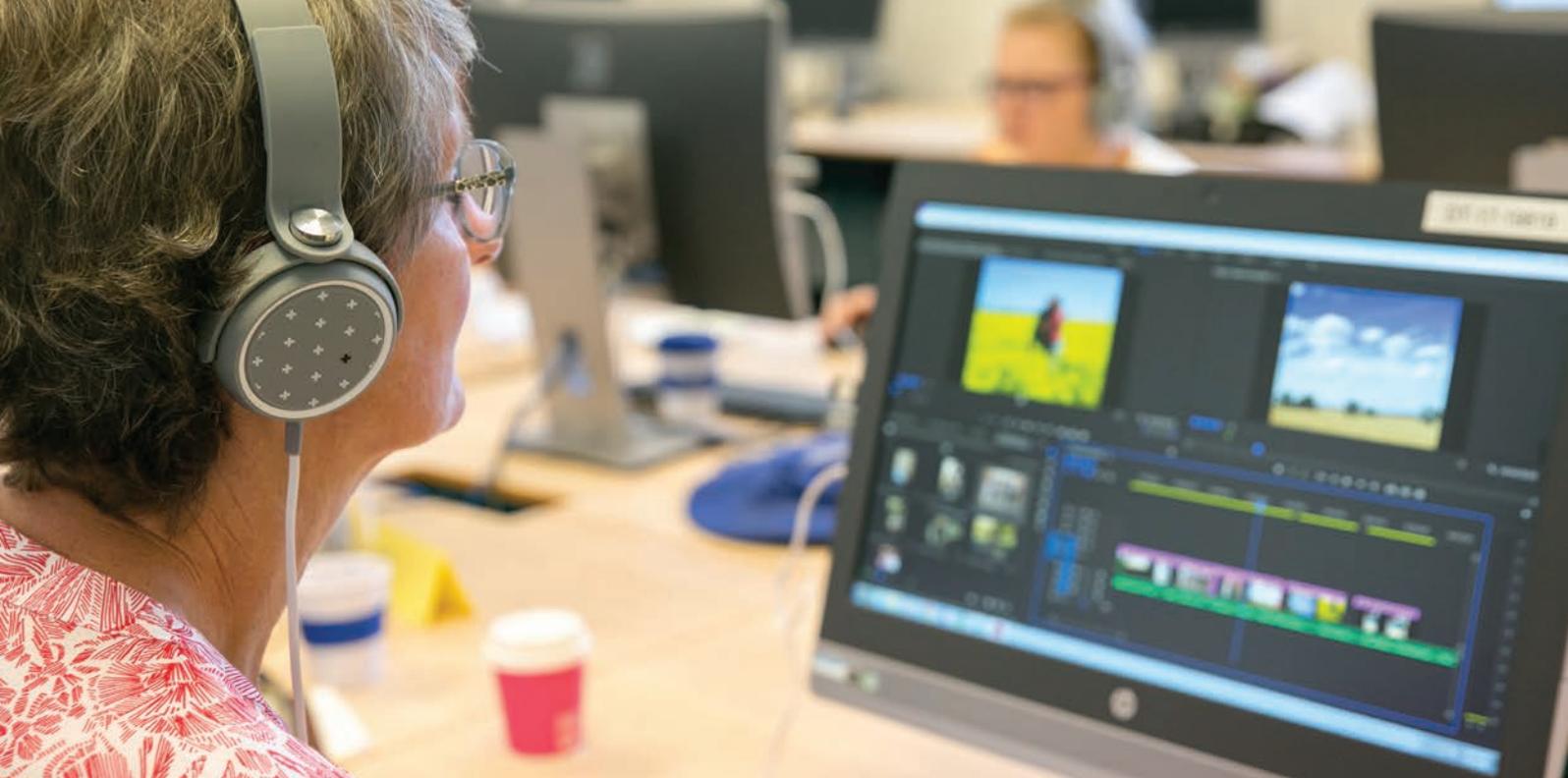
Take this issue for example. We have an incredibly moving story about rural women who have learned how to tell their stories using technology. We also look at a fantastic peer education program for LGBTI youth in partnership with Stawell Neighbourhood House, plus a community education program for homeless young people in QLD. These stories and many others of ACE and lifelong learning need to be owned and celebrated because they help people see the world from another perspective. They make lifelong learning and ACE real.

Adult Learners Week (#ALW2018) is another great way for us to share our stories. This year's theme 'Learning changes lives' explores the idea that learning supports people to reach their potential and can open up a world of difference for them. There are some great opportunities to share your stories this year so check out our website at adultlearnersweek.org for details.

Our National Lifelong Learning Summit held in April this year allowed us to explore what lifelong learning means from different perspectives. It was fantastic to hear stories from across the sector, business, social services and local government. We are currently developing a white paper that emphasises the need to not only recognise the skills required for employment and retraining but also acknowledge the role lifelong learning plays in personal health and wellbeing and community development.

It's easy for us to forget statistics, facts and figures, but stories ... they show the way.

Jenny Macaffer
CEO



Research shows that digital storytelling gives participants personal insights into their own experiences as well as developing new technical skills. Photo: Samantha Kaspers

(story continued from p. 1)

on medication to keep it under control. Brian lost his voice, he says it's not related to stress but I think it is.'

Karrinjeet's digital story turns on the moment she realised something had to change.

'One day Brian and I were in the dairy and he asked me a question and I just barked an answer back at him. He said, "Did you hear the way you just spoke to me? I'm not the one you should be angry with." And I was about to snap back but I stopped myself and I thought, "Yes, he's right".

'That was when I thought I need to come up with some strategies for handling this. And we began to fight back.'

Karrinjeet has learned ways of finding joy in the everyday to counter the stress of hard times. She's taken to hugging loved ones and wearing her headphones and singing along to music that lifts her spirits as she goes about her daily chores, milking cows and tending to the garden. But the joy of giving has been a revelation. She gathers excess vegetables from her own and others' gardens and donates them along with her fresh eggs to other farmers doing it hard.

'It doesn't matter if you've got nothing yourself it feels so wonderful to give. People have said to me, "You could sell those eggs" and I could but I just find I get more out of it by giving them away. Giving to others has been enormously healing for me. It's hard to put into words but it gives me energy to do more. Focussing on what you've lost saps the life out of you. Turning it around and helping other people is extraordinarily powerful.

'Shaping that story in the workshop and paring it down to its essence helped me understand more about myself than I had before.'

Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil

'The thing I'd like people to take away from my digital story is that there are ways to cope and the ways we cope are different for each of us.'

Karrinjeet along with 12 other women created and crafted their digital stories in a three day workshop facilitated by Swinburne University and NCFH. Participants learned how to develop and put together a short film using photos, audio recordings, and video footage.

Dr Alison Kennedy, Research Fellow at Deakin University/ National Centre for Farmer Health says 'People generally come along to workshops with a desire to use their story to help others, but many don't realise that it will have benefits for them too. Research shows that enabling people to tell these very personal stories in a supportive environment can have powerful mental health benefits. One woman told me that when she finished her digital story it was like a huge weight had been lifted off her shoulders. So it can have a huge cathartic effect for people who come along. People are quite amazed at the impact of expressing feelings that they've carried around and kept to themselves for so long.'

Karrinjeet agrees. 'After you've faced a problem and talked about the worst that could happen it doesn't hold the same power over you.'

With the first stage of producing the stories complete, the next phase is sharing them with as many rural women as possible both on the web and at meetings and conferences.

People are often moved to tears when they watch Lyn Kelson's story of being just 26 with two small children when her husband died by suicide. 'You didn't come home so I went to find you. And find you I did, hanging so high,' she says in her digital story.

Lyn says she wanted to tell this story to give hope to others.



Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil (far right) and other participants from across the state met for the first time at Hamilton's South West TAFE to craft digital stories of life on the farm. Photo: Samantha Kaspers

'I think there's an altruistic element in our telling our stories. When new audiences see them for the first time I think they recognise an element of their own lives and see that they have that same strength in them as the woman whose film they're watching.

'My digital story really hit the mark because it shows how we have an inbuilt ability to overcome rather than be engulfed. Life is full of peaks and troughs but the stories show that we have true grit.

'At my husband's funeral I recognised then that a number of people were looking at me thinking "Thank God it's not me". But I remember thinking even then that others have done this before me and survived and I can do the same. When things were hard I saw opportunity through that loss that there could be some good to come out of it.

'After my husband died, the community rallied around me. That's a strong thread in all the stories, how vital a cohesive community is in times of hardship, how it forms a backbone when you need it, whether it's financial or emotional.

'People cared for me, for us. It was like a lobster when it's injured has to grow a new shell and until it does it's vulnerable. In my case the community protected me until I'd grown a new shell.

'I think it is so important for us to share these lived experiences and to show that we can grow through hardship. Resilience is a skill that is so vital for today.

'I am so proud to be involved in this NCFH project. It was

'I wanted to do the course because I had lived through a tough time, and I thought in telling the story I could give hope to others through my own lived experience.' Lyn Kelson

a huge learning curve. Meeting that wonderful group of women where we created a family of people through shared experiences and then filtering our stories out to the wider community has been fabulous.

'The course was so well thought through, so well coordinated and delivered, and the care afterwards has been great. The facilitators were really great at establishing a transparent and trusting environment so there was this openness and honesty and acceptance that really helped that process along.

'There were tears for a lot of us in revisiting those events, as we remembered the loss of a loved one or the loss of financial capacity, but it was worth it.'

'The technology of using the computer and video programs was a bit daunting but the facilitators offered great support. And even when I had to wait for someone to come and help me that time was never wasted because at the same time I was learning the techniques of video production and having these wonderful conversations with other women.

'At the end of the three days we sat and watched each others' stories. There were 8 or 9 finished videos and you could see the pride in the women's faces and we all recognised that we are all quite remarkable women, even though when we all arrived we felt we were just ordinary. But watching those videos we could see that "Hey, we are really something quite special."

From Inside the Farm Gate is funded by the Victorian Women's Trust and the William Buckland Foundation and project support was provided by Swinburne University, Southwest TAFE and the Western District Health Service. You can view and comment on the stories online.

farmerhealth.org.au/inside-farm-gate

Page 1 photo credit: Samantha Kaspers

Lessons in lifelong learning

The National Lifelong Learning Summit brought together experts, policy makers and practitioners from around Australia to Melbourne's Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) to discuss future policy and directions for lifelong learning.

2018
YEAR OF
LIFELONG
LEARNING



In a program packed with insights, opinion and evidence, the Summit captured the many facets of lifelong learning from a variety of perspectives.

Sandy Morrison, President of the International Council of Adult Education and first keynote speaker gave an international perspective on the critical role of adult education. Our second keynote speaker Tony Dreise described the lack of policy attention to lifelong learning as 'a gaping hole in the nation's heart' and outlined the steps we need to take to address this.

An expert panel of representatives from industry, welfare, not for profit and policymaking sectors offered a fascinating range of perspectives on lifelong learning. And just in case things were getting too theoretical, a second group of panellists outlined a range of ways in which lifelong learning is being implemented and its impact on communities and individuals.

RMIT's Professor Bruce Wilson concluded proceedings convening discussion to identify ways in which ALA could bring the day's rich debate together to build the case and prosecute the argument to government for a national lifelong learning policy.

You can watch a video of the proceedings online at:

ala.asn.au/ala-summit-towards-a-national-lifelong-learning-policy-for-australia/?highlight=discussion%20paper

The summit was sponsored by the Victorian Government's Adult, Community And Further Education Board.



Adult, Community and
Further Education

Course reduces homelessness

A Queensland training program for homeless young people is proving a win for tenants and real estate agents alike.



Across Australia on any one night around 115,000 people are homeless. And the numbers are on the rise with a 10% increase since the last Census and vacancy rates in many areas at a historic low.

Ipswich-based inCommunity Inc. is trialling an educational solution to the problem of finding stable accommodation.

‘We’ve supported thousands of young people and families out of homelessness since we started in 1982,’ says Paul Tommasini, CEO of inCommunity Inc. ‘The reasons people become homeless are varied, but most share in common the same obstacle to finding stable accommodation. And that’s the perception of real estate staff that they make risky tenants.’

After three months of meetings, visits and research to get a better understanding of the attitudes and perceptions of the real estate sector towards homeless people, inCommunity have come up with a training program to tackle the problem head on. And that meant coming up with a solution for both sides of the accommodation equation.

An effective training program had to give potential tenants a chance to prove themselves. ‘Our goal is to help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access the private rental market and be good tenants. But if you’ve had problems with your tenancy in the past or you don’t have the knowledge and skills to be a good tenant or you have no previous tenancy experience and therefore no referees, the odds are stacked against you.’

‘In the long term we’d love to see this sort of training given to all school leavers in the state so they have the skills needed to maintain a tenancy when they leave school,’ Paul Tommasini, CEO, inCommunity Inc.

But the program also had to address the issues raised by the real estate sector. ‘Our goal is also to help real estate agents mitigate their risk. If they have better tenants, they have lower risk.’

‘The course has been a way to put in place something that addresses both these aims. Local real estate agents identified common problems and top fails in their interactions with current and prospective tenants. In their view, good tenants communicate effectively, understand their legal rights and responsibilities, regularly maintain and clean their property and effectively manage their finances.’

Using this feedback, the training covers four modules – communication skills, tenant’s rights and responsibilities, in-depth cleaning skills and budgeting. The face to face competency based program takes participants through a series of practical exercises and assessments. ‘In order for the real estate industry to take it seriously we needed a course that included enrolment and graduation and certificates demonstrating not just that people had showed up but they had mastered the skills we were offering.’

‘We have a diverse group of students. Some are recently arrived migrants who can bring a support worker with them, others are young people who are just out of state care and about to go out and into their first home, others are people who are homeless or who are in shelters or refuges or are couch surfing. Our youngest student has been 16 and our oldest has been in their mid 50s.’

‘The content we’ve developed is very practical and is not demanding when it comes to literacy. Having said that when we do have people with low literacy the small group environment of 8–10 people is really good for working together and supporting one another.’

‘Through the course people get a much better understanding of how tenants are selected and how to improve their chances. For example, if they arrive at an inspection and their form isn’t filled out correctly or they are rude to the agency



staff, these kinds of things will move them right down the list. Through our course we want to give them the skills to move their application to the top of the pile.

'A growing number of real estate organisations have endorsed the training and consider it in their assessment of applicants for housing and regard completion of the course as equivalent to having a previous rental history or references.

'We will be tracking progress at 3 month and 6 month points and sending a survey and seeking feedback from the real estate industry but we already know anecdotally through our networks with other support services that people who have been through the course are getting and holding onto housing.'

The 12-month trial funded through the Department of Housing and Public Works Dollars and Sense Initiative began in February 2018 and will finish in October 2018. It is currently running in Ipswich, Logan and Toowoomba and around 100 people have graduated out of a total of 230 funded places. Future plans include rolling the training program out across Queensland.

Anne-Aliese (pictured), is a 24 year old mother of a 2 year old. A year ago she left a violent relationship and spent time couch surfing until she was offered a place in a domestic violence refuge.

'I had a rough time before I got to the shelter. Because I left the rental property where I'd been living before the end of

Many potential tenants do not even get a chance to prove themselves because their application is not considered strong, and this is even worse in areas with low vacancy rates.

the lease the agent said I had to pay an exit fee, as well as money for advertising and signage.' To make things worse, she had no evidence of her rental history.

While she was at the refuge she took the course and is now living with her new partner and their combined six children. With a record of perfect inspections and no breaches she's regarded as a model tenant.

'I'm much more assertive dealing with real estate people now. Before the course I was happy to take whatever I got and never really asked questions. But having that knowledge and confidence really makes a difference. I'm much better now at negotiating to get what I need. For example, this latest property is NBN ready but it hadn't yet been installed. So I was able to negotiate how that would be done and how the costs would be covered. It was a win-win for both of us.'

tenancyskills.com.au

A survey of local property managers found that:

- 90% rated effective communication skills as essential
- 100% said that all tenants need to understand their rights and responsibilities
- 100% said maintaining and cleaning a property were essential skills for tenants
- 85% identified managing financing and budgeting as a significant issue for tenants.

Adult Learners Week 2018 1–8 Sept

This year's #ALW2018 theme is 'Learning changes lives', which is designed to promote the idea that learning as an adult can help people turn their lives around and can be a transformative and happy experience.



Ready to dive deeper?

Learning changes lives.

The theme of Adult Learners Week is about showing how learning as adults can help people make a fresh start, to see themselves and the world around them in a new light. Turning to learning as adults allows us take on new roles, adapt to change and connect us to our communities and live happier and more fulfilling lives.

Our goal during the Week is to highlight the benefits of learning, celebrate the achievements of adults who have used learning to transform their lives, and encourage others to embrace lifelong learning.

Adult Learners Week is a national celebration and a grassroots campaign, which was first established in 1995. The Week includes hundreds of organisations who host community events that promote the benefits of learning and showcase what learning opportunities are available for adults around Australia.

For tens of thousands of people across Australia taking up adult education is a means of finding a way to a better future. Whether they've taken a course or class to find a new job, improve their language or literacy skills, or increase their physical or mental fitness embarking on adult education changes people and changes lives.

Turning people on to learning

The Week is an important way to attract adults who are not engaged in formal or non-formal learning or who have had negative past experiences of education. It is also about engaging adults with low levels of literacy and numeracy or those who may not be aware of the learning options available to them. #ALW2018 is also about showing the breadth of opportunities available for adults who want to learn.

Promoting the impact of adult learning

#ALW2018 is a great way for us to communicate positive messages about the range and value of adult learning

to individuals within the community, to government departments, to policymakers, to the private sector and to the media.

One of the key messages of #ALW2018 is that adult learning can be a transformative experience.

During #ALW2018 we want people to share and discuss how their lives have changed as a result of returning to learning as adults.

It's a great chance to:

- promote your organisation, classes and events
- demonstrate the impact on and achievements of adult learners
- recruit new learners
- build relationships with other organisations in your area
- show what you have to offer.

Get involved

If your organisation offers any form of adult learning such as courses, classes, exhibitions, tours, training, tutoring, discussion groups – then #ALW2018 is an opportunity to celebrate and promote what you do.

Some of the venues where ALW events are held include neighbourhood houses, libraries, community colleges, Universities of the Third Age (U3As), museums, men's sheds, local councils and community centres – anywhere adults engage in learning.

In the lead up to and during Adult Learners Week we will be showcasing adult learning organisations that offer opportunities for adults to learn something new. Register your event on the Adult Learners Week website to be included.

adultlearnersweek.org

Ready to shine brighter?

Learning changes lives.

How to celebrate

- Provide short courses or taster sessions to give people an insight into the classes you offer.
- Invite speakers to talk about the impact of learning on their lives.
- Encourage individuals and groups to have a go at learning something new.
- Promote learner stories in your newsletters and online.
- Run a competition on the theme of adult learning.
- Celebrate the learning of your staff/volunteers.
- Announce or launch a new course or new initiative.
- Badge open days and events with #ALW2018 branding.
- Nominate a learner for an #ALW2018 scholarship.
- Share tips, photos and stories about learning and learners on social media.
- Take a group on a learning tour.
- Conduct a survey or research.

Support for your #ALW2018 celebrations

Adult Learning Australia will be co-ordinating the following activities as part of #ALW2018:

- National media and social media campaigns

- Toolkits, downloads, tips and promotion of organisations running #ALW2018 events
- National helpline 1300LEARN for people interested in finding out more about adult learning opportunities
- Adult Learners Week website and social media for information, sharing, promoting and celebrating

adultlearnersweek.org

Join now

Being a member of ALA is a great way to support lifelong and lifewide learning in Australia and join a thriving national network of adult educators. As a member of ALA, we champion the work you do; develop policies; conduct research and provide professional development to ensure a vibrant, valued and visible adult and community education sector.

To find out more about all the benefits of an ALA membership, go to: ala.asn.au/why-join/



**Adult
Learning
Australia**

Early bird and other prizes!

Register your event on the ALW website before 1 August 2018 and you have the chance to win 1 of 20 \$200 ALW event grants. There are also \$1,000 cash prizes on offer for the best ALW events and \$1,000 learner scholarships.

Alphabet Soup for Stawell

A peer education program for LGBTI young people in rural and regional areas is kicking off in Stawell, Victoria.



Alphabet Soup Grampians – a trans and non-gender binary peer support organisation – has been funded to develop a peer support program in partnership with Stawell Neighbourhood House.

The program is based on the successful Melbourne group Alphabet Soup, which was established six years ago with just a handful of members who met each month at a local Melbourne café for an informal get-together. Today those monthly meetings attract as many as 30 or 40 people and it's the role of peer support workers like Tina Healy (pictured left with Lisa Arnfield coordinator of Stawell Neighbourhood House) to welcome newcomers and make sure people feel included. 'Sometimes transgender parents came along with their kids or transgender kids came along with their parents, their family members or their friends. It's basically a place for people to socialise and feel connected.'

Nowadays Tina is in demand, accepting referrals from GPs, counsellors and psychiatrists and others who refer people who can benefit from being in touch with a support group. 'The trans and gender diverse community is growing so it's really important to train more of our people to support our own community,' she says.

When I told my friends I was moving to Stawell they said things like 'Aren't you scared? Aren't you worried?' but I found that a country community has a lot to teach the city, that if you're a genuine person and you contribute to the community, people get past the gender issue and want to move on and know more about you.

'One of the issues facing rural communities is that their trans and gender diverse young people often feel they need to leave town to be able to find an accepting community. We're trying to change the narrative for these young people and their families in the city and country. We'd like our communities to not only accept us, but to celebrate and advocate for who we are. We want to turn around the horrendous self-harm and attempted suicide statistics by showing our kids that their families, schools and communities love them just the way they are.'

After a visit to Stawell by the Victorian Government's LGBTI Equality Roadshow, Tina successfully applied for funding to partner with Stawell Neighbourhood House to offer a mentorship program for LGBTI people, their family, friends and allies.

'I found that Stawell Neighbourhood House was a wonderful partner for the peer training project because Neighbourhood Houses are the heartbeat of the community. They have resources and networks and are natural partners for the trans and gender diverse community, and the broader LGBTI community.'

Tina's role involves travelling in and around Victoria. 'I'm learning how amazing country people are at building and sustaining community.'

'As a transgender leader, a grandmother with four adult children and four grandchildren I'm optimistic about the future. We are beginning to move toward a new narrative for our community. We look forward to the day when parents of transgender children can embrace their kids as they are, without fearing for their future. Where parents can go on the Internet and see positive outcomes and messages for their children's prospects. Where our kids might not need to leave town because of their gender identity. Where the loneliness of ostracism is a thing of the past, and self-harm and suicide are sad things we read about in history books, not in today's newspaper.'

The first part of the project is a consultation phase, which begins in July 2018 followed by the design and implementation of the training program. The course will be rolled out in Melbourne and Stawell, and Tina anticipates it will be run in other rural and metropolitan areas of Australia.

'The concept of a trans developed, trans run, trans owned service training trans people to support their own community is ground breaking in Australia,' Tina says. 'It's a first.'

snhlc.weebly.com

Tips for a great #ALW2018 event

Adult Learners Week events take some organisation and planning. Here's some advice from last year's winners of best events on how to make your #ALW2018 event a success.



Here are their top tips for a winning event.

1 Put together an event management plan

Get organised and put together a plan of action for your event. Invite all stakeholders to have an initial planning meeting to discuss objectives, action items, budget, responsibilities and deadlines. Distribute the plan and use it to guide actions over the coming weeks and stay on top of deadlines.

2 Choose the day and time of your event carefully

Weekday? Weekend? Day? Evening? Your choice of time and day will depend on who you are targeting. Also make sure your event doesn't clash with any large scale events being held in your area.

3 Make it hands-on, interactive and fun

Plan interactive activities and invite expert tutors to run sessions. Make activities culturally relevant and appealing to your target group. Entertainment and activities for kids will attract parents and food is always a good enticement.

4 Get others on board

Ask your council to promote your event, invite the mayor and local politicians, businesses and key community leaders along and make sure you take lots of photos.

5 Involve your current learners

Having a say in the planning and organising of the event gives your learners a sense of ownership. And they are also great advertisements for your programs.

Plan the layout of your event and set up the space so there's plenty of room for people to get involved. Try to have the event visible from the street to encourage walk ins.

6 Promote early and often

Allow plenty of time for marketing and promotion. Encourage your students to come and bring their friends and family. Advertise in the local paper, use social media and local networks and on the day make your event visible from the street to encourage walk-ins.

7 Have a Plan B

Make a contingency plan in case something doesn't go to plan. If it's an outdoor event make sure you've got marquees for shade or rain. Have extra tables and chairs on hand if more people arrive than you anticipated.

8 Get staff involved

Your team's enthusiasm and commitment to the success of the event is crucial to its success. Keep them in the loop, update them on progress, and get them as excited as you are.

9 Evaluate it and wrap it up

Have a debrief with staff and key stakeholders after the event to share statistics and feedback and discuss what went well and what could be improved for next time. Promote the success of the event through offline and online networks and social media.

10 Say thank you

Follow up all who took part and give them feedback on the success of your event, thank them for taking part and remind them of your ongoing adult learning activities.

Thanks to the Town of Victoria Park Library (WA), Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (Vic) and Macquarie Community College (NSW) for their advice.

ACE News

In **Western Australia**, Linkwest have welcomed the McGowan Government's overturning of the previous Liberal National government decision, which would have resulted in 64 community Neighbourhood Centres and Childcare moving from subsidised to commercial rent. Linkwest CEO, Jane Chilcott said they were 'delighted' with the decision that puts an end to two years of uncertainty for affected Centres. Linkwest continues to fight against the state government's proposed 40% cut to funding for Community Resource Centres.

Also in the works, Linkwest has announced a 2 day 'Place Matters' Community Summit on October 22 and 23. linkwest.asn.au/events/event/community-summit

In **Victoria** NHVic's state Budget and Election Campaign 'Neighbourhood Houses: We Deliver! Will you?' was a great success. Jenny Mikakos, Minister for Families and Children, announced on 30 April that the Neighbourhood House sector will receive \$21.8 million over four years to increase the capacity and number of Neighbourhood Houses across the state.

NHVIC were honoured to have Minister Mikakos open their conference on May 17-18, which featured a new format as well as a presentation of the results of the Neighbourhood Houses Survey 2017. A record 190,520 Victorians visited their Neighbourhood House in an average week and communities made use of their Neighbourhood Houses for an average of 54.6 hours per week. The full Neighbourhood Houses Survey 2017 report is available here nhvic.org.au/datapowerhouse/statewide-data/neighbourhood-houses-survey-reports

The **Learn Local** Conference will be held in Melbourne from 30 to 31 August 2018. This two day conference is funded by the ACFE Board and is designed to support and develop the work of Learn Local providers. It provides an opportunity for Learn Local providers to reflect and share the successes of the sector, network, and participate in professional development opportunities. The Learn Local Awards are an opportunity to shine the spotlight on the community-training sector in Victoria and celebrate its success. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Melbourne on Thursday 30 August 2018. For further information please email: learnlocal@edumail.vic.gov.au



In **New South Wales** CCA is calling for papers for its Sydney conference in November. The closing date for submission of abstracts is 10 August 2018. cca.edu.au/what-we-do/2018-cca-annual-conference/#papers

In **Tasmania** Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania has released a new research report 'Making a Difference in Our Communities – 2016-17 Outcomes Report', which includes data on the sheer volume of the work Neighbourhood Houses undertake, and details the impact on the individuals and communities they support. nht.org.au/news/outcomes-report-16-17/

In **South Australia** CCSA has announced tickets are now available for their 'Partnerships with Purpose' annual conference on October 25 and 26 at Morphettville Racecourse. More details at events.humanitix.net/partnerships-with-purpose-new-ideas-enterprise-and-solutions.

The South Australian Council for Adult Literacy (SACAL) conference on August 18 welcomes individuals and teams working in adult education. The conference theme is 'Engaging the Modern Learner'. More details at: communitycentressa.asn.au/documents/item/1201

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