

QUEST

ISSUE 2 2019

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Learning off the farm

Every afternoon farmer Jenny Flynn, 61, sits on her quad bike on the small acreage she runs with her husband near Narrabri, keeping an eye on the sheep while she studies for her new career in aged care. 'Sometimes I have to put my books down and chase the sheep away from my roses but I've got a lot of work done that way.'

Jenny's one of a growing group of farmers who are enrolling in courses at Community College Northern Inland in north west NSW as part of a state government initiative to assist drought-affected families to retrain and find work off the farm.

Jenny's part way through a Certificate III in Aged Care but she already has a job working as an Assistant in Nursing at a nearby residential aged care facility.

Jenny and her husband have struggled through the worst drought in 80 years. 'If I didn't have a job we would have had to sell up. The course saved us.'

'I absolutely love my new job, it's the most rewarding thing I've ever done.' Jenny Flynn

Jenny started work at 17 in a pharmacy, then spent 24 years working in a jewellery shop. In 2007, aged 50, the drought started and she was laid off. 'Jewellery is the last thing people buy in a drought.'

'For the past 12 years I've been job hopping. I've had high pressure admin jobs at the coal mine where I worked really hard and got everything done by the deadline. But there's no stability anymore. You get a job and then the contract finishes and you're out of work again.'

'I got very depressed. We had no money, there was no feed for the sheep and there were times when I couldn't afford the fuel to drive to town to look for work. So when I heard this course would almost guarantee me a job, I decided to do it.'

'At first the idea of going back to study sounded hard. But I've had to keep up with technology and I think I'm pretty smart. I've kept my brain active doing crosswords and sudoku.'

'But the course is great. I'm really enjoying it. It's not like studying, it's learning.'

Alison Heagney, CEO of Community College Northern Inland, said farming families now view the College in a new

(Story continues on p. 3)

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 **Adult
Learning
Australia**

*Lifelong and
lifewide learning
for all Australians*

Message from the CEO



A great strength of ACE organisations as learning spaces is their ability to knit diverse groups together and develop a shared identity, which is more important now than ever.

With the federal election now well and truly over, ALA is ready to work with the Morrison Government on its *Foundation Skills for Your Future* and *Foundation Skills for Remote Communities* programs. According to the LNP's pre-election statement, both programs will support early school leavers and adults to build their language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills. The latter has a particular focus on remote Indigenous communities – and notably will be co-designed with Indigenous community members and local community development program providers.

During the election, it was encouraging to see the government acknowledge the significant role of adult and community education providers in vocational education and training, and in foundation skills. However, if it is to realise the full benefit of community-based education in helping Australians respond to the demands of rapid social, technological and environmental change, it must commit to a national policy that recognises ACE as a crucial part of our learning ecosystem and take steps to increase its viability and sustainability.

A great strength of ACE organisations as learning spaces is their ability to knit diverse groups together and develop a shared identity, which is more important now than ever.

On my recent visit to New Zealand (Aotearoa) to attend a conference hosted by ACE Aotearoa, the lead body for adult and community educators and adult learners, I did a tour of a number of local adult education providers. I saw so many wonderful family literacy programs and integrated learning hubs such as the Te Pā o Rākaihautū, a unique 21st century pā wānanga (Maori learning village) committed to educational success for the whole whanau (family), from early childhood, primary and secondary schooling to tertiary education and family learning on the one site.

I also visited Hagley College, which is one of the first four schools in Aotearoa to set up adult learning programs to meet the needs of their community. They offer secondary education as well as a Literacy Centre (for community-based courses and workplace training) and a Learning Communities Centre (for English language learning, diversity support and the *After 3* program for refugee and migrant adults and families who want to upskill).

At Hagley College, which is located across from the mosque where the Christchurch massacre took place, I saw a community that was united in solidarity, offering support for victims of the massacre. During the crisis, the College became a refuge for community members and their relatives – a makeshift community crisis centre where the Prime Minister and the Muslim community met to share their grief.

Adaptability is one of ACE's great strengths. The sector can respond quickly and effectively to local community need, even in dark times.

Highlighting the breadth and diversity of learning experiences is the focus of Adult Learners Week, our national festival that kicks off on September 1. The inspiring message of this year's Week is that there's no time like the present to discover the joys of adult learning. We know that many adult Australians can feel hesitant about the prospect of returning to learning. If you hated school, or if your first language is not English, or you are embarrassed or ashamed of your lack of skills, or if you live a long way from an adult education centre it can take courage to make that first step. But we also know that it's the people who have reservations about taking up a course or a class as an adult who can most benefit. And how many say it was a step that changed the course of their lives?

Adult Learners Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate inspiring and life-changing experiences of adult learning and the fantastic organisations across the country providing these opportunities in their communities. I'm looking forward to celebrating it with you.

Jenny Macaffer
CEO



Kylie Finlay a trainer at Community College Northern Inland is a farmer herself and has first hand experience of the drought that her community is facing.

(story continued from p. 1)

light. 'Most of the farmers around here thought of our College as being for unemployed people. Once they started coming along and really enjoying the classes we offered, the news spread. It's opened up a whole new client group that we haven't been able to reach before.

'They are very engaged and very motivated learners although many have had negative experiences of schooling in the past.

'They enjoy opportunities to socialise too, going out for coffee together or cooking for the group. And distance isn't an obstacle. It's nothing for locals round here to drive 100 km to get the groceries. Some people might drive over 200 kms to class and we've got one farmer who flies in by plane.'

The College offers accredited training, foundation skills courses as well as non-accredited programs for hobby, leisure, health and wellbeing. Free taster sessions give an overview of new industries for those looking to explore opportunities for off farm income.

'The drought has hit us really hard. It's been quite devastating. It's important that we find ways to support each other any way we can. And these classes have been a great way of doing that,' Alison says.

'We don't know how long the drought will last so in the meantime we're encouraging people to follow their interests

'The non-accredited courses are fun and there's no assessment so that's opened a lot of gates. Once people come along to those and find them enjoyable they are more likely to come along to accredited courses, which is great.' Alison Heagney, CEO, Community College Northern Inland

and keep learning so that once the drought is over they'll continue lifelong learning.'

The College has 7 campuses in small towns across the region and offers courses according to what experts are available and what farmers are interested in.

'We've trained farmers, horticulturists, nurses and welding fabricators to run courses for us,' Alison says.

One of those experts was **Kylie Finlay**. 'When they asked me to do some teaching I was really interested – I was ready for a change of vocation and was keen to do something different.'

Kylie worked first as a registered nurse and more recently in a management position in an aged care facility as well as running a 6,000 acre farm with her husband. Teaching was a new challenge.

'It was a bit daunting at first but I love it. The students are excited to learn. I love sharing my knowledge and I use lots of practical examples, talking about different experiences I've had to deal with and clients that I've looked after. The students find that really interesting.'

As for Jenny, who is one of Kylie's students, she is loving her new job. 'I've never done anything so rewarding. I just love caring for people, looking after them, talking to them, helping them. There's one lady who can't talk but she talks with her eyes and the look in her eyes just makes me feel so good. I feel wonderful at the end of each day. It's the best thing ever.

'When I think of the other jobs I've done, I feel like I've wasted my entire life doing meaningless rubbish.

'Now that I've got this job that I love, I'll keep working as long as I can.'

communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au

Literacy takes legal turn

A legal literacy program in Launceston is helping people with legal paperwork and empowering them through a better understanding of the law.



Nicky Snare, chief executive of the Community Legal Centre, says people need higher levels of literacy today than in the past.

For Sadie Roberts filling out a 25-page Centrelink form is a breeze. She's had plenty of practise. Since she started volunteering three years ago, she's helped over 100 people fill out forms at Launceston's Centrelink office for everything from unemployment benefit to aged care to the NDIS.

Sadie isn't surprised that there's such a demand for her help. She spent 20 years as a teacher and later working at the State Library and she's seen first hand how daunting paperwork can be for many adults.

Sadie is one of 70 active volunteers based at Centrelink offices, libraries and Neighbourhood Houses in north and north eastern Tasmania trained to help people with form filling and when needed, referring them to lawyers, financial advisors or other relevant support services.

The volunteer program was established in 2011 when Launceston's Community Legal Centre realised how much of their solicitors' time was spent helping clients fill in forms.

Nicky Snare, chief executive of the Community Legal Centre, says, 'We thought why don't we train lay volunteers based out in the community who can take the pressure off our service and free up our solicitors to provide legal advice to more clients?'

Tasmania has one of the lowest literacy rates in the country and this is compounded by the complex and often arcane language of legal documents. 'We've found that people are required to have higher levels of literacy than in the past. There's an awful lot of acronyms and the language can be

'What I most enjoy is the feeling that I've made a difference no matter how small, that I've helped someone on the next step to what they want to achieve.' Sadie Roberts, Legal Literacy volunteer

confusing. For people who struggle with literacy a one page form might be do-able but when they are 25 pages long they can be overwhelming. We've had people with university degrees asking our volunteers for help,' Nicky says.

More than 250 volunteers have undergone training since 2011 and have helped 3250 people. 'It's had a huge impact. At the Community Legal Centre instead of seeing 400 people a year the same number of solicitors have seen 1500-1700 people a year on average over the last 7 years,' Nicky says.

Volunteers play an important role not just in helping people with forms and applications. They are trained in recognising and preventing the escalation of potential legal problems.

'For example, someone might want help applying to get their superannuation out early and a legal literacy volunteer might suggest that perhaps they talk to a lawyer first because that decision might have implications for their Centrelink payment.

'They play a terrific role in breaking down silos between services so people find out what else is available to them.

'We provide the volunteers with terrific resources and training. They get trained by Centrelink staff in how to fill out their application forms, we give them general legal information about family law, wills, power of attorney, employment law and they have access to resources so they know what other community programs are out there.'

The training is so well regarded that many volunteers have left to take up paid work. 'There's a kudos attached to the legal literacy training and it is recognised as incredibly thorough as well as being accredited,' Nicky says.

Beylara Ra, Legal Literacy volunteer program coordinator says a stringent selection process ensures they select the best applicants. 'Volunteers need to be able to establish instant rapport with people, ask questions to get the right information and avoid telling people what to do. So during training we look for how they interact. A very shy person might



be a problem, or a very pushy person might be too. Having said that, a person who is very quiet can be a gobsmackingly good volunteer. It's people who can't take direction, who don't understand that we can't give advice of any kind that are the ones who don't make it through full training.'

issue requires sensitivity. 'We work closely with 26TEN and we've had success in getting people to ask for referral for ongoing help with their reading and writing.'

The role of the service in empowering often vulnerable and disadvantaged people inspires Beylara. 'The Legal Literacy volunteer service is social justice in action. This program is a fantastic way of educating people – our volunteers as well as our clients – in concepts they would never be exposed to, and they in turn educate their friends and relations.'



Sue Costello, Manager 26TEN and Beylara Ra, Legal Literacy volunteer program coordinator

Sadie says it's rewarding work. 'It's a valuable service because people in distress can't think straight, and they're under time pressure because they need money to live. But it's a matter of being aware of that and being able to take things slowly because often things will come out that are bothering that person that might not have much to do with the form. So I make encouraging noises and allow people to let off a bit of steam. Most people are very happy to be helped.'

'The most useful things I learned in my training was to be calm, to listen and not to assume things about people. You have to be prepared for anything.'

Retired lawyers or law students are immediately ruled out because they can be tempted to give legal advice. 'The point we emphasise time and again in training is that we are not lawyers and cannot lawfully give "advice" to anyone. That is why we have solicitors to refer to,' Beylara says.

Nicky Snare has urged both state as well as the federal government to contribute to continuing the service. 'After all 54% of the work the volunteers do is assisting people with Centrelink forms so they receive far fewer forms with problems so we are saving the federal government money. As far as we're concerned, there's not a down side to it. It doesn't matter what side of politics you're on, the legal literacy service is a really good idea.'

Training the volunteers in legal standards of confidentiality, conflict of interest and self care is critical. 'Emotionally and psychologically we have to look after the volunteers. For example, if they are seeing someone who needs help writing a restraint order they are going to hear some disturbing and sad details. They have to be professional and maintain confidentiality so they can't tell anyone else about it. But those kinds of stories can stay in your head. So we talk with them about ways of managing that.'

Not everyone who needs help with forms or applications has low literacy, Beylara says but for those who do, raising the

'I love every minute of every day in my job. I get to drive around Tasmania, the most beautiful place in the world. I meet and watch people open up and learn and develop and I get to see people's lives change for the better.' Beylara Ra, LLV program coordinator

Glyde-In's recipe for success

Twenty years after it first opened, Fremantle's Glyde-In Community Learning Centre came close to closure but today it's thriving.



A diverse program including arts, languages and guest experts attracts people from a wide geographic area.

It's enrolment day at East Fremantle's Glyde-In Community Learning Centre and the queue starts forming at 7 am. By 8.30 when the doors open there's 120 people waiting in line.

The Centre began in 1981 when a dozen women banded together to tackle the problem of isolation and lack of educational opportunities for women in their neighbourhood. In a workers cottage provided by the local council they set up a crèche and advertised workshops, and 65 people signed up. But during the 80s and 90s, volunteer fatigue, funding uncertainty and declining membership threatened the centre and it came close to closing.

Today Glyde-In has two paid staff, 60 volunteers and 700 members and is largely self-funded.

Co-ordinator Ann Reeves says the community spirit has been part of the centre's revival. 'In the 20 years I've been here we've had just one staff change. People tend to stay here. It's a happy place.'

Places fill fast in a program that includes computing and technology, Spanish and French, local excursions and historical walking tours and popular talks from guest speakers on topics from smarter finances for young families, fracking, Trump and Asia, to the psychology of eating.

The program has grown by 30% in 2019 including a successful Summer School and evening and weekend events that attract a diverse mix of people from a wide geographic area. Over 80% of Glyde-In members live outside the local area.

'What I love about the classes at Glyde-In is that you can do something that you'd do at uni, but there's no exams, no study so you can just really enjoy it.' Mal Christison

Ann says women over 50 predominate although the membership is changing. A lot of members are working and around half are on low incomes. 'The Centre is very accessible for people with disabilities. We like to think that there are no barriers to participating in our classes.'

Programming and organising the speakers is the best part of Ann's job. 'I can explore topics of interest to me, find people who know about it and then work with them on the idea. We make sure the talks are topical and interesting and the speakers are eloquent. The sessions fill up quickly.'

A committed team of volunteers makes all the difference, Ann says.

'Their enthusiasm permeates the place. For example, one group looks after our gardens which are beautiful. There's outdoor seating and a long pathway through gardens, so it's a warm and welcoming place.'

'Ours is a centre where a lot of hard work is done and the attention to detail is phenomenal, there's a lot of grunt behind the grins. On enrolment day recently we had 200 people through the doors with 25 volunteers and five computer desks going full pelt. It's unpaid and often unnoticed work but we couldn't operate otherwise and if we had to pay for the volunteers' time we wouldn't be able to afford it. Some of our volunteers say working here is like having a second career and some of them have been working here for more than ten years.'

One thing that hasn't changed since the Centre opened is the opportunity it offers for social connection.

'A woman who lost her husband recently came along here and said the Centre changed her life. It opened up a new world for her and she now volunteers regularly on enrolment days. She's great to have around. For a lot of people it's a place for starting over, a new beginning. For some, their doctor has recommended they come along. Social isolation is a major reason that people come here and I think they find it very rewarding.'



Glyde-In hosts a range of self-run groups including one for cyclists.

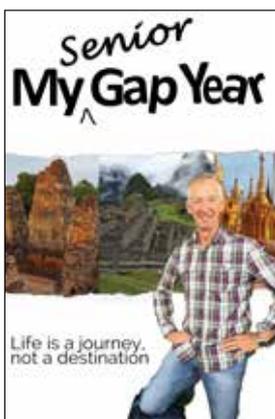
Outside of the formal program the Centre hosts a range of self-run groups that get together for activities and socialising including cycling and walking groups and groups who meet for scrabble, mah-jong, chess and music.

'Romances occasionally blossom here too. One couple met in the cycling group and another while they were gardening.'

The Town of East Fremantle leases the building free of charge and provide 28% of the operational budget. 'That's unheard of among learning centres. We are very fortunate – the Town recognises that the community service we provide is worth far more than the amount of money they contribute. Our relationship with the Town is strong.'

Keeping their program responsive to the needs and interests of the local community is a priority. 'We are experimenting now with offering more classes on weekends and in the evenings because younger people and working people are asking for it. We'll try it and see how it goes. We try to run classes even with a minimum number – because if we cancel a class it closes a door and someone might not come back.'

Mal Christison signed up for his first class after he retired 6 years ago from his job as a draughtsman in the mining industry. 'I started with philosophy, signed up for a writing group, then I joined the committee and next thing I know I was Chair.'



Mal says Ann Reeves has been central to the revitalisation of the Centre.

'Ann has moulded the place. It didn't always have such an educational focus but she's turned it into a learning centre. It's the program that brings people in. Everything else including the garden is what makes them stay. Ann puts together a program that really grabs people.'

'The management committee recently did a SWOT analysis and now we've got a strategic plan. I've been cynical about them in the past but this one is very practical and we've been following through on it. We looked at how many members we had from different areas and decided to letterbox a new area and got another 35 members. The Council was rapt, to get that sort of uptake is terrific.'

My senior gap year

Chris Herrmann is one of Glyde-In's upcoming speakers and the session's already booked out.

Instead of retiring, corporate professional Chris took a year off to travel the world with nothing more than a backpack, and no real plans.

'I saw my gap year as a transition to a new stage in my life, a way of stretching myself, doing something different.'

'I really pushed myself. It was the first time I'd travelled solo in my life. I took it one step at a time. The key was putting myself in situations that were uncomfortable or forcing myself to do things I didn't want to do or that made me feel embarrassed. For example, sleeping in a dorm room with young people who were the same age as my kids. Or when I couldn't find a hotel, sleeping in airport on a lounge chair at Zurich airport.'

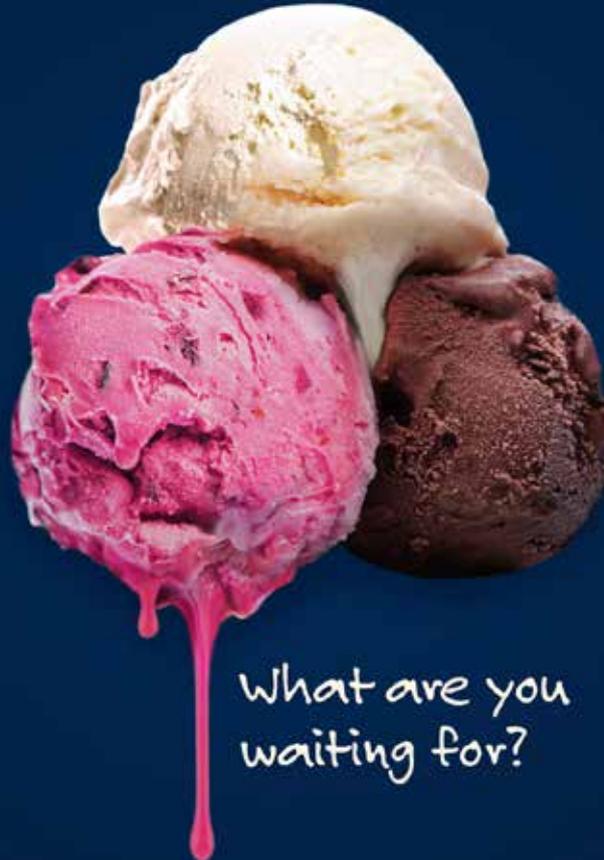
'The take away whether you intend to do something as drastic as I did or not is to explore opportunities. We get stuck in a rut so one simple but powerful thing to do is to break your habits. Take a different route to work. Step out of your comfort zone. Do something in your day that you wouldn't normally do and see where it leads you.'

glydein.org.au

'Our program offers talks and activities that appeal to people who want to know more about what's going on in the world.' Ann Reeves

Adult Learners Week 2019 1–8 Sept

The theme of this year's Adult Learners Week #ALW2019 promotes the idea that there's no time like the present to transform your life through learning.



In the first week of September hundreds of organisations host community events that promote the benefits of adult learning and showcase what opportunities are available around the country.

The theme this year, 'What are you waiting for?' urges people to take the plunge and enjoy the benefits that adult learning offers.

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 is an empowering experience that leads to happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Turning people on to learning

Our campaign is aimed particularly at people who are hesitant about re-engaging with education who are missing out on the rewards and pleasures learning can bring.

Get involved

If your organisation offers any form of adult learning such as courses, classes, exhibitions, tours, training, tutoring, discussion groups – then #ALW2019 is an opportunity to celebrate and promote the benefits – to individuals within the community, to government departments, to policymakers, to the private sector and to the media.

Early bird and other prizes!

Register your event on the ALW website before 1 August 2019 and you have the chance to win 1 of 20 \$200 ALW event grants. There are also \$1000 cash prizes on offer for the best ALW events and \$1000 learner scholarships.

Ideas for celebrating

- 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 achievements of your staff/ volunteers.
- Announce or launch a new course or new initiative.
- Badge open days and events with #ALW2019 branding.
- Nominate a learner for an #ALW2019 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.

Remember to register your event on the ALW website and use #ALW2019 on social media.

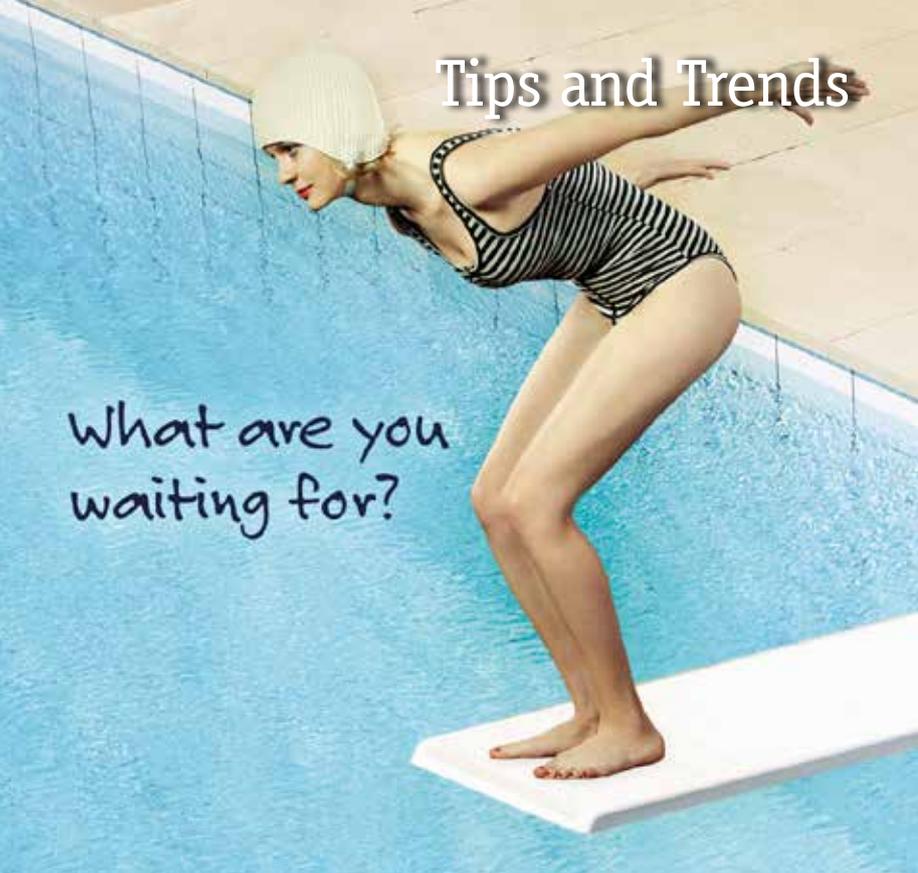
Support for your #ALW2019 celebrations

Adult Learning Australia will be co-ordinating the following activities:

- National media and social media campaigns
- Providing toolkits, downloads, resources and tips for organisations running events
- Promoting organisations running #ALW2019 events
- National helpline 1300ILEARN 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

Top tips for your #ALW2019 events

Tips and Trends



What are you
waiting for?

Here's some expert tips from the winners of last year's best Adult Learners Week events on how to make it a success.

1 Start planning early

Get together with a few people and brainstorm. Involve your staff and volunteers. You've got to be excited about it so that the people around you will be enthusiastic too. Get creative and aim for fun events. It's a great way of bringing your staff together as a team.

2 Try quirky

Find something different, something unique that people wouldn't normally do but would love to try. Have a look at what's popular on social media for the kinds of things that might draw a crowd. Check the Adult Learners Week website for ideas.

3 Open it up

Offering free 'taster' classes or having an 'Open House' where people can come along and give something new a try really works well. It is a great opportunity to get new people through your doors. Encourage people to bring friends and family. The more the merrier!

4 Make it practical

People are much happier with a hands-on session where they get to try something themselves rather than it being a demonstration where they watch someone else.

5 Rope others in

Find out what skills people in your organisation or users of your service have that they'd be willing to teach to others. You'll be surprised. It gives you the opportunity to do something different and people love sharing their knowledge. It gives them a sense of purpose and makes them feel great.

6 Be playful and have fun

Make the learning activities unique and interesting to make sure that everyone including staff and trainers have a ball.

7 Make the most of social media

Using social media gets people excited about Adult Learners Week and it helps to promote it. Instagram is a great way to connect with and attract younger people too. Work out who's taking responsibility for social media. Students and staff love seeing their photos and videos being shared and liked. Remember to use the hashtag #ALW2019 to get noticed and connect with others.

8 Be a storyteller

Tell the stories of your adult students, how they first got involved in your organisation and ways they've benefited from learning. Showing the impact of adult learning inspires others.

9 Move out of the spotlight

Adult Learners Week is a chance to recognise the efforts of other people and organisations too. So get tagging, liking and cheering the efforts of other organisations and people involved on social media.

10 Finish on a high

An awards night or a wrap party that recognises the achievements and work of all the people involved is a fantastic way to end the week.

Thanks to WEA Hunter (NSW), Brunswick Neighbourhood House (VIC), Gympie Libraries (QLD), Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre (VIC), and Junction Community Centre (SA) for their advice.

View from the board

New and returning board members outline their priorities and describe what they hope to achieve for Australian adult education during their term.



Sue Howard, President

Extending our influence

As the newly elected President of ALA I feel really privileged to be leading this established and well-respected peak body. ALA has long been a strong advocate for the value of lifelong and lifewide learning to individuals, communities, organisations, governments and to the country as a whole. My main aims are to work with the board and members to establish means to provide sustainable income to the organisation and the ALA Foundation and to explore ideas to increase our membership. There are many and varied groups who provide lifelong and lifewide learning opportunities for our communities who would benefit from for example, the professional development that ALA offers as well as bringing new ideas to what we can achieve and provide. I'm looking forward to the challenge and I hope you are too.



Dr Donna Rooney, Board member

Research that counts

I want to use my role as an academic and board member to do more research so that neighbourhood centres and small NGOs that are under-funded can show evidence of the importance of the work they do. Everyone who holds the purse strings wants evidence so it's good to be able to make a case. I've had personal experience of the kinds of opportunities offered by small NGOs. I left school at 14 and did a hairdressing apprenticeship and at 27 I enrolled in an adult literacy class at an independent learning centre. If it wasn't for the caring and thoughtful women who worked at that centre I would never have stayed. So those experiences have shaped me both as a teacher and an academic and it's why I'm interested in research that shows how small NGOs that are often regarded as parochial or overlooked are often making an enormous impact to individuals and communities they work with.



Allison Stewart

Access to adult literacy

I am very pleased to have been elected to the Board. My particular passion is adult and family literacy and collective approaches to framing and implementing community-based solutions. I have spent many years working with Aboriginal people in remote areas, in community development and within the refugee sector. I recently worked closely with Aboriginal elders on a project which highlighted high levels of unmet educational aspiration in the NT. Aboriginal adults who live remotely and who speak English as a second language, are sorely disadvantaged. I believe that everyone deserves equitable access to English literacy and learning throughout life. In Australia today how can individuals, families and communities meet the challenges, embrace opportunity and fulfil their vision if their level of English does not match their aspirations? I am very happy to be working more closely with ALA and its members on positive initiatives which generate solutions to this extremely important issue.

ACE news from around Australia



In **South Australia**, Community Centres SA (CCSA) is calling for nominations for the Loneliness Cure Award, which close on July 24. The award celebrates, rewards and recognises the part that community centres, local community groups or not for profits play in connecting people up and reducing the crippling effects loneliness and isolation have on health and wellbeing: awardsaustralia.com/community-achievement-awards/sa/

In a collaboration with the Department for Innovation and Skills, CCSA has embarked on a project to analyse the training and capacity building needs of the South Australian Adult Community Education sector. CCSA continues its professional development activities for members with social media mentoring programs, webinars and off-the-shelf training modules for ACE providers.



Tamsin Rossiter

In **Victoria**, Tamsin Rossiter is excited by her appointment as executive officer of **Adult and Community Education Victoria (ACEVic)**. Tamsin has 24 years experience working in educator and management roles in community and vocational education and she is looking forward to supporting ACEVic members by representing their interests to government and

funding bodies and keeping them abreast of changes and updates within the sector.

Also in **Victoria**, **Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's** May conference in the Yarra Valley attracted 200 delegates. Highlights included the Joan Kirner Oration presented by Jamila Rizvi and the announcement of NHVic's new annual awards program. See the winners here www.nhvic.org.au/news/nhvic-award-winners-revealed. Nicole Battle, CEO, will be embarking on a roadshow in July to gather feedback from NHVic's members for an upcoming state government summit on the role of ACE within the post-secondary system.



Tracey Tasker

Tasmania's peak body Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania has a new CEO, Tracey Tasker, who is a graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders program with 10 years' experience in middle and senior management working across all areas of health and community services. Tracey's priorities include building on the existing legacy and continuing to support Neighbourhood Houses to achieve their goals; to build community, support people and families, and help people to learn new skills and give back to their community.

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/join-now/



Adult Learning Australia

ACE News (cont.)

In the **ACT**, seven projects aimed at improving access to work-related learning for Canberrans who face complex barriers to undertaking learning or work received \$350,000 funding in the first round of the 2019 Adult Community Education grants program. Organisations funded included UnitingCare Kippax, Tjillari Justice Aboriginal Corporation, Belconnen Community Service, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT and Support Asian Women's Friendship Association.

bit.ly/2XzGr3v

In **WA**, LinkWest and its member Centres recently wrapped up Neighbourhood Centre Week (6–12 May). Thanks to funding from Lotterywest, Linkwest provided a small grants program to enable 27 Centres to host events. From open days to movie nights, people across the state had the opportunity to discover programs and activities on offer all year round. Planning continues for Linkwest's 2019 conference: People. Place. Partnerships. Registrations open soon: linkwest.asn.au/news-events/conference-2019

In NSW, CCA is calling for papers and presentations for its November conference and applications close Friday 16 August 2019.

CCA have also launched a new six-part audio podcast series on corporate governance and business management: cca.edu.au.



Nationally, ALA is busy co-ordinating plans for Adult Learners Week and is delighted to announce the establishment of the **Learning Changes Lives Foundation**. The Foundation provides financial assistance to disadvantaged adults to enable them to participate in adult education.

learningchangeslives.org.au/

ALA continues to facilitate meetings between members who are providers of community education and training and the Australian Skills and Qualifications Authority (ASQA). It is a great opportunity to raise questions and gain information relevant to ACE RTOs with the national regulator of VET. To participate email j.macaffer@ala.asn.au

ALA's fortnightly professional development webinars continue to attract strong interest from adult educators interested in developing their skills for teaching English and adult literacy, improving assessment and research. ala.asn.au/professional-development/webinars/

You can find previous issues of Quest and individual stories for sharing on our website: ala.asn.au/stories/

QUEST

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