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News from the Executive

New Members

We welcome on board our newest member – Wyong Shire Council & Brimbank City Council.

New Executive Members

Due to her work commitments, Vanessa Little has stepped down from her position and Janice Biggin has been appointed in her place. We thank Vanessa for her contribution over a number of years.

At the first meeting since the AGM the following members were elected.

Chair: Max Eastcott, CEO of the Gwydir Shire Council

Deputy Chair: Dr Judith Jensen, Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, City Libraries, Townsville

Treasurer: Janice Biggin, Manager, Library Services, ACT Library & Information Service

Welcome News on our Website

At long last the upgrade to our website www.lcc.edu.au has reached a stage where it is on line. It has been a long time and thank you for your patience. But now it is up and running, thanks to our new web manager Andrew Williamson.

Your first step is to register for access. Hopefully by this means we can reduce the amount of spam that plagued us before. Registration is simple and details are in the main body of the newsletter.

Conference 2011

With a national conference planned for Melbourne by Adult Learning Australia in November 2011, we are in discussions about collaboration with the addition of a segment around learning communities. Jan Simmons is the Executive representative in these negotiations.

Promotion

Our past chair, Jan Simmons was a leading speaker at the Adult Learning Australia National Conference recently held in Adelaide. Jan was also recently invited back to South Korea as a keynote speaker at a recent conference. (see article later in this newsletter)

Seeking New Editor for Ripples

Thanks to Lou Sbalchiero for editing Ripples for the past two years. Lou is now stepping down as editor and if you are interested to take on this position in time for our next edition in March 2011 please contact him at learning@yarraranges.vic.gov.au or phone 03 924 6335.

News from the Executive (continued)

Project for International Exchange (PIE)

For further details contact Kath McLachlan on (07) 4681 3777

Governance and Breaking the Cycle

The Australian Social Inclusion Board has two consultations which have relevance to our work.

Breaking the Cycle: quite a few members attended consultations regarding this research project

Governance: this is looking at ways of local governance issues around initiation of projects that address areas of social disadvantage and promote lifelong learning.

In both cases, we understand that the Board is planning to have them published and publicly released early next year. Keep an eye on the social inclusion website www.socialinclusion.gov.au where we anticipate that they will be published on completion.

Do you know of other potential members?

We have had a boost to our membership this year increasing from 34 to 47. While this is great news, our strength and our sustainability will only come from an increased membership. So, where appropriate, please encourage others to join

The individual subscription has been reduced to \$50 per annum and is open to those without institutional support while the organisational subscription remains at \$330 as it has for the last 3 years.

See the member application form at the back of this newsletter

We invite your feedback

As we want to improve, we would like to hear from you about the usefulness of this newsletter to you. Does it help you in your work? What features could be included?

Meet New Members: Judith Jensen



Dr Judith Jensen is Coordinator of Lifelong Learning with the Townsville Library Service. In this role she is responsible for the strategic development and implementation of library programs and other activities to develop Townsville as a learning community. At the strategic level she works with an enthusiastic and established high-level council

advisory group, comprising leaders in the fields of education and community capacity building, whose role is to advocate for the creation of Townsville as a dynamic and sustainable learning environment for all community members.

At the operational level she administers the Library's delivery of learning programs by a team of talented professionals who are engaged in delivering lifelong learning programs both in the library and as outreach. The library's most recent project developed in partnership with Learning NQ and the Community Information Centre is a skills register, *Learning Links*, which will provide opportunities for individuals to learn from volunteer tutors in an informal manner in the relaxed surroundings of a community centre or library branch. This program will be launched in December.

Meet new members(continued) Chris Kelly



My name is Chris Kelly and I am fortunate to be the Manager of Libraries and Learning for Brimbank City Council. One of my major projects over the past 12 months has been the development of the Brimbank Community Learning Strategy and action plan. The strategy has been developed following extensive consultation and will provide a framework for partnership and collaboration. The Strategy is linked to Council's Community Plan, the Brimbank Social Justice Charter and a number of other strategic documents. We are looking forward to launching the Strategy early in 2011.

Brimbank is a unique and fascinating city located approximately 20 minutes west of the Melbourne CBD. The City has a population of 185,000 residents and is one of the most multicultural cities in Victoria, with more than 150 languages spoken across the municipality.

This includes a growing Vietnamese population as well as a growing and strongly identified small proportion of Indigenous residents,. Through the 70s and 90s many migrants arrived in Brimbank from Southern European shores, establishing businesses and homes. During later years Brimbank has continued to be a significant western region gateway for overseas migrants, although in more recent years populations from India, China, Vietnam and African countries have increased and migration from the Southern European countries has slowed. The rate of new arrivals with low or no English has increased in recent years.

The City of Brimbank is one of the lowest socio-economic areas in Melbourne. It houses many low income and disadvantaged groups, with high proportions of people with low incomes, in single parent families and with poor English proficiency. However, as the

Brimbank population is extensive and accommodates a large and diverse population, levels of advantage and disadvantage differ across the suburbs and local areas.

Brimbank City Council provides and supports a wide range of learning opportunities through various departments and partnership. One recent example of community learning was the celebration of learning at the graduation ceremony for 70 residents who participated in leadership programs. Council looks forward to continuing to support and celebrate our communities learning and achievements.

Literacy and Sporting Clubs

Morrison's, the Community House in Mount Evelyn, Victoria, have successfully helped people with low literacy levels engage in learning and connect with their community.

To address the low levels of literacy within the Mount Evelyn community, Morrison's established a program that used football and netball as a 'hook' to engage the sports fans.

27 participants built on their own strengths and passions to create a digital living history of the local football and netball club, while enhancing their own employability.

To successfully engage learners, Morrison's took the program to their learners' turf, holding sessions after training or around game time.

A great thing about this program was its use of digital technology to capture learners' attention and build their employability skills.

Not only did learners improve their literacy skills through the program but they also increased their community awareness through its focus on the history of their sports club.

A benefit of the program has been bringing together people of all ages through a shared passion and learning goal.



Register on our new Website

Thanks to our new website manager, Andrew Williamson, our website is now operational. We will be continuing to input data from now on and we see this as a continuing process. We will be sending more details in the future but the first important step is:

Create a new account.

Creating your new account is simple and only takes a few minutes.

To start with, locate the login box on the website home page as per below figure.



You will notice on the image to the left, the "no account yet? Create one" text at the base of the login box. Click Create one, and make sure you fill in all applicable details.

Your Name: is your given name.

Your Username: is the name you want to use to log-in to the LCC website.

Your email: you must enter a valid email address to register with the LCC. You must re-enter your email address to verify you typed it correctly.

Your Password: a password must be more than 5 digits and less than 10. A good secure password is made up of numbers and characters both upper and lower case.

***Capcha Code:** This colourful text box is designed to prevent unwanted robots from creating an account. Enter the 3 'chars' or Characters in black only.

Yes I accept & Disclaimer: Please select the check box next to "yes, I accept" and then click SEND REGISTRATION button. You will then receive a confirmation email in your email in-box.

You are now Registered



intouchaustralia.com – Mandurah launches new portal website

The concept behind *In Touch* was the provision of a single internet portal leading to the details and websites of providers of higher education and training across Australia. Combined with the solution to the “where do I start?” question, was the need to engage with young adults. The website was conceived using web 2.0 technology which links with social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

During the second quarter of 2010, the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) issued offers of grant funding under the Adult Learners Week 2010 Grant Funding round. The City of Mandurah lodged an application on behalf of ALCN and the City. Our application was for \$70,000 (plus GST) from the Commonwealth to establish, market and operate *In Touch* for the period 1 July, 2010 through 30 June, 2011. The City of Mandurah agreed to support the project with a further \$30,000 for the IT development work, purchase of necessary hardware upgrades and the costs associated with the occupation of space on the City’s servers.

The grant application was successful and work started at the City of Mandurah in July 2010. The website was designed and built, the links to the social networking sites established and preliminary work started on a second design “image”. Chris Kennedy joined the team at the City in early September as project officer.

On the 10th September, *In Touch* went live globally. Starting locally, the City started implementing the project marketing plan. Schools, TAFEs, providers of community services, Centrelink, the WA Dept of Education and other State Government agencies and departments have all been approached and to some extent have become involved in assisting the promotion of *In Touch*.

At the end of September, we were in a position to submit a satisfactory progress report to DEEWR in Canberra. Financial progress reports were submitted on time before the end of October.

With over 2,900 page hits since the counters were turned on the 1st of October, Phase Two of the ongoing development of *In Touch* has started.

- A new look is in late development to replace the rather corporate appearance of Mark 1.
- Revised Forums are in late development to provide a vehicle for users to swap ideas, ask questions or chronicle their experiences.
- Further work is under way to formalise the project management aspects of *In Touch*.

What is GraniteNet?

GraniteNet is the online community for Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt - www.granitenet.com.au

We are a non-profit group that aims to deliver website and internet services to the benefit of the community.

We host the websites for over 70 community groups in the region. Any non-profit group in the region is encouraged to apply for their own GraniteNet page. We also offer free @granitenet.com.au email addresses and blogs to residents.

We offer internet and computer access to the community, and we now have a Seniors Kiosk with two "Seniors Only" computers set up with software specifically to assist seniors who currently have minimal or no computer experience. As a priority, free tutoring is available during opening times to assist seniors.

Broadband for Seniors aims to:

- provide older Australians with access to computers and the Internet via free Internet kiosks
- support seniors to gain confidence and build skills in using new technology
- address the issue of older Australians feeling isolated and ‘left behind’ in a technological age and
- build community participation and social inclusion amongst older Australians

Businesses can have listings on GraniteNet. We also offer full web design services - all money raised goes back into supporting GraniteNet. We welcome any persons interested in contributing to the site or our services

Phone: Kath McLachlan 07 4681 3777

Learning Links



The Townsville Library Service in partnership with Learning NQ and the Community Information Centre has developed a new learning program, *Learning Links*, to fill a gap in learning in Townsville. It provides opportunities for individuals to try a new skill without the pressure of more formal classes.

Learning Links is community-based, informal learning in relaxed surroundings that links new learners with volunteer tutors. It consists of a register of volunteer tutors who are willing to help someone learn a new skill. For example, they might be able to knit or speak Italian and have the time to teach that skill to a new learner. *Learning Links* sessions are held at a time convenient to both parties. It is about people learning from each other. *Learning Links* is a friendly way to learn one-on-one or in small groups at little or no cost. It takes place in community spaces such as libraries and community centres.

For further information on *Learning Links* contact CityLibraries on 4727 9666 or the Community Information Centre on 4771 4230.

Back to Korea

by Jan Simmons

I'm starting to feel like a local - having just returned from my third trip to Korea in 4 years.

The event was the IAEC (International Association of Educating Cities) second Regional Conference of the Asia Pacific Region.

The conference included a Lifelong Learning seminar in Gunsan City which is three hours by car from Seoul. Gunsan's claim to fame seems to be the huge sea wall project which may or may not give rise to environmental comment.

I had been invited to provide the key note address for which my topic was "International Trends and Tasks for Lifelong Learning"

As always the Koreans provided energetic and full days with great care and consideration for the guests who came from: Spain, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, India, Mexico, China, Japan, Australia and Korea.

We are always provided with the cultural excitement of traditional drumming and dance along with sensational food - unfortunately there is also an expectation of guests to contribute a song as well.



The charter of Educating Cities affirms the right to an Educating City which emphasizes the responsibility of local governments in the sense of discovering and developing all the educational potentialities that the city has within itself

It is inspiring to be part of an environment so committed to Lifelong Learning and the creation of learning communities.

The city as an educating agent

All cities are a source of education in themselves

Cities become educating when they are aware of the potentiality and they take action

Our view of education

Embraces the entire population throughout its life

Includes a multitude of issues, moments and spaces

New agents appear in addition to the family and the schools, companies, civic organisations, the media etc

The educating city

Education must be an axis of the political project

Projects are shared with the civil society

Key factors are knowledge, good governance and the building of citizenship

Premises of an educating city

- Information is accessible for all
- Citizenship participation
- Evaluation of needs and proposals
- Evaluation of educating impacts different public processes

One of the highlights was the public commitment by the Learning City Mayors to the principles of Lifelong Learning and the Educating City. Maybe one day we in Australia will see such a wonderful sight.

Australian Learning Communities Network – Membership Application

I wish to join as an (please tick)

Institutional/organisation/Company member

Personal member (see over)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other		Surname	
First Name(s)			
Position:			
Name of Organisation / Company/ institution:			
Address			
Post Code:			
<u>Contact Numbers:</u>			
Office Telephone:			
Fax No:			
Mobile:			
Email Address:			
The name of another contact if you are not available			
<p style="text-align: center;">Please return completed form to:</p> <p>email: alcn@tpg.com.au or post to:</p> <p>Australian Learning Communities Network Inc <i>PO Box 664, Albury NSW 2640</i> phone: 02 6021 5690; Fax: 02 6021 0616</p> <p>Membership fee on application On receipt of the completed form, you will be issued with an invoice to pay.</p>			

For the purpose of networking, I consent to the details of our membership being distributed to other members of ALCN Inc and on the Learning Communities Catalyst website and understand that this consent is for the purpose outlined above and can be revoked at any time

I acknowledge that my membership details are a correct reflection of my personal situation (**only applicable to Personal Membership**)

NameSignature