

Meet your Members

Janet Skewes

Janet's career in education and training is characterized by variety and success. As well as being an experienced educator, Janet has held leadership positions in Schools, Tertiary and the VET sectors and these in a range of locations from remote Aboriginal communities, country towns and metropolitan areas.



She has been involved in many exciting and innovative education programs including:

Bilingual education in the NT as a teacher and teacher linguist;

Coordinated the Anangu Teacher Education Program, an onsite teacher education program in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, through the University of SA;

Prisoner education of Aboriginal inmates at the Pt Augusta Prison; Initiated a number of customized and creative programs for the Aboriginal communities of Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta;

Supported organizations in the development of their own equal opportunity plan and developed new courses, publications and online video resources. whilst at the SA Equal Opportunity Commission; and' more recently;

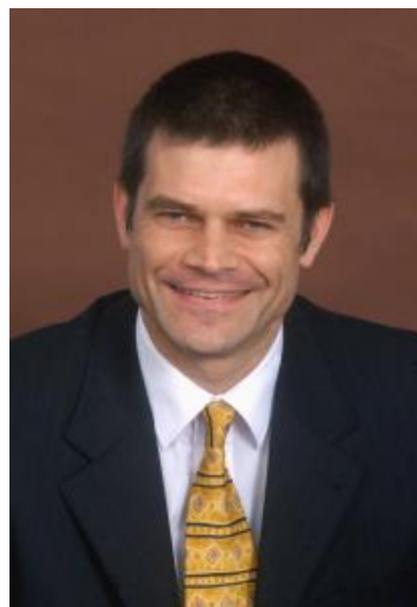
Managing the TAFE program in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands where developments in methodology are being implemented and incorporate online learning.

Professor Andrew Vann

Andy Vann trained as a civil engineer and completed a PhD at University of Bristol in the UK on artificial intelligence applied to data interpretation. He moved to Central Queensland University in 1996 where he held roles as Head of Department and Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Systems. He has a particular interest in curriculum design, assessment and work integrated learning and was part of the leadership team that developed the project-based degree format for the Bachelor of Engineering at CQU. He has since worked in change and senior management roles at CQU and JCU.

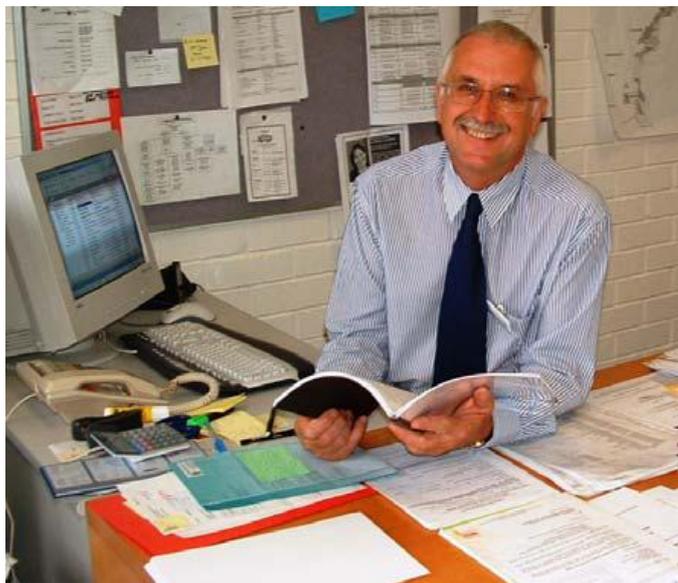
As Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor he has responsibility for the Faculties, the Teaching and Learning Development Unit and Teaching and Learning policy at James Cook University. He also works closely with the Chair of Academic Board and the Quality Office on academic quality issues.

Professor Vann is currently the Vice-Chairman of Learning NQ, a learning communities' leadership group, a member of the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE Council and a director of JCU Enterprises Ltd, The Cathedral School, Townsville and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.



Alasdair Wardle to retire

Thank you, Alasdair, for your involvement with and contribution to Lifelong Learning Communities.



Alasdair has had over 20 years experience managing libraries in Victoria and Western Australia, where he managed the main library in Mandurah as well as the promotion of lifelong learning within the City.

Alasdair has been a member of the Executive of the Australian Learning Communities Network Inc since 2006.

Learning Communities Catalyst



**Australian
Learning
Communities
Network Inc**

Have you seen the new, updated version of our website? This website is yours and we would love you to use it. You can read articles from around the world about learning communities, add events, find out the latest news about learning communities in Australia, and even download back issues of Ripples. Check out the great new website at www.lcc.edu.au

Mt Evelyn Community Resource Centre – Hub of the learning town

As the result of a successful grant from the Modernising Neighbourhood Houses funding round there will be a vibrant new co-location project in Mt Evelyn, Victoria.

The Mt Evelyn Community Resource Centre will be located within the centrally located library to create a community hub within the century old stationmaster's house, which will provide an interactive information and learning resource.

This unified presence of neighbourhood house [Morrison House], local government [Shire of Yarra Ranges] and library [Eastern Regional Libraries] will provide a focal point that will contribute to community building in Mt Evelyn.

Several services will collocate within the facility including the community café, an interactive exhibition space, the Community Link [information centre] and the library.

This co-location will ramp up the information and resources available to the community providing a human face for the service.

Community members will be able to engage with environmental design first hand as the building will incorporate examples of ecological building responses.

The building will become an open plan design allowing for community members to move freely around all areas of the building.

The co-location will enable the library to open longer hours as staff will share roles.

The grant will also add some state of the art technology to the facility including LCD screens, interactive whiteboards and wireless hotspots.

For further information contact
Jan Simmons Mt Evelyn Learning Town
PH: 03 9736 1457
E: jsimmons@morrisonhouse.org

Albury Wodonga Community College

A solution for supporting young people at risk of disengaging from education

The initiative of an alternative senior secondary school model for students at Years 11 and 12 started in January 2006. The anticipation of new teachers and support staff was soon vindicated with 38 students commencing against an enrolment target of 25 and then again increasing to 60 students in 2007 and to 79 in 2008.

The alternative education model is based on low ratios of students to teachers, higher levels of social welfare student support, linkages within an adult and community education environment and finally but importantly, a 'village' of other adult learners who for many had their own struggle with formal education and are motivated to assist the students in their learning activities, community events and aspirations towards employment.

The third year for the Albury Wodonga Community College was highlighted again by a range of student events in our local community and away from Wodonga. Our third Debutante Ball and importantly, our student Graduation Evening with almost 200 people again attending was held in December 2008. Many more events were arranged and included: a visit by Dr Brendan Nelson; volunteering at Wodonga Show, Children's Fair and Westmont Aged Care Hostel: tours and Careers Expo: and Clean Up Australia Day.



Importantly the academic achievement of students, who were previously disengaged from secondary school, is the most outstanding result of all. At our graduation ceremony in December 2008, our student success shone through with a 43 % graduation rate at Year 11 and a 61 % graduation rate at Year 12.

For further information
Rodney Wangman:
E: rod@awcc.edu.au

Hume Global Learning Village Annual Research Conference Social Inclusion: A Learning Tool Call for presenters!

Hume Global Learning Centre, Broadmeadows
Thursday 27 August 2009, 9.30am-3.30pm

The Hume Global Learning Village is calling for presenters for the Hume Global Village Annual Research Conference. This year's theme is 'Social Inclusion: A Learning Tool'.

The Hume Global Learning Village Annual Research Conference has become a way for learning practitioners, researchers, teachers and facilitators to come together to share experiences; report on research that is being carried out in Hume and surrounding municipalities; and to collaborate on future projects that promote lifelong learning.

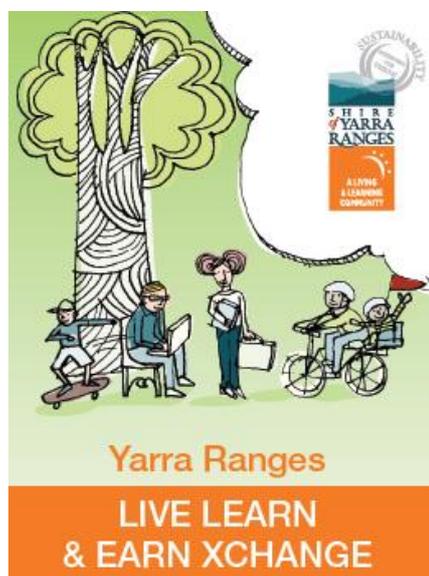
If you are interested in presenting at this year's conference please download, complete and submit the HGLV Research Conference Call for Presenters form available at www.hume.vic.gov.au. All necessary details are available on the form.

The conference is always a great day for learning providers in Hume and beyond – make sure you put it in your diary even if you don't wish to present!

Helen Marsden
Communications and Promotions Coordinator
Hume City Council
W: www.hume.vic.gov.au
E: helenma@hume.vic.gov.au
PH: 03 9356 6930

Live Learn & Earn XChange Shire of Yarra Ranges

The Shire of Yarra Ranges recently launched the **LIVE LEARN & EARN XCHANGE**. (formerly Learning Alliance) as part of National Career Development Week (May 18 -24).



The development of the Live Learn & Earn XChange is a response to closely align lifelong learning and career development. People not only need access to increased lifelong learning opportunities but also require the skills to plan and implement how best to maximise these learning opportunities at any stage in life.

The Live Learn & Earn XChange promotes lifelong learning and career development. It is a collaborative online network of community organisations and individuals supporting people who live, work, study or volunteer in Yarra Ranges to access training & courses, educational options, volunteering opportunities, skills for employment, programs that enhance health & well being, leisure options and career development.

Membership is free and open to any community organisation, service or individual.

Members access the monthly e- bulletin "Learning Happens" that enables members to seek and share information on events, programs and news that supports people in Yarra Ranges with their lifelong learning and career development. This is linked to <http://www.yarrarangeslearning.net.au>

Members have the added option of now joining **eLLEX** - the Live Learn & Earn XChange Email Network, which actively supports people in Yarra Ranges to achieve their personal lifelong learning goals and plans by posting and answering email enquiries.

To join go online to <http://www.yarrarangeslearning.net.au> or ask for a brochure.

Lou Sbalchiero
Community Development Officer
Shire of Yarra Ranges
PH: 03 9294 6335
E: learning@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

International Connections

The Australian Learning Communities Network has always maintained an eye to the global picture, being aware that they are one part of a whole movement that understands the contribution that learning can make to supporting change and community capacity building. For this reason we have participated in international visits and conferences

Wanting to keep expanding this connection Peter Kearns is proposing to introduce Australian communities to a connection with like communities across the globe through his relationship with the PASCAL Observatory.

Queensland, Canberra and Yarra Ranges [Vic] have prepared backgrounds to progress this proposal further.

For further information contact
Jim Saleeba, CEO ALCN
PH:02 96021 5690
E: alcn@tpg.com.au

Your contributions to Ripples

Send to: learning@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Deadline for next issue: **September 11**

Feedback invited

The ALCN is committed to helping all practitioners in the field. This newsletter is one form of assistance. Any feedback on its effectiveness and other parts of our efforts would be greatly appreciated.