

## **e-WAALC NEWS August 2009**

**e-WAALC News** is the electronic newsletter of the Western Australian Adult Literacy Council.

The WAALC Executive Committee prepares and sends **e-WAALC News** to members five times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions to the newsletter.

This newsletter is also available on our web site [www.waalc.org.au](http://www.waalc.org.au)

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### **1. ACAL Conference and Forum - early bird closing August 19**

From Strength to Strength. Fremantle, 2-3 October 2009

Early Bird rate for registrations closes on August 19th for the ACAL conference. As delegates are able to pre-select workshops this year, early birders have more than just a substantial discount: they get first pick of the concurrent sessions.

Go to <http://www.waalc.org.au/09conf/index.htm> to register.

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### **2. Scholarships funding from Lotterywest and DET—second round**

Two opportunities for support to attend the ACAL conference are open at present. The first round of Lotterywest supported scholarships resulted in 18 Western Australians receiving support to attend the conference. Applications for the second round closes on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The Lotterywest supported ACAL conference scholarship can support non-government workers in the literacy field in WA to attend the conference and the forum.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) scholarships are also in their second round. Preference is being given to applicants who need registrations only so this is a great chance for metropolitan people to access some support for a high quality conference. You must be Western Australian and currently work in an adult literacy and numeracy related role to be eligible for support.

Don't be shy! Having the conference locally is a great chance to have many more Western Australians than usual at this important national event.

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### **3. ACAL pre-conference forum - Whadya mean Closing the Gap?**

ACAL invites anyone interested in the issue of Aboriginal language and literacy to come along the day before the conference and join in an intensive day around the topic **Whadya mean Closing the Gap?** The forum aims to build a more sophisticated understanding of how Aboriginal language use is affecting educational outcomes. In particular, it will focus on the achievement of

literacy for Aboriginal people and the impact of success or failure on wider social and community objectives.

The forum is an add-on to the conference on October 1, not included in the conference registration. ACAL has set the registration quite low to enable as many conference delegates as possible to enjoy this extra day. Please pass the invite on to others outside education who might be interested as well.

<http://www.waalc.org.au/09conf/preconf.htm>

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#### **4. Proposal for new TAA qualifications for literacy and numeracy teachers**

The Commonwealth Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has funded Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) to attempt to establish VET based qualifications for practitioners who work in adult literacy and numeracy. The qualifications have been drafted as the Vocational Graduate Certificate in literacy and numeracy practice and the Vocational Graduate Diploma of literacy and numeracy leadership. The two new qualifications are proposed to be added to the Training and Assessment (TAA) Training Package.

WAALC remains deeply concerned by the proposal as it seems that none of the problems have been addressed since this idea was last proposed in 2004. The proposed qualifications undermine the current industry standard that teachers employed to teach adults to read and write have similar levels of qualifications as teachers in the school sector

We fear the proposal is part of a larger plan to frame teaching adults generic competencies as a low skill occupation that should be recompensed and funded at a lower rate than other adult and vocational education.

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#### **5. Results of WAALC AGM**

The WAALC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on July 9<sup>th</sup> resulted in our farewelling our secretary Sheila Rod who is leaving the committee for now. Sue McKay and Helen Grimston did not accept a nomination to continue as Chair and Treasurer but are continuing as executive committee members for 2009. Stephanie Mitchell accepted a nomination as Treasurer. Helen Errington joined us as a new member. All other members accepted re-nomination including Anne Willox as Vice Chairperson and Cheryl Wiltshire as ACAL representative

Two remaining vacancies on the executive committee were filled after the AGM with Melissa Jones as chairperson and Maxine Tomlin as secretary. Melissa and Maxine are both long standing members of WAALC who have previously been members of the committee.

All vacancies on the executive are now filled. See the committee section on our website for the full list.

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#### **6. Inviting new members**

Who do you know that should be a WAALC member? You are welcome to forward this newsletter to colleagues who you think should be a member of WAALC. Or perhaps invite a prospective member to attend events like our conference and AGM to meet other members. We encourage all adult literacy and numeracy practitioners in WA to join WAALC now and be part of the renewed national action to have literacy embedded in the Social Inclusion Agenda.

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#### **7. Issues? Contributions?**

WAALC seeks to represent all adult educators who deliver adult literacy and numeracy programs in Western Australia. If there are issues that you think WAALC should take action on, let us know.

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#### **8. 'Contacts' update**

Let us know if your address changes. If you don't want to receive this newsletter or wish to suspend it while you are away on leave, please email the WAALC secretary, [[info@waalc.org.au](mailto:info@waalc.org.au)].

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**e-WAALC News** is the monthly electronic newsletter of (WAALC) the Western Australian Adult Literacy Council.

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