

June Hazzlewood OAM



Why learn?

The LIFE in lifelong learning for me is a message for Adult Learners Week – “Learning Is For Everyone”. In ten years of retirement into the community, I have added ageing and technology to a long life passion for learning. I have enjoyed a return to formal study and the Super Highway journey with other older third age cyber-travellers.

Fifty years ago, I arrived in Tasmania from Queensland for a six month working holiday and remember my days then as an evening adult education tutor at a small upstairs café in Launceston and later, while K to 10 teaching, as the first volunteer Adult Education local secretary then Field Officer on the West Tamar.

Many and varied classes were joined to make up the numbers required. Welding, coastal navigation and upholstery snippets are filed away somewhere in my mind in case they are ever needed! Scandinavian cooking, wine appreciation, woodcarving and craft classes became adult community education mutual interest circles which ran for many years.

The 2005 ALW award I received on behalf of the Older Persons Electronic Network is a tribute to the volunteers in this member-run group. The OPEN Seniors Computer Club is co-sponsored by the Launceston National Council of Women Inc. and the Launceston Computer Group Inc. Look for OPEN on LCG website at www.lcg.org.au.

OPEN has just enrolled its 500th participant since a very small beginning in 2001, is open daily and is outreaching to seniors at home through its VICTOR, Volunteer ICT OutReach program. Fifty years on, adult community education (ACE) courses are filled within a short time of advertising and by word of mouth, and waiting lists are common.