

Welcome to this month's Current.

Website of the month

Loretta's Training Resource Center at <http://www.QuickTrainingTips.com> is a simple but excellent example of how the web can build community. The site would be useful for anyone involved in computer training. Despite its American focus and its less-than-gorgeous style, it has some great features, such as the weekly 'True training tales' and 'Quick training tips'. Updated daily, the site also has a friendly, involving feel to it.

GST and ACE

The ATO Ruling on ACE courses and the GST was released on 28 June. See <http://www.ala.asn.au/gst.html>. We have also created a forum for your responses to the Ruling, and reproduced ALA's two press releases, along with a 'Message from Kim Beazley to ALA' and an extract from John Howard's (1998) letter about courses covered by the GST. We will soon provide an email list of all Federal MPs so you can contact your local member directly to tell them how your organisation might be affected by the GST.

Adult Learning Commentaries

Some members are not receiving *The Current* or the *Commentaries* because they haven't informed us of changes to their email address. Please notify us of any changes so you can keep up.

ALON is reborn

ALON is now 'Australia's directory of adult learning': <http://www.alon.com.au>. The site has a new database and search design, and hundreds more records than the old version. Its new emphasis is on partnerships with adult learning peak bodies and government agencies, but individuals are also welcome to enter their details. ALON now has an expanded scope of roles including heads of ACE centres, policy and administration. We welcome your feedback.

Adult Learners Week 2000

Bob Fryer, a noted British authority on lifelong learning, will be a guest of ALW2000. Chair of the UK National Advisory Committee for

Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning, Bob wrote *Learning for the Twenty-First Century* (1997) and *Creating Cultures of Learning* (1998), and is currently a Director of the University for Industry (Ufi). More about Bob and his itinerary is on the ALW site at <http://alw.ala.asn.au>.

A key feature of ALW2000 will be the *Agenda for the future – Lifelong learning in Australia* conference in Adelaide, 8 & 9 September. Flyers are being distributed and you can register now. See the ALW website or ring Marita on 02 6251 9887.

Thinking of nominating for an ALW Award or entering one of the ALW competitions? Don't forget nominations and entries close 31 July.

Is ACE online worth it?

An online discussion of ACE online has opened today in the Open Learning and Information Technology Interest Group on the ALA site. A number of expert panellists will help to make the discussion productive, and identify where support is most needed, in order to attract resources for projects in this area.

To subscribe to the interest group/s of your choice and receive an email whenever someone posts, go to <http://www.ala.asn.au/subscribe.html>

A critical history of adult education

"I challenge adult educators to engage in a discussion about our history that is more critical than celebratory ... professional adult education has become far too comfortable with itself." So writes Bob Boughton in the History of adult education Interest Group. A number of contributors have already responded. Read and join in as per the instructions above. Background readings are also available at <http://www.ala.asn.au/conf/debate/bg.htm>.

What do you remember?

This year ALA celebrates its 40th year! Help make the annual conference an event to remember. We seek photographs of key events in adult learning history, pictures from previous ALA conferences, and other memorabilia. Send any contributions to Liz at ALA by 25 August or ring 02 6251 7673.

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