

Website of the month: Ideas at the Powerhouse

The website at <http://www.ideasatthepowerhouse.com.au> supports the festival of ideas with a real time (16–19 August) and place (Brisbane), which aims to engage leading thinkers and practitioners and non-experts. We recommend the site for its effective integration of a real event with online access, and its creative use of a comprehensive collection of interactive features to promote debate and stimulate ideas – key ingredients of learning. See <http://www.ala.asn.au> for the full award report.

Who can fill these shoes?

A vacancy on the ALA Executive will be filled at the AGM on 29 September. You don't have to attend to nominate. For a form please contact Margaret Bates on 02 6251 7933.

Vote for the best photo of adult learning

ALW starts 3 September. To vote in the photo competition go to <http://www.adultlearnersweek.org> in mid-August.

ACE Taskforce work is not done

The Ministerial Council has approved a one year extension of the ACE Taskforce to: undertake the six recommendations of the Review of National ACE Policy; advise ANTA on priorities for the National ACE Program; advise Ministers on ACE issues; provide advice to other MCEETYA Taskforces about ACE; and represent ACE in discussions about lifelong learning and capacity building.

Philanthropic trusts can give, GST-free

The Tax Office has stated that in certain circumstances “a gift to a non-profit body is specifically excluded as consideration for a supply”. Thus, a grant by a philanthropic trust may be considered to be a gift and no GST apply – see http://www.taxreform.ato.gov.au/ind_partner/charities/qna/qna3.htm#2july.

Place & the ecology of learning

Now is the time to book for the 2001 ALA conference. Don't miss out by putting it off. 27–30 September 2001 at

Gagudju Crocodile Hotel, Jabiru, NT. Register via <http://www.ala.asn.au/conf/register.html>.

CPE conference returns

'cpe.dot.com' will explore the nature of Continuing Professional Education in the dotcom world. The location will be historic Beechworth, Victoria from 4–6 October. For more detail see <http://www.ala.asn.au/pages/cpe2001.html>.

Discover democracy on CD

We have begun distributing 'The Three Spheres of Government' (Kit 2 of the Discovering Democracy learning circle). Both kits are available in hard copy or CD-Rom. Contact Mary Hannan (02 6251 9889) or email m.hannan@learningcircles.org.au.

Other news in brief

NCVER's **Scope of ACE in Australia**, which details provision, identifies gaps and estimates costs nationally, is now available via <http://www.ncver.edu.au>.

Need **volunteers**? <http://www.govolunteer.com.au> is a free place for community groups and charities to advertise their volunteer positions. For more info call Rosie Lewis on 03 9820 4100.

An **Evaluation in Community Cultural Development** forum is on until 14 September. People engaged in CCD research, planning and practice have prepared short essays. This will be a structured forum with questions, responses and discussion. Subscribe to our Arts, Culture and Media Interest Group via <http://www.alon.com.au/interests>.

Direct tax link. The ATO website front page <http://www.ato.gov.au> now has a special link for information concerning charity, clubs and associations.

The issues register for the **GST Industry Partnership on Education** has been updated. See <http://www.taxreform.ato.gov.au/taxhome>. Issues include: GST and overseas students, lost or damaged books, refunded maintenance levies, per diems and input tax credits; research contracts.