



Website of the month

Elwood St. Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre at <http://esnlc.asn.au> greets you with the moving exhortation to "do something new today! it's so damn easy" atop a groovy multi-coloured patchwork of bright html-coloured backgrounds, that suprisingly works and keeps the text readable (except maybe for the red patch). All activities are one or less easy click from the front page, including: the ESNLC internet café at Elwood Online; Greynet (which includes "the definitive guide to where public toilets are located across Australia"); the 'Roomers' project, including a magazine by and for residents of rooming houses, private hotels and supported accommodation; and 'Bustout 2002', an international women's day activity with a focus on breast cancer. The site functions as a local news service of learning activities both formal and informal. Contact details are on every page, and specific activities have individualised phone or email contact details. ESNLC makes it so damn easy!

Student winner of best AJAL paper

Congratulations to Teri Merlyn for being judged author of the best article by a student in the Journal in 2000–01. The prize of \$750 was awarded for her paper 'The longest war: The two traditions of adult education'. It will appear in the November issue along with runner-up Moyra Buntine Dale's 'Rote learning in a performance-based pedagogy'.

Community Learning Leaders' success

Congratulations to Stephen McGarrigle, selected as a Churchill Fellow for 2002 to undertake a comparative analysis of leadership programs in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Stephen was in ALA's first Community Learning Leaders program and writes: "Thanks for your inspiration at the Leadership program which has guided me to investigate this subject in more depth!" Donna Rooney and Petre Goode, from the same Learning Leaders intake, were recently awarded 1st class Honours in adult education and a three-year grant to establish a Community Technology Centre respectively. Well done.

Accounting for change

ALA has published new research on the impact of the GST on ACE. *Accounting for Change* is available now at a cost of \$18 including GST and postage. Place your order at http://www.ala.asn.au/purchase_pubs.html.

GST and supply of VET

The ATO has released an Interpretative Decision on the GST and the supply of a VET program. Go to <http://law.ato.gov.au> and search for "2001/581".

2nd Learning Cities Conference

will be held in Ballarat between 27–29 September 2002. Call for papers by 18 January 2002. For more details go to the September 2002 entries at <http://www.ala.asn.au/calendar>.

Free computers

Computerbank Australia provides free computers and installs networks for charities, schools and non-profit organisations. Richard Hayes, Webmaster of Computerbank NSW at <http://www.cbns.org.au> urgently wants to give away computers. Email Richard at help@cbns.org.au or phone 0414 618 425 to apply. Computerbank has branches in most states.

New government portfolios

Details of the third Howard ministry can be found at http://www.pm.gov.au/news/media_releases/2001/media_release1284.htm. The Labor Shadow Ministry is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1101/scmssmin251101.html>

Season's greetings

This is the last Current for 2001. The next will be in February 2002. The ALA Office will be closing on 21 December and will re-open on 14 January. From everyone at ALA's National Office we hope you have a good break over Christmas and the New Year.

Tony Brown, Director, Adult Learning Australia