

### Awards

Life has been busy! I'm delighted to say that I've been able to meet more members and to be involved in award ceremonies to WEA in South Australia and in U3A Online in Queensland. We all need to celebrate our achievements—it's such a good reminder of why we keep our shoulders to the grindstone, even when things get gloomy. So don't wait for the next round of awards; instead tell the world what you are doing in the new section of the newsletter, On the Ground. You can email contributions to [info@ala.asn.au](mailto:info@ala.asn.au). The deadline for the Spring edition is 15 July.

### Higher Education Review

At last education is on the front pages of the newspapers, thanks to the higher education review process instigated by Dr Nelson. ALA has put in a submission commenting in general terms on the overview paper, Higher Education at the Crossroads. It's on the website at [www.ala.asn.au/higher\\_ed\\_review.pdf](http://www.ala.asn.au/higher_ed_review.pdf). That is not the end of the consultation process and I do encourage you all to submit your views, in particular your ideas about how universities can be better integrated with the community. Why not post your comments on the tertiary discussion group at [www.ala.asn.au/interests/phorum/index.html?forumid=88714](http://www.ala.asn.au/interests/phorum/index.html?forumid=88714)?

### Lifelong learning

I attended the second International Lifelong Learning Conference organised by Central Queensland University in June. Of course I learned a great deal and was delighted to see quite a cross-section of people attending the conference, in particular librarians. However, I was struck at how focussed presenters were on the student as a learner, rather than on broader audiences for lifelong learning.

I was also part of a panel discussion with Professor Norman Longworth, an international consultant specialising on learning communities. For those of you interested, Professor Longworth regards Espoo in Finland to be the model for learning cities. See <http://ok.espooli.fi> for more. The panel was organised by Denise Reghenzani of the UQ Ipswich Community Service and Research Centre ([www.uocommunity.com](http://www.uocommunity.com)) which is doing great work in taking the University of Queensland into the community.

### Hobart conference

The ALA conference is less than six weeks' away. You'll soon be receiving a program in the mail but as you can appreciate it's something of a moveable feast, so keep an eye on the website to see what's on offer. And do get your registrations in.

## The DiAL

We have decided, reluctantly, to close down the DiAL (the Directory of Adult Learning). We simply don't have the resources to maintain it ourselves or to stimulate providers to keep their entries current. We will, however, be working with EdNA to beef up the adult and community education part of their site. Over the next month or so, we will be transferring some parts of the DiAL website to the ALA site and, possibly, other parts to EdNA.

## Website of the month

There is, however, an alternative nation-wide directory of short courses: [www.courses.com.au](http://www.courses.com.au) which is ALA's featured website of the month for July.

Following extensive research and development, Courses.com.au was launched in March this year. It strives to address the distinct lack of comprehensive web-accessible information on short courses in Australia, as demonstrated by the large volume of visitors the site has already attracted in its short time.

Currently there are descriptions and contact details of over 10 000 learning providers and courses offered by community organisations, individuals and businesses Australia-wide, and the directory continues to grow as more providers submit their own entries.

Simple to use, the directory is searchable by both course subject area and geographical location, delivering fast results.

As its coverage expands, let's hope Courses.com.au becomes an invaluable resource for the adult learner.

## Adult Learners' Week

Then comes Adult Learners' Week. I'm sure many of you are already getting things underway. If so, please do tell us what's happening by adding your event to the ALW calendar at [www.adultlearnersweek.org/list.html](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/list.html)

And don't forget the essay and photo competitions close at the end of July ([www.adultlearnersweek.org/competitions.html](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/competitions.html))

## Staff matters

For those of you who know Phil Robson, I'm happy to report that he's recovering well from a recent operation.

Francesca Beddie  
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