

## The Move

The National Office of Adult Learning Australia has moved to 32 Northbourne Avenue, Civic. It's been a huge effort, complicated by an unanticipated lack of phone lines for a week. Nevertheless, we are now reasonably settled and certainly open for business. Anyone in the vicinity is most welcome to drop in. And for students of ACE we are delighted now to have a separate resource centre which houses a wealth of documents about ACE policy in Australia and beyond. There's a desk and a computer to work at, so please do avail yourselves of this wealth of material.

Phil Robson bore the brunt of the move headaches—many thanks to him and to Naomi Grainger, who only joined us a few weeks ago, having finished a course in office administration. Imagine her shock when the job turned out to be moving rather than running an office. She rose to the task magnificently and has already made herself an indispensable member of the National Office team.

Please make a note of our new contact details:

GPO Box 260, Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6274 9500

Fax: 02 6274 9513

## The national conference

The November conference is shaping up well. See [www.ala.asn.au/conf](http://www.ala.asn.au/conf) for details and remember, you might find it advantageous to register before the end of the financial year!

## Adult Learners' Week

The theme of the ALW 2003 is literacy, in its many, many forms. This is reflected in the look of the campaign which you will soon see on the ALW website

at [www.adultlearnersweek.org](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org). (See [www.adultlearnersweek.org/new](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/new) to preview).

Two major elements of this year's Week are the Great Literacy Debate and Learn@Work Day. The debate is the means by which we want to get the whole country talking about literacy and, of course, to stir up some action to address the problems adults with poor literacy face, including by providing more funds for learning providers. We do hope ALA members will grab this idea with gusto and start thinking of the best place to stage a debate on literacy in your community. If you think your local member or media outlet would also be interested in becoming involved all the better. Keep an eye on the website for more tips on how to get involved, including some suggested topics.

The other element, Learn@Work will take place on 5 September. This will be the day when we attract the attention of employers to the importance of learning for their organisations and to the fact that learning is a lot more than training. Workplaces will be encouraged to stage some kind of activity: a job swap or a debate or a special learning session. Here are opportunities for adult learning providers to forge links with local businesses by taking your services into the workplace for a day. If you'd like to get involved, give us a ring and we can talk through the options.

Jane Speechley is the main ALW contact here. Her number is 02 6274 9506 and email, [j.speechley@ala.asn.au](mailto:j.speechley@ala.asn.au).

## MOU with EdNA

Adult Learning Australia and education.au Ltd., the company managing EdNA Online are delighted to announce that they have signed a memorandum of understanding. The MOU includes commitments to collaborate on the promotion and discovery of

resources for the adult and community education sector; the sharing of web service functionality; mutual marketing and promotion; and the expansion of existing networks.

The first major project under the MOU is the building of the "Learning Communities Catalyst" website using the "New EdNA" portal functionality. This website, due for launch in Adult Learners' Week in September, will act as a gateway for learning communities, and will provide resources to support the initiation and development of such communities. For more information contact ALA at [info@ala.asn.au](mailto:info@ala.asn.au) or the EdNA Vet Project at [vetproject@educationau.edu.au](mailto:vetproject@educationau.edu.au).

## Flexible Learning

We regret the late notice of this event—caused by our telecommunications difficulties. But for those of you interested in flexible learning there is still time to join an expert panel of Adult and Community Education (ACE) practitioners for our lively 'FLEXing Our Muscles - ACE comes of age' event being held **June 2 - 13**. See [www.learnscope.anta.gov.au/LearnScope/golearn.asp?category=13&DocumentId=3401](http://www.learnscope.anta.gov.au/LearnScope/golearn.asp?category=13&DocumentId=3401) Discover how ACE providers nationally are meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Online early-bird registrations for **NET\*Working 2003** opened in early June. Pre-register now at [flexiblelearning.net.au/nw2003/rego.asp](http://flexiblelearning.net.au/nw2003/rego.asp).

The **Australian Flexible Learning Framework** has a newsletter you may be interested in: Flex e-News. See [flexiblelearning.net.au/newsandevents/](http://flexiblelearning.net.au/newsandevents/).

## Skillecosystem

The NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) is leading an ANTA national project to develop the role of vocational education and training (VET) providers as agents for economic and regional development. One part of the project involves commissioning a series of demonstration projects, for which DET is currently calling for expressions of interest.

There may be opportunities here for the Adult and Community Education sector with one of the three demonstration projects specifically focused on improving incomes, employment and skill outcomes for casual, part-time or otherwise non-standard workers. This project relies upon engaging employer- and employee associations in the development and implementation of business strategies that increase the demand for and use of skills. I believe this is an area where ALA members have much to offer and would encourage you to get involved.

The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 23 June. For further information visit [www.skillecosystem.net](http://www.skillecosystem.net) or contact Paul Williams on 02 9561 8835 or by email, [paul.williams@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:paul.williams@det.nsw.edu.au).

## U3A Online

One of the founders of U3A Online, Dorothy Braxton, has announced that she will be standing down as a director as from the AGM—or earlier if a replacement is found. Dorothy's decision follows a spate of bad luck in terms of her health but also stems from a firm belief that people should not stay put for too long! And, even with broken bones, Dorothy is still on the go, involved in learning circles at the National Museum; in the ACT Learning Territory movement; and in research into the learning needs of people in their eighties and nineties.

Dorothy's tenacious enthusiasm was pivotal in getting U3A Online up and running in 1999 and since then she has been a tremendous fighter for its cause. It is great to see it now securely housed at Griffith University and we wish Rick Swindell and all those involved the very best of luck in the future.

As for Dorothy, we wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to many more collaborations with her in pushing the cause of the older learner.

See [www.u3aonline.edna.edu.au](http://www.u3aonline.edna.edu.au) for more information about U3A Online.

Francesca Beddie  
Executive Director, Adult Learning Australia