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Bridging Cultures: ALA 2004 Conference

The ALA 2004 conference brochure, which contains the registration form, is now available to download from the ALA website: <http://www.ala.asn.au/conf/2004/docs/Conf%20final.pdf>.

Online registration is also available at <http://www.ala.asn.au/conf/registration.html>

I invite you to distribute the conference information among your networks.

The *You Can Too* & Senate Inquiries

It's been a busy year for lifelong learning with not one but two Commonwealth inquiries! Let's hope something comes of all this soul searching. Submissions for both inquiries have officially closed and we await the reports with interest. Keep an eye on these sites for developments:

You Can Too (the DEST adult learning in Australia consultation): <http://www.dest.gov.au/ucan2/Default.htm>

The Senate inquiry: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_c/te/lifelong04/index.htm

The Senate committee is due to report by 25 November 2004, but some submissions to the inquiry are have already been posted on their website.

***Understand Your World Adult Learners' Week 2003 Literacy Scrapbook* launched**

Recently launched at Parliament House in Canberra, *Understand Your World* brings together snippets from the Adult Learners' Week 2003 Great Literacy Debates, some of the Adult Learners' Week 2003 Short Story competition entries, some of the 2003 award winners, quotes from callers to the Reading Writing Hotline and informative articles to provide a 'snapshot' of literacy in Australia at the commencement of the United Nations Literacy Decade.

Presented in full colour and illustrated with UNESCO images of adult literacy students from around the world, the publication has already been praised as being a handy tool for conveying the issues of adult literacy to a wider audience. The publication will be available in hard copy from various ALA events and is also available as a PDF download from the ALA website: <http://www.ala.asn.au/research/Scrapbook=5.pdf>

Learn @ Work Day Melbourne Forum

A forum was held in Melbourne in May to examine some of the ways in which the Learn @ Work Day campaign might evolve so that it makes a valuable contribution to contemporary issues relating to lifelong learning in the workplace.

The report from this forum is available from <http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/events/learnatwork.html>.

The report not only captures the forum discussions around the challenges and opportunities associated with learning in the workplace but also contains many ideas for Learn @ Work Day activities. Essential reading!

Learn @ Work Day occurs this year on Friday 3 September, as part of Adult Learners' Week. Learn @ Work Day posters are available free-of-charge from ALA.



Adult Learners' Week posters

The new Adult Learners' Week promotional material is now available.

Promoting the concept of 'sharing between the generations' the A4 sized posters are colourful and informative. With an engaging photo of learning activities on one side, and details of different learning environments on the other, the posters will work well on windows and on pinboards as well as handouts. A pamphlet explaining Adult Learners' Week, and a Learn @ Work Day poster, is also available.

The promotional material is available free-of-charge from ALA. If you would like some, contact Peter Murphy at p.murphy@ala.asn.au or by phone 02 6274 9506. Don't forget to let Peter know what you would like, how many you would like and your full mailing address, including state and postcode. But hurry as stocks are limited!

The Great Adult Learners' Week Debate organisers kits

Following the success of the Great Adult Learners' Week Debates last year, ALA has developed three new debate topics and a kit to help learning providers stage a Great Adult Learners' Week Debate as part of their contribution to this national awareness campaign.

The Great Adult Learners' Week Debate is a national project that aims to raise awareness around the value of learning in our society. The three topics for this year are:

- That lifelong learning is the secret to longer life
- That ignorance is not bliss
- That you can learn more from children than from books

The Great Adult Learners' Week Debate kit contains advice for organisers as well as 'cheat notes' for debaters on both sides of the three topics. The debates are a fun and effective way to participate in Adult Learners' Week.

Visit

http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/events/great_debate.html for all your Great Debate needs!

Ideas for Adult Learners' Week 2004 Community outreach projects

Many learning providers use Adult Learners' Week as an opportunity to promote their services to the wider community. They do this through activities such as open days, shopping mall displays, sample classes as well as special events such as debates, concerts and awards. Many of these activities are organised using volunteer help by current learners.

But Adult Learners' Week is also a good excuse to learn more about the community you serve, and especially those who, for whatever reasons, do not participate in adult learning even though there are several good learning programs that may be of benefit to them.

There are several community outreach activities you can undertake during Adult Learners' Week that will both promote your organisation and uncover valuable information about community needs and wants. Many of these projects can be developed and conducted with the help of current learners, students from a nearby school or by community volunteers.

For more ideas, visit

<http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/events/outreach.html>. You can also download ALA's 'Learning to Learn' workshop material from this page – a learning circle to help learners and prospective learners to identify and articulate their learning needs.

Museums and life-wide learning

ALA Research Manager, John Cross, presented a paper at the Museums Australia conference recently entitled 'Crossing the Moat – Art Museums and life-wide learning'. This and other ALA papers and reports can be found on the ALA website at:

<http://www.ala.asn.au/research/index.html>

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