



# The Current

e-news from ALA

number 56

March 2006

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## Welcome

Welcome to our first 2006 edition of *The Current*, ALA's e-newsletter written to keep members informed about the latest news, updates, and events planned for the year ahead.

We look forward to sharing with you the achievements of ALA, (made possible through your ongoing support and membership) as well as other items of interest through this newsletter.

## ALW 2006

Planning for ALW 2006 is well underway with Peter Murphy, ALW National Coordinator already touring the states and territories to involve steering committee groups in the massive task of planning ALW in their states and regions.

Peter is achieving this by mobilising committees at a national level, extending the lead time in developing promotional material and engaging committees in the process of shaping the national communications strategy.

The theme for ALW 2006 is, *National Sign Up*, and will be held 1-8 September. We will keep you updated about developments as we move closer to September 2006.

For further information visit [www.adultlearnersweek.org/](http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/).

## Spreading the word about ALA

Peter and I will be attending two conferences in May, both to be held, back to back, in Adelaide with the goal of broadening ALA's membership base. Conference delegates will be exposed to new innovative online interactive ALA products such as publications and surveys that we are trialling. We will also be promoting ALW and our Learning Circles Resource Manual for Facilitators and Learners produced by ALA and marketed through Australian Training Products Ltd. (see [www.atpl.net.au](http://www.atpl.net.au)).

These two conferences are the CISA's national conference – *Changing your World with Technology* (1-2 May) and the AuSAE's national conference, which is aimed specifically at the not-for-profit sector to be held 3-4 May.

## Managing a media crisis

Peter recently attended a one day seminar gaining useful insights on ways to manage the media, during and after a crisis which may impact on organisations.



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Peter is working towards developing an organisation crisis plan to minimise any damage to ALA operations or stakeholders in the event of such a situation occurring.

Peter will also prepare an information sheet to help staff, stakeholders and the wider adult learning community, handle media enquiries.

## Updates – National Office

The ALA Board attended the opening of the Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre in March, as well as holding the Board meeting there. Interviews with Minister Kosky and other dignitaries are available through Tony Ryan's *Take Time* radio program, (PBA FM) at [www.taketimeradio.com/archives/archives\\_mar2006.htm](http://www.taketimeradio.com/archives/archives_mar2006.htm). There should be a link from the ALA site by the time you receive this edition or soon after.

Plans are underway for Megan Thompson to consolidate her duties into research over the coming weeks. In the meantime, Megan is still the contact for membership and administration.

So if you have any queries, Megan will be happy to help you on (02) 6274 9500 or email: [m.thompson@ala.asn.au](mailto:m.thompson@ala.asn.au).

Also a reminder you will hear from Megan in the near future about updating your membership.

Over the last few days we sent out a free movie ticket offer (more of these to come) and responses revealed that members overall can, seemingly, be very responsive to the right stimuli.

We would really appreciate you taking the initiative by checking with Megan and if necessary renewing your membership.

## Renovations at National Office

Well, not really but a new bar is opening up in the space below the ALA National Office.

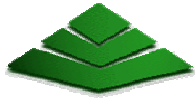
In the meantime, staff and visitors have been dealing with noisy jack hammers, drills resounding through the walls, cement being poured at the entrance of ALA and tiles being laid as the owners work tirelessly preparing the club which is to open up shortly.

The team at ALA can't wait for the opening, so our surroundings can return to normal.

## E-learning – the way of the future

Applications for the E-Learning Creative Community Partnerships Project, have now closed.

Mary Hannan who manages the project, along with Josie Rose are busy sorting through the applications. Successful groups will receive funding up to AUD40,000 each for their initiatives.



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For those who don't know, Mary has resigned from her previous position as Assistant Executive Director (Innovative Projects), ALA and now has a new role as the project manager for the 2005, Creative Community Partnerships Project.

Mary is enjoying the change and hopes to do more consultancy work when she finds the time.

The staff at ALA wish her well in her retirement from her former role, while welcoming her back in the new one.

Josie who has also joined the team at ALA, has a long association with e-learning so her expertise in this area makes her a perfect candidate for the project facilitator role alongside Mary.

Michael Chalk also provides ongoing advice to the project team. The projects are funded by the Australian Flexible Learning Framework and managed by ALA.

For further information visit [www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/go](http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/go).

## Learning Circles – Resource Manual

The Learning Circles Resource Manual for Facilitators and Learners provides a full training course on facilitating learning circles. Developed by ALA, and published by ATPL, the Resource Manual is an introduction to what learning circles are about and how they work.

It covers the basics of adult learning principles through to providing additional learning and assessments exercises.

The manual supports units from both the Certificate and Diploma of Training and Assessment.

Modules completed from this package and assessments can be used for RPL purposes.

For further information email: [sales@atpl.net.au](mailto:sales@atpl.net.au) or visit [www.atpl.net.au](http://www.atpl.net.au).

I look forward to resuming this means of informally communicating with you and I am always interested in hearing from you particularly if you have success stories and case studies about your activities that you are able to share. Also, DEST is always pleased to hear about good stories from the ACE sector, through ALA.

Until next time.

**Ron Anderson**  
Executive Director  
Adult Learning Australia