

The Current

e-news from ALA

number 59

June 2006

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Editorial

Good governance of your Association is vital to maintaining ALA's relevance in the changing world of adult learning. The Board has been working diligently on the many elements that provide a strong governance structure. (further details about this below).

However, good governance and organisational relevance is a two-way thing. While the Board is working on it's responsibilities and obligations to serve the membership collectively, as a member you also need to consider how you can be making an active contribution to the organisation.

Your thoughts about how ALA could be serving new and existing constituency interests and aspirations are always appreciated, so please let us know by emailing me directly at r.anderson@ala.asn.au.

Recently your board met to work through the Carver Governance model as a framework for conducting the affairs of the organisation.

The main purpose of this meeting was to develop a strategic set of Ends Policies and other governance aspects.

These policies will lay the foundation for ALA to work towards achieving over the coming financial year and beyond. Some aspects of this process are still *work in progress*.

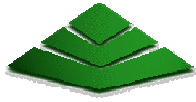
The next task for the board and staff is to develop an ALA marketing strategy. This meeting is planned for August. The board expect to release the detail of these deliberations for consideration by the membership at the 46TH National Conference in November.

In the meantime any comments you may have about the role and current services that ALA offers are welcome.

On other Board related matters the recent resignation of Jim Nicholls was received and accepted with regret. This will mean that five board positions will now be contested later in the year.

ALA Membership

I would like to thank members who have recently taken advantage of our offer on discounted membership fees.



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ALA has had a good response and I appreciate the support members have shown to this offer.

If you are unsure about the status of your membership, or have any queries about this, please contact the National Office on (02) 6274 9500 or via email at: info@ala.as.au.

Friends and Faces – ALW 2006

Plans for ALW 2006 are well underway and Peter Murphy, National Event Coordinator is busy promoting the week through radio interviews and print campaigns. With the help of state and territory coordinators, 2006 looks set to be a bumper year.

ALW has also had good prime time exposure on national television over the past few weeks and we expect this to continue through until September.

Visit http://www.adultlearnersweek.org/friends_faces.html to view stories featured for this year's ALW.

Research

Two studies which ALA has commissioned recently are being prepared for release. Both studies have been funded by DEST and managed by ALA.

The first study explores options for the ACE and VET sectors working together in partnership to help overcome the current skills shortages.

Authors of the report are Dr Sarojni Choy, Dr Sandra Haukka and Liz Keyes.

A summary will be included in the Winter edition of Quest and the report will be up on the website for members soon.

The second report is a summary prepared by Peter Kearns on the recent Three Shires project in Melbourne exploring a *phases of life* approach to supporting learning throughout the lifespan of people in three LGA's.

One observation Kearns notes in his report is that a *phases of life* approach promotes equity, social justice and encourages appropriate responses to the needs of disadvantaged individuals and groups in key phases of life.

This report will also be up on the website soon.

ABC Classic FM – launch 2006 Flame Awards - Music - Play for Life

Teachers, parents and students are being urged to enter their school in the ABC's national competition to find the country's most successful school music programs.

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The theme for this year's Flame Awards is *Community Connections*. To download an entry form go to www.abc.net.au/classic/flame. The deadline for entries is 25 August.

ALA looks forward to keeping you posted on the latest news on this exciting event.

Learning Communities Conference

The 2006 *Learning Communities Conference* will be held 24-27 September 2006. The conference aims to provide networking, skills development and more, to increase community activity in Australian communities. For further information visit www.learningcommunities2006.qut.edu.au/.

Call for papers – ALA Conference

A call for papers for the ALA National Conference is now on our website at www.ala.asn.au/. Early Bird registrations are also being taken from now until 5.00pm 6th October 2006.

Until next time.

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