



Edition 1  
August 2007

# Meanjin Update

Dear Meanjin members,

It is with great pleasure that I draft the first Meanjin News to be delivered electronically to members. The purposes of this newsletter are many:

- To provide a regular update of Meanjin activities within the Brisbane and greater Brisbane area;
- To encourage and provide opportunities to bring members together for professional dialogue and the sharing of ideas;
- To ensure contact between the Meanjin members of ALEA and the Meanjin Executive, ensuring opportunities for members to give feedback regarding professional development events, key topics of interest, preferred venues and suggest locations.

While we work to satisfy the professional thirst of all literacy educators within our local council, it is important to gather ideas and feedback to ensure that the events and services provided by Meanjin to local educators are meaningful and worthwhile. Please feel free to provide feedback or suggestions as to how this monthly contact with members can best be used to benefit members.

At times, we will request readers to submit snippets for sharing with others or to express an interest in becoming closer involved with the hosting of events.

It is intended that the Meanjin Update will be quick and easy to read/ consume, and keep members up to date about the most active ALEA local council in Australia.

Over coming months, I hope to expand on this format utilising professional links from Meanjin members. Please keep your eye out for opportunities to contribute.

In the meantime, keep up the good work. Australia continues to be a world leader in the teaching of literacy skills.

Yours in literacy,

David Macknish  
President  
Brisbane Meanjin Local Council  
Australian Literacy Educators' Association

## PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

Are you interested in developing a discussion group with peers from your local area?

We can help you to make contact with like-minded educators to discuss professional issues, share ideas and develop collaborative relationships.

To express an interest in one of the above:  
[dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • National Reading Day

*Date:* Wednesday 5 September

*Time:* 9.30-2.00pm

*Aimed at:* Teachers wishing to utilise professionally-written activities with short-listed award-winning books

*Further information:*

[www.alea.edu.au/html/reading-day/93/reading-day](http://www.alea.edu.au/html/reading-day/93/reading-day)

### • National Literacy & Numeracy Week NLNW – Student Writing Workshop with Bev Derewianka

*Date:* Friday 7 September

*Time:* 9.30-2.30pm

*Aimed at:* Students Years 6-8 with a keen interest in writing.

*Further information:*

[www.meanjin.edu.au/event\\_calendar.htm#nlw\\_grammar](http://www.meanjin.edu.au/event_calendar.htm#nlw_grammar)

### • National Literacy & Numeracy Week NLNW – Functional Grammar Professional Development with Bev Derewianka

*Date:* Friday 8 September

*Time:* 9.00-2.45pm

*Aimed at:* Teachers interested in the teaching of grammar

*Further information:*

[www.meanjin.edu.au/event\\_calendar.htm#nlw\\_grammar](http://www.meanjin.edu.au/event_calendar.htm#nlw_grammar)

### • International Literacy Day - Books for Babies Program

*Date:* Saturday 8 September

Meanjin members visit participating hospitals and present all babies (and their parents) who were born on International Literacy Day with a book and literature encouraging key reading practices for parents with small children.

*Further information:*

[www.meanjin.edu.au/](http://www.meanjin.edu.au/)

### • Meanjin Writers' Camp

*Date:* Thursday 8 November (4pm) – Sunday 11 November (9am)

*Venue:* Qld Camping & Conference Centre, Brookfield

*Aimed at:* Students Years 6-8 with a keen interest in writing and working alongside like-minded students and authors.

*Further information:*

[www.meanjin.edu.au/event\\_calendar.htm#writers\\_camp](http://www.meanjin.edu.au/event_calendar.htm#writers_camp)

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- School or venue to host Intensive Functional Grammar Workshop series in 2008.
- Suggestions for focus of 2008 Half-day Professional Development event
- Teachers/ educators keen to contribute to ALEA publication, "Practically Primary".

To express an interest in one of the above:  
[dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au)

## NEXT ISSUE: "Motivating Students to Read"

Please share your creative ideas regarding strategies which you use to motivate students to read. Your peers will appreciate the range of ideas collated in the next issue.

Contributions to: [dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@igs.qld.edu.au)