



Edition 3  
February 2008

# Meanjin Update

Dear Meanjin members,

It has been a while since the last Meanjin Update and a number of regular and exciting are scheduled for this year as benefits to ALEA members. A calendar of events for 2008 is attached. Finalised dates and details of professional development activities have been posted on the website.

Flyers will be distributed to members and schools regarding our Term 1 professional development opportunities. The previously named "Key Teacher Day" has now been re-titled to reflect the growing interest and need for these opportunities by others in positions of responsibility within the education sector. The range of speakers and topics again focuses upon the Early Years and promises to be most thought-provoking.

Similarly, the Half-day Professional Development to be held at Bremer State High School on Saturday 8 March (9.00-12.30pm) shapes to be most enlightening. The focus for the morning is "**Expanding the use of digital resources to enhance literacy in the classroom**" and promises to be a highlight of the calendar of events. This has been planned to follow up the feedback from last year's sessions on digital resources. With a keynote address by Deb Cohen excitement is building. It seems that registrations will fill very quickly.

Additionally, special ALEA membership registration costs apply at \$20 for individual members and \$30 for institutional members. Tell your friends and get a group together for the best value PD of the semester.

Intensive functional grammar courses are coming to a location near you! We currently are well underway in planning two more courses for this year. Having completed the course myself with my staff last year, I can testify to the enormous increase in professional dialogue throughout the staff community and the reinvigorated and enthusiastic approach towards the linking of literacy development and grammar in the classrooms.

Once final details are determined, I will email these to members as I know that places will fill very quickly.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our State Director, Beryl Exley, and her family as she recovers at home following a stint in hospital from a serious accident in late January. However, those who know Beryl will understand her energy and that nothing can prevent her thoughts and emails getting through! Great to know that she is well on the slow road to recovery.

Do you want to become more involved in Meanjin? The Annual General Meeting is only a few months away. While not needing to nominate for a formal executive position, simply becoming a member of the committee and attending monthly meetings provides a simple, yet meaningful way to maintain involvement in the education sphere beyond the school framework. Meet peers from other institutions and work alongside professionals from all walks of education – schools, universities, Education Queensland, Catholic Education, Independent Schools Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority. Why not attend an upcoming meeting to test the waters? If you are interested, please contact me on [dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au).

Yours in literacy,

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

## Are you up to a CHALLENGE?

Introduce 2 colleagues to one benefit of ALEA membership. Show them an article which took your interest from the most recent "Practically Primary" about writing. Bring them along to the Meanjin Half-day PD or the Literacy Professional Development for P-3. Introduce them to the website or arrange to come to an upcoming ALEA meeting.

More members enable greater benefits to all!!

## 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@iqs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Meanjin Half-day PD**  
*Date:* Saturday 8 March (9.00am – 12.30pm)  
*Venue:* Bremer SHS  
*Aimed at:* All educators. Topics and program released shortly.
- Literacy Professional Development for P-3 (formerly Key Teacher Days)**  
*Dates & Venues:*  
 Monday 10 March (Chermside)  
 Tuesday 11 March (Raceview)  
 Wednesday 12 March (Carindale)  
 Thursday 13 March (Robina)  
*Aimed at:* Key teachers, Heads of Department, Literacy Co-ordinators, Curriculum Co-ordinators, Class teachers, Teacher-aides  
*Target sector:* Education Qld, Catholic Education, Independent Schools Qld

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

**NEXT ISSUE: Do you have any creative ideas for classroom literacy development?** Share your ideas in the next issue.

Contributions to: [dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au](mailto:dmacknish@iqs.qld.edu.au) by Friday 21 March