



January 2010

Dear Meanjin members,

Welcome to the new year and the many exciting prospects that 2010 holds. This year is shaping as being another very productive one for Meanjin with excellent professional development opportunities planned for literacy professionals and a number of other events planned to assist and resource students in their literacy learning.

We look to commence 2010 with the same vigour as 2009 concluded following the success of the Meanjin Writers' Camp at Brookfield in October and the presentation by Professor Allan Luke and his team on the Australian Research Council project which investigated "literacy and social class" relationships.

In 2010, there are many ways in which you can become involved in your ALEA local council:

- *Introduce a fellow professional to the benefits of ALEA membership*
- *Attend Brisbane Meanjin Local Council meetings (fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm at Holy Family Catholic School, Indooroopilly)*
- *Promote Meanjin professional development events across your staff room*
- *Attend professional development opportunities*
- *Host a Meanjin professional development event at your school. (Contact me if your school wishes to be involved.)*
- *Share your copies of ALEA journals with peers (Practically Primary, Australian Journal of Language & Literacy, Literacy Learning in the Middle Years)*
- *Collaborate with a peer to write an article for Practically Primary*

The year is starting with a bang so register early for the following upcoming events:

- **"Let's get Critical: Looking at texts beyond their literal meaning"** with Marianne Schubert. There are two opportunities to catch this very practical workshop: Feb 20 at Ipswich Grammar School or Mar 20 at Windaroo State School.
- **"Assessment for Learning: Let's get practical"** with Pat Hipwell. There also are two opportunities to catch this workshop: Feb 27 at Our Lady of the Sacred Way (Petrie) and Mar 27 at Brisbane Grammar School.
- **"Improving Writing of Narratives – workshops for middle years students"** with David & Anita Macknish. This set of four 90-minute workshops will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic School (Darra) on Mar 6, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 1.

Additionally, other events in the planning stages for later in the year include:

- "Classroom Applications of Functional Grammar" course

- Writing workshops with authors for students
- National Literacy & Numeracy Week PD event
- Meanjin Young Writers' Camp

This year, the ALEA National Conference will be held in Perth at the Burswood Conference Centre. Themed "Away with Words", the conference is shaping as being the pinnacle to the literacy PD year with international speakers of the calibre of Professor Deborah Myhill (University of Exeter), Professor Deborah McCutchen (University of Washington) and Professor Jackie Marsh (University of Sheffield). Additionally, renowned Australian presenters include: Dr Wayne Sawyer, Dr Ann McGuire, Dr Beverley Derewianka, Professor Collette Tayler, Associate Professor Phillip Meade, and authors galore. If there is one conference to attend this year, this would be it!

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@ipswichgrammar.com.

Yours in literacy,

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Having commenced 2006 with a dwindling 195 ALEA members in south-east Queensland, the Brisbane Meanjin Local Council has grown substantially to become the second largest local council in the nation with 304 members. This number peaked at 324 in mid-2009 and has hovered around 300 ever since. We attribute the strong and steady growth to the value that members receive via the range of worthwhile and practical professional development events hosted by Meanjin throughout the year. Help us to keep growing by introducing a friend to ALEA membership.

Further information:
www.meanjin.edu.au

Meanjin Update

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