



**AUSTRALIAN LITERACY
EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION
Brisbane Meanjin Local Council**

ABN 28 637 317 066

Term 3, 2008

Dear friends of Meanjin,

The first half of 2008 has been speeding by with a number of ALEA and Meanjin events already just distant memories.

The Annual General Meeting, once again held at the Thai Orchid at Upper Mount Gravatt, saw a committed group of Meanjin members attend, keen to ensure that the Meanjin literacy stronghold was to be kept in good hands for another year. I would like particularly to thank Gary Collins, President of the English Teachers' Association of Queensland (ETAQ) and Beryl Exley, the Queensland State Director of ALEA, for their attendance at the meeting. As a result of the meeting, the following members of the executive were elected to positions of responsibility for 2008-2009:

President –	David Macknish
Vice-Presidents -	Kay Bishop Anne Siemon
Treasurer -	Kev Bishop
Secretary -	Pat Edgar

Our **half day PD on Saturday 8 March** attracted a record crowd of 95 participants. Maybe it was our super low special price, or maybe it was the fabulous speaker program! Or was it Dani & Pat's legendary morning tea buffet? Regardless, your evaluations were simply outstanding and a number of lucky participants went home with free prize packs, courtesy of our trade stall holders. We thank our keynote, Deb Cohen from the Australian Children's Television Foundation, for her words of wisdom, and workshop presenters Stacey Cottam, Gayleen Jackson, Kev Bishop and Lindsay Williams for sharing their practices. Special thanks to Bremer State High School for enabling Meanjin to access to the marvellous facilities on offer on this Saturday morning. Many participants noted that they would be keen to participate in the sessions which they had not attended on the morning. All of these sessions will be replayed at the **half-day PD on Saturday 18 October at Moreton Bay College**. I look forward to seeing you there.

Nearly 200 participants attended our **full day Early Years Literacy PD program**, hosted at four venues across the great south-east. This program was formerly referred to as Key Teacher PD but the changing face of education across the south-east corner and the growing demand for this PD from other sectors of the education community led us to open these opportunities to a broader audience.

Meanjin hosted a **Summer School Reunion** for teachers who recently attended the Summer School programs. This reunion on **Monday 19 May** was attended by two dozen buoyant teachers who appreciated the opportunity to catch up with acquaintances and to discuss their projects with like-minded peers. We look forward to hearing more about these projects throughout the year.

A strong representation from Meanjin attended the recent joint **ALEA/ AATE National Conference in Adelaide (6-9 July)**. We are very proud of the numerous workshops and

presentations from the teaching professionals of the Meanjin catchment, many of whom we hope you see present again at local PD days. Congratulations to *Dr Karen Martin, Annette Patterson, John Acutt, Brett Dionysius, Eileen Honan, Roslyn Bono, Lesley van Trier, Vicki Thorpe, Anne-Marie Black, Jim Midgley, Peggy Roe, Susan Kelly, Janet Wigan, Pat Edgar, Deborah Tyson, Robyn Henderson, Shauna Peterson, Susan Morgan, Beryl Exley, Gary Woolley, Mary Ryan, Natasha Mayne, Kathy Mills and Stewart Riddle.*

Meanjin was the most-represented local council in attendance at the ALEA national AGM with 7 members of the executive present.

Another 10 participants have enrolled in the **9 module intensive functional grammar courses** being held currently. We are in the process of shaping another course in the Ipswich area to commence shortly.

Semester 2 is shaping as being an incredibly busy one full of Meanjin literacy professional development opportunities and other events.



- The **Meanjin Writers' Camp** is on again this year from **Thursday night 6 November through to Sunday 9 November**. Students get to work in small groups with notable authors. We are taking applications from students in Years 6, 7 or 8. Details are available on www.meanjin.edu.au. Please note that the submission date for applications has been extended to Friday 1 August.
- The second part of our **Early Years Literacy PD program** is being run in term 3. QAMT (Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers) & STAQ (Science Teachers' Association of Queensland) will present one day workshops for key teachers at four venues: **Ipswich (Tues 5 Aug), Carindale (Wed 6 Aug), Kedron/Wavell (Thurs 7 Aug) & Robina (Fri 8 Aug)**. Email reminders and faxes have been sent to all previous participants and to schools. Our website, www.meanjin.edu.au displays the program as does the attached flyer. Register now as time is running short!

Early Years Literacy PD Program			
Tuesday 05 August 2008 Ipswich Brothers' Leagues Club, Raceview		Wednesday 06 August 2008 Pacific Golf Club, Carindale	
Session 1	Using Children's Books to Develop Mathematical Understandings Jill Wells	Session 1	Investigating Shape and Size Dr Steven Nisbet
Session 2	Introducing Investigations in Early Childhood Sue Allmond	Session 2	Early Indicators of Mathematical Learning Difficulties Dr Maureen Finnane
Session 3	Water: Learn it for life! Kim Brown A presentation by the WaterWise Schools Program (Dept of Natural Resources and Water)	Session 3	Water: Learn it for life! - Kim Brown A presentation by the WaterWise Schools Program (Dept of Natural Resources and Water)
Thursday 07 August 2008 Kedron/Wavell Services Club, Chermside		Friday 08 August 2008 Gold Coast - Colonial Golf Club, Robina	
Session 1	Beginning Measurement Jan Cavanagh	Session 1	Number and Mental Computation - The power of using games and concrete materials. Racquel O'Connor
Session	Early Indicators of Mathematical Learning	Session	Early Years Numeracy: Confidence with

2	Difficulties Dr Maureen Finnane	2	Mathematics Robyn Anderson
Session 3	Water: Learn it for life! - Kim Brown A presentation by the WaterWise Schools Program (Dept of Natural Resources and Water)	Session 3	Water: Learn it for life! - David Fittell A presentation by the WaterWise Schools Program (Dept of Natural Resources and Water)

- On **Saturday 23 August**, a highly sought-after series of professional development sessions focussing upon the “**Designing Quality School-based Assessment Tasks**” will be hosted at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus. This **half-day PD** brings together the required knowledge and skills to utilise the English Essentials effectively and efficiently in the classroom setting. Bringing together key personnel and presenters from the Queensland Studies Authority with detailed knowledge and insight into the critical elements of the English Essentials, this one is not to be missed! Register online at www.meanjin.edu.au.

Designing Quality School-based Assessment Tasks <i>Saturday 23 August</i>	
8:30 - 9:00am	Registration and welcome tea/coffee
9:00 - 10:00am	<i>Keynote Address - Libby Bond</i> (QSA Assessment Bank) Developing Quality School Based Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to the thinking and design processes involved in the development of quality assessment tasks An explanation of the design principles used in the development of quality assessment tasks
10:00 - 10:30am	Morning tea provided by Meanjin.
10:30 - 12:00pm	Three Concurrent Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants break into three groups to focus on either Year 3, Year 5, or Year 7 & 9 English Essential Learnings Workshops to be led by members of QSA assessment bank team. Focus is: Apply the design principles for the development of quality assessment tasks. <p>Workshop leaders will guide participants in using the design principles to design an assessment task for one of the English Essential Learnings.</p>
12:00pm	Finish

- The **National Literacy & Numeracy Week one-day conference** being held by Meanjin at St Andrew’s Lutheran College Tallebudgera on **Saturday 6 September** is a *free event* to Meanjin members and is available at reduced rates for non-ALEA members. Another stunning program is on offer and we look forward to the swell of education professionals taking advantage of this low cost quality PD. Register online at www.meanjin.edu.au.

“Partnerships: Curriculum + Literacies = Curriculum Literacies” NLNW One-day Conference Program <i>Saturday 6 September</i>	
8:30 - 9:00am	Registration and welcome tea/coffee
9:00 - 10:00am	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsay Williams
10:00 - 10:40am	Morning tea provided by Meanjin. Trade Display and Prize Draws

10:40 - 11:30am <i>(Choice for each session)</i>	<i>Teacher Spotlight Sessions (2 choices):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracy Egan (EQ, Kippa-ring SS) "SOSE Curriculum Literacies" • Sue Giarola (EQ, Gin Gin SS) "Juxtaposing Curriculum Texts" • Rebecca Shadbolt (ISQ, Canterbury College) "Nothing is a Literacy-free Zone" • Marianne Schubert (EQ, RLM) "Connecting the Dots for Teachers & Students" • Dr Beryl Exley (QUT & 2008 NLNW Literacy Ambassador) "Declarative Knowledge in Visual Arts" • Ann Graham (BCE) St Flannan's School Zillmere "A Community of Learning: Multi-literacy Practices in the 21st Century"
11:40 - 12:30pm <i>(Choice for each session)</i>	
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Light lunch provided for those staying on for next session.
1:00pm - 1:45pm	Afternoon Panel (Optional) Literacy Leadership: Strategies for Whole School Reform Chair: NLNW 2008 Literacy Ambassador - Dr Beryl Exley Three leaders of whole school literacy reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Nash (EQ, previously of Seven Hills SS) Teaching Australia Teacher Leadership Award - Best National Achievement 2008 • Sue Giarola (EQ, Gin Gin SS) • David Macknish (ISQ, Ipswich Grammar School)
1:45pm	Finish

- **Saturday 18 October** sees a repeat of the popular **half-day professional development** from 8 March and focuses upon "**Expanding the use of Digital Resources to Enhance Literacy in the Classroom**". Being hosted at Moreton Bay College ensures that this program will be accessible now to professionals based in and around the bayside and eastern areas of Brisbane, in addition to those wishing to travel to the venue. Register online at www.meanjin.edu.au .

Expanding the use of Digital Resources to Enhance Literacy in the Classroom Saturday 18 October	
8:30 - 9:00am	Registration and welcome tea/coffee
9:00 - 10:00am	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deb Cohen (Australian Children's Television Foundation)
10:00 – 11:00am	Morning tea provided by Meanjin. Trade Display and Prize Draws and networking
11.00 - 11:55am	Two Concurrent Workshops <u>Session 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Storytelling in the Classroom - Part A <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Lockie Leonard: an adventure in multiliteracies
12.05 – 1.00pm	Two Concurrent Workshops <u>Session 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Storytelling in the Classroom - Part B <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Literacy Skills with Kahootz

1:00pm	Finish
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Additionally, on September 3, ALEA will again host activities on its website to celebrate **National Reading Day**. September also sees our annual commemoration of **International Literacy Day** with the **Books for Babies Program** throughout which Meanjin members visit new mothers in hospitals and distribute books, materials and advice upon the virtues of reading with children from an early age.

I hope that you are able to participate in and attend a great many of this vast array of activities. Further details for each of them can be found on the Meanjin website, www.meanjin.edu.au.

This letter/ update is accompanied by flyers for each of the PD events to assist you in your registration decisions. Please share these with your colleagues and espouse the enormous amount of quality PD being offered for the benefit of teachers in the Brisbane/ Ipswich/ Caboolture/ Logan and Gold Coast regions. To assist in the promotion of ALEA and its offerings to members, I have included an **ALEA poster for your school's staff room**. Please ask you Principal to display it and draw the attention of your staff to the many valuable activities described above.

Finally, a checklist for members:

- Is my ALEA poster displayed prominently in my school staff room?
- Have my Years 6, 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to apply for positions at the Meanjin Writers' Camp? *Application date extended to Friday 1 August.*
- Have I registered for some or all of the following events:
 - o Tuesday 5 August – Friday 8 August - **Early Years Literacy PD program**
 - o Saturday 23 August – **“Designing Quality School-based Assessment Tasks”** - *University of Qld*
 - o Saturday 6 September – **“Partnerships: Curriculum + Literacies = Curriculum Literacies”** - **NLNW one-day conference**” – *St Andrew's Lutheran College, Tallebudgera*
 - o Saturday 18 October – **“Expanding the use of Digital Resources to Enhance Literacy in the Classroom”** – *Moreton Bay College*
- Have I shared information about ALEA membership and/ or these PD opportunities to at least two other professionals?

Yours in literacy,

David Macknish
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Australian Literacy Educators' Association

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