

# The Tasmanian Council For Adult Literacy

## Newsletter - February 2015



### 2014 Report

#### Year in Review

The last year has been an exciting time for the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL). The following is a summary of key TCAL activity in 2014:

The Literacy in the Gardens event at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in March 2014 included public presentations from Lynn Jarvis, Manager of Pre-Degree Programs at the University of Tasmania, and Rosalie Martin, Managing Director and Senior Clinician at Speech Pathology Tasmania. We also celebrated the Council's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday!

In May, TCAL launched the first edition print of the Namasté book series. The books share the stories of Ghana, Libra and Layla, who are three refugee women living in Tasmania. These books were published by the Council through a grant that was made available through 26TEN. Copies will be available at the TCAL Annual General Meeting and special event on Saturday the 28th March 2015. You can also obtain a copy by contacting Keiron Galloway at keirongalloway@gmail.com.

During October, in association with the Australian Council for Adult Literacy, TCAL held presentations in Launceston and Hobart with Professor Steve Reder, adult literacy researcher and lecturer from Portland State University.

In Hobart, Reder presented his findings from a 10 year Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning. Joining Steve Reder for a symposium later that afternoon, were David Adams (academic and former Social Inclusion Commissioner), Ann Harrison (Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania), Dick Adams (councillor of the Northern Midlands Council), Paul Blacklow (economist at the University of Tasmania) and Geoff Fader (Small Business Council), with facilitator, Dr Natasha Cica. The lively discussion focused on how Steve Reder's results might be translated and interpreted in light of Tasmania's worrying adult literacy and underemployment statistics.

Whilst in Launceston, Dr Reder delivered a public presentation in conjunction with the University of Tasmania on the development and operation of the English for Speakers of Other Languages Lab School, which uses real, ongoing classrooms to conduct research into adult second language acquisition and pedagogy.

It has been a busy year for TCAL in 2014!

### Membership

#### Become a member of TCAL

Information on becoming a member of TCAL can be found on our website -

<http://tcal.org.au/join-online/>

#### About TCAL

The Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy is a voluntary, not-for-profit association administered by a management committee elected by members. TCAL members are teachers, trainers, students and volunteers from various workplaces, community organisations or schools, and people with an interest in adult literacy. Note that the term "literacy" incorporates language and numeracy.

TCAL aims to promote awareness of adult literacy by facilitating a co-operative and supportive network for practitioners. Our objectives include: develop and maintain communities of practice to disseminate information; provide input to government policy; promote research activities; and conduct professional development workshops. TCAL actively promotes literacy as a key skill in effective lifelong learning.

### 2015 TCAL Annual General Meeting and Special Event

#### A date for your diary

The TCAL Annual General Meeting and special event will be on Saturday the 28th March 2015 at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. More details to follow...

### Tutor Tips

#### Tips for supporting adult literacy learners

1. Try to listen beyond the words being said by your learner/s to help you better understand them; accept them as they are.
2. Use plain language making sure you are understood.
3. Tutoring / teaching is not about you; don't overwhelm the learner/s with your knowledge skills and experience.
4. Try not to assume or jump to conclusions about the learner/s.
5. Seek feedback from your learner/s on their progress.
6. Don't let them force you into helping too much.
7. Guide learner/s towards developing their own preferred way of learning.
8. Always be on the lookout for the "teachable moment."
9. Don't be afraid of silences.
10. Always use evidence based teaching/ tutoring and learning practices/ strategies.
11. Over prepare.

## News – Literacy Assessment

### Free LLN assessment – participate in trials of the new Foundation Skills Assessment Tool

ACER is developing the comprehensive Foundation Skills Assessment Tool (FSAT) for the Australian Government. Trials of FSAT have now commenced and new skill areas, including *Listening and Learning* from the Australian Core Skills Framework and skills from the new employability skills framework, the Core Skills for Work (CSfW), have been released.

The trials will continue until at least the end of February 2015.

For further information or if you are interested in taking part in the trials, please visit the [FSAT website](#).

## News from the University of Tasmania

### Mathematics Pathways from VET to higher education

The University of Tasmania is leading a nationwide Office of Learning and Teaching Grant 'Development of mathematics pathways for VET students to articulate to related higher education courses'. Flinders University, University of Notre Dame Australia and James Cook University are partners on this project along with TasTAFE, West Coast Institute and Tropical North Queensland TAFE.

Vocational education and training (VET) students often lack the mathematics skills necessary to articulate successfully to their chosen university courses. The current approaches of bridging and foundation mathematics programs, and university in-degree support, are fragmented and not tailored or sufficiently contextualised for VET articulators.

Pathways have been developed into the Bachelor of Engineering and the Bachelor of Education (Primary and Early Childhood). Pathways to Business and Health Science are available now. We are looking for VET teachers and students to trial these pathways in 2015. The pathways link specific VET qualifications with related HE courses; identify the mathematics gaps between the two, then build on the skills that the VET students already have and provide resources and supports to build their mathematical skills and confidence. All of the pathways are available as open education resources and can be accessed through the project website at <http://www.utas.edu.au/mathematics-pathways>.

## Conferences

2015 TasTESOL Annual Conference - "Inclusion & Innovation"  
Saturday March 21 Sacred Heart School

Further information from the TasTESOL website - <http://tastesol.org.au/events/>

## 2015 Australian Workplace Practitioners Network National Conference



18 – 20 March 2015, Melbourne

The Australian Workplace Practitioners' Network (AWPN) invites you to attend the 2015 AWPN National Conference to be held at the Jasper Hotel in Melbourne. The theme for the conference is *Refresh Rebrand Re-engage: Foundation Skills at Work*.

Foundation skill strengthening is a shared responsibility, whether you are an experienced LLN specialist, a recently qualified vocational trainer or a workplace supervisor.

For further information and registration, please visit the [conference website](#).

## Free tutor and literacy resources

### Industry Skills Council foundation skills resources - now in one place

On behalf of the Australian WELL Practitioners Network/Foundation Skills network, IBSA has compiled into a single repository all the free foundation skills resources developed by each of the Industry Skills Councils to support VET practitioners. IBSA hopes you find it useful, and looks forward to receiving feedback.

Please visit the [website](#) for more information and to access the resources.

### Government Skills Australia – foundation skills resources

Government Skills Australia (GSA) has completed a range of foundation skills resources to support the development of learning, reading, writing, oral communication and numeracy in work and training contexts. The resources include:

- **industry-specific foundation skills brochures** outlining current policy initiatives and the key foundation skill demands within that industry at a range of employment levels e.g. low–mid–high level 'core' skills demands across a range of work roles
- **a suite of 11 short videos highlighting the need for specific core skills** across a range of industries e.g. reading procedures and instructions in the workplace, oral communication skills for workplace meetings and numeracy skills for creating tables, graphs and charts

Please visit the [website](#) to download the resources.

## Upcoming workshops



**FiF FILLING in FORMS WORKSHOPS**

Making filling in forms easy!

Have you ever wondered what N/A means?

Does BLOCK letters mean the same as CAPITAL letters?



Simon with his FiF-Filling in Forms Certificate

**We look at different types of forms:**

- Paper
- Online
- Email attachments and links

What happens in a workshop?  
Small groups practise filling in forms together

Tips and hints are shared

Plenty of online examples

How many workshops are there?  
2 workshops  
2 hours each

Where are the workshops held?  
We will come to your neighbourhood house, community group, LINC or wherever a group can be organised.



Kelley and Pam with FiF-Filling in Forms Certificates

To arrange a workshop or for more information, please contact  
Deborah Stroh-Reilly  
[deborah.stroh-reilly@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:deborah.stroh-reilly@aus.salvationarmy.org)  
0457 763 796 or 6270 0303





## Train the Facilitator Practical workshop

Friday 20th March 2015  
10:00am - 2:00pm  
morning tea provided

The Salvation Army, 27 Pirie St, New Town

To book please contact Deborah m: 0457 763 796 or  
6270 0303 or [deborah.stroh-reilly@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:deborah.stroh-reilly@aus.salvationarmy.org)



## TCAL Membership Form 2014 / 2015

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TCAL annual membership is from 1 January to 31 December.

<b>Applicant details</b>			
First name	_____		
Family name	_____		
Title	Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	
Position (If a volunteer, please state this as your position).	_____		
Organisation (If this is not applicable, please state NA)	_____		
Residential, postal address	_____		
	_____		
Telephone	_____		
Home	Work	Mobile	_____
Email	_____		
Date of membership fees paid	DD	MM	YY
Membership category	_____		
Individual membership	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unwaged volunteers
			\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Privacy	Member information is only used by TCAL for administrative purposes. No personal information supplied by a member is disclosed or distributed to third parties.		

**Payment**

Direct deposit

Name of account: Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy  
 BSB: 067 028  
 Account number: 2800 4550  
 Please use your name as the reference so that bank payment can be attributed appropriately

Cheque or money order

Please make payments to:  
*Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy*  
 Mail membership application and cheque to:  
 Michael Christie, Treasurer TCAL, PO Box 818,  
 Sandy Bay TAS 7006