



# TCAL Newsletter – February 2017

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## 1) News from the TCAL Management Committee

Welcome to TCAL 2017

The Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL) is pleased to present their first newsletter for 2017. You will find that 2016 was a year of achievements and change in the adult literacy world. Inspiring stories from adult learners around the state help to keep up the positive momentum of adult literacy around Tasmania.

This information packed newsletter highlights the achievements of TCAL, such as creating a new-look website, organising a northern TCAL group and being instrumental in developing the newly formed Adult Literacy Workforce Development group. You will read news from 26TEN, LINC Tasmania and Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania (NHT). Also, you will find some important tips for literacy practitioners and interesting information about resources for practitioners to help keep your students engaged.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March (details below). We would like to encourage you and your friends to come along and meet the committee to see what TCAL is all about – you don't need to be a TCAL member to join in.

Lastly, as TCAL is solely run by volunteers and funded by membership fees, we hope to see you signed up as TCAL members for 2017 (details below).

Enjoy reading!

Deborah Stroh-Reilly – TCAL President

## 2) TCAL - Annual General Meeting

The TCAL 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on -

**Saturday the 18th March at the Kingston LINC from 10am to 12pm.**

If you are interested in becoming involved as a committee member or know someone you would like to nominate - we'd like to hear from you!

We meet each month and there is a telephone conferencing system available if you cannot attend the meetings in person.

If you would like to come along or know more about TCAL, please email the Secretary at - [tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com](mailto:tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com)

### 3) TCAL - Website Launch

TCAL launched their new website on 26th October 2016, during 26TEN week.

The new TCAL website [www.tcal.org.au](http://www.tcal.org.au) features:

- *Steps and Stories* book - Nine Tasmanians and their journeys in literacy and numeracy. They share their stories of childhood and steps they took as adults to increase their literacy and numeracy skills to gain control of their lives
- *Namaste Book Series* where six people tell of seeking asylum in Australia, fleeing their homeland under dangerous circumstances and leaving everything behind for a new life in Tasmania
- *25 Stories* written by adult learners as part of their literacy learning program and published as a resource for other adult learners to share on their learning journeys



TCAL website team: Committee members with Cristian and Nadia from Ajayu design

The above literacy and numeracy resources are for adult learners, adult learning practitioners, volunteer tutors and teachers.

They are free for anyone who is interested in helping someone improve their literacy and numeracy skills - ideal for adult literacy learning tools in the classroom or in any situation where adults are learning literacy skills.

The stories are heartfelt and moving, providing insight into the reasons people struggle with reading, writing and maths. It would be great for all Tasmanians to read so we can all gain an understanding of literacy issues in our communities.



Sue Costello, 26TEN and Deborah Stroh-Reilly, TCAL

Thanks to support from 26TEN, TasTAFE and the amazing hard work of TCAL volunteers, all these resources are available to download for free.

During the event, TCAL presented 26TEN with a handcrafted 4th birthday cake - made by Sian Midgley.

26TEN also presented another free resource for Tasmanians - *26TEN Steps* literacy awareness workshop. This was a great eye-opener and gave us all a better understanding of why 48% of Tasmanians struggle with literacy and numeracy.

## 4) 26TEN Update

**2016 was a bumper year for adult literacy and numeracy in Tasmania thanks to TCAL and other organisations that are part of the 26TEN network.**

Prior to the launch of 26TEN Tasmania: Tasmania's Strategy for Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2016-2025 in October last year, the 26TEN Network had 57 registered member organisations and 39 individual supporters. One year on, there are over 100 member organisations and 400 new supporters. With the support of many TCAL members, 26TEN delivered almost 100 Plain English and Literacy Awareness workshops, including at a TCAL event for 26TEN Week (see article above).

### Important role for TCAL and 26TEN

After a forum run by 26TEN in July to discuss if there is a need to increase the capacity and capability of the Tasmanian adult literacy workforce, there is now a 26TEN Adult Literacy Workforce Development Group. It is chaired jointly by TCAL and the Tasmanian VET Network. All employers are represented on the group. The aim of this group is to work together to build their employees' skills and to develop pathways for people who want to become practitioners.

### 26TEN's professional development continues in 2017

In 2016 Philippa McLean and Jenni Oldfield ran workshops as part of 26TEN's professional development program and many TCAL members benefitted from this great free training. Members said they really enjoyed having the experts delivering the sessions and appreciated the chance to meet and spend time with colleagues. And they said they want more!

Topics covered were the ACSF, LLN delivery in the workplace, pre-assessment, LLN delivery, and community LLN delivery. Three of the workshops were accredited training, auspiced by TAFESA.



Learning together with Jenni Oldfield  
in Devonport, Oct 2016.

26TEN is offering a similar program this year. Details will be available in the next 26TEN newsletter and on the [26TEN website](#) in March

### **Other activity at 26TEN - the Coalition at work to influence key sectors**

26TEN Coalition members underpin the efforts by implementing plans to build literacy and strengthen understanding of the impact of low literacy in their sectors. These include legal, health, education, local and state government, media and construction sectors. New Coalition members Judith Watson (health sector), Kym Goodes (community sector) and Simon Wiggins (adult literacy workforce), will be engaging even more Tasmanians in the effort.

The sum of all this practical action is that together we are making a difference and sharing the knowledge that lifting adult literacy and numeracy means a better Tasmania for all.

Contribution by Jen Dunbabin - Services Coordinator 26TEN



Minister Jeremy Rockliff with Coalition members: (l-r) Simon Wiggins, Siobhan Gaskell, Daryl Quilliam, Tanya Denison, Angela Ross, Kym Goodes, Tim Tierney, Mary Bent, Judith Watson, Malcolm Wells, Ross Latham

## 5) Neighborhood Houses Tasmania - News

Around the state, Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania (NHT) play a large role in supporting local people with adult literacy and numeracy. There are many programs and workshops to help locals improve their skills. Here are some snapshots of successful literacy programs around the state:

### St Helens:

St Helens Neighbourhood House has a current project called ‘Language Rules’ focusing on communication. Language Rules aims to support adult learners to enhance and develop their oral communication skills, through providing a safe and supportive environment to address gaps and develop opportunities to engage in mainstream community. With local social worker, Abbie Simpson, case managing the project, people are learning important skills including making appointments, talking on the phone and answering job interview questions.

### Geeveston:

Geeveston Community Centre recently ran a very popular calendar making workshop. Literacy Coordinator, Lucy Whitehead, taught the participants how to make their own online calendars in partnership with the wayraparattee Child and Family Centre.

### Deloraine House:

Last year, Deloraine House ran an oral literacy program during ‘Active Aging Week’. During this project, seniors in the community narrated their life stories. These stories were recorded and documented by volunteers. Artists then made “surrealist-gothic” depictions of the narratives. This exhibition is currently being shown at the Launceston General Hospital.

### West Moonah Community House:

West Moonah runs a very successful program helping people learn the road rules. With cooperation from DIER, West Moonah produced a DVD called ‘Learner Driver Program’. This has evolved into a partnership with Goodwood Community House and their driver-mentor program as well as Mr Kim Smith providing ‘train the trainer’ workshops around the state for other neighbourhood houses and schools.

Contribution by Lucy Whitehead - Literacy Coordinator (at Geeveston Community Centre)



Katie Devenish and her son, Ben with their new calendar

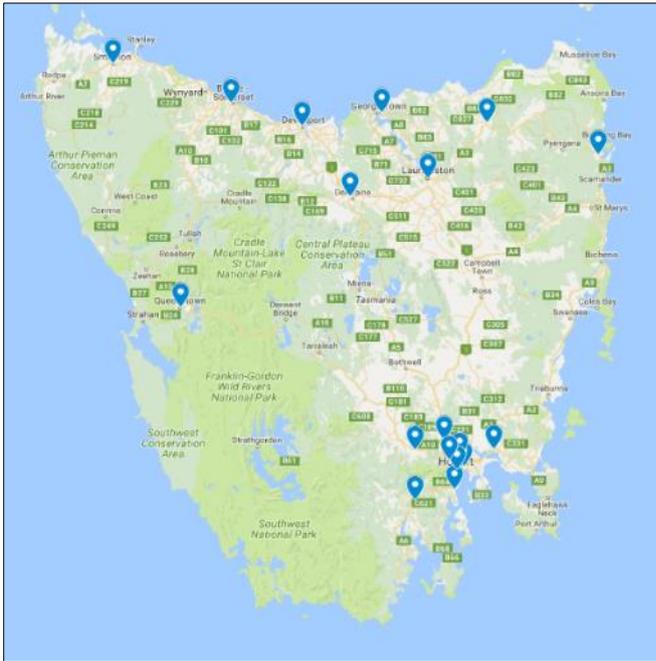


St Helens Volunteers

## 6) LINC Tasmania Update

### Literacy at LINC Tasmania

Literacy is core business at LINC Tasmania. A key objective of our strategic plan is to “help adults and families develop and maintain the literacy, numeracy and foundation skills they need for life and work”. We also coordinate and promote the statewide effort to improve adult literacy and numeracy and promote plain English through 26TEN.



LINC Literacy Coordinator locations within Tasmania

Around the state, LINC supports literacy in many ways. Our collection makes books and e-resources freely available to readers of all ages and abilities. Early and family literacy are supported through our *Rock and Rhyme* and *Storytime* programs and through engagement with Child and Family Centres, Launching into Learning and other outreach. Our staff are proud supporters of 26TEN and we use our social media networks to raise awareness about literacy. Many LINC staff are active TCAL members.

In 2016, one of our Literacy Coordinators, Sabena Lund, in Smithton, was named LINC Employee of the Year! And she deserved it. Sabena, like many of our literacy coordinators, is active in her local 26TEN community, making a real difference to people’s lives.

Our adult literacy network, which was established in its current form six years ago as an outcome of the first Adult Literacy Action Plan, is going from strength to strength.

Our 23 coordinators are in 20 locations around the state including Risdon Prison and Community Corrections.



In 2015/16, they were supported by 417 volunteers and provided literacy support to 1,980 clients. 315 of those clients showed skills increases as measured against the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), 375 achieved a personal learning goal, and 101 reported increased confidence.

### Loretta – Kingston LINC



Loretta has been working with Karen, a literacy tutor, and now has the skills and confidence to look into starting her own landscaping business. Congratulations Loretta and Karen!

We know that improving literacy and numeracy skills as an adult is a long haul, so we're proud of those figures that show our service is making a real difference to individual clients.

We're working to make sure we keep improving those outcomes. In 2016 we ran phase 2 of our Sound Systems project, working with a team of speech pathologists in locations around the state to look at how we can use intervention by speech pathologists with our client-centred model. Through this project, we have also strengthened our capacity to use phonics in our provision of support to clients where this will be useful.

What makes the basic core of our literacy service model unique, and of most value to the Tasmanian community, is that we treat each person as an individual. We work with them to identify their learning goals, use ACSF assessments to establish their literacy and numeracy learning needs and develop a response that will work best for them.

The best ambassadors for our service are our clients. It takes courage to speak out about your adult literacy journey, but more and more people are coming forward. Included are some recent success stories from Mark and Loretta.

### Mark - Glenorchy LINC

Don't be scared to have a go. It is difficult, it is frustrating, but it does build confidence and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I never wanted to go to school at first. In class I can't ever remember learning anything. I liked sport and woodwork and metalwork. I left school at year 10 and got a job in the timber mill. For the last 27 years I've worked at Cadburys.

My wife pushed me into getting some help. We both realised that working was starting to involve more paperwork. Also children came along and I wanted to try to understand what they were doing at school and be able to help.

I can now read better. It's helped me with learning the rules for basketball umpiring and I can read and understand the paperwork at work, such as the documentation for trouble shooting problems with machinery.

I'm more confident about letting people know I have a problem with reading and writing and I'm more willing to have a go myself first before asking someone.

For further information regarding LINC Tasmania see <https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>

Contribution by Anita Planchon - Manager, Literacy Services, LINC Tasmania

## 7) Tips for Literacy Practitioners

The following information comes from Links, the e-newsletter of the Reading Writing Hotline.

- Appreciate and acknowledge how difficult it is for many adult learners to set foot in a classroom again.
- Make use of the knowledge and experiences that adult learners bring with them.
- Ensure the learning space is as positive, stress-free and friendly as possible.
- Respect the different and diverse cultural and social backgrounds of adult learners.
- Adult learning is most effective when students are encouraged to discuss their experiences and express their ideas.
- Teacher /student relationship is critical to a successful learning experience.
- Encourage the linking of new learning to past experience.
- Provide activities what will ensure success and provide plenty of encouragement and praise.
- Allow students to identify their own goals and needs.

Further resources for practitioners and tutors is available here:

<http://www.readingwritinghotline.edu.au/resources/>

## 8) Australian Training Awards – LLN Practice Award

The Excellence in Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) Practice Award recognises innovation and excellence by an individual involved in improving LLN skills in an educational, community or workplace context.

The direct entry categories for this year's Australian Training Awards are now open – and close on 31 May.

Applications can be made by relevant individuals or organisations (eg colleagues, professional bodies, students, employers, industry or community representatives); or through self-nomination. For more information see -

<https://www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au/award/excellence-in-language-literacy-and-numeracy-practice-award>

## 9) TCAL – North

### Regular meetings now in the North of the state!

Recently a group from the North of the state held the second Community of Practice meetings to discuss adult language literacy and numeracy.

“It is a fairly informal meeting that provides a chance to meet and see what others are doing in the literacy space. It seems like quite a varied group!” Monica Wiggins

During the last meeting held in February, a number of resources were discussed including:

- AWPN: <http://awpn.com.au/resources/>
- LLN and VET Meeting Place: <https://lnandvetmeetingplace.wordpress.com/>
- NZ Literacy resources: <http://www.literacy.org.nz/learn-with-us>
- LiteracyNet <https://www.education.gov.au/literacy-net>
- <http://tlisc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/3-steps-to-Core-Skills-Support.pdf>

The next meeting is in Launceston on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 12-1pm** at Avidity office - 25-31 Tasman Highway, Waverley. For further information or to get involved contact TCAL at [tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com](mailto:tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com)

Contribution by Monica Wiggins – Director Avidity Training and Development

## 10) Literacy in the News 2017

**"Fake news" has beaten both "Halal Snack Pack" and "alt-right" to be given the 2016 Word of the Year honours by Macquarie Dictionary.**



The editor of Macquarie Dictionary, Sue Butler, said "fake news" won in part because of its broad influence. Each year the committee selects words from a range of categories, including fashion, business and sport, to compete for the title.

"Fake news" is a term that came to prominence in 2016, to refer to websites that deliberately published disinformation — often then promoted on social media for political purposes.

Ms Butler said the committee's job was to look for a word that had risen from the pack and had "some sort of broader context and meaning ... as well as something a bit clever."

There were 14 other words running alongside fake news competing for word of the year.

See more - <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-25/fake-news-named-2016-word-of-the-year/8211056>

## 11) Employment Opportunity

### **Hobart - Casual Teacher / Assessor (Language, Literacy and Numeracy)**

Seeking expressions of interest in the SEE Program (Skills for Education and Employment) at Mission Australia.

For more information contact Program Manager David Rochester on:

(03) 6225 8201 [rochesterd@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:rochesterd@missionaustralia.com.au)

## 12) Membership

Don't forget to join (or re-join) TCAL for 2017. The process is quick and easy, just go directly to the membership page on our website:

<http://tcal.org.au/about-us/membership/>

TCAL membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year.

Fees: Waged: \$35 Unwaged: \$15

## 13) TCAL Contact Details

There are a range of ways to contact TCAL

Email - [tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com](mailto:tcalmanagecomm@gmail.com)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/tasmanianCAL>

Post - PO Box 818/ SANDY BAY/ TAS 7006

Web – [www.tcal.org.au](http://www.tcal.org.au)