

Ripples



Australian
Learning
Communities
Network Inc

Official Newsletter of the Australian Learning Communities Network

Incorporated in NSW. No: 9883167

“Learning for the New Economy” the ALCN Conference September 23 – 25, Victoria University, Melbourne Campus, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

A conference is a great opportunity for people to meet face to face. More often than not, we work individually without much contact from our peers. As well, David McNulty is currently one of the leading CEO’s in local Government. Before that when he was responsible person in Blackburn, it was under his stewardship, that they were awarded as the leading learning community in Great Britain. So we trust that, if possible, you won’t miss this opportunity to join in at this conference.

[Read more](#)

New Blitz

A new social enterprise has seen businesses and community groups in Bridgewater, Brighton and Gagebrook team up to help locals secure ongoing training and employment, and carry out maintenance and beautification projects in the area.

[Read more](#)

My Career Match

In December 2011 Wagga City Library launched MyCareerMatch to local community service providers who assist adults in finding training and employment. MyCareerMatch is the ultimate career assessment that helps you determine your career path and success. It focuses on what you're good at and the careers that match your natural strengths, and then tells you how to write a winning resume that gets you the job.

[Read more](#)

Literacy and learning advocacy report

This is a major report conducted under the auspices of the Australian and State libraries. It contains case studies where partnerships contribute to the enhancement of literacy and Learning.

[Read more](#)

Fantastic news!

Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government Research Project

RMIT, the Hume Global Learning Village, Gwydir Learning Region and the Australian Learning Communities Network are partners in the research project: *Learning as a Driver for Change in Communities*.

[Read more](#)

Our cities, our future:

This 2011 policy paper presents the Australian Government's overarching goals for the nation's cities and how we will play a role in making them more productive, sustainable and livable.

[Read more](#)

A Sporting Idea

The City of Rockingham has come up with an idea to acknowledge their sporting interests.

[Read more](#)

Support Community Wellbeing

Results of a report titled My City: the People's Verdict shows the priorities in our communities.

[Read more](#)

How Australia is faring, Update

It is now two years since we first looked at how Australia is faring. There have been changes, both improvements and challenges.

[Read more](#)

Annual General Meeting

Please note that AGM of the Australian Learning Communities Network Inc. will be held at 4.00PM at the Victoria University, City Campus 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne 3000

[Read more](#)

CONFERENCE GOALS

The Learning for the New Economy Conference will examine how we:

1. Improve economic capacity and social inclusiveness by building social capital;
2. Deliver the best possible economic and social outcomes by focusing on cross sector approaches to early childhood learning;
3. Foster innovation by maximizing the use of social media, new technologies and online platforms for learning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All those who are committed to improving social and economic outcomes of communities through lifelong learning, including:

- Local Government and Government Departments
- Not for Profits
- Adult Learning Providers
- Early Learning Providers
- Universities/TAFE/Private Providers/ Group Training
- Jobs Services Australia providers
- Libraries
- Business and Industry
- Social enterprises and business incubators
- Schools

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT:

**WWW.ALCN
CONFERENCE
.NET.AU**

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JOIN US AT LEARNING FOR THE NEW ECONOMY

AUSTRALIAN LEARNING
COMMUNITIES NETWORK
CONFERENCE 2012

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2012
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE

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2012

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THEME 1: THE POWER OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Building social capital to stimulate positive economic and social outcomes

Local government, learning providers, community organisations, businesses, volunteers, social enterprises and business incubators can activate partnerships and agreements between organisations to achieve positive economic and social outcomes for people through lifelong learning.



KEY NOTE: DR. DAVID MCNULTY

David Mc Nulty is currently of Chief Executive of Surrey County Council. He was appointed there in 2009 after Surrey, one of the biggest councils in the UK, was adjudged to be failing in key areas of its responsibilities. Surrey is now recognised as a high performing council. David was previously Chief Executive of Trafford where he took it from being rated as "poor" by the Audit Commission to "performing strongly" in two years. David was also a commissioner on the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into "Colleges and their Communities" U.K.

THEME 2: CHILDREN - OUR BEGINNING

Changing children's developmental trajectory through learning

To become a society of lifelong learners where all citizens, have the best opportunities in life we must ensure all of our children have the best possible start. The conference will examine research and "best practice" examples that demonstrate and aspire to positive changes to children's developmental trajectory through learning.



KEY NOTE: DR. SHARON GOLDFELD

Dr Sharon Goldfeld is a community paediatrician at the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital; in Melbourne and a senior fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne.

THEME 3: COMMUNICATE TO LEARN

Role of social media, new technologies and online learning

If Australia is to be competitive globally and we are to give our citizens the best opportunity, individuals and organisations need to find creative ways to utilise social media, cutting edge software, communication technologies and online learning.



KEY NOTE: 'MS MEGABYTE' YVONNE ADELE CSP BUILDING A CULTURE OF IDEAS

A Microsoft graduate with a couple of decades of corporate experience, Yvonne created the Ms Megabyte brand/persona in the mid 90's. This led to a national media profile and best-selling book. She eventually left TV behind to concentrate solely on speaking and consulting.

Under the banner of her business, Ideas Culture, Yvonne has been delivering brainstorming methods and practical social media strategy to in-house teams and conference audiences for over 15 years.



New Blitz benefits Brighton municipality

Wed 27 June 2012

Rebecca White

Labor Member for Lyons

A new social enterprise has seen businesses and community groups in Bridgewater, Brighton and Gagebrook team up to help locals secure ongoing training and employment, and carry out maintenance and beautification projects in the area.

The Labor Member for Lyons, Rebecca White, today joined members of *Community Blitz* to launch the group's first completed project - a community garden at the Bridgewater PCYC.

Ms White said the passion and dedication of *Community Blitz* was an inspiration.

"*Community Blitz* is a terrific example of the wonderful things that can be achieved when community groups work together and the benefits it can bring to both the individuals involved and the broader community," she said.

"By engaging local businesses, community groups and people from around the community, this group is helping to give local people learning opportunities, a greater chance to engage with others and help them find ongoing training and employment.

"It also helps the broader community - with *Community Blitz* projects delivering maintenance and beautification projects for public spaces around the Brighton Municipality."

Ms White said that with the support and supervision of *Community Blitz* Coordinator, Peter Griffiths, the team built a community garden outside the Bridgewater PCYC and will soon commence work on a range of other projects.

Community Blitz Project Manager, Lisa Rudd said the project was already providing members of the local community, including young people with an opportunity to develop skills and engage in different hands-on learning activities.

"Through the PCYC garden project we have had a broad range of young people, jobseekers and community all working alongside each other to transform these public spaces," Ms Rudd said. Ms White thanked all the stakeholders involved in the *Blitz* project, paying tribute to their dedication and commitment to establishing the enterprise and to working with the community to build places for everyone to enjoy.

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WAGGA WAGGA CITY LIBRARY

Claire Campbell Manager Library Services 31/5/2012

My Career Match – free at your library

In December 2011 Wagga City Library launched MyCareerMatch to local community service providers who assist adults in finding training and employment.

MyCareerMatch is the ultimate career assessment that helps you determine your career path and success. It focuses on what you're good at and the careers that match your natural strengths, and then tells you how to write a winning resume that gets you the job. The online survey takes 15 minutes to complete and your career and resume reports are emailed to you as PDF documents. Professional quality brochures and computer screen savers for our public access computers assist in promotion of this great service to our library members.

In an age where libraries are re-inventing themselves and moving to online information services, My Career Match offers a unique opportunity to help people of all ages and backgrounds to find their perfect career. Wagga Wagga City Library is an innovative library that became the first Australian public library to trial My Career Match: a profiling tool and resume builder usually only offered through schools and universities. Since the launch, the State Library of NSW negotiated a consortia price for other NSW libraries to purchase this service for their customers. The success at Wagga Wagga has encouraged the CEO Nathan Chaneman to offer this service to public libraries across Australia.

The library provides the service free of charge to members and gives each person the following information:

An 8 page Career Report that includes

- Information about how to choose a career that's right for them
- A personality analysis and summary of their natural strengths & talents
- A list of over 50 jobs that match what they'd be good at
- Live links to the Australian Government's MyFuture website to research each job listed
- Their work related strengths and ideal work environment
- The qualities they would bring to the job

A 14 page Resume Guide that includes

- A winning resume template
- How to target their resume using key words
- How to highlight their key accomplishments and achievements
- How to read the job ad and write a 'stand out' cover letter
- How to use social media to build their career brand online
- A resume checklist

PLUS FREE Access to MyResume Builder

- MyResume Builder is an easy to use online resume writer created in partnership with ConnectCV.
- Members receive step-by-step instructions to create a winning resume which includes automatically transferring key personal content from their Career Report. They have total control and privacy of their account and can access it anywhere, any time. It's the perfect tool to help members promote and market themselves in today's web-based job market

Ebooks and Ereader Classes

On 1 May 2012 E-books and E-audio books were launched at Wagga Wagga City Library as part of the South West Zone Digital Library. The South-West Zone Digital Library will provide 300,000 residents, served by 47 branch libraries across 31 Councils, with access to e-books and e-audio books direct to their own devices.

The South-West Zone, which extends from Boorowa in the east to Wentworth in the west and West Wyalong in the north to Albury in the south, established the South-West Zone Digital Library with grant funding of \$200,000 from the 2009-10 NSW Library Development Grants program.

Library staff at Wagga Wagga held a series of hands-on workshops to help customers navigate the difficult decision of which e-reader would be best for them. The initial classes were well attended and they will be rescheduled according to demand into the future.

Library Developing a Community Learning Space

The move towards more online resources and the increasing demand for community learning spaces has motivated the Wagga Wagga City Library to reclaim some shelving space and create a public Learning Centre that can also double as an Exhibition Space. Architects are currently drawing up plans to create a space within the library that will be a well equipped for both remote and in-house learning. It is yet another great example libraries being dynamic places that are constantly reviewing how they can best serve their local communities. In 2012 we are celebrating the National Year of Reading and I encourage the reader to visit your local library and see what is happening. And click on this link to see how a library can brighten your day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svvbrZjLa5U?fs=1&autoplay=1>



The people in the image are Christine Bolton COMPACT Partnership Broker, Claire Campbell Manager Library Services Wagga Wagga, Nathan Chanesman CEO MyCareerMatch and Karen Murray High School Careers Advisor.

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Literacy and learning advocacy report

- [National and State Libraries Australasia](#)

This is a major report on the involvement of Australian libraries in literacy and Learning.

An excerpt from this comprehensive informs us:

The reach of literacy projects which have attracted partnership opportunities ranges from quite generic (large possible audience), to a more targeted approach to reach those most in need of improved literacy skills, or a combination of the two.

The ability to deliver on more than one agenda, to present the project or initiative as one which doesn't just increase literacy levels, but has benefits for health, has a clear link to an education curriculum outcome, or up-skills the current and/or future workforce (as examples), is of importance as it broadens the scope of projects and provides multiple outcomes.

This ability to be able to deliver on more than one agenda through linking strategies can be seen in the variety of partner organisations which literacy initiatives attract. The types of organisations which contribute financially or through inkind support to literacy initiatives in library settings or run by libraries, ranges from major corporate partners, to other government departments such as education and sport, to philanthropic and charitable foundations.

See full report on our website on our learning catalyst website: www.lcc.edu.au

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Learning as a Driver for Change in Communities

Dr Leone Wheeler, Dr Shanti Wong and Joel Farrell are about to commence an eight month research project for the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government entitled Learning as a Driver for Change in Communities. The Hume Global Learning Village, Gwydir Learning Region and the Australian Learning Communities Network are partners in the research. The team will undertake a literature review and **analysis of policy and research documents from the HGLV and GLR and other learning regions**, in order to determine common elements of a learning community framework that might apply to:

- a) Outer metropolitan regions, and
- b) Rural and regional regions

ACELG has expressed an interest in supporting this project because it will explore how learning partnerships can help improve social outcomes, build community capability and strengthen community governance. Further ACELG is interested in how the learnings from Hume and from Gwydir can benefit local government nationally.

For further information contact Leone Wheeler on on leone.wheeler@rmit.edu.au

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Our cities, our future: a national urban policy for a productive, sustainable and liveable future

This 2011 policy paper presents the Australian Government's overarching goals for the nation's cities and how we will play a role in making them more productive, sustainable and livable.

On 18 May 2011, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport released *Our Cities, Our Future - A National Urban Policy for a productive, sustainable and livable future*.

Our Cities, Our Future sets in place the Australian Government's objectives and directions for our cities as we prepare for the decades ahead. It recognizes the critical roles that State, Territory and Local Governments, the private sector and individuals play in planning, managing and investing in cities. It also highlights that the Australian Government makes decisions that impact upon urban Australia.

This is the first time that an Australian Government has sought to outline its overarching goals for the nation's cities and how we will play a role in making them more productive, sustainable and livable.

For the full report, see our website www.lcc.edu.au

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Sports Star Awards

This is just a reminder that the City of Rockingham 2012 Sport Star Awards are open and we are looking for nominations from all sports including clubs, teams, squads, volunteers and individuals.

Categories for this year are;

- Junior Sport Star of the Year
- Senior Sport Star of the Year
- Club of the Year
- Team/Squad of the Year
- Sports person of the Year with a disability
- Volunteer/Umpire/Coach of the Year

All finalists receive a trophy and a \$50 Rockingham Shopping Centre voucher, with winners receiving a trophy, shield, Rockingham Shopping Centre vouchers and fitness packages. Club of the Year will win a \$1,000 cheque!!

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Support community wellbeing

Community wellbeing is the foundation of our society. The quality of our natural and built environments, and our access to education, jobs and social and cultural opportunities have significant impacts on community wellbeing, public health outcomes, social inclusion and interaction, and community safety.

In the report ***My City: the People's Verdict***, people said their highest priorities were personal safety, the security of their property, and good health care services. The strong connection between social inclusion, urban planning and the safety of communities is becoming increasingly well understood, along with the relationship to mental and physical health outcomes.

Urban planning can facilitate and support preventative health approaches, especially for those who are disadvantaged and older, or who are high users of primary health care services. This can include development of social infrastructure that encourages healthy lifestyles (such as incorporating parks, walking/jogging/ cycling/fitness tracks, swimming pools, sports facilities, clubs, community centres and ovals) and providing easy access to primary health care facilities and community health services.

The Australian Government is investing in a range of policies and programs targeted at helping all Australians remain engaged in their communities, making them safer, more productive and liveable places to work and raise families. This includes the service delivery reform agenda to provide better support for people when they need it and the development of strategies to support and expand volunteering, philanthropy and social investment to build community

Providing access to social and economic opportunity

The *Sustainable Communities Program* will assist in making it easier for people to access jobs closer to home. Coupled with Australian Government support for improvements to public transport networks, education opportunities, social infrastructure and the not for profit sector, this will improve access to social and economic opportunity

11. Support community wellbeing by:

The wellbeing of the community is critical to the liveability of our cities.

There is a role for the Australian Government in leading better quality and design of the public domain, improving public health outcomes and redressing spatially concentrated disadvantage.

— *Providing access to social and economic opportunity*

In the face of growing urban population and demographic change, planning should be guided by the principles of social inclusion. This will help ensure individuals and communities have access to a full range of economic opportunities and services that meet their needs, are provided with and can take advantage of opportunities to participate and help to enable an effective not for-profit sector. The flow-on effect of improvements to individual quality of life leads to more liveable communities and larger scale economic prosperity.

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How Australia is faring update.

At a glance

There have been few significant changes in the two years since the first edition of How Australia is faring. There have, however, been some noticeable improvements when we look over a longer time frame, including in the key areas of health, education and employment.

Significant challenges remain, including for the 640,000 Australians who experience multiple and complex disadvantage. The indicators outlined in How Australia is faring relate to complex and persistent problems which require a long term approach, including to measurement and reporting.

Doing well

75% of Australians are satisfied with their life, higher than the OECD average. Life expectancy is high and increasing: 79.5 years for males and 84.0 years for females.

Australians have a higher rate of self-reported good health (at 85%) than the OECD average (at 68%).

Australia's employment rate continues its upward trend, and remains well above the OECD average. Australia's long-term unemployment rate is much lower than other comparable countries. More Australians than ever are completing school, with 75% of those aged 20–24 years having a Year 12 certificate, up from 71% in 2001. 64% of Australians aged 25-64 now have a non-school qualification, compared with 46% in 1997.

>> Level of persistent family joblessness declined between 2002 and 2010 from 14% to 8%.

>> The supply of available housing for purchase by low-income groups has grown (6.9% to 11.5%) and there has been an improvement in the level of repeat homelessness (from 9.9% to 9.0%).

>> Substantiations of child protection notifications dropped 12% from 2009–10 to 2010-11.

>> For those from non-English speaking backgrounds, more report being able to get outside support and less report finding it difficult to have a say on community issues.

>> More low income households are accessing the internet, up from 40% in 2008–09 to 55% in 2010–11 (although 95% of high income households access it).

>> More unemployed people now have weekly contact with family and friends, increasing from 94% in 2006 to 98% in 2010 putting them on par with employed people (also 98%).

Areas for improvement

>> Around 5% of Australians (or 640,000) experience multiple and entrenched disadvantage.

>> In 2011, 14% of all children under 15 (or 590,000) lived in jobless families.

>> 7% of people aged over 15 years have low economic resources and high financial stress (around 1.5 million people). The bulk of these are families with children.

>> Only 54% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 15-24 were fully engaged in education and/or work in 2008.

>> Around 100,000 people were counted as homeless on Census night in 2006.

>> Income inequality has increased steadily from the mid-1990s.

>> Attitudes towards people from different cultures, as reported by Scanlon-Monash Index of Social Cohesion, worsened between 2007 and 2011.

>> The proportion of Australians who reported feeling safe walking alone in the city or area in which they live (64%) was lower than the OECD average (67%).

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

4.00PM Sunday 23 September 2012

Venue: Victoria University, 300 Flinders St Melbourne

(Room to be advised)

Agenda

- Welcome and apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting (already circulated)
- Acceptance of the annual report (already circulated)
- Acceptance of the 2010 audited annual financial report(already circulated)
- Election of Executive
- Appointment of officer bearers
- 2014 National Conference update – change of format
- Confirmation of the appointment of Auditor
- Timing of next annual meeting

Close

Attendance replies

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