

At the Oct 2015 ESREA ELOA Conference in Jonkoping, Sweden it was agreed to organise an exchange of mutual benefit to European, Australian and New Zealand adult education researchers, policy makers and practitioners. The one week event in mid Feb 2017 will involve three conferences and two study tours based around Ballarat and Melbourne, Australia, and Wellington, New Zealand.

*Anyone interested in participating and contributing new perspectives on research, policy or practice for and by older learners as part of this unique event are warmly invited to participate. Early expressions of interest are due by the end of March 2016.*

*Organisations interested in supporting the event in some way are similarly invited to contact the organisers as soon as possible.*



*Goolwea, South Australia, the site of the first community Men's Shed, now a growing international movement for and by older men. Neighborhood and Community Houses are an equally important Australian invention, for and mainly by women.*



If you are from **Europe**, please contact Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha or Sabina Jelenc-Krasovec. If you are from **Australia** please contact Barry Golding. If you are from **New Zealand**, please contact Brian Findsen.

We anticipate that up to 20 places will be available for participants in the full one week exchange program, from each of Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

We anticipate the European participants will seek funding for much of their full cost (including registration, meals, travel and accommodation, total approx 2,600 Euro) from within their own organisations and countries. The anticipated total cost of the full program for Australian and New Zealanders will be approx \$1,600 AUD/ \$1,750 NZD.

Participants registering for the three one-day conferences, in Ballarat, Melbourne or Wellington will pay approx \$100 AUD/ \$100NZD day registration.

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# INVITATION

## RESEARCHING OLDER LEARNERS CONFERENCES, STUDY TOURS & EXCHANGE IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

12-18 FEB 2017



A unique international collaboration between the Education and Learning by Older Adults (ELOA) Network of the European Society for Research into the Education of Adults (ESREA), Adult Learning Australia & ACE Aotearoa.

“Despite being on opposite sides of the globe, there is much we can share that is similar and different about older learning research, policy & practice.”



*Some older learning traditions in Australia & New Zealand are Indigenous or 'home grown'. Others derive from Europe.*

The draft information in this leaflet (written in March 2016) has been circulated early enough to allow prospective participants to begin the necessary advance planning and fund raising.

All presenters in the full program will be invited to present papers at the conferences. All three conferences will also be open to and enriched by inviting other participants (researchers, policy makers, practitioners) from across Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific.

We anticipate research papers and insights from this unique series of 2017 events will be later published in a book by the organisers *New Insights into Older Learning: North meets South*.

# A UNIQUE EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

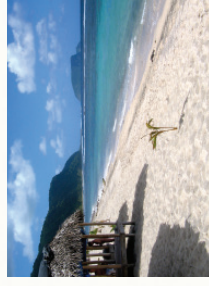
Researchers rarely get an opportunity to exchange insights and ideas from opposite sides of the globe. This series of Feb 2017 events aims to connect cutting edge researchers, policy makers and practitioners involved in older adult learning: from across Europe, Australia and New Zealand in the spirit of mutual cooperation and discovery. The **ELOA** (Education & Learning by Older Adults) **Network** is part of the *European Society for Research into the Education of Adults* (ESREA). **Adult Learning Australia** and **ACE Aotearoa**, coordinating the events are the peak adult education bodies in Australia & New Zealand.

## THE THREE CONFERENCES

Each conference has a different but complimentary theme related to older learning. The Ballarat, Australia Conference (14 Feb) will focus on rural and regional community learning. The Melbourne conference (15 Feb) will highlight older learning in urban contexts. The Wellington, New Zealand Conference (16 Feb) will emphasize older learning in Indigenous and Immigrant societies, through the unique bicultural (*Māori / Pakeha*) lens of ACE Aotearoa.



*Population aging and learning are important issues in all nations.*



*Australia and New Zealand's influences include Indigenous nations as well as Asia & Pacific.*

## THE TWO STUDY TOURS

Making sense of new places and nations is greatly assisted by 'getting out' and informally experiencing and sharing adult learning, in place and in practice. The one-day Australian study tour of community-based adult education (13 Feb) of the Central Highlands region will start and end in Ballarat. The one day New Zealand study tour of community-based adult education (17 Feb) will start and end in Wellington including the Wairarapa region. There will be opportunities on 12 & 18 Feb for site seeing and cultural exchange.



*The event will take place in the warm southern summer. It can also get cold here in winter!*



*Much of Australia is sparsely populated, but diverse and very beautiful (NW Australia)*

## TIME COMMITMENT & LOGISTICS

Most European participants will depart home on Friday 10 Feb 2017 and return home by Monday 20 Feb. Most will be on the same international flight legs to simplify transfers and transport. NZ participants would arrive in Melbourne on 12 Feb, and fly with the Australian participants to Wellington on Wed pm 15 Feb. Three nights (12-14 Feb) would be spent by all participants in Ballarat, Australia and three nights (17-17 Feb) in Wellington, New Zealand.



*Like Europe, we also have diverse multicultural cities in the Antipodes (Auckland).*



*Australia has 300 Indigenous Nations, as well as immigrants from all over the world.*