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IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Outstanding adult learners
- ◆ Corrections on course
- ◆ Adult Learners Week celebrations
- ◆ Enabling employment
- ◆ ACE update

TIPS AND TRENDS

- ◆ Tips for developing spelling skills

Outstanding adult learners

A young father who can now read stories to his daughter, a formerly homeless mother of five who now has a bright future, and a young woman with severe hearing loss who can now communicate using Auslan won the 2019 Adult Learners Week scholarships.

The Hon. Steve Irons MP announced the scholarship winners at the national launch of Adult Learners Week at North Metropolitan TAFE in Perth on September 3. The scholarships were awarded to outstanding adult learners to enable them to continue learning by either taking a new learning pathway or continuing an existing one.

Greg Nelson works as a driver with Nidjalla Waangan Mia (Aboriginal Health Centre) in Mandurah WA where his job is to transport patients to and from their medical appointments.

Greg left school early and struggled with literacy. When he applied for the job, he was open about it. 'I was honest with

them. I said I was struggling with my reading and wanted to get better,' the 26 year old said.

With the support of his boss, Greg was allocated a Read Write Now (RWN) volunteer literacy tutor, Eva.

'Some of the stuff I've learned from her is just amazing. She's changed my life completely. I don't know how to thank her,' Greg says.

The biggest impact of his improved reading and one of his greatest pleasures is sharing books with his young daughter. Previously he was too embarrassed and ashamed to open a book, now he and his daughter take turns reading to each other.

Greg has also become an advocate for RWN, encouraging his younger brother to get involved and find a tutor to help him.

Before he took up literacy classes with Eva, Greg said he would never have had the confidence to apply for further training, he thought he was "dumb". But Greg now aims to complete secondary school, so that he can use it as a springboard to further learning, something he would never have considered in the past.

It's Friday afternoon at Inverell Women and Children's Refuge and **Kylie Mahon**, a refuge support worker, is still pinching

(Story continues on p. 3)

Adult Learners Week is coordinated by Adult Learning Australia. It is a UNESCO initiative supported in Australia by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.

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*Lifelong and
lifewide learning
for all Australians*

Message from the CEO



Adult Learners Week is an opportunity to show how education empowers people to change their lives and is crucial to progress to a cohesive, prosperous, peaceful country that is able to deal with the challenges we face in the future.

Throughout Adult Learners Week (ALW), I participated in a range of events and activities across the country and met some wonderful adults who have overcome adversity to re-invent themselves through adult education.

At Seeds of Affinity in South Australia, I met women transitioning from prison who are making extraordinary things happen in their communities through social enterprise. Seeds of Affinity empower women by developing their business skills and providing pathways to education and employment.

I was fortunate to meet Jenny Falzon, winner of the ALA sponsored Adult Learner of the Year award at South Australia's Adult Learners Week awards. Jenny took part in a Women Based Home Business Program run by Pooraka Farm Community Centre as part of her transition from incarceration. She said that having someone at the Centre encouraging her made all the difference. Now a mentor to others in similar circumstances Jenny said if she in turn can help and support just one person then it would all be worthwhile.

I was also inspired by the dedication of the adult educators working at Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women in WA. Boronia is a minimum security prison that prepares women for re-entry into the community by offering traineeships in hospitality, horticulture and retail. Adult educators work with the women to formally recognise their existing skills and knowledge and to build their literacy and numeracy. The aim is to reduce their risk of re-offending and to offer hope for the future.

Meeting the volunteer tutors at Read Write Now was also a great privilege. The tutors give their time freely to provide one on one literacy sessions to adults, including parents who want to be able to read to their children. Greg Nelson, an ALW scholarship recipient, spoke so highly of his tutor Eva and the long-lasting impact of his time with Read Write Now.

Back in Victoria, Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre celebrated 40 years of providing education and support services to their community. At their ALW event, I met refugees who have encountered numerous challenges in their homeland and in Australia, but who are pursuing further education so they can give back to their community. Another great event in Victoria was the Wyndham Learning Festival, where I was privileged to be part of a celebration of learning in one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia.

Anyone can learn irrespective of their age and background. We all have unique skills and abilities, but some of us have had little or no opportunity to discover our own possibilities due to life circumstances, through lack of support or encouragement or because we have never had the confidence to explore for ourselves.

Adult Learners Week is an opportunity to show how education empowers people to change their lives and is crucial to progress to a cohesive, prosperous, peaceful country that is able to deal with the challenges we face in the future.

There are many adults who are determined to learn despite the obstacles they may face. This is why it is so important to continue to highlight the benefits of learning and the many options available for all Australians in the adult and community education sector.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to all of the ALW scholarship nominees and the winners Greg, Kylie and Anita. You are an inspiration to us all.

I like Kylie's advice, who was one of this year's ALW scholarship winners, "*Open that door and walk through it and ask about what education is available to you. It could change your whole life.*"

Thank you to everyone who participated in ALW 2019 and for helping make it a success.

Jenny Macaffer
CEO



The Hon. Steve Irons MP announced the scholarship winners at the national launch of Adult Learners Week at North Metropolitan TAFE in Perth

(story continued from p. 1)



herself at the way her life has turned around. Two years ago Kylie and her five children were homeless in Sydney.

With the help of a caseworker the family moved to Inverell and Kylie made tentative inquiries about courses at the local community college.

'I hadn't picked up a book for 20 years. I had no confidence in myself at all, I was very withdrawn. But Tania the coordinator said, "You can do it." I think she saw that I was someone who really wanted to change my life but I needed someone to hold my hand and get me started. She has just been amazing.'

Kylie enrolled in the Certificate III in Community Services. 'I really wanted to help people who were in the same situation that I'd been in. But not for a second did I think I'd get a job. I thought there are so many people who are more qualified than me.'

'My job provider saw the job in the refuge advertised and said, "That job's for you!" And we spent a whole day together working on my application.

'I just love this work, it's so rewarding. I had the privilege recently of reuniting a mum with her three daughters and bringing the family back together into a home. That was an amazing feeling.'

'My advice to someone who finds themselves in a similar situation to me? Go for it. Don't procrastinate. Open that

door and walk through it and ask about what education is available to you. It could change your whole life.'

Anita Burfield was born with moderate to severe hearing loss and although she had cochlear implants, she struggled to communicate successfully in either the deaf or hearing worlds. She was withdrawn and shy.

When Anita applied for the School Leaver Employment Supports Program through NDIS at the Deaf Society NSW, she was struggling to work out just what kind of work she was capable of.

'I had trouble trusting people and I didn't talk to people much.' Luckily for Anita she was paired with mentor Sharon Xabregas. Together they set goals for Anita's independence and career skills.



'I didn't know any Auslan but I decided to give it a try because I could see so many people at the Deaf Society signing and I wanted to be able to express myself and communicate with other people,' Anita says.

'Getting Anita out and working with the public and meeting people in courses and through work has made her realise they are like us,' Sharon says.

It took a year but Anita has overcome her debilitating shyness. 'I am more talkative and happy. I think I am more intuitive now.'

She plans to use the scholarship money to further her Auslan, do hospitality training and get her drivers' license. With her sights on a career in hospitality or tourism she'd like to learn another language and travel the world.

'Anita is very ambitious,' Sharon says. 'She blows me away, how she is always open to learning as much as she can.'

Anita's advice to others? 'Believe in yourself and accept all the opportunities to learn that are offered to you.'

Adult Learning Australia awarded three encouragement prizes of \$250 to Halima Kid from Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services; Kari Fujita from Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Hayley Flett from TAFE Queensland Mooloolaba.

Corrections on course

An innovative South Australian course is preparing people for jobs in the growing corrections sector.



It's a Friday morning and a group of people are standing in line waiting to be searched and have their belongings confiscated before they're handcuffed and taken to their cells by a stern looking prison officer.

The 'prison' is Pooraka Farm Community Centre (PFCC), the cells are made of plastic crates, the prison officer is an actor and the prisoners are a group of adult students. The aim of the exercise is to prepare them for work as Correctional Services Officers.

The course is the product of a chance conversation between PFCC's Zoe Gow and a representative of the SA Department of Corrections. 'We met at a workshop and she mentioned during the break that the Department was looking at ways to recruit more women and diverse people into corrections. And a light went on in my head. So I introduced her to my manager and we organised a catch up meeting and began to explore ways the Department could support us if we developed a training program and it went from there.'

The result is a 10 week 'Introduction to Correctional Services' course that aims to address the demand for a larger and more diverse correctional services workforce in South Australia.

'The Department has been fantastic to work with. For a course like this to be successful it has to be life-like and practical. We've worked closely with their trainer Christine Woodcock so that the course we've developed is as close as possible to what the work is like as a Correctional Services

The 10-week course includes units on exploring correctional services, prisoner rehabilitation, cultural diversity awareness, self defence, wellbeing and resilience, communications skills in the workplace, working for government and employment pathways.

Officer. For example, for workplace health and safety we teach participants how to do a cell search where they have to look after their own safety when they are searching someone's belongings or bedding. It gives them a clear idea of what workplace health and safety means in that sort of job.

'We've been able to draw on the resources of the Department and we've had the head of mental health and the head of rehabilitation in SA prisons come and talk to our students. The Department has also run self defence for our students and that's been fantastic. Their attitude has been "Of course, anything you need, just let us know." The only thing they couldn't help us with was supplying handcuffs so we had to make do with zip ties.'

The Department is enthusiastic about the program because they are looking for a more diverse workforce and for a change of culture among correctional services staff, Zoe says. 'The kind of people who come to our program come from a range of backgrounds. Many moved out of home early and didn't finish high school, some have past mental health or drug addiction issues and some have experienced serious financial or family problems. They can bring these life experiences to this kind of work.'

However many of the participants are inexperienced in the kind of people and social skills needed to be successful at work. 'We have people for example who don't necessarily understand conflict resolution and how to go about it, or how to communicate appropriately if things go awry.'

Establishing an open and non-judgemental environment so people can talk openly about the barriers they face and get the support they need to take next steps is crucial Zoe says. So is developing self-awareness.

'A course like this gives them the opportunity to learn about themselves and learn more effective ways of communicating. So what they learn here is applicable to a whole range of jobs.'



Hearing stories of life behind bars from a prisoners' perspective is very important Zoe says.

'We asked someone to come and talk to the group who had been nominated as Adult Learner of the Year here in SA who was a former prisoner. And that was eye-opening. It was a great experience because it is so important for our students to become aware of the biases they might have about the kinds of people who end up in prison, that people can end up there not just because they are 'bad' but for all sorts of different reasons.'

A prison tour is also included in the course so that participants can see and experience first hand how life feels behind bars for both prisoners and guards.

Zoe says the social connections participants make during the course breaks down their reservations about studying and many continue on to take up other ACE programs. Of the 12 participants who completed the course, three or four are taking the next step and preparing applications for Correctional Services Officer jobs. Others are investigating alternative career ideas such as the defence or police force.

Ilona's story

'I had a friend who worked at Holden who was laid off and he got a job in the sheriff's office and when I heard about that I thought that's something I'd be interested in. But at that point in my life I didn't have the confidence to pursue it. A few years later when things had improved for me, I was in a better position to take it on,' says Ilona, a 46 year old mother of four.

She heard from a friend that Pooraka Farm Community Centre was running a course for people interested in working in corrections and thought she'd give it a try.

'I thought why not? I'm a single parent on a carer's allowance and it will give me something to do.' Doing it with a friend helped too.

'It wasn't as scary when we arrived on the first day.'

Ilona says her life experiences have equipped her to work in Correctional Services and the course has helped her identify her particular skills.

'My upbringing wasn't fantastic. I had my struggles. I moved out of home when I was a teenager. My dad used to beat me with a tennis racket and my brother committed suicide. Life hasn't been kind and it's been hard. I was in an on and off relationship for 19 years with my three boys' father and he was and still is an ice addict. Even though I experienced things that no one should have to I learned skills that are of benefit to me now. I can read situations much more quickly than most other people. I have developed survival skills and I read people's behaviour well, and I'm good at reading body language so I can pick up on trouble early.

'I don't want to be a cleaner or work in a café. I want to use the skills that life has given me. So I was excited because this course was like a door opening to something I wanted to achieve. I've always been someone with a lot of self-doubt but now I'm feeling really good.

'I loved the course. It confirmed I was on the right track. I'm on my third course now. I've done a health and wellbeing course, I'm currently doing a Microsoft Office course in Excel and PowerPoint because I will need computer skills for a job as a court officer. Then I'm going to do a self defence course. So that by the time I've got all these things on my resume and sent in my application I will have everything they want for the job.'

'Once I realised I was good at reading other people it confirmed that I had something that other people don't. It gave me the confidence to think that this was a strength that I could use.'
Ilona, course participant

Adult Learners Week celebrations

Organisations around Australia hosted hundreds of events to encourage people to take the plunge and enjoy the benefits of adult learning.



During the first week of September in community centres, libraries, neighbourhood houses, local councils, TAFEs and more, Australians gathered at over 500 inclusive and fun learning events to celebrate Adult Learners Week.

This year's 'Best Event' awards celebrated the effort and creativity of organisations who hosted classes, workshops, tours and activities that encouraged people to take the plunge and enjoy the benefits of adult learning. The awards are an opportunity for providers of adult education to take centre stage and get the recognition they deserve. The 5 x \$1000 awards went to: Harvey Community Resource Centre (WA), Cedar Centre Toowoomba (QLD), Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre Inc. and Kensington Neighbourhood House (VIC), and Burnie Library (TAS).

Leesa Hall, Admin/Events Coordinator, Harvey CRC

'We were very excited to hear we'd won! We hadn't participated in Adult Learners Week before, this is our first time. Our sessions on No Interest Loans (NILS) and basic budgeting were really popular. We have a lot of people around here who are doing it tough. People don't tend to talk about their finances. It's a private thing and they can be very proud. So getting them along to talk about what money is

available and how to budget better was great. It's wonderful to give people that opportunity to do better for themselves. The sessions were really well attended and we got really positive comments from people who came along.'

Rebecca Smith, Coordinator, Kensington Neighbourhood House

'This year we looked at the theme of diving in and said, "Let's do something that we've all never done before". And the students decided to go on a ferry from the city across to Williamstown. Some of the people have lived in Melbourne for 20 years and live just five kilometres away from Williamstown but have never been there. It was wonderful to see them get out of their comfort zone to take a trip like that. It's exciting thinking about how we will use the money. We never really have funds to do things outside the classroom. And when we do we always we have to plan excursions that we can get to on public transport. So it will be lovely to use the prize money to plan an outing that takes us further afield.'

Anita Anderwald, Community Learning Coordinator, Burnie Library

'I was running a training session when my manager came in and brought me a little note to say that we'd won an award and it was very exciting!'





'This year we ran taster courses where we aimed to connect people up with learning groups outside the library. Some of the events like the virtual reality sessions really opened people's eyes to what the library has to offer. One person said, "Wow, I didn't know the library had that kind of technology!" So there's that word of mouth and promotion of library services that comes from people coming along and having a go.'

Greg Thompson, Centre Manager, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre Inc.

'When we heard we had won the award there were high fives all around.'

'We offered 21 different activities during Adult Learners Week that attracted between 7 and 30 people per session. One lady came to the first Adult Learners Week event and she enjoyed it so much she came to every single one of our other events during the Week. Now she's a firm advocate and promoter of PICAL.'

'We had regulars come to our events, some people who had been once in a blue moon, but we also saw a lot of new faces. The cooking events are always popular especially because people can eat what they've made. But the one that surprised us for popularity was the basic home maintenance

class. We had 12 people come along to learn things like how to hang a heavy painting on a wall and how to change a tap washer. People just don't learn those skills anymore but they really want to know how to do those things themselves.'

Amy Weir, Community Contact Officer, Cedar Centre Toowoomba (QLD)

'We brainstormed ideas with our students asking what sort of things would interest them. We have a very diverse group of 300 distance and on-campus students so it really helped to have so many different viewpoints.'

'We started our ALW events with a session on sensory skewing, to demonstrate that not everyone learns the same way. We also did a session on laughing yoga and mindfulness too.'

'Our students are doing courses that are very vocationally focussed so doing something so light-hearted and fun together was great. It was a wonderful experience for us to plan something different together and see them all so excited it in the lead up as well as afterwards. Adult Learners Week broke down the boundaries between our different groups of students as well as showing how learning new things can be productive and fun.'



Enabling employment

Technology giant Ericsson's former warehouse is experiencing a new lease of life. Instead of storing new technology the building is an e-waste recycling hub that's giving local people new opportunities for work and learning.



Most of us have got a pile of unwanted electronic devices at home or work that we've got no use for. What to do with this growing pile of waste that is harmful to the environment is the question.

While our electronic waste is growing, so too is the demand for jobs among the most disadvantaged groups in Australia, with high unemployment rates for people with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

With a passion for the environment and social justice Julie McKay came up with a solution to tackle both environmental and social problems. In 2013, she founded Enable a social enterprise to re-use and recycle e-waste staffed by disadvantaged people in Broadmeadows in Melbourne's north.

People who work at Enable include migrants and refugees, people with disabilities and most recently clients from the Department of Justice. All are referred by a range of agencies including NDIS and local English language programs so they can learn new skills and improve their chances of finding work.

Since May 2016, Enable IT Recycling have:

- Delivered 24,414 hours of employability skills to 760 participants
- Created 7,177 paid work hours for disadvantaged community members
- Diverted 151,662 kg of e-waste such as computers, monitors, printers, keyboards and phones away from landfill

At the same time, Enable is a highly commercialised not for profit organisation and it can be a juggle to balance running a business and employing people of all abilities.

'We work hard to get that balance right. We work with a broad range of people – from someone who may have been an engineer in their home country to someone local who is on the autism spectrum. We make sure that everyone does work that is suited to their abilities so that really sets people up for success,' Julie says.

Once e-waste is delivered to the warehouse, it passes through a number of processes and each step requires different skills. Firstly participants weigh and log each donation, sorting it into its components – network servers, modems, printers, monitors, hard drives and keyboards. Each component is then logged into a database. Then it's tested and categorised as either capable of repair and reuse and resale online or categorised as 'dead' and sent off to the 'graveyard' where it is dismantled for recycling.

Julie says crew leader Mick Hodgson, who has a background in IT testing and repairs, is rigorous when it comes to on-the-job training. 'We have a very thorough induction process that's very hands-on with the emphasis on occupational health and safety so people get trained in the safe use of equipment such as hand tools and drills. People get proficient very quickly. By the end of a term they can disassemble a floor printer that's taller than me!' Julie laughs.

'One of the biggest attitudinal barriers to employing people with disabilities is employers' concerns about health and safety. There's a common misperception out there that people with disabilities are going to be higher risk. We really focus on busting that myth so that our participants can go along to job interviews and talk eloquently about the importance of safety at work and ways to go about it.'

As well as being well-schooled in occupational health and safety, Enable participants can add use of specialised technology to their job applications.



‘Our participants learn to use recognised systems in IT for testing communication networks, and industry standard equipment and software for capturing asset information and data destruction. So it looks great on their CVs.’

While Enable staff work hard at establishing a supportive environment, they set the tone from the start about workplace expectations. ‘We are not a welfare agency. We have expectations about attendance and if someone’s attendance is poor then we go through the same process you would in any workplace – three warnings and you’re out. If someone doesn’t show up for their shift, for example, we will give them a call. If they miss a shift they are expected to come in and make up the lost time.’

Enable also takes on contracts that allow them to offer participants paid work.

‘We have a very successful social procurement partnership with Reece Group and we have processed over 55 tonnes of their decommissioned assets for re-use or ethical recycling. We have diverted all that landfill and created opportunities for disadvantaged people in our community. We were already working with them on their e-waste and it seemed a logical next step for us to do the ‘pick and pack’ for their staff’s IT needs. So now we have become embedded in their supply chain. We distribute all the communication components for their new employees like car mounts, phone holders, that sort of thing. It’s a win win.’

Julie sees opportunities to develop two-way learning pathways between Enable and local adult education providers. ‘We offer terrific workplace learning but we would like the opportunity to tailor and develop accredited courses in sustainability as well as getting more formal recognition of the training that our participants have completed on the job.’

Enable has been shortlisted as a finalist in three categories in the 2019 Victorian Premier’s Sustainability Awards.

Mark’s story

Mark was referred to Enable when he was 17. Julie says, ‘He had a speech impediment and was selectively mute, a result I think of some severe bullying that he’d been subject to in the past. He had a real knack for sorting because he has a photographic memory, so he could glance at a circuit board and quickly be able break it down by component parts and commodity type.’

‘We got him involved in checking the quality of the sorting that other people were doing and we instituted a feedback loop so that when things weren’t sorted properly Mark would tell the crew what changes or improvements needed to be made. We gave him responsibility for explaining to others on the crew when they got things wrong, for example if they were mixing steel in with plastic. He’d say, “This is wrong, we need to rework this part”.

‘He really worked well as part of that testing team. From there we rotated him through the other stages in the warehouse and he did an exceptional job as a communicator. He was here for over a year and you wouldn’t have recognised at the end of that time that he had any communication issues at all.’

Recent research

Employment-focussed social enterprises:

- improve the lives of marginalised people by offering flexible and secure work
- reduce the costs of welfare, health, and housing services
- offer employment pathways that reduce reliance on government and philanthropic funding.

Source: Centre for Social Impact (CSI) Swinburne and the Westpac Foundation report csi.edu.au/news/media-release-social-enterprise-untapped-potential-creating-jobs/

Tips for developing spelling skills

How well a person spells has nothing to do with intelligence or abilities. But people are often judged negatively if they have poor spelling skills.



Here's some tips for improving adults' spelling performance.

1 Break it down

Research shows that good spellers rely on different cues to guide them about how a word should be spelt – how it sounds, how it looks, what kind of pattern it conforms to as well as the origin and meaning of a word. Use this theory as a framework for your teaching.

2 Analyse a sample

Ask your student for a sample of their writing. Make a list of the words they have misspelled. This will give you an idea of what their particular problems are and will help you tailor teaching strategies that will help them to improve.

3 Ask for reasons

Encourage the learner to look at their writing sample and explain why they spell particular words the way they do. This will provide you with valuable insights and will stimulate the learner's awareness of their spelling strengths and weaknesses.

4 Focus on positives

Show learners what they are doing well by pointing out the spelling strategies they use that are effective and how to build on them.

5 Show useful shortcuts

You can't possibly teach someone all the words they need to spell. It would take too much time. Instead you can show them how words are created so they can apply that understanding to new words they encounter. Demonstrate how root words are like building blocks and how adding suffixes and prefixes can change the meaning. Being able to break down a word into its various parts in this way improves spelling.

6 Practise spelling rules

Teach spelling rules and illustrate with lots of examples as well as words that break the rules. For example, if the word ends in 'e', drop the 'e' when adding 'ing'. Understanding spelling rules and how to apply them can take a lot of the stress out of spelling.

7 Focus on phonics

Building awareness of the relationship between sounds and the letters that represent them is key to spelling effectively. Fifty per cent of English words can be spelled correctly using phonological knowledge, without it people have to rely on their memory which is the least efficient way to spell.

8 Research word origins

Etymological knowledge is useful because 60% of English words come from non-Anglo-Saxon languages. Understanding a word's origin and history helps people understand the meaning and spelling of unfamiliar words and expands their vocabulary.

9 Visualise it

For words that need to be memorised, use the 'Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check' technique to help with visual recall.

10 Better spelling, better literacy

Improving spelling has a flow-on effect. Understanding how words work through sound, structure and meaning expands a person's vocabulary, and improves their understanding of what they are reading.

These tips are from a recent ALA webinar by Jan Hagston director of Multifangled, an education and training consultancy specialising in adult and youth education.

Adult and community education awards



Spring is the season for celebrating outstanding adult learners and the adult educators who inspire them across Australia.

Learners, teachers and education providers from across Victoria were recognised for their work transforming lives through community education at this year's **Learn Local Awards**.

The Minister for Training and Skills, the Hon Gayle Tierney MP, announced the winners at a celebration on Friday August 23 at Mural Hall, Myer Melbourne.

Awards went to: **Chithrika Senanayake** a participant in the Creative Enterprising Women Program at Wellsprings for Women (WSW) who won the Ro Allen Award, which recognises excellence in pre-accredited learning. Chithrika enthusiastically took charge of her education and has developed sound goals, self-confidence and a strategy for establishing and developing her own business.



Rory Madden

Rory Madden of the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre won Victorian Learn Local Young Pre-accredited Learner Award for his determination and commitment to learning in the horticulture and carpentry taster program.

Wellsprings for Women won Victorian Learn Local Pre-accredited Pathway Program Award for its

success in helping local women overcome barriers to employment and education.

Women Connect Hotspot Office Volunteers – Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre won the Learn Local Volunteer Team award for helping previously isolated women create small businesses or embark on further education.

Josie Rose from Noweyung Ltd won Victorian Learn Local Practitioner Award in recognition of her work in developing programs that provided equity in access to vocational and



Josie Rose

employability training in a region of high unemployment.

Social enterprise **Moon Rabbit Café** in Preston won the Learn Local Creating Local Solutions Award for assisting neuro-diverse adults to develop hospitality skills.

Kinglake Ranges Employment and Enterprise Program won the Victorian Learn Local Collaboration Award for a successful partnership that has doubled the impact on unemployed and vulnerable young people in the Kinglake Ranges.

The following Learn Local providers were acknowledged as Learn Local Legends: Bacchus Marsh Community College, Carringbush Adult Education Centre, Cloverdale Community Centre, Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre, Wellsprings for Women, Access Australia Group, Cire Services and Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau.

At the VicTraining Awards, **Cire Services of Yarra Junction** won Community Training Provider of the Year award.



Victoria's Learn Local Legends

ACE Awards (cont.)

In **SA** the 2019 Adult Learners Week Awards held on August 29 celebrated the achievements of outstanding learners and educators and innovative community education programs across the state.



Adult Learner of the Year Jenny Falzon (C) with Chris Zielinski, DIS (L) and Jenny Macaffer, ALA (R).

Jenny Falzon won Adult Learner of the Year – sponsored by Adult Learning Australia – for her commitment to education and self-improvement after a period of incarceration. As Jenny's confidence grew through a series of courses in Aged and Disability Care, Communication Skills and Women's Studies, she was accepted into a Diploma of Counselling and is looking forward to a future working as a counsellor.

Emma Venning won Aboriginal Learner of the Year. Emma is Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer at Willunga High School and won the award for her commitment to learning and sharing the Kurna language with her students.



Emma Venning with Anthony Kittel of Redarc, award sponsor.

Sophia Katari from The Junction Community Centre won Adult Educator/Mentor of the Year for her practical, relevant and supportive approach in helping adult learners achieve their goals.

Pooraka Farm Community Centre won Adult Learning Program of the Year for the Introduction to Correctional Services program which aims to give students the knowledge, skills and time to investigate employment in Correctional Services in South Australia.

Other ACE news

In **WA** and **NSW**, state peak bodies Linkwest and CCA are busy with plans for upcoming conferences. CCA has updated its list of conference speakers and board member Michelle Simpson recently participated in a Leadership Institute for Presidents and Directors General conference in Canada. cca.edu.au

Nationally, ALA is busy co-ordinating submissions from Australia and the Asia-Pacific for papers, research roundtables panels, posters and symposia which close on October 15 for the international 'Adult Education in Global Times' conference in Vancouver in June 2020. edst.educ.ubc.ca/aegt2020



ALA's fortnightly professional development webinars continue to attract strong interest from adult educators interested in developing their skills for teaching English and adult literacy, improving assessment and research. ala.asn.au/professional-development/webinars

The Australian Journal of Adult Learning (AJAL) special issue will be out in November, entitled 'Adult learning, social movements, popular education and the power of knowledge'. It's an issue devoted to the power that knowledge can hold for social change. ajal.net.au

You can find previous issues of Quest and individual stories for sharing on our website. ala.asn.au/stories

QUEST

Quest is the national magazine for adult and community education. It is published four times a year by Adult Learning Australia.

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