

DARE to be Different INNOVATIONS IN ACE

Third Tasmanian state adult and community education conference

Wednesday 15 November 2006
University of Tasmania, Launceston
9.30 am - 4.30 pm

About the presenters

Daniel Albert

Daniel has been involved in research for the Tasmanian State Service since 1991 and is now the manager of information and research for the Office of Post-Compulsory Education and Training. Initially involved mainly with labour market research and analyses of training needs, Daniel now conducts and supervises research into post-compulsory education and training, including ACE. He is the state representative on the national Survey Network Group that is responsible for advising on data collection in the VET sector.

Janice Barrett

Janice is the Tasmanian Training Officer for the Penguin Club. She has been at the forefront of bringing competency training to the club nationally. She is the senior trainer with Work & Training Ltd.

Denise Delphin

Denise has been involved with the Northern Suburbs Community Centre Inc for 22 years. She has been manager of the centre since 1999 and is a current member of the Board of the Tasmanian Association of Community Houses. Denise is a strong advocate for lifelong learning and a keen supporter of the NSCC Goldies, a mature-aged women's group who won the 2004 Adult Learners' Week award of Outstanding Adult Learning Program of the Year.

Mike Downie

A former North West small retail business owner/operator, Mike has been an elected member of his local council since 1982, and mayor of the Central Coast Council since 1998. He is a member of the Cradle Coast Authority Representatives Group, the Premier's Local Government Council and the Local Government Association General Management Committee.

Cath Dunn

Cath has been Manager of the VET Access branch in the WA Department of Education and Training since 2003, with responsibility for ACE projects since 2000. With a background as student counsellor in the TAFE system for 17 years, she brings to the role a strong equity background and interest in ensuring a broad range of opportunities for all adult learners.

Hugh Fielding

Hugh has an extensive background in adult literacy. Prior to commencing work on the Adult and Family Literacy Project with the Department of Education in 2004, Hugh was the team leader of the Adult Literacy and Basic Education and E- Learn Programs at TAFE Tasmania.

Fiona Ellis

Fiona has had over fifteen years experience in adult education in various capacities, most recently as the Northwest team leader for Adult Education Tasmania. Currently working with Tasmanian Communities Online as the Northwest community facilitator, Fiona is also managing a Learnscope project to develop non-accredited products for Adult Education Tasmania. Add to that mix her work as a TAFE teacher, workplace trainer, Adult Literacy and Basic Education tutor, and resources developer!

Sheila Given

Dr Sheila Given is chair of the Positive Ageing Consultative Committee and was involved in the development of the Tasmanian Plan for Positive Ageing 2000-2005. She vice-president of the Tasmanian Council on the Ageing, president of Kingborough University of the Third Age, and co-facilitator of the Third Age Learning Network of Tasmania. Sheila was recently entered on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women.

Barry Golding

Based in the School of Education at University of Ballarat, Associate Professor Barry Golding is a well known researcher in Australian adult, community, informal and vocational education. His research embraces equity in adult and vocational learning, particularly in rural and regional areas, and more recently learning through community-based volunteer organisations, particularly for men. Current national research includes 'Men's sheds in Australia in community contexts' and 'Refugee literacy and language acquisition'. Barry was a keynote presenter at the world's second men's shed conference, held in Bridgewater, Tasmania in September 2006.

Michael Goss

Mick Goss is the coordinator for the Kids 'N Dads group that operates from the Ravenswood Neighbourhood House in Launceston. Kids 'N Dads is a project funded through TassieMale, a Commonwealth funded program of Relationships Australia, Tasmania. Kids 'N Dads works to support fathers and grandfathers in developing and enhancing good relationships with their children, through a variety of interactive and educative activities.

Pip Hankin

A Huon Valley resident, Pip has a background in fine arts and teaching. Prior to her recent appointment as LINC coordinator, Pip worked for five years in sales and marketing. As coordinator at the Huon LINC she sits on the SCOPE Huon/Channel Area Reference Group and the Huon Stronger Communities Partnerships Group.

Lynn Jarvis

Lyn has had over twenty years experience in adult education, concentrating in recent years in teaching computing to the over-55 age group, as well as running mobile phone courses, typically for older learners.

Rowena MacKean

Rowena is co-facilitator of TALENT, immediate past president of Clarence U3A, winner of the 2006 state award of Outstanding Supporter of Adult Learning. Rowena is working towards a Master of Education (University of Tasmania); her research topic is learning as a tool of positive ageing.

Margaret Malpas

Margaret has worked for over 20 years in libraries in New Zealand and Australia, including TAFE, public, university and state libraries. She has been with the State Library of Tasmania for seven years. Margaret has prepared and presented training courses for library clients and college students on using the internet and online databases, and trains library staff. She represented the State Library on the Council of Australian State Libraries Live Reference Australia project, which operates now as the national **AskNow!** service.

Kathy Mason

Kathy is the training coordinator at Lifeline Hobart. For the past 14 years Kathy has designed and delivered training programs for Lifeline telephone counsellors, and a wide range of social welfare learning opportunities in the community. Kathy was named 2004 Australian Adult Educator of the Year in recognition of her skills and commitment to expanding and sustaining community-based adult learning in Tasmania. Kathy has been a member of the Tasmanian Learning and Skills Authority since its inception in 2005.

Fin (Veronica) McShane

Fin works with the Department of Education as a policy officer in adult and community education. She has a background in teaching English language and literacy in Aboriginal communities and to international students. Fin is a committee member of the Society of Editors (Tas.) which she describes as "a not-for-profit volunteer-run organisation that provides adult learning opportunities for its members and the public". (Sound familiar?)

Paula Murphy

Paula is the Tasmanian Executive Officer of the Penguin Club, she has been aware of the benefits of competency-based training in the workplace for a number of years and is excited to assist the Club in bringing this benefit to women who may not be able to access such training.

Greg Peart

Greg is state manager of Adult Education Tasmania and is on the board of directors of Adult Learning Australia. Greg has been a teacher and assistant principal in high schools in Tasmania, NSW and the UK; has lectured in the Faculty of Education at the University of Tasmania, and has been a state parliamentarian.

Marcus Ragus

Marcus has been teaching within the VET sector for over twenty years and has been involved with technology for learning for more than ten of those years. He is a leading national practitioner in many aspects of online learning through his involvement in new and creative e-learning and m-learning projects. He is an active manager and participant in a number of Australian Flexible Learning Framework, LearnScope, New Practices, and Reframing the Future programs, many of which have spawned innovative outcomes recognised at state, national and international levels. Marcus is a regular speaker at learning conferences and symposiums.

Ann Rayner

Ann has been coordinator of the Ulverstone Community House for nearly 20 years. About the North West Lifestyle Challenge, Ann says: "I was inspired by a workshop I attended three years ago at a TACH conference to do something proactive towards improving health and wellbeing in our community and how easily I could duplicate and expand on a project I saw happening through the Northern Suburbs Community House".

Cheryl Robertson

Prior to taking up her new position with Glenorchy Library + Online Access Centre, Cheryl was coordinator of the Geeveston Online Access Centre for six years, during which time she practiced what she preached, and with the support of her employer Tasmanian Communities Online achieving Certificate II in Information Technology, Certificate II in Business, Diploma in Information Technology System Administrator and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment. Cheryl is currently updating her assessor qualifications to the new Trainer and Assessor certificate.

George Startup

George described Pete's Shed as having turned his life around. Following surgery that left him unable to return to work some 10 years ago, George felt there was little left to do. He came to the shed shortly after established and is now its coordinator. He uses his experience to encourage others in his community. Working in partnership with local schools, George has developed a kids-at-risk program to support kids 'to get off the streets and back into school'. He sees up to thirty young people including high school kids every week.

Christopher Waterhouse

Best known for his many appearances on the theatre stage, Christopher also has a reputation as one of Tasmania's most engaging and versatile personalities. He regularly hosts corporate events and is in demand as a compere and MC. On his Ultra106 FM radio shows, he has interviewed David Wenham, James Morrison, Todd McKenny, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Sarah Watt and Andrew Gilbert, along with his regular guests. Christopher stunned his audience at the 2005 ACE conference with a five-minute talk on public communications that really 'said it all'. He teaches music, is Tasmanian area governor for Toastmasters International, and musical director of the Tasmanian Song Company. Christopher is completing his studies in journalism and history at the University of Tasmania.

John Waters

John spent most of his (paid) working years in life insurance, followed by ten or so years working in bottle shops. A neighbour introduced John to Pete's Shed after he lost his job, and he has now been a volunteer with the shed for nearly 12 months. John was inspired by the 2005 national men's shed conference in Lakes Entrance (Victoria) and was one of the instigators of the first Tasmanian state men's sheds conference, held in Bridgewater in September 2006. With his administrative skills John has a central role in shed administration and submission writing.

Graeme Wells

Associate Professor Graeme Wells teaches and publishes in a variety of areas in economics and economic policy. He holds a fractional position at the University of Tasmania and is also a private consultant. Before coming back to Tasmania he held teaching and research positions at the Australian National University and universities in Wellington, Oslo, Santa Barbara and Guelph. For a number of years he has been co-editor of the journal *Agenda*, which provides a forum for debate on current policy issues in Australia and New Zealand.

Jeff White

Jeff discovered Pete's Shed when he was doing training courses through Centrelink. He initially volunteered for six months and is now shed supervisor, working five days a week. With his work mates Jeff has initiated some great programs through the shed; he is particularly proud of the aged care diversional therapy course, which he describes as 'the best in Tasmania'. Two, soon to be three, nursing homes participate. For 25 years Jeff worked as an ambulance officer, and is a former state champion swimmer.

Anna Zylstra Anna has worked at the State Library of Tasmania for the last three years including as Senior Librarian (Resources Management) for the State Reference Service. She has participated in National and State Libraries Australasia working groups including the Stack Management Group and the National Plan for Australian Newspapers, an ambitious project designed to locate and preserve every newspaper ever published in Australia. Anna has prepared and presented training courses to a wide range of library clients and library staff, and has recently co-authored a paper on professional development in libraries which she will present at a national conference later this year.