



NSW Adult Literacy & Numeracy Council

2014 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 31 July 2014

6.30 pm - 7.00 pm

President's report

Our biggest project, and achievement during the last 12 months was the very successful hosting of the 2013 ACAL conference in Sydney. The Council hosted 2 international keynote speakers, 2 leading Australian academics and over 250 participants from across Australia, New Zealand and beyond. All the Committee members deserve a big thanks for their hard work and dedication in making the event a success. Thank you.

During the year, we continued to keep our members informed and engaged through an almost monthly e-newsletter and seminar workshops. We have made submissions on state and national policy debates of concern to us, including the Smart & Skilled Policy, the Foundation Skills Workforce Development proposal to develop a set of professional standards, and the draft standards for RTOs. We have also formed a 'partnership' with Comics for Cause, an organisation that has made a commitment to promoting adult literacy by donating comic books to adult literacy programs.

We have started our planning for the 2014 conference around the theme of 'What's in a name: from ABE to Foundation Skills' on 12 December. Three keynote speakers have been identified: Pam Osmond, Liz Atkins (Federation University), and Julie Choi (UTS), and our usual venue is booked. Much work remains to get this conference up and running, but we now have some solid experience to build on.

In many ways, we have lost a great deal in adult literacy and numeracy in recent years: many community based ABE programs have been cut, TAFE positions have been lost, and the UTS Grad Dip is now being phased out. On the other hand, we have seen a proliferation of 'products' for assessment and training. But the teachers and learners - and the relationships between and among them, remain solid and strong. So however fragile our field may be, I would like to think that what we know and continue to learn about our learners - their needs and aspirations, will sustain and motivate the work our Council does.

Last but not least, I would like to give my most sincere thanks to the Council Committee members who have worked hard for the Council, giving up time to provide their considered input to the issues we have grappled with, as well as representing the Council in public meetings and events and providing a web presence. I want to pay an extra special tribute to our Treasurer Pam Osmond who has given an enormous amount of time and attention to our finances for the last 5 years. Our affairs would be in complete disarray at this time had it not been for Pam's willingness to take up the Treasurer role. Thank you Pam!

Keiko Yasukawa
President