



Graduate Network

Published by the de Lissa Institute Association of
Early Childhood Graduates Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conferral of Honorary Life Membership	1
Anne Glover (AO)	1
President's Message	2
New Committee Member Profile	2
Reunion—Class of 74	3
Student Prize Winner	3
Welcome to New Members	3
Graduation 2004	3
Archival Photographs	4
Child Protection Chair	4
2004 Committee and Office Bearers	4
Christmas Giving Appeal	4

INSERTS:

- PD Flier
- General Meeting Flier
- Giving Letter

Conferral of Honorary Life Member



The association is pleased to announce that at the Annual General Meeting held last November members present voted unanimously to confer honorary life membership to Vikki Hopwood.

The association recognizes outstanding contributions of persons who in their professional and personal role have either consistently advocated for the rights and interests of young children and their families or demonstrated professional leadership in the field of early childhood in South Australia.

Vikki is the manager of the Curriculum Studies Centre within the School of Education on the Magill Campus of the University of South Australia. Vikki is an

active member of OMEP and it in this capacity that she advocates for improving conditions and circumstances for children and families.

Vikki's support for staff, students and community members with the provision of information, materials and resources is but one of the many ways she demonstrates professional leadership. As the University of South Australia's representative on the SA Branch of the Children's Week Committee, she has organized the annual de Lissa Oration. Her contribution to the production of two booklets to mark the ten year celebrations of the University and her help with preparations for the launch of the Kindergarten Union history book 'For South Australia's

Children' all indicate her commitment to promoting the early childhood sector of the University.

Vikki is a guest lecturer, demonstrating Montessori methods and equipment, and Froebel materials to early childhood students, and she is co-organizer of regular two-day professional development workshops introducing students to the program "First Steps" which deals with reading and writing.

Vikki also supports the Association with maintenance and protection of Graduates archival records.

We warmly welcome Vikki to the Association and look forward to her continued support and friendship.

Anne Glover (AO)



Anne Glover's commitment to early childhood and her tireless advocacy work was acknowledged in Australia Day Honours earlier this year. In recognition of her service to early childhood and primary education, particularly relating to indigenous communities in rural and isolated areas of Australia and Papua New

Guinea, Anne was admitted as an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) General Division. This medal is awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large.

It is with great pleasure that the Association's members congratulate Anne, a Life Member, and send their warmest wishes.

President's Message

Greetings to all our members and a special welcome to our new members. I hope you will find many items of interest in this Newsletter and note the dates functions we are planning in the near future.

Those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting last November will be aware that the proposed changes to the Association's rules, which were outlined in an insert in the previous issue of 'Graduate Network' were ratified by members at the meeting.

The Association is now officially known as **The de Lissa Association of Early Childhood Graduates** as members agreed to the deletion of the word institute. Additional clauses added to the constitution addressed two specific areas; membership and objects of the Association. Membership clauses were amended to reflect the fact that the former early childhood School, the de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies, is now part of a larger School of Edu-

cation and early childhood graduates complete their studies with the School of Education. As the Association has assumed much of the responsibility for collecting and caring for much of the historical memorabilia associated with early childhood education in South Australia and additional object was added to the constitution to reflect this activity.

We must thank our honorary secretary Pauline Butler for her efforts in dealing with these matters.

Our committee met for a day long session in January when we welcomed Carol Thompson as a new committee member. Carol brings with her first hand experience of what is happening to more recent graduates in the early childhood field.

On the 24th of January 2004 during orientation week at the University of South Australia, Helen Miller former lecturer at the de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies and now Treasurer of the Association, delivered the lecture 'Finding your way

in Early Childhood' to new first year Bachelor of Early Childhood Education students. Helen gave an interesting overview of the work of early childhood educators each building on the others in continental Europe, England, and the USA culminating with the work of Lillian de Lissa and the Reverend Bertram Hawker in establishing the Kindergarten Union of South Australia in 1905.

Following the presentation committee members hosted a social gathering for new students. We always enjoy meeting the students. Melissa Hill was the lucky recipient of the door prize—a \$50 voucher from Uni Books.

We are fast approaching the centenary of the foundation of early childhood teacher education in South Australia in 2007— we have some exciting times ahead.

Christina Mo Parlin

New Committee Member Profile — Carol Thompson

This brief article is to introduce myself as the newest committee member of the Association. I have been a member of the Association for about four years, having joined after graduating with an honours degree in Early Childhood Education in 2000.

Actually it has been a bit of a 'late' career change for me. In my previous life I spent several years working in administrative positions, mainly in the fields of superannuation and insurance.

1996 was a watershed year (or my 'mid-life crisis?'). It was the point I decided that it was now or never if I was to go to university and pursue a career that had captivated my interest since high school.

Since graduating, I have particularly enjoyed teaching in the kindergarten field. I have experienced a range of kindergarten settings including Barker (North Adelaide), Ingle Farm, Agnes Goode (Stepney) and Mitcham Village kindergartens, working in a contract capacity. Working at different kindergartens has given me the opportunity to gain lots of invaluable personal experience as well as working with a variety of warm, open, dedicated, caring, and knowledgeable staff. There is no substitute for real practical experience, and the changes that I see in each child as they develop their relationships, and their confidence and competence in that vital year before school has proved very rewarding.

At the moment I am working as a kindergarten relief teacher, as well as doing student tutoring through ATAS and contract marking for the university when needed. Last November Christina invited me to participate as a committee member and I was pleased to accept. As a newish teacher I had participated in several professional development sessions, always finding them useful and relevant. I now have the opportunity to become more involved in the Association and contribute what I can to its goal of promoting early childhood education in South Australia.

Carol Thompson

Reunion—Class of 74

It was on Sunday, 25th January, when over fifty ex students and staff met for lunch at the Maylands Hotel. It was a chance to renew acquaintances and to catch up on happenings since those exciting three years at Kingston C.A.E. in the early 70's.

There was a noisy buzz in the reception area as guests tried to recognise each other (without appearing to study the nametags), and to talk of the past and more recent developments. Some of us had retired (the recycled wrinkles as the young ones called the mature-age students), and many had gone on to take leadership positions in the field. Others had achieved success in areas other than early childhood.

We were invited to address the gathering. Staff, including Betty Davis and Dorothy Grant, spoke of those years at

Kingston with fondness tinged with regret at the passing of an era when early childhood was recognised as a worthy discipline in its own right: not tacked on to other educational awards. Many past students spoke of how the course had equipped them well for the challenges of teaching in other areas, or for moving into unrelated sectors of business and administration. All agreed that those years had been enjoyable and the start of rewarding careers and friendships.

The conveners, Jan, Fay and Sue are to be commended for organising this very happy event, which has followed two previous successful get-togethers. Our numbers seem not to be diminishing, so I am sure there will be more reunions of the "Class of '74".

Pauline Butler.

Student Prize Winner

This year the Association's prize for research contributing to excellence in practice in early childhood settings was awarded to current graduand, Alana Kitson. In the final year of her Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program Alana completed an honours project titled *'Mandated Notification Training and Volunteers Working in Early Childhood Services'*. Alana compared two groups of volunteers who provide similar services, one group was trained in Mandatory Notification while the other was not. Alana applied an interview and vignette methodology and found that volunteers who had been trained in Mandatory Notification were significantly 1.) more able to identify situations of abuse and neglect; 2.) more aware of their obli-

gations under the Child Protection Act; and 3.) more likely to report a suspected case of child abuse and neglect than volunteers who had not been trained. As Alana's supervisor, Victoria Whittington, indicated on the nomination form ... "this is an area of significance to early childhood education and child protection" ... and the findings ... "provide considerable support to the recommendations of the Layton Report (2003) that all those (including volunteers) working with young children should be required to train as Mandated Notifiers."

The Association's committee congratulates Alana and wishes her well as she embarks on her career as an Early Childhood Educator.

Welcome to New Members

The Associations' committee has pleasure in welcoming a new member, Jan Lister, who graduated in 2001.

Welcome and best wishes to new student members Joanne Bridewell, Joanne Guymer, Lisa Hommelhof, Prue Lange, Amanda Rawling and Kerry Watkin, and as they begin their studies in the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.

Graduation 2004

The Association's committee congratulations and extends best wishes to graduands who will have their Bachelor of Early Childhood Education conferred at a ceremony to be held at the Festival Centre on Monday April 5, 2004.



**The Newsletter of the de Lissa Association of
Early Childhood Graduates Inc.**

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Archival Photographs

We have a collection of photographs, originals and copies, spanning nearly 100 years. We are not able to display these because of the risk of damage or theft, and the old originals cannot be exposed to light for too long as they will deteriorate.

Therefore we are investigating ways to preserve the collection. Specialist photographers are able to copy individual or pages of photos (such as the album made by the later Eileen Thomas during her years as Director at Keith Sheridan Kindergarten 1920's - 30's) onto archival paper, which is expected to last at least 70 years, and onto CD.

This is quite an expensive process and will necessitate fund raising. We welcome your suggestions as to how we could do this.

Helen Miller

We would welcome member's contributions to the Newsletter. Items for inclusion can be sent to 'The Editor' - see address top of this page.

Items for the next Newsletter, due to be published October 2004, should be submitted to the editor no later than August 30, 2004.

Child Protection Chair

Members may be interested to know that a Centre for Child Protection will be established within the Hawke Research Institute in the Division of Education Arts and Social Sciences at the University of South Australia. Brendan Nelson, Minister for Education, Science and Training officially launched the Chair in Child Protection on 19 March 2004, promising government funding of \$10m over 10 years.

The appointee to this professorial position will lead researchers working to combat child abuse in areas such as: early childhood and family studies; psychology; Indigenous communities and cultures; service delivery; and social policy.

A Reference Committee, with representation from outside the university and including a nationally recognised expert in child protection, will be established over the coming weeks to oversee the selection of the Chair.

The position will be advertised both nationally and internationally with leading academics and practitioners in the field approached to assist in identifying candidates. It is expected that the Chair will be selected in the second half of the year.

2004 Committee and Office Bearers

President:

Christina Mc Pharlin

Secretary:

Pauline Butler

Treasurer:

Helen Miller

Vice Presidents:

Donna Broadhurst

Cris Zollo

Committee Members:

Patrea Channon
Meredith Farmer
Ian Fry
Cynthia Hannaford
Emmy Kirakou
Carol Thompson

Christmas Giving Appeal

'Gold coins' collected at the AGM last November were donated to St John's Youth Services, Adelaide. St Johns is the only provider of emergency accommodation for homeless young people in the metropolitan area of Adelaide. At Chisholm house they offer emergency services for young women including those with dependent children.

As a non-government, not for profit organization, which receives little funding from the government, donations like that made by the Association are essential to maintaining services.