



Graduate Network

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

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone,

As the new president of this association, I would like to send greetings to all graduates. To the new members I welcome you to our association and hope that you will support us in future years, especially this and next year through our centenary celebrations.

The one thing that I have found in this association is that we recognize the dedication of all members to the education and welfare of young children, the documenting of past achievements and looking to the future with optimism.

This newsletter will inform you of how you can help us work towards our goals.

Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
UniSA Alumni Support	1
2006 Celebration	2
Student Prize	2
A Members Reflections	2
2005 Annual General Meeting	3
History Walk 2006	3
Graduation Anniversaries	3
Welcome to New Members	4
SA History Trust Grant	4
2005 Committee Office Bearers and Diary Dates	4

UniSA Alumni Support for Association Activities

As a chapter of the University of South Australia Alumni the Association has been well supported in the past by the UniSA Alumni. Members may recall that they assisted with the 90th Anniversary Celebrations in 1997.

At this time UniSA Alumni is updating the Association's website and will continue to maintain it on our behalf. They have also shown a keen interest in the Centenary Celebrations and other activities such as History Week. The Association's committee is grateful they have offered their expertise and advice and feels confident that their input will contribute to ensuring the success of the Centenary year in 2007.

Membership of University of South Australia Alumni is free and available to gradu-

ates of UniSA and its antecedent institutions. Members of the UniSA Alumni enjoy a range of opportunities, benefits and access to a range of University resources that can keep them in touch with classmates and friends, foster important professional relationships, and remain informed of important developments. Benefits include the opportunity to continue lifelong learning through the provision of free public lectures, networking events and information sessions on postgraduate study and regular mail outs of UniSA news. To find out more visit the UniSA Alumni website at: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/alumni/default.asp>

INSERTS:

Giving Letter

General Meeting Flyer

2006 Celebration

In 2006 we celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the first kindergarten in South Australia. In February 1906 a kindergarten was opened in a cottage rented by the recently established Kindergarten Union of South Australia (KUSA) at 214 Franklin Street, on the corner Crowther Street. This site was selected as it was one of the poorest areas of the city. The first director, Lillian de Lissa, had to gain her parents permission to leave her home in Sydney as she was only 20 years and 3 months old—still a minor. The kindergarten was her home until 1912. de Lissa was assisted by volunteer women who included Lucy Morice. In order to

have children enrol at the new centre, she and her assistants visited families of children in the area explaining that the children would have a morning filled with activities and be given a snack. There was skepticism at first. Who would want to look after their children for half a day and at no cost! By all accounts de Lissa quickly gained the confidence of her neighbours and children arrived. Records tell us that Bertram Hawker was often to be seen on his horse (he suffered with a back problem), the young Lillian running alongside him as the two of them publicized the work they were involved in. When the kindergarten was flourishing, de

Lissa spent her afternoons visiting families.

Today this address is offices for Chubb. The staff there were interested and enthusiastic to be reminded of the historic importance of the site and requested a photo and written information about the history (we have one photo of the cottage in our archives)

There is a plaque on the corner of the building commemorating the first kindergarten, which was presented by the KUSA to mark the 75th anniversary.

Helen Miller

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, Donna Winkel. In the final year of her Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program Donna completed an honours project titled *"If you don't read, its like you're not alive": The importance of enthusiasm for reading and its relationship to children's reading self efficacy and reading attitude*. Donna tested the hypothesis that enthusiasm for reading would correlate with a positive attitude toward reading and a positive sense of self efficacy amongst

junior primary aged children. Donna measured the enthusiasm for reading amongst 26 junior primary children by tracking their school reading and asking teachers to complete rating scales. Children were interviewed individually to identify their beliefs and attitudes toward reading. Findings revealed that teachers' ratings of enthusiasm were correlated with children's beliefs in themselves as competent and successful readers, thus confirming that positive self-efficacy is indeed linked with enthusiasm for reading. Other findings suggested that young children prefer reading to other pursuits, such

as television, when they are able to visit libraries and select challenging books. A dislike and fear of reading aloud was mentioned by two thirds of the children in the study. According to Donna, "this points to the significance of strategies for building children's confidence and enjoyment of reading".

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

Cris Zollo

An Association Member's Reflections

In September, we received a lovely card from long time member Elizabeth Richards wishing us all the best for the 2005 KUSA Centenary celebration. It read in part ...

... *"I attended kindergarten in 1921/22 at Eleanor Walker's Greenways School. She was an early graduate of the college. I remember her*

kindly. She was a wonderful women. One clear memory I have is an occasion when Miss Walker asked me to recite a poem about a cow. I said I did not want to do this because I did not like cows. Miss Walker said I did not have to. The strange thing is that I remember the poem to this day eighty three years later! ...

*The friendly cow all red and white
I love with all my heart
She gives me cream with all her might
To eat with apple tart*

The Cow (Verse 1 of 3), Robert Louis Stevenson (1913)
A Child's Garden of Verses and Underwoods.

Thank you for sharing your fondly held memories with us.

Carol Thompson

Annual General Meeting - 17th November 2005

Christina McPharlin welcomed those present (15) and apologies were received from 8 members. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of research papers by two final year Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Honours students.

Donna Winckel spoke about her own passion for reading, which had led her to investigate the factors that might influence a child's reading behaviour. Two elements examined were "motivation" and "enthusiasm". As research tools she used two small teddy bears to help children answer her questions.

Joanna Juer's research examined children's humour. Her reading had indicated that humour was a positive teaching tool. She explored two types of humour - word play or puns e.g. "*What kind of fruit do sheep like? - Baa naa naas*", and situational incongruity - e.g. "*An elephant riding a tricycle*". From a sheet of faces showing different emotions, children were required to colour in the appropriate face if they thought the jokes she told were funny, very funny or not at all funny. Joanne found that children aged 5-7 responded in the same way as those in a previous study of 8-10 year-olds. They had both under-

stood semantic and situational jokes equally.

These students spoke well and showed that they had studied their subjects in depth. The stories of their experiences of interviewing young children were entertaining, and their contributions to an enjoyable and informative meeting were acknowledged by words of thanks and gifts of chocolates.

Lois Riggs thanked the Committee for its tireless work in keeping the Association alive. Vikki Hopwood won the basket of Christmas Goodies.

Pauline Butler

History Walk – 2006

History Week, sponsored by the History Trust of South Australia, is to be held from 20th to 28th May, 2006.

The Association will be presenting a "History Walk" on Saturday 20th May 2006 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This will take place within The Lillian de Lissa Building at the Magill Campus of the University of South Australia and the adjacent courtyards.

On display will be photographs, artefacts, memorabilia and workbooks of former students. We have published a pamphlet explaining the significance of these items as they relate to the education of Early Childhood Teachers in South Australia - extending back al-

most 100 years.

Following the Walk, which is free, afternoon tea will be served (gold coin donation).

Please meet in the foyer of The Lillian de Lissa Building. Parking is available on the grounds - enter from Brougham Street, Magill.

This event will be of interest to the general public, but especially to those who have been involved in Early Childhood Education, be it as teacher, carer or parent.

Please mark this date in your diaries now.

Pauline Butler



Graduation Anniversaries

The Association's committee extends its warmest congratulations to members celebrating the following graduation anniversaries.

40 years (1966) – Elspeth Harley (Wilkinson)

30 years (1976) – Pauline Butler (Ling), Pauline Carter (Berry), Shirley Flett, Betty Fox, and Jill Huntley.

We would welcome member's contributions to the Newsletter. Items for inclusion can be sent to 'The Editor' - see address top page 4. Items for the next Newsletter, due to be published October 2005, should be submitted to the editor no later than August 31, 2006.

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

The Hon Secretary
C/O School of Education
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Welcome to New Members

The Association is pleased to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to new members and 2006 graduands Catherine Lees, Susanne Simmons, Amanda Sims, Janet Stephenson, Jenny Whittle who will receive their Bachelor of Early Childhood Education at a Commemoration Ceremony on Thursday March 30, 2006.

The Association also extends a warm welcome to new student members; Desi Aslanidis, Andrea Ball, Melissa Bishop, Kate Burns, Rebecca Caudle, Amanda Fechlie, Kate Grbin, Wai Kuen Kong, Lauren Manser, Melissa Prest, Sarah Walsh and Jiao Wu and wishes them well in their studies.

Students are welcome at all Association functions – we look forward to having some of you join us at the next General Meeting on May 9.

Cris Zollo

SA History Trust Grant

We have again received a grant from the History Trust of South Australia to enable us to make a start on the transcribing of the interviews we have so far completed with Senior Graduates as part of the Millennium Project. We are very pleased to again receive the support of SA History Trust.

Helen Miller & Pauline Butler

2006 Committee & Office Bearers

President:

Meredith Farmer

Secretary:

Pauline Butler

Treasurer:

Carol Thompson

Vice Presidents:

Donna Broadhurst

Cris Zollo

Committee Members

Annette Brown

Patrea Channon

Ian Fry

Catherine Garside

Helen Miller

Christina Mc Pharlin

2005 Diary Dates

General Meeting

May 9

History Week

Saturday 20 May

Winter Luncheon

June 17

Annual Dinner

September 6

Annual General Meeting

November 21