

## Profiling People and Programs

March 2004

Interview with Anne Glover AO, Senior Lecturer,  
School of Education, University of South Australia

Anne Glover was recently appointed an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia for her services to early childhood education in Australia and overseas.

### *What is your background in early childhood education?*

I started as a kindergarten teacher at Oaklands Estate Kindergarten in 1973 and have been involved in early childhood ever since. My early childhood work has since included both teaching and directing, as the Director of the Happy Valley Kindergarten in 1974 when Happy Valley was still a very new housing area, and also Director at Woodsid e Kindergarten and then at Kalaya. It was at Kalaya that I was first introduced to Indigenous children and their families, and began to realise the particular needs and aspirations of children who don't come from the majority group.

This was followed by working on the Island of Nauru where I was the Preschool Advisor and became very interested in the development of early childhood services in the South Pacific, and began work with the Pacific Preschool Association.

When I returned to Australia I worked at Pennington Kindergarten as Director, and became even more interested in early childhood services for children who didn't share the dominant culture. I was also interested in services for children who were in the process of becoming bicultural, as well as services for refugee children.

In 1983 I came to work at UniSA, ten years after I began teaching. My first UniSA position was coordinator of the Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Program, where I was introduced to Indigenous communities in the rural South Australia, and where I began to understand that the strengths of the communities and families in those areas were not being built upon in early childhood services. I also began to understand that early childhood educators need to work with people who belong to dominant culture, who hold the power, if we're going to change the situation for all young children and their families.

Since working at UniSA, I've been a senior lecturer and program director, and have taught both undergraduate and post graduate students. In the late 1980s I met Dr Betty Jones, who was a de Lissa fellow - we spent a lot of time talking together about early childhood education programs for improving society, as a way of transforming society. I became even more interested in the idea that education could be transformative and that we could build a better society if we started working with very young children and their families.

Betty was from Pacific Oaks College (California) where they were doing some of the early work in anti-bias curriculum. I went to Pacific Oaks in 1989 to do a Masters Degree, focussing on anti-bias curriculum and anti-racism. In particular, my research looked at the development of race awareness and racial attitudes in young children.



Anne Glover AO

## In this issue

- Profiling People and Programs - Anne Glover
- Links
- Members' note
- Book Review
- 2004 Executive
- OMEP World Congress
- PECERA Conference
- Mind Over Media Project

Published by:  
AECA SA Branch  
c/- Lady Gowrie Child Centre  
39a Dew Street Thebarton  
SA 5031

# Links

## Some links for your information:

### Launch of Australian Institute of Families Studies Report: Growing up In Australia

[http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/minister1.nsf/content/growing\\_up\\_study.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/minister1.nsf/content/growing_up_study.htm)

### Dieticians of Canada - Promoting Healthy Eating and Physical activity during the toddler and preschool years

<http://www.dietitians.ca/healthystart/>

### Australian Education Union Preschool Education Inquiry

The AEU is sponsoring an independent inquiry into the provision of universal access to high quality preschool education across Australia.

It will be undertaken by Ms Kathy Walker, who is a lecturer at RMIT University and a consultant in education. Underpinned by a commitment to equity and universal access, the inquiry will focus on the role of the states/territories and the Commonwealth in ensuring that all children in Australia have access to a high quality, free public preschool education. It will identify the current facts and problems and focus on initiatives that can move the national agenda towards the achievement of that objective.

The inquiry will visit South Australia on March 18 and 19.

For more information go to:

<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Ec/inquiry.html>

### EDNA Early Childhood News

Go to <http://www.edna.edu.au/> and subscribe to the EDNA Early Childhood newsletter for quality online resources for working with children aged 0-8.

### Check out the latest ECA news at

<http://www.aeca.org.au>

or visit

the ECA SA Branch online at

[http://www.aeca.org.au/Memb\\_branch\\_sa.htm](http://www.aeca.org.au/Memb_branch_sa.htm)

## Interview with Anne Glover

cont from p1

For the past decade I've been really interested in issues of early childhood which are particularly related to biculturalism and anti-racism and, more recently, in early childhood education as a starting point for nation building. That interest developed after I was invited to work as the team leader for an AusAID project in Papua New Guinea in 1997. This involved working with the PNG government to reform their education system to make it more culturally relevant and accessible. The government of PNG had promised that every child could start school and do the first three years of school in their home language, but the challenge was enormous as there are more than 850 languages in Papua New Guinea.

The government used a very innovative early childhood education concept, with villages being much more responsible for building the schools, making their own texts, and helping with the training of local teachers. The PNG experience showed that even the biggest challenges can be overcome by political will and community belief in the change.

Today I'm still at the university, but am able to continue the PNG work as the Australian-based Project Director with regular visits to PNG.

Other recent work was a consultancy in East Timor to review early childhood services and consider how existing services could be redeveloped to better meet the needs of children and families; quality assuring a basic education project in the Southern Philippines - part of that project is to look at how education can be used for peace because of the armed struggle that is going on in that area; and work on a redesigning an education project in Flores, one of the poorest areas of Indonesia.

### *What are your plans for the future?*

I'm currently trying to finish my PhD, and would like to have that finished by the end of this year. I've also been involved with trialling mentoring projects and would now like to work with other early childhood educators to develop a mentoring system in South Australia for novice educators.

One of the things that I've been privileged to have in my own career is some really great women mentors who have encouraged me in my work - who supported me as I took risks and stretched the boundaries to help achieve my goals, and I'd like to do the same for others.

*Kylie Sharrock*

## Note to members:

**Early Childhood Australia (SA Branch) will trial electronic distribution of its newsletter and other information of interest to members. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email Jill Huntley at [leura@senet.com.au](mailto:leura@senet.com.au)**

## **ECA Branch Executive 2004**

### **PRESIDENT**

Christy Ward  
christy.ward@unisa.edu.au  
Phone: 8302 4586 Fax: 8302 4394

### **SA NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

Andrea McGuffog  
National Vice-President Principal Policy  
Adviser, DECS,  
mcguffog.andrea@saugov.sa.gov.au

### **NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CHAIR**

Pam Linke  
National Publications Chair Strategic  
Manager Parenting, CYH,  
linke.pam@saugov.sa.gov.au  
Phone: 8303 1566

### **SECRETARY**

Jill Huntley, Para West Community  
Children's Centre  
leura@senet.com.au

### **SECRETARY**

Elizabeth Dau, EC Consultant  
ingtrain@senet.com.au

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Caroline Donald  
Manager, The Gowrie Resource Centre  
caroline@gowrie-adelaide.com.au  
Phone: 8352 5246

### **NEWSLETTER**

Kylie Sharrock, Student, deLissa,  
kyliebird@iprimus.com.au

Jayne Sherringham, Director, Little Princes  
Kindergarten, PAC,  
countrygrown2003@yahoo.com.au

### **WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR**

Joanne Lipp  
lipje002@student.unisa.edu.au

### **OTHER MEMBERS**

Philippa Spooner,  
Sue Emmett  
Karen Olesk,  
Joan Gilbert,  
Julie May,  
Kaye Colmer,  
Kerryn Jones,  
Carol Horewood,  
Italia Parletta,  
Lyndell Morkunas,  
Rebecca Heath  
Kate Ryan  
John Buckell  
Kerry Presser  
Jessie Kenyon

## **Book Review by Jill Huntley**

### **"Resilience" by Anne Deveson, Allen and Unwin, 2003.**

As an early childhood educator this is a very exciting book to read.

Deveson refers constantly to early childhood and its importance in developing resilience. There is a great chapter on shaping the brain which gives succinct information on the importance of the first three years and the importance of developing the neural circuitry.

She also talks about the work the Canadian Professor Fraser Mustard undertook in the 1980's where he was concerned that children were bearing the brunt of global technological and social change. He demonstrated that money is not the main driver in predicting social outcomes - parenting is. This includes high quality early childhood centres as a major supplement to parenting.

Her friend, futurist Robert Theobald who figures highly in the book talks about webs of connectedness and how important this is for everybody. He summed it up on page 55: "Increasingly it seems that we need to rebuild at much smaller levels of neighbourhood, and develop the kind of face-to-face interactions where groups are small enough to make connection at very personal levels. It's that old adage: 'It takes a village to raise a child' - and we've lost our villages."

Deveson also refers to Professor Urie Bronfenbrenner. He views the child as a living system embedded within other systems (families, schools, work, wider environment). The environment is like a series of nested structures with each having its own set of influences which interacts with each other and the whole.

According to Deveson, the factor relating to resilience which stands out, is the need for a secure base from which to explore the world. Another factor is the sense of community and there are some excellent examples of different communities. She says fostering resilient communities is a process not a program and a sense of hope and optimism is essential.

She also refers to 4 myths that prevent the fostering of resilience from a paper by American Sylvia Rockwell: (pp 128, 129)

- The myth of predetermination, which says that people will never be able to escape the cycles of violence, poverty or failure which have haunted the lives of their parents;
- The myth of irreparable damage, which holds that some children can be so damaged by their experiences, they have no hope for the future;
- The myth of identity, which labels and dismisses people who are ill, or at-risk, rather than constantly engaging in a talent search, defining people in terms of their strengths;
- The myth that ultimately it doesn't matter, which states that, whatever is done or not done makes little difference to the final outcome.

The book is a fascinating read from beginning to end and I highly recommend it. There are many succinct statements that could be used with families to support the need for and value of high quality early childhood services.

## Conferences

### OMEP World Congress XXIV

The XXIV World Congress of OMEP is to be held in Melbourne, Australia in July 2004. The overall theme of the Congress is *One World: Many Childhoods*.

The Congress program will provide opportunities to explore issues such as children in difficult circumstances, innovation in service delivery, indigenous children's needs and services and children's health and social services.

"You will be challenged to think carefully about the types of programs delivered to young children."

To learn more about the Congress go to:  
<http://www.omepaustralia.com.au/>

### PECERA Conference

*Identities & innovations: shaping better worlds through early childhood education*

Pacific Early Childhood Research Association Fifth Conference and Meeting

Dates: 16th - 19th July 2004

Venue: The University of Melbourne, Australia

### Keynote speakers will include:

Dr Julie Koamea,  
University of Hawaii

Professor Jiaxiong Zhu,  
East China Normal University

Marcelle Townsend-Jones,  
Southern Cross University

### Further information:

Janet Treweek 61+383440994  
education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au

<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/>

## Mind Over Media

### A Young Media Australia project

*Do you work with children aged 0 - 5 years of age?*

*Do you see the effects of media violence on children in your care?*

*Have children in your care been disturbed by scary images they have seen in the media - in movies or on the TV news?*

*Are you concerned about the impact of advertising and marketing pressures on children?*

*Would you like to provide more support for parents in dealing with media impact?*

The Young Media Australia Fact Sheets  
***Mind Over Media:***  
***Early choices for healthy development***  
are what you need!

You may hear about this offer again. In any case why not apply now?

Receive seven free quarterly eFact Sheets by contacting us via phone (08) 8376 2111 or email [info@youngmedia.org.au](mailto:info@youngmedia.org.au)

Or become a member of Young Media Australia (YMA) and receive:

- seven free quarterly eFact Sheets (as above)
- YMA's monthly news digest *small screen*
- fortnightly member-only email bulletins about the latest developments in the field of children and the media, in Australia and overseas.

Your membership will help us to maintain and expand our work on behalf of Australian children and parents.

To receive YMA's *Mind Over Media* Fact Sheet series, or to find out more about becoming a member of YMA, go to our website [www.youngmedia.org.au](http://www.youngmedia.org.au), contact us by phone (08) 83762111 or email [info@youngmedia.org.au](mailto:info@youngmedia.org.au)