



A welcome from the South Australian branch president

Welcome to a new year with Early Childhood Australia South Australia. This year we look forward to connecting with our members in many ways, including the arrangement of networking functions for members, gathering responses to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) National Early Childhood Agenda and collaborating with other organisations to provide professional development opportunities. We will let you know about these opportunities in our quarterly newsletter and through email memos.

We have commenced our planning for the Biennial National Early Childhood Australia conference to be held in September 2010 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The South Australian branch will be hosting this event. As we meet on Kurna land for this conference we will be inspired by their words 'Garla Bauondi', a Kurna phrase meaning to 'fuel the fire.' We will listen, respect and reflect as we work together to keep the fire burning brightly for children's rights, well-being and our own passion for the early childhood profession.

Three major strands have been identified for the Conference program: *The Arts*, *Professional Leadership* and *Inspiring Environments*. We have an active program committee who are currently identifying potential keynote speakers and preparing the call for papers around these three strands.

### ***We would like to hear from you!***

South Australian ECA Branch members, this is your newsletter. Please use it to keep your fellow members informed about your work with young children and their families.

Send us a short article for our newsletter, preferably with a photo of you, or something to do with your service or project, and we will be happy to publish it.

We are particularly interested in hearing from members in rural and regional areas, so please start writing!

The deadline for our next issue is 15 June 2009.

We will be asking for ECA SA members to participate in preparing and planning other important aspects of the conference including the social committee, promotion and offering practical, hands on help as we get closer to the conference date.

If you would like to become involved in one of the conference committees please email me at [katehome10@hotmail.com](mailto:katehome10@hotmail.com) and let me know how you would like to be involved.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of our ECA SA members in 2009.

Kate Ryan

### **The *Early Years Learning Framework* Online Forum is now live!**

The Australian Government has provided this forum for early childhood educators and others with an interest in early childhood to access and trial the *Early Years Learning Framework*, to take part in discussions and provide feedback directly to the Government.

To find out more or register for the forum go to  
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Projects/Pages/earlyyears.aspx>

## Book Review

### ***Portfolios: Documenting a journey***

Andrea Nolan & Bronwyn Reynolds

This most recent publication in the Early Childhood Australia *Research in Practice* series provides a variety of information about the characteristics, rationale for, and types, of portfolios relevant to early childhood services, as well as practitioners' contributions about their personal experiences in using them.

The authors, Dr Andrea Nolan from Deakin University and Dr Bronwyn Reynolds from the University of Tasmania, describe portfolios as 'a collection of organized, purposeful information and items by and about individuals that provide insights and an overview of learning and development over time.'

Amongst the types of portfolios they include are:

- professional portfolios which would be relevant for job interviews
- reflective portfolios used by early childhood professionals
- portfolios of individual children
- project-focused portfolios

The authors identify the importance of considering the purpose, approach and content which should be underpinned by a philosophy statement. The design may be guided by a curriculum framework so for example, in the case of South Australia, the SACSA Framework. The content can include 'observations, photographic records, learning stories, conversations, reflections, artefacts, descriptions, questions and analysis.'

Throughout the booklet early childhood practitioners provide insights into the ways they use portfolios. They provide examples of the approaches they have taken and emphasise the importance of analysis of the information which has been gathered as well as critical reflection. The strong themes which emerge from reading this resource are the valuable insights gained by practitioners into their own professional journeys, the insights gained into children's development and learning, the shared experience of the process involving children and their families and the acknowledgement of children as capable and competent beings who have a voice and relish the visibility of their own learning.

Louise Cornelius  
Lecturer, Children's Services  
TAFESA Gilles Plains Campus



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*Know Before You Go*  
free movie review service

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***Remember the Early Childhood Australia website***

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

***for the latest news in early childhood***

## Early Childhood Teacher Education at Flinders University

In 2007 a new undergraduate early childhood teacher education program was initiated at Flinders University in South Australia. This early childhood degree is unique in South Australia in that it is a double degree where students graduate with both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood). The two degrees are studied concurrently and this means that early childhood students are pursuing a range of subjects made available in an Arts degree that have not traditionally been associated with early childhood teacher education. Alongside their education topics, students are pursuing topics such as Applied Linguistics, Drama, Criminal Studies, Gender Studies, History, Politics and French. As a result, these students will bring a depth of knowledge in these studies to their work as early childhood professionals.

Since its establishment, the course has grown considerably from the 25 students enrolled in 2007 to an enrolment of approximately 150 students in 2009. Alongside the undergraduate degree, in 2009, a Master of Teaching in Early Childhood is also being offered. In the development of both courses, the early childhood staff team, Susan Krieg and Sally Barnes work alongside the academics in the other Flinders teacher education courses in order to tap into their particular expertise and experience in teacher education.

A feature of the course is the partnership being formed with early childhood practitioners, in all service types, across South Australia. People working in child care, preschools, and early years of school form a valuable part of the teaching team: working as tutors, assisting with course development, providing guest lectures and mentoring the students in site-based professional learning. The Professional Experience component of the course is enabling the university team to work in innovative ways with their colleagues in the field.

As a team, we value the opportunity to contribute to the early childhood profession in South Australia and look forward to our first graduates taking their place alongside you as the early childhood educators of the future.

Susan Krieg

Senior Lecturer  
Flinders University



### Some useful websites for those interested in Indigenous issues.

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

The Reconciliation Australia website

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/>

SNAICC The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) is the national non government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

<http://www.networksa.org.au/armsu/>

ARMSU The Aboriginal Resource and Management Support Unit. Specialist advice and support services for SA children's services

[http://www.coag.gov.au/coag\\_meeting\\_outcomes/2008-10-02/docs/indigenous\\_early\\_childhood\\_NPA.pdf](http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-10-02/docs/indigenous_early_childhood_NPA.pdf)  
National Partnership Agreement for Indigenous Early Childhood Development

[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ldi-lsic\\_nav.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/ldi-lsic_nav.htm)  
*Footprints in Time* - The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC)

**Do you know of more useful websites? Please let us know**

Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) in partnership with Gowrie Victoria is proud to bring you the



29 - 30 May

Caulfield Racecourse , Melbourne

A conference for early childhood teachers, early years professionals & staff, volunteer committees, employers and parents.

For more information please contact Sue Doring at KPV on (03) 9489 3500 or by email at [sdoring@kpv.org.au](mailto:sdoring@kpv.org.au)

<http://www.togetherwegrow.com.au/>

### The Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange

*In collaboration with*

**The South Australian Network Group**

*presents the*

### 2009 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

#### LANDSCAPES of RIGHTS

*RIGHTS FOR LIVING, LEARNING & BUILDING DEMOCRACY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES*

#### REGGIO EMILIA EXHIBITION

#### THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

*NARRATIVE OF THE POSSIBLE*

**Adelaide Convention Centre**

**North Terrace, Adelaide**

**9—12 July 2009**

Phone +61 (0)3 9810 3166 Fax +61 (0)3 9818 1672

442 Auburn Road Hawthorn, Victoria 3122

Email: [reie\\_mem@bigpond.com](mailto:reie_mem@bigpond.com)

Web: <http://www.reaie.org.au>

**Reform,  
Fitness  
and Fun**

An exhibition exploring the intersection of child development and play theories with the design of public playgrounds in South Australia.

#### **Curated by**

Louise Bird, Julie Collins & Susan Lustri

Architecture Museum

University of South Australia

#### **Kerry Packer Civic Gallery**

Hawke Building, Level 3

University of South Australia

50-60 North Terrace Adelaide

[www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au](http://www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au)

**ADMISSION FREE**

#### **Open**

9am-5pm

Monday—Friday

**11 March to 23 April 2009**