

## INSIDE:

"Equity Issues"	2
CEIEC's Visiting Scholars	2
Professional Learning Institute update	4
New CEIEC journal	4
Training to make a difference	5

## REGULAR FEATURES

"Research with a difference"	3
"Conference Call"	6

## OUR APOLOGIES!

Several factors conspired to delay publication of this edition of CEIEC News. Sorry, folks! See you on June 30!

## CEIEC AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE U.N. ANTI-RACISM DAY

The CEIEC co-ordinated a Festival against Racism in Education (FARE) day on March 21 – the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

The FARE day was based in the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education, but participants came from other Faculties in the University, as well as from Monash University. A novel mix of organizations supported the FARE day: The Sydney Myer Asia Centre, ASIA Link, the University of Melbourne's Children's Services, the City of Melbourne Council and, of course, the CEIEC.



*Building the banner!*

The FARE day mixed entertainment & community events with seminars, posters and presentations. The theme of the morning was *Honouring cultural diversity in teaching and learning*. Seminars explored



the theme, alongside visual presentations on cultural diversity and inclusivity.

Meanwhile, children laid a *Pathway for Peace and Tolerance* in the Education Faculty's garden area; then danced to the music in the Asia Centre's forecourt!

The afternoon's theme was *Internationalising teaching and learning*. After the seminars and presentations, The Multicultural Rap Band hip-hopped against racism. (The band performed at the CEIEC's 2002 conference.)

After a symposium on *Challenging Racism in Education*, people browsed round stalls and resources for inclusive education.

The day's finale was a public seminar co-hosted by the CEIEC, AsiaLink and the Asia Centre and titled *Challenging Racism in Everyday Life*.

**RESPONSES TO  
"SANTA IN  
EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
SERVICES"**

*"Thank you for your very sane and sensible response to the whole drama of the (Santa) debate. ... I will be circulating your paper widely."  
(Dannie Duplaix, Kindergarten Parents Victoria)*

*"Thanks for the copy of the paper – it will be very useful to use with our practicum students. ... The CEIEC "Equity Issues" papers are a great idea – we will look forward to reading and sharing them."  
(Anne Glover, De Lissa Institute)"*



*Elizabeth Dau*

## CEIEC's "Equity Issues": City of Melbourne seeks Santa, gender and beyond! CEIEC advice on playspace

**The CEIEC has launched a new series of occasional papers: "Equity Issues".**

The first paper - "Santa in early childhood services: what's the fuss?" - was produced in response to media allegations that early childhood centres were 'banning' Santa. On 3 December 2002, *The Australian* claimed that a Brisbane centre had banned Santa to promote cultural inclusivity; other newspapers alleged similar bannings in Victoria. Later that day, the Brisbane centre received an anonymous death threat.

Journalists asked Ms Elizabeth Dau (early childhood consultant and CEIEC associate) to comment on the allegations, but then reported her comments selectively.

Elizabeth asked the CEIEC to produce a discussion paper on the issue to support centres. She helped to draft the paper and suggested further resources. In a few days, the paper was available on the CEIEC website as the first in the "Equity Issues" series.

Response to "Santa in early childhood services" has been very positive. Indeed, the second paper in the series (working title: "Doing gender differently") is being produced in response to requests from people who'd seen "Santa ..." and wanted a similar paper about another controversial equity issue - children's gender preferences.



CEIEC Equity Issues papers are on the CEIEC website:

[www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC)

**The City of Melbourne Council has invited CEIEC onto its Outdoor Playspace Reference Panel.**

The Panel advises the Council on the design and development of outdoor play space. The Panel's current focus is the ArtPlay project being developed in Melbourne's Birrarung Marr parkland.

Subsequently, the Panel will advise the Council on how best it can develop a range of playgrounds in the City.



This new role for the CEIEC reflects the Centre's aim of collaborating to make a difference – the theme of its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference! (See p6.)

## VISITING SCHOLARS IN 2003

CEIEC's 2003 Visiting Scholar program starts with a visit in April by **Michelle Ortlipp**. Michelle will examine knowledge-power links within which tertiary supervisors assess early childhood students in their practicum. May sees the return of **Prof. Patricia Ramsey**, co-founder of the Equity Alliance in the USA, who visited CEIEC last November.

In June, CEIEC welcomes **A/Prof. Karen Williams**, Head of the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences (Child & Family Studies) at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. **Dr. Heather D'Cruz**, from Deakin University, visits CEIEC in July.

"It should be a dynamic year!", said the CEIEC's Ms Jane Page, who runs the program.

For more information about CEIEC's Visiting Scholar program:

[www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC)



*"The CEIEC provides forums in which I have explored ideas and questions with other students - particularly around children's rights, social justice and equity."*

*"Preparing early childhood professionals to work with parents: the challenges of diversity and dissensus."*  
*Australian Journal of Early Childhood*  
*28 (2) 14-20. 2002.*

*"Building equitable staff-parent communication in early childhood settings: an Australian case study."*  
*Early Childhood Research and Practice*  
*3 (2) online. 2001.*

## Research with a difference ..... to make a difference

Each edition of **CEIEC News** introduces the work of one of the Centre's postgraduate students. This edition's research student is **Brian Newman**.

Brian is in the fourth year of his postgraduate research for a Master of Early Childhood Studies. In his research, he is exploring how gay men negotiate their gender and sexual identities when working with young children. (For example, how does the social construction of early childhood as 'women's work' influence gay men who work in this area?) Brian hopes that his research will increase our understanding of the gendering of early childhood, and of men's involvement in the lives of young children.

Brian was one of New Zealand's first male kindergarten teachers. For nearly thirty years, he has worked in early childhood services in New Zealand, Britain and Australia, as well as with child care campaigns. Currently, he works at the North Melbourne Institute of TAFE, where

he teaches Child Studies.

Brian feels that being part of CEIEC has helped him to tackle some of the current challenges in the early childhood field. He told *CEIEC News*, "The CEIEC provides forums in which I have explored ideas and questions with other students - particularly around children's rights, social justice and equity. The Centre also encourages and supports students who wish to take ideas out into the world and engage with colleagues in the field, e.g. by writing articles and presenting papers."

Brian combines his work and study with active campaigning for social justice campaigns. For example, he is involved in Real Rights for Refugee Children (RRRC), a group of people in the early childhood world who are working to raise awareness about how Australia treats children who are refugees. He is also one of the millions of people around the world who are actively opposing the war against Iraq.

## CEIEC RESEARCH ON STAFF-PARENT LINKS: MORE INTEREST

**Research into staff-parent relationships by CEIEC Director A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton and Research Fellow Dr. Patrick Hughes is attracting new interest.**

In February 2003, the pair received support from the University of Melbourne's Research Development Grant scheme for a series of group interviews with parents and early childhood staff at centres throughout Victoria. The interviews will explore how parents and staff who are dissatisfied with their current relationships try to improve them. The research will pay particular attention to the opportunities and challenges facing centres in multicultural settings.

These interviews represent the next phase of Glenda's and Patrick's research. In the current phase, they are collaborating with the New Zealand Council of Education Research to compare parent involvement policies in the two countries ("*CEIEC News*" 1.2). The University of Melbourne's International Collaborative Research Program is supporting this work.

The research is developing ideas and insights gained from earlier research that was supported by the Australian Research Council ("*CEIEC News*" 1.1). For more information, contact:  
Glenda: [gmmac@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gmmac@unimelb.edu.au)  
Patrick: [patrickh@deakin.edu.au](mailto:patrickh@deakin.edu.au)



*"The journal will publish work that illustrates, extends, inspires and provokes innovations in the theory and practice of social justice, children's rights and equity in early childhood education."*  
 CEIEC Director,  
 A/Prof. Glenda  
 MacNaughton

## CEIEC's NEW JOURNAL!

In June, the CEIEC launches **"The International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood"** – an online international refereed journal of research and policy.

The journal will vigorously link theory and practice in various ways. Further, its international editorial board will actively seek contributions expressing global perspectives on equity and innovation in early childhood. "Practitioner Innovations" editor Ms Jane Page will actively encourage practitioners to submit reports and reflections on innovations in their practice; and "Reflections" editor Dr. Sharne Rolfe will seek reviews and commentary on contemporary issues.

IJEIEC is published and distributed twice a year to CEIEC members and other subscribers. The editorial board is preparing the first edition and invites articles, reflections and reviews. Contact IJEIEC's Editorial Assistant, Ms Merlyne Cruz:  
[merlynec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:merlynec@unimelb.edu.au)

## CEIEC's 2003 P.L.I. - UPDATE!

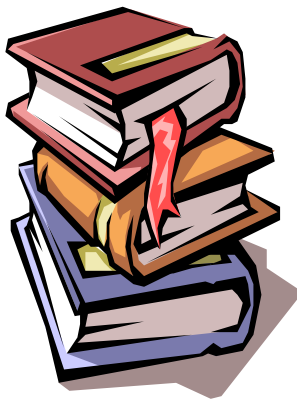
**"Child abuse, children's rights and the early childhood professional: Confronting roles and responsibilities"** is the title of this year's CEIEC Professional Learning Institute (PLI) on 3-4 October 2003.

The PLI is designed for early childhood professionals, children's services advisors and others working with children and families. The CEIEC's Dr. Sharne Rolfe told *CEIEC News*, "The PLI is an exciting chance to explore a range of issues and concerns to do with child abuse, children's rights and professional responsibilities."

Speakers will include senior lawyers, policy makers in the areas of child maltreatment and child protection, and early childhood professionals with extensive experience in these areas. They will consider family support; indigenous, regional and rural perspectives; and current research.

Contact Dr. Sharne Rolfe:  
[s.rolfe@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:s.rolfe@unimelb.edu.au)

## SOME RECENT CEIEC PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS



The CEIEC's Ms Jane Page has recently co-presented a conference paper and reviewed two books:

- Page, J. & Hammer, M. (2003a) "Curriculum Considerations: choices & emerging possibilities." Paper to the 11th Annual Australian Research in Early Childhood Education Conference. 22-24 January.
- Page, J. (2003b) "Reviews of Dumbleton, M. & Denton, T. *Passing On*; and Laguna, S. & Jellett, T. *My Yellow Blanky*." *Every Child*. 9 (1) Summer. p24.

The CEIEC's Dr. Sharne Rolfe is set to present 2 conference papers. Each examines issues of social justice and children's rights based on an attachment perspective; and the BASPCAN paper draws on the CEIEC

research program on child development, abuse and neglect.

- Rolfe, S. (2003a) "Relationships with babies and toddlers in child care and their current and future wellbeing: Inspirations from attachment theory". Keynote address to the preconference Symposium, "Birth - Age 3: Our Children the Future (3): Respect, Connect, Reflect." South Australian Dept. of Education, Training and Employment.
- Rolfe, S. (2003b) "Advancing a psychological, resilience perspective on the concept of 'in the best interests of the child': Emerging research and clinical insights incorporating the voice of the child." Paper to 5th National Congress of the British Association for the Study & Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (BASPCAN). U. of York. July.

... now it's "TRAINING WITH A DIFFERENCE .... TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"!



Heather Lawrence  
at the CEIEC 2002  
conference

"It was a very good  
day and the group  
seemed very  
excited."

The CEIEC's Heather Lawrence ran a training and professional development day for early childhood staff in the City of Maroondah on 18th March.

CEIEC custom-built the day – called "Inclusive curriculum for a better world" - for staff who had expressed interest in creating a curriculum for a better world. Participants came from a range of organizations, including local government, community groups and commercial firms.

Participants developed some 'critical questions'. These highlight people's current (sometimes unspoken) 'norms' and 'niggles' around their work and people can use them as they plan and act to create a better

### CEIEC's new Administrator

Meet Ms Merlyne Cruz, CEIEC's new Administrator and the CEIEC Journal's new Editorial Assistant.



Merlyne joined CEIEC in November 2002. Married with four children she migrated to Australia in 1986 from the Philippines, where she'd been a teacher for 7 years. She is studying for a PhD at the University of Melbourne, investigating early childhood teachers and cultural diversity; and she teaches at Kookaburra Kindergarten Centre in Reservoir, Melbourne. Merlyne is the CEIEC's 'public face' online at: [merlynec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:merlynec@unimelb.edu.au)

### CEIEC GOES "BEYOND THE RHETORIC" IN ADELAIDE

CEIEC Director, A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton, was a keynote speaker at "Beyond the rhetoric in early intervention: bridging the gap between education, health and crime prevention", a conference run by the Attorney General's Department in South Australia, 26-28 March.

world for children and themselves.

Ms Judy Baird, CSRDO in the City of Maroondah, arranged the event, which was the first of its kind. She has asked CEIEC to run two follow-up sessions with the group, so Heather will return to Maroondah in April to run two sessions on "Using 'Diversity Dolls' in an inclusive curriculum".\*

#### A 'Critical Friend' at Criagieburn

In another CEIEC training and professional development initiative, Heather has been a 'Critical Friend' to the Craigieburn children's center, where staff want to rethink their program around equity and children's rights. She's attended two staff meetings to help staff to think about their philosophy and to develop 'critical questions'.

Heather has also worked with staff from each room at the Centre, supporting them as they document their journey of change and helping them as they develop their 'critical questions'.

CEIEC invites CSRDOs to contact the Centre to discuss their training & professional development needs.

\* For more on CEIEC's diversity dolls, see *CEIEC News* 1.4 (p 2) at the CEIEC web site:

[www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC)

Glenda called on early intervention services to enable young children to be active citizens by embedding their voices into the planning, implementation and evaluation of services. *The Australian* (April 1) published a feature on the research underpinning Glenda's speech.



## CONFERENCE CALL 1/2

### “Acting Together To Make A Difference: Honouring the child, honouring equity 3”

“Conference Call” appears in each edition of CEIEC News. It keeps you up-to-date with the outcomes & developments from the last CEIEC conference and the events leading up to the next.

In a “Conference Call”, conference participants – past and future – can exchange news and views about issues linked with the conference.

For example:

- If the last CEIEC conference inspired you to act – from reading a book to changing a regime – tell us.
- If you have ideas about how the next CEIEC conference can help your work, tell us.

A “Conference Call” can:

- continue discussions that started in the last conference
- call for action around issues raised at the last conference
- suggest Special Interest Groups & Learning Circles for the next conference.

**A “Conference Call” connects you with the CEIEC’s constituency.**

Contact Patrick Hughes:  
[patrickh@deakin.edu.au](mailto:patrickh@deakin.edu.au)

CEIEC will run its third annual conference between Thursday 6 and Saturday 8 November 2003 at the Sydney Myer Asia Center in Melbourne. The conference title is “Acting Together To Make A Difference”.

The conference continues the theme, “Honouring the child, honouring equity” that underpins each CEIEC annual conference. It features CEIEC’s orientation to grass-roots change and its characteristic diversity of events, including keynote speeches, seminars, posters, workshops, media screenings, stalls and entertainment.

“Acting Together ...” includes people from every aspect of early childhood services – staff, managers, trainers, parents, teachers, policy-makers, researchers and academics – from throughout Australia and from overseas.

CEIEC Conference Organiser Ms Heather Lawrence told *CEIEC News*: “We want to touch people’s heads, hearts and hands in all aspects of this year’s conference – and that includes mealtimes and rest



times, as well as the keynotes, workshops and seminars.”

“Acting together ...” aims to:

- Explore strategies and tactics in research, theory, policy and practice to build strong alliances to make a difference
- Inspire participants to act together to make a difference
- Explore how early childhood research theory, policy and practice can honour the child and honour equity
- Maintain networks and actions after the conference.



“Acting Together ...” has its own page on CEIEC’s website: [www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/confer03.html](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/confer03.html)

The conference website features the first “Call for Papers”, which invites proposals for papers, posters, workshops, etc. CEIEC would also like to hear from individuals and organizations wishing to run a stall at the conference and/or to launch books, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs, etc. that are directly relevant to the conference theme and aims.

## “Revolutionizing Program Planning” – the group!

**“Revolutionising Program Planning” started at the CEIEC 2002 Conference. Yarrow Andrew reports.**

We convened a Special Interest Group on planning after hearing Wendy Lee’s presentation at the 2002 CEIEC conference about the *Learning Stories* model in New Zealand.

The *Learning Stories* model is a great illustration of what planning *could* do for children, rather than what it *should* do for bureaucrats. It focuses on children’s achievements, not their failures and it gives children, parents, and other staff – as well as ‘the teacher’ - the confidence to ‘plan’ for children.

Prior to the CEIEC conference, we had called for a revolution in thinking and actions around planning at the AECA conference in Sydney. Positive responses there confirmed our belief that this issue needed discussing.

“Revolutionising Program Planning” now includes practitioners, academics, trainers, students and support staff. We support people who want to introduce new thinking and practice at individual workplaces and at local and regional levels. We are in contact with several Children’s Services Regional Development Officers and Pre-School Field Officers; as well as with staff in the Dept. of Family and Community Services, in NGOs and in

TAFEs. At a national level, we will submit papers to conferences and to review panels; we’ll lobby politicians; and we’ll blitz the media!

We will meet three or four times a year, usually on a Sunday afternoon.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm.

**CONTACT:**  
Yarrow Andrew, Daylesford Child Care Centre:  
[yaz@netconnect.com.au](mailto:yaz@netconnect.com.au)

### **On Learning Stories:**

Carr, M. (2001)  
*“Assessment in Early Childhood Settings: learning stories.”*  
London: Paul Chapman.

Carr, M. & Cowie, B. (2003) *“Formative assessment for the early childhood exemplar project.” Position Paper for the Early Childhood Learning & Assessment (Exemplar) Project.*

## PLANNING NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN NOVEMBER - how you can get involved

**Planning for the 2003 conference is under way! New features offer new ways to be involved.**

### **“I’d love a mentor!”**

Lots of people have something to say and experiences to share, but don’t feel confident enough to present a paper, a poster or a workshop.

To encourage and support such colleagues, CEIEC is creating a panel of mentors, who can help to develop a proposal and to prepare a session. If you’d like a mentor or if you’d like to be a mentor, contact Glenda MacNaughton:  
[gmmac@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gmmac@unimelb.edu.au)

### **Learning Circles**

Learning Circles were a novel feature of the 2002 conference that we want to develop this year.

The 2003 conference web site has notes to help you to create, to join or to contribute to one.

For more information on Learning Circles, contact Jane Page:  
[j.page@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.page@unimelb.edu.au)

### **An all-new Sunday!**

Several people have asked for a “Networking and Sharing Brunch” on Sunday 9 November (10.00 – 2.00). The brunch will be a way to meet others who want to change the world! This might mean anything, from swapping phone numbers to organizing events.

To suggest how the Brunch could work and/or to join in, contact Glenda MacNaughton:  
[gmmac@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gmmac@unimelb.edu.au)