

Spring 2003

Vol. 2, Issue 3

Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood C.E.I.E.C

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

# CEIEC News

## INSIDE:

"Boys who like to be different" p2

New cultural diversity initiatives p4

Strengthening links with Europe p4

CEIEC's international journal p5

## REGULAR FEATURES

Training with a difference p2

CEIEC's Visiting scholars p2

Research with a difference p3

CEIEC publications p5

"Conference Call" p6

## CEIEC PROMOTES CHILDREN'S VOICES IN GOVERNMENT'S 'CHILDREN'S PLAN'

**The CEIEC is enabling young children to contribute to the Australian Capital Territory government's Children's Plan.**

The Children's Plan will be the basis of ACT government policies concerning children from birth to 8 years of age. The government asked the CEIEC to design and run a consultation process that would ensure that, "All children in the ACT are actively engaged and included as full members of the community and given the best chance to achieve their full potential" (ACT Children's Plan. Discussion Paper, p4).

The CEIEC's A/Prof Glenda MacNaughton, Ms Kylie Smith and Ms Heather Lawrence are running the project, supported by Ms Janet Treweek. The CEIEC

team and the ACT Children's Services Branch established goals and methods for the consultation process, then recruited staff from ACT early childhood centres to run it. These staff took part in an action learning program (designed and evaluated by the CEIEC team) to enable them to consult with children in their local area.

The CEIEC team will collate and evaluate the results of the local projects and of the consultative process overall. It will deliver a report to the ACT government in October 2003.

For more information:

[gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au)  
Glenda, Melanie Saballa (ACT) and participants will discuss the project at the CEIEC conference. (See "Conference Call", p6)

## CEIEC program on 'Children Who Challenge'

**The CEIEC is running a training program for early childhood staff who work with challenging children.**

The CEIEC program – "Children who challenge" – combines action learning with research evaluation. The CEIEC's A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton, Ms Heather Lawrence and Ms Kylie Smith created the program for Yarra Valley Early Intervention Services and the Department of

Human Services, Victoria.

Participants reflect critically on their current understandings and practices concerning challenging children, learn of current research, rethink their current approaches and create new ones. More information: [kylieas@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kylieas@unimelb.edu.au)

Heather and Kylie discuss the project at the CEIEC conference in November.

## CEIEC has a new Project Officer



Meet **Ms Janet Treweek**, CEIEC's Project Officer, who joined CEIEC earlier this year. Janet has 17 years experience as an educational administrator and is providing administrative support to the Centre's increasing range and number of research, training, development and publishing projects.

Janet is the Centre's 'public face' online at: [j.treweek@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.treweek@unimelb.edu.au)

### SOME BOYS ....

*"Why can't he just be a normal boy?"*

*"Playing girls' games will make him gay!"*

*"Does he need more father figures and male role models?"*

*"He's a typical boy – nothing wrong with that!"*

*"It's alright to be sensitive, but I don't want him soft!"*

## Training with a difference ..... to make a difference

**The CEIEC continues to develop its reputation as an innovator in professional development programs for early childhood staff.**

Recently, the CEIEC's **Ms. Heather Lawrence** presented "Mind, body and spirit in early childhood services" to an early childhood conference organized by Wyndham Shire Council, Victoria; and ran a workshop entitled, "Diversity Dolls: tools for making a difference in early childhood programs" for Moroondah Council, Victoria. Heather is running the CEIEC's second training program in Melbourne for the Chinese Welfare Institute, Shanghai.

The CEIEC's **Dr. Sharne Rolfe** ran a seminar on research and policy about attachment for the Melbourne's Centre for Child Health.

## Boys who like to be different!

**The CEIEC has launched the second of its occasional papers: "Equity Issues".**

*Boys who like to be different: what's the fuss?* takes a cool look at the often heated issue of boys who behave in non-traditional ways. It describes some common concerns, suggests some responses and lists resources and further reading.

*Boys who like to be different* - like its predecessor - "Santa in early childhood services: what's the fuss?" - is a response to concerns expressed to the CEIEC by people in the early childhood field.

CEIEC Equity Issues Papers are on the CEIEC website: [www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC)

CEIEC Director, **A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton** ran a series of seminars and workshops for the Dept. of Education & Children's Services, South Australia. Participants used critically reflective practice and action research in collaborative, self-directed learning. The sessions were part of the Department's program of professional development, now in its second year. Glenda is a consultant to the program, which supports innovative approaches to professional development by early childhood staff. Glenda also ran an action learning program about equity and social justice in early childhood for the City of Greater Geelong, Victoria.

The CEIEC can create specialist training programs for your organization. Contact: [gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au)

## CEIEC's Visiting Scholars

**The CEIEC's Visiting Scholar program is thriving. Program Director Jane Page reports.**

In July the CEIEC was host to Laurie Katz from Ohio State University, USA and to Marie Botha and Judy Van Heerden both from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Dr. Heather d'Cruz from Deakin University visited the CEIEC between July and October, participating in several postgraduate seminars. Heather is researching professional knowledge and practice in child and family welfare, especially issues of diversity, identity and inclusivity. Currently, she is planning research with CEIEC members into inclusive decision-making by welfare institutions.

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



*"This has been a deeply moving experience. I have discovered that knowledge is not the same as truth, that uncertainty is part of learning and that even a very small change can have profound effects."*

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

I am in the fourth year of my part-time study towards a PhD. My interest in professional learning began when I was a primary/early childhood teacher. Then, traditional professional learning offered little chance to discuss different views about education. I was a mere receiver of other people's knowledge, unable to control my learning.

As I moved into adult education, I asked, What do early education teachers need as learners? How are their needs addressed currently and could they be better addressed? Can professional learning support teachers as they change their views and practices and can it support social change?

Those questions now drive my research. For 18 months, I have met monthly with a group of early education teachers to discuss our experiences, issues and taken-for-granted practice. This has been a deeply moving experience. I have discovered that knowledge is not the same as truth, that uncertainty is part of learning and that even a very small change can have profound effects. Currently, I am examining how particular discourses of knowledge, femaleness and 'the good teacher' position and regulate teachers and affect their professional learning.

Studying in New Zealand requires constant self-motivation and three month-long trips a year to Melbourne. This just increases my determination to understand how best to enable and encourage early education teachers to control their professional learning.

## Where is she now? A previous CEIEC research student



*In CEIEC News 1.3, Hyacinth said, "I hope to influence my country's practice, programming and policy in a field that still inspires me." Here's what she's done since returning to Malawi.*

Congratulations to **Ms. Hyacinth Kulemeka** (featured research student in *CEIEC News* 1.3), who recently received an MA! Hyacinth tells *CEIEC News* about her work since she finished her MA in Melbourne in 2002 and returned to Malawi.

I am the Assistant Executive Secretary and Senior Program Officer of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of the UNESCO National Commission. Since my return, I have co-edited the National Early Childhood Development Program for Malawi and its Operational Guidelines. Parliament has since adopted the Program and a

public launch by the State President is planned. The government has yet to accord a high priority to early childhood education, but we are confident of success in the long run. We are urging the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare to create a Department or Council for Early Childhood Development and we are calling for more staff training to improve the quality of services for young children.

We have received much support from donor agencies such as UNICEF and UNESCO, but our work needs financial and material support from well-wishers the world over.

### ANYONE FOR MORE CHAMPAGNE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The penultimate in the CEIEC/DARE series of research seminars is: "Poststructuralist researchers making sense of children's talk and play" Prof. Bronwyn Davies, the University of Western Sydney.

Tuesday 7 October  
Conference Room  
234 Queensbury Street,  
Parkville.

For more information,  
contact Kylie Smith:  
[kylieas@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kylieas@unimelb.edu.au)



A/Prof Glenda  
MacNaughton at the  
2002 CEIEC  
Conference

## CEIEC introduces new students to cultural diversity

The CEIEC's Jane Page recently received \$2,000 from the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education Cultural Diversity program for two projects addressing cultural diversity in the Faculty.

*Cultural Diversity in the BECE Orientation Website* promotes principles of cultural diversity within the University's Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BECE), using the BECE Orientation Website. It presents interviews with Cultural Diversity Champions in the University's Faculty of Education and elsewhere and offer links to other relevant web sites.

The *BECE Cultural Diversity Practicum Website* presents interviews with early childhood staff addressing cultural diversity in their work with young children.

It supports BECE students as they address cultural diversity in their practicum placements. Jane is collaborating in the Practicum Website project with the CEIEC's Merlyne Cruz, whose doctoral research investigates the extent to which tertiary education prepares student teachers for work in a culturally diverse society. Students (especially LOTE and international students) often enter the Faculty of Education knowing little of current educational practices in Australia. The two websites are part of a seven-year program to raise new students' understanding of the nature and purpose of academic study.

For more information, contact Jane or Merlyne:  
[j.page@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.page@unimelb.edu.au)  
[merlynec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:merlynec@unimelb.edu.au)

## CEIEC strengthens its links with Europe

**A whirlwind trip to Europe in July enabled CEIEC Director, A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton to strengthen the Centre's links with colleagues there.**

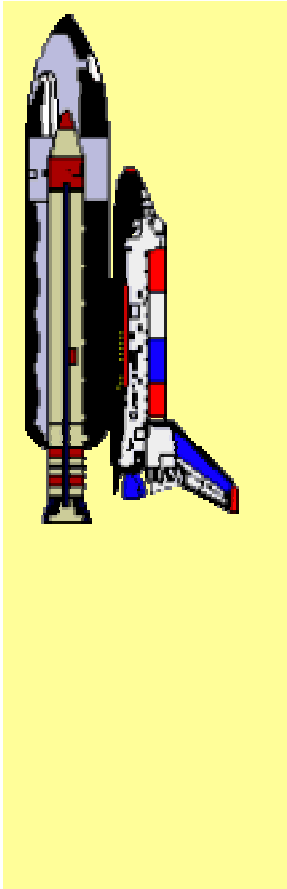
Glenda was invited by The Bernard van Leer Foundation – an international education and development charity - to its headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands between July 8 - 10. She gave two presentations: "Gender equity in early childhood: contemporary issues & approaches in theory and practice." and "Developmentally appropriate practice & diversity issues in early childhood."

While in the Netherlands, Glenda renewed contact with the DECET (Diversity in Early Childhood Education & Training) Network.

Glenda's next stop was Munich, Germany, where she'd been invited to address a conference: "Education in the Early Years: International Developments and Implications for Germany". The conference (sponsored by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the State Institute of Early Childhood Education Research) ran between July 16-17. Her paper was titled "Curriculum & Early Childhood Practices in Australia".

Glenda's final stop was the Internationale Akademie, Berlin, between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July. There, she'd been invited to address a conference of early childhood staff from local government and NGOs about the CEIEC's research on Diversity in Early Childhood.

## CEIEC launches its international journal!



**The long-awaited first edition of the CEIEC's online journal - the *International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood* (IJEIEC) - will be published later this month.**

As an online journal, IJEIEC can only hit 'virtual' streets. However, IJEIEC will certainly be more than virtually streetwise, as the contents of the first edition indicate! The articles include the following:

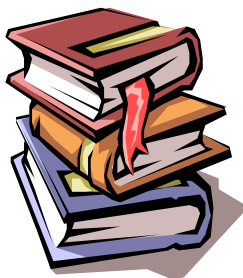
- "Building new images of (e)quality: what do we need to risk?" (Glenda MacNaughton)
- "Professionals and children reflect: considering futures perspectives in early childhood curricula." (Jane Page)
- "What if all the kids are white?": anti-bias/multicultural education with white children." (Louise-Derman-Sparks & Patricia Ramsey)
- "'Adults Only': secret children's business." (Miriam Giugni)

- "Dignity of risk: potential maximization of children with disabilities." (Paul Gordon Jacobs)
- "Go-betweens: risking ruin for the possibility of dialogue." (Keith Power)
- "Men in childcare: an action research project in Flanders." (Jan Peeters)
- "Authenticating the ability for children to verbally reflect on their artistic self-expression facilitated by adult scaffolding." (Katarzyna Wieczorek-Ghisso)

Brian Newman reviews *King and King* and *Hello, Sailor*, and Mindy Blaise reviews *Teaching Number: advancing children's skills and strategies*.

For more information about the IJEIEC, including how to subscribe and contribute, contact the journal's Editorial Assistant, Merlyne Cruz: [merlynec@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:merlynec@unimelb.edu.au)

## NEW CEIEC PUBLICATIONS – a selection



MacNaughton, G. (2003) "The possibilities and challenges of 'not knowing': early childhood teachers' knowledge and thinking in uncertain times" in Spodek, B. and Saracho, O. (eds.) *Studying Teachings in Early Childhood Settings*. Information Age Publishing, USA.

MacNaughton, G., Cruz, M. & Hughes, P. (2003). "Understanding and countering discrimination in early childhood." *Professional Voice*. 2 (3). [www.aeuvic.asn.au](http://www.aeuvic.asn.au)

MacNaughton, G. (2003) *Confronting play, confronting 'isms': the place of the 'critical' in*

*our knowledge of play*. Keynote address at the "Unpacking Play: Confronting Assumptions. Perspectives from Australia, Reggio Emilia and America" conference, Macquarie University Sydney, 3-4th August, 2002. Published in the conference proceedings.

Page, J. (2003) "The Convention on the Rights of the Child: creating a new global ethic for children" and "Education and children's rights: challenges and choices for the future" in Masini, E. (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*. Oxford: Eolss Publishers. [www.eolss.net](http://www.eolss.net)



## CONFERENCE CALL 1/4

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

*In a “Conference Call”, conference participants – past and future – can exchange 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 the next CEIEC conference can help your work, tell us.*

*A “Conference Call” can:*

- continue discussions from the last conference*
- call for action on issues raised at the last conference*
- suggest Special Interest Groups & Learning Circles for the next one.*

**A “Conference Call” puts you in touch with CEIEC’s constituency.**

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

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

**CEIEC will run its third annual conference at the Sydney Myer Asia Center in Melbourne, Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 November 2003. The title: “Acting Together To Make A Difference”.**

This “Conference Call” outlines the program, the major speakers and some of the workshops.

On October 31, a stand-alone “Conference Call” will present a full guide to the conference.

“CEIEC News” 2.4 will carry a comprehensive report of the conference and its outcomes.

#### Conference Program

##### Thursday 6 November

- 17.30 Registration, light buffet
- 18.30 Welcome by Wurundjeri elder
- 19.00 Formal Opening
- 19.30 Keynote
- 20.30 Finish

##### Friday 7 November

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.30 Sessions
- 13.15 LUNCH
- 14.00 Sessions
- 17.30 Champagne!
- 19.00 Conference dinner

##### Saturday 8 November

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.30 Sessions
- 13.15 LUNCH
- 14.00 Sessions
- 17.30 Wine and cheese!

##### Sunday 9 November

- 11.00 Brunch & Action Plans
- 14.30 Closing session
- 15.00 Finish

#### Keynote Speakers

##### Senator Bob Brown

(The Greens)

“Acting together: collaborating for long-term change.”

##### Professor Bronwyn Davies

(University of Western Sydney)

“Identity and otherness: creating the self, creating difference.”

##### Mr. Richard Frankland

(Musician, writer and director)

“Acting together through art to create change.”

##### Ms. Karen Martin

(Brisbane Aboriginal & Islander Independent Community School)

“The spirit of learning, telling our stories: education, research and life.”

##### A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton

(Director, CEIEC.)

“Researching together to make a difference: possibilities and provocations.”

#### Memories of last year’s conference



Muticultural Rap Band



The stalls

**CONFERENCE AIMS**

*To identify innovative community-building strategies that honor children's rights and produce greater social justice*

*To explore how early childhood research, theory, policy and practice can honor the child and honor equity*

*To inspire collaborative change in local communities*

*To maintain active networks and actions after the conference.*

**CONFERENCE FEATURES**

Keynotes

Workshops

Special Interest Groups

Learning Circles

Networking

Exhibits

Web site:

[www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/conf03](http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/conf03)

An international early childhood conference with a difference ..... to make a difference

**Some new features**

This year's CEIEC conference has three new features.

- **Special Interest Groups** are groups of people who share a particular interest within early childhood. The conference program will include sessions where these groups can meet and discuss how to take their interests forward.
- **Learning Circles** are groups of people who collaborate to learn about new ideas, practices and policies.
- **Mentors** are people who offer to support anyone who'd like to present a paper or run a session but doesn't know how to or lacks the confidence.

If you'd like to form or join a Special Interest Group or Learning Circle, and/or if you'd like to act as a Mentor, contact the CEIEC's Heather Lawrence: [hlaw@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hlaw@unimelb.edu.au)

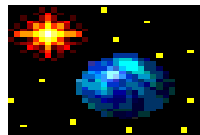
dynamic teaching & learning community"; "Creating and sustaining critical reflection"; and "Critical conversations".

Broad policy issues are addressed in sessions such as, "Creating culture shift in schools"; "Moving from tolerance to transformation"; and "Wilfull blindness in program planning".

Several sessions address sex and sexuality, including "Children's sex play in centre-based care"; and "Finding the key to the 'closet' in early childhood education". A symposium on gender sits alongside "Playing with boys"; and "Indigenous inclusion" complements "'Isn't it about including 'them'?".

Two sessions examine family learning and there's an account of a Curriculum Club that addresses the hegemony of the early childhood curriculum.

A stellar range of papers!



**Proposals for sessions continue to arrive at the conference office and they cover a stellar range of topics!**

The next, stand-alone edition of *Conference Call* lists the full program – this is just a taste of it.

The conference theme of collaborating to make a difference is illustrated by several sessions concerning professional development. Some examples: "Working with teachers' learning", "Building a

Intellectual disability, practicum assessment, 'mindfulness' and using persona dolls are just some of the other issues ... and they keep on coming in!

**Featured workshop speakers**

**Prof. Judy Atkinson**

(Director, College of Indigenous Australian People, Southern Cross University.)

"Collaborating for change through the head, heart and hands"

**Dr. Brian Kean**

(Southern Cross University.)

"Risks and alliances: challenging