

Winter 2004

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

CEIEC News

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

INSIDE:

Kookaburra flies to Japan,
appears on TV! P2

CEIEC hosts PECERA p4

"I just want to send you, again, big Congratulations!! Your office staff and those graduates who helped are talented and filled with enthusiasm. You have so well taken care of us. Our Hong Kong group has learned a lot from the Melbourne Conference. We look forward to receiving you in Hong Kong in 2006."
Dr Betty Chan

AN APOLOGY

We apologise for the very late publication of this edition of CEIEC News. The entire editorial staff has been ill, but he's better now and preparing the next edition (due at the end of September).

REGULAR FEATURES

"Research with a difference p3

"Training with a difference p3

New CEIEC papers & publications p5

Conference Call p6

NEW CEIEC ON-LINE RESOURCE PROMOTES CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The CEIEC's A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton and Ms. Jane Page are creating a website with which early childhood students can infuse cultural diversity into their practicum.

The site's resources include:

- The *Diversity Games Room*, where students can build and test their knowledge about research concerning young children's understandings of diversity.
- The *Diversity Virtual Resource Room*, where students can create 'virtual' teaching and learning spaces that acknowledge diverse cultures.
- The *Diversity Project Bank*, where students can examine examples of cultural diversity project work with young children via a searchable database.



The website also houses four multi-media case studies of how to create culturally diverse early childhood settings.

- *Diversity 'R' Us* considers culturally diverse practices in a culturally diverse centre.
- *When You're Different* examines culturally diverse practices with a small group of children who are culturally

different to the majority.

- *We're All The Same* considers how to initiate culturally diverse practices when most children in a group are Anglo-Australian.
- *That's Not Fair!* examines how to recognise and deal proactively with discrimination between children.



The project (*Cultural Diversity and Early Childhood Learning Environments: Linking Theory and Practice*) is funded by a University of Melbourne Courseware Development grant. The website goes 'live' in 2005.

The CEIEC has a range of online resources to support teaching, learning and research about equity and diversity in early childhood. These include *INSPIRE* (an online bank of 'virtual environments') and *Equity adventures in early childhood* (a CD-ROM).

For information on how the CEIEC's online resources can support your work, contact A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton: gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au

Kookaburra flies to Japan, appears on 'Stateline'!

Anne Houghton is the Director of Kookaburra Kindergarten (in Broadmeadows Uniting Care) and a member of CEIEC.

Lyne (Merlyne) Cruz is a teacher at Kookaburra Kindergarten, a CEIEC doctoral student and Editorial Assistant of the CEIEC's journal.

Anne and Merlyne gave a paper about the Kookaburra program to CEIEC's 2003 conference. If you'd like a copy, contact Merlyne: merlynec@unimelb.edu.au

ABC TV's Victorian current affairs program, "Stateline", recently featured a story about Kookaburra Kindergarten in Melbourne. **Anne Houghton and Merlyne Cruz from Kookaburra give the details.**

Kookaburra Kindergarten has toy kookaburras that children 'borrow' and, on their return, describe their 'adventures'. Our kindergarten was on "Stateline" because we recently took a kookaburra to Nagoya, Japan, as guests of the Suzuki Institution, which had heard about our work.

The Suzuki Institute has two large campuses, each with 300 - 400 children, whose timetable includes kendo, physical education, music, art and English. We met five Australian teachers there, who'd taught their preschoolers to say "Hello, my name is..."; in return, we learnt to say "Konnichiwa"!

We saw the strong links in Japan's early childhood settings between past and present. Each class does everything together, creating a strong community.

Everyday life in centres in Japan

is full of routines, rituals and customs. Children remove their shoes before entering a classroom, wear slippers when entering a bathroom and bow to adults, including their *senseis* (kindergarten teachers).

We were guests at ceremonies marking the children's graduation from kindergarten at six years of age. The children stood proudly at the centre of the stage to receive their certificates and to recite their promises to be good citizens.

As we saw parents' and children's pride in their well-rehearsed and rigorous singing, we wondered if a graduation ceremony at our kindergarten could promote its educational aspects? Could it celebrate the skills that children learn here? Would families like the idea?

We came home respecting and affirming our cultures' differences and similarities. We found new ways to value and promote diversity as we build a dynamic teaching and learning community.

VENUE

Dept. of Learning & Educational Development,
Conference Room 3rd Floor,
234 Queensberry St.,
Parkville.

COST

\$10.00 per seminar
(includes light refreshments)

BOOKING

Dr. Kylie Smith:
kylieas@unimelb.edu.au

"TWILIGHT and CHAMPAGNE" - CEIEC/DARE seminars

SERIES 4

"Building critical early childhood communities: crossing the terrain of theory and practice."

The CEIEC/DARE seminars are for practitioners, researchers, pre-service trainers, students and policy makers. In each seminar, early childhood researchers consider how best to imagine and practice early childhood curriculum in changing times.

On 20 July, Pamela Oberhuemer, from the State Institute of Early Education & Research (Munchen) discussed Germany's National Quality Initiative in early childhood.

On **17 August (6.00 – 7.30 p.m.)**, Joce Nuttal, Monash University will discuss diverse perspectives on early childhood curriculum.

Research with a difference to make a difference



"I hope that my research will inspire researchers and educators – especially in Thailand – to respect children as social agents."

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

Since 1991, I have been a Lecturer in Early Childhood Education in the Faculty of Education at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Previously, I worked at the US. Consortium Project in Phanat Nikom, Chon Buri - an education project that prepared refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam to resettle in the USA.

I'm interested in equity, inclusion and social justice in early childhood programs, especially those that acknowledge the diverse abilities and disabilities of children with diverse advantages and disadvantages.

Currently, I'm developing my Ph.D proposal around this question: "How do children negotiate respectful relationships with their peers?". I believe that children are critical by nature and they should have opportunities to explore themselves and to learn how to live peacefully with others.

Through the CEIEC, I have encountered a variety of new issues and activities and made new friends. All of this has strengthened my belief in equity and social justice and has reinforced my determination to work with young children on these issues in the future.

I hope that my research will inspire researchers and educators – especially in Thailand – to respect children as social agents.

Training with a difference ... to make a difference



In April 2004, the CEIEC's Ms. **Heather Lawrence** visited the **Kimberly and Pilbara Children's Services (KAPCS)** at Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia. Heather ran an Action Learning Circle – *New networks between Indigenous and non-Indigenous professionals for children's rights* – as part of CEIEC's continuing involvement with KAPCS (see "CEIEC News" 3.1)

Later in April, Heather spoke to the Centre for Child and Family Health in Melbourne about *Using new visions of the child to explore social justice for the child and family*.

In April 2004, fifteen early childhood staff from Shanghai came to the CEIEC for a two

day training program. A CEIEC team of seven delivered the custom-built program - *Creativity and innovation in the early childhood curriculum*. The program was the latest episode in the CEIEC's continuing relationship with the Chinese Welfare Institute, based in Shanghai.

March 2004 saw CEIEC Director A/Prof. **Glenda MacNaughton** in Adelaide, South Australia. Glenda ran three sessions for staff for the state's Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS): *Critical reflection: what's the difference?*

Essential learnings: some tactics of critical reflection.

Foucault, power and analysing learning. **Contd. next page**

The CEIEC designs and delivers training and professional development programs in the broad area of equity, innovation, social justice and diversity. For more, visit the CEIEC website:

www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/

To discuss how a CEIEC program could meet your particular training needs, contact:

Glenda MacNaughton:
gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au

Training with a difference . . . contd.

The sessions were part of Glenda's continuing involvement in the DECS 'Learning to learn' project, where she facilitates specialist learning.

In May, Glenda returned to South Australia, giving a keynote and workshop - *Deepening the partnerships, deepening the dialogue: buts, ifs and maybes in relationships with parents* - to a DECS Action Research Day; then running a seminar for the Equity Policy

Group - *Children's voices and action learning: processes and protocols from the Gender Consultation*. Finally, Glenda ran a study day for DECS - *A critical look at the neurosciences in early childhood*.

CEIEC hosts Pacific Early Childhood Conference & Study Day

The CEIEC hosted the 5th annual international conference and meeting of the Pacific Early Childhood Research Association (PECERA) from July 16th - 19th at the University of Melbourne's Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

The conference theme was **Identities & innovations: shaping better worlds through early childhood education**. It explored the role of innovatory early childhood education in shaping peace & respect for diversity.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Julie Kaomea (University of Hawaii, USA), Professor Jiaxiong Zhu (East China Normal University, China), Ms. Marcelle Townsend-Cross (Southern Cross University, Australia) and Emeritus Professor Bud Spodek (USA, PECERA President).

Over 120 people attended the Conference. Most participants were researchers or research

students from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

PECERA (established in 2000) aims to foster high quality research and to link research and practice in early childhood education in the Pacific region.



PECERA participants photograph the photographer!

"Reshaping environments and rethinking practices"

The CEIEC ran a Study Day on 20 July, linked with the PECERA Conference. Twenty conference participants from Italy, Germany, Thailand, New Zealand & Australia came to the Study Day - "Reshaping environments and rethinking

practices: case studies of better worlds in action".

Participants discussed several research-based case studies of change in early childhood settings, drawing on the CEIEC's program of collaborative action research. The day included a 'real' tour of a local early childhood centre that is reshaping environments and rethinking practices and a 'virtual' tour of over 15 other early childhood centres in Australia via the CEIEC's on-line resource bank, "INSPIRE".

Most participants valued "the great links between theory & practice" and one praised the presenters' "clarity, passion and knowledge!".



CEIEC's Heather Lawrence being clear, passionate, knowledgeable!

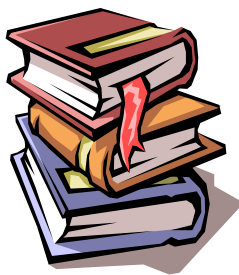
In April, the CEIEC's Ms. Margaret Coady spoke widely in Nanning, China.

"Teaching about Rights." Seminar at the Philosophy Dept., HUST University, Wuhan. April 7.

"The ethics of marketing to children". Paper to a Conference on anti-corruption issues in the economy. The Ford Foundation and HUST University. April 11-12.

"Teaching about Rights." Paper to the Philosophy Dept., Nanjing University. April 14.

"The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: What difference does it make?" Public lecture. Nanjing University. April 15.



RECENT CEIEC PRESENTATIONS

MacNaughton, G. (2004). "Neuroscience, the brain and the equity politics of early learning." Keynote. *The Learning Brain Downunder conference and EXPO*. Dept. of Education and Children's Services, DECS, Focus Education. Adelaide, S. Australia, 15th April.

MacNaughton, G. (2004) "Children's voices in children's services: inspirations and provocations." Keynote. Victorian Family Day Care Annual Conference. Ballarat. June 16.

MacNaughton, G. (2004) Keynote "The shifting sands and shapes of early childhood curriculum in the 21st century: its possibilities, passions and provocations."

Invited workshop "The place of children's voices in early childhood curricula: transforming teaching and learning in early childhood classrooms." The Queensland Association of State School Principals annual conference, *Schoolyard Blitz: foundations for real change*. Gold Coast, Qld. June 11-12.

Smith, K. (2004) "Taking action for social justice: re-imagining the theory and practice of observation in the classroom." Public address. Canterbury City Council. Sydney. May 28.

NEW CEIEC PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

***Rethinking attachment for early childhood practice: promoting security, autonomy and resilience in young children*. Allen & Unwin. 2004**
This new book by the CEIEC's Dr. Sharne Rolfe explains how childcare settings can promote security, autonomy & resilience in young children through understanding attachment.

***Techniques for Teaching Young Children*. (2nd edn.) Pearson Publications. USA and Australia. 2004**
New edition of the book by the CEIEC's A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton & Ms. Gillian Williams. (Appears in the UK as *Teaching Young Children*. Open University Press)

MacNaughton, G. (2004) "Rethinking gender in early childhood pedagogies." in

Fthenakis, W. E. & Oberhuemer, P. (eds.) *Frühpädagogik international: Bildungsqualität im Blickpunkt. (Early childhood curriculum issues: international perspectives.)*

MacNaughton, G. (2004) "Learning from young children about social diversity: challenges for our equity practices in the classroom." in van Keulen, A. (ed.) *Young children aren't biased, are they?* Amsterdam: B.V. Uitgeverij SWP. (65 – 76)

MacNaughton, G. (2004). "Exploring critical constructivist perspectives on children's learning." in Anning, A., Cullen, J. & Fler, M. (eds.). *Early childhood education: society and culture*. London: Sage (43 – 56)

Page, J. (2004) Review: Pearson, J., "People in the Community" Every Child. 10 (1) p19



CONFERENCE CALL 4/2

“Pushing The Boundaries To Make A Difference:

“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

CEIEC will hold its fourth annual conference between Thursday 11 and Sunday 14 November 2004 at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, in Melbourne. The conference title is “Pushing The Boundaries To Make A Difference”.

Proposals for sessions are starting to arrive and they’re from a diversity of people in a range of countries, including Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Italy Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

The range of presenters is wider than before – partly because CEIEC conferences are becoming known for their inclusiveness.

Group Sessions and Mentors

The conference committee is pleased to have received several proposals for Group Sessions and several requests for a Mentor.

Group Sessions feature two or more people who present their material together. This broadens the views presented ... and reduces presenters’ ‘stage fright’! **Mentors** help people to propose a session at the conference and/or to prepare their session. Launched prior to the 2003 conference, the mentor scheme has really taken off this year.

Group Sessions and Mentors open-up the conference to people who might feel unable to ‘Make a difference’ by presenting their ideas in a session.

We’re on the Web!

“Pushing the Boundaries” has its own page on CEIEC’s website: www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC/conf04

Look here for the “Call for Papers”, inviting proposals for papers, posters, workshops, etc. CEIEC would also like to hear from anyone wishing to run a stall at the conference and/or to launch books, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs, etc. directly relevant to the conference theme & aims.

Keynote & Featured Speakers

Several keynote and featured speakers have confirmed their appearance at the conference. They are a mix of practitioners, policy-makers and researchers:

- **Dr. Cairo Arafat**
- **Senator Bob Brown**
- **Prof. Gunilla Dahlberg**
- **Ms Moira Rayner**
- **Mr. Michel Vandebroek**

The conference website will give news of further speakers; the next *CEIEC News* will highlight

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