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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:

'Saying the unsayable'
p2

Research that's making
a difference p3

Postgraduates are
developing CEIEC
research p4

Children's voices in early
years plan p5

CEIEC researchers go
global! p5

REGULAR FEATURES

"Research with a
difference" p3

New CEIEC papers
& publications p5

Training with a
difference p5

"Conference Call"
p6

KIMBERLEY AND PILBARA CHILDREN'S SERVICES LAUNCH A STRATEGIC PLAN

The CEIEC's A/Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton and Ms Heather Lawrence attended the launch of the Kimberley and Pilbara Children's Services (KAPCS) Strategic Plan in September.

The CEIEC has worked for some time with KAPCS to develop the Strategic Plan, which was launched at the 2005 KAPCS annual conference in Fitzroy Crossing, West Australia.

The Plan describes the KAPCS mission as follows: "advocating, networking, learning and supporting services for all children and families in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia, based on a commitment to children's rights and voices and respect of Indigenous ways of knowing, cultural diversity and equity".

Glenda and Heather gave the opening keynote address, in which they presented the KAPCS mission to the conference and asked how best to bring it to life.

They described CEIEC research around children's voices, focusing on the need to listen to children's voices in order to make children's rights a reality; and the need for non-Indigenous people to listen to Indigenous ways of knowing in order to create respectful relationships between people in the region.

This was the 13th annual KAPCS conference. As usual, it attracted a broad range of participants from across children's services in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, many of whom traveled for many hours to attend.

Broome TAFE teachers explore diversity issues

CEIEC Director A/Professor Glenda MacNaughton led a day-long professional development session for Kimberley College of TAFE, WA on 15th September 2005.

Living and learning with diverse learners explored the effects of diverse learners on teaching and learning. It drew on ideas that Glenda has developed in her book, *Shaping Early Childhood**

Glenda outlined three contrasting approaches to responding to diversity in the classroom: 'conforming' 'reforming' and 'transforming'. Each approach has particular implications for teachers' practice.

Then, she helped participants to reflect critically on the pros and cons of using each approach in their daily work.

* Open University Press, 2004

Supporting international students of Early Childhood Education



The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education is supporting international early childhood education students in their first-year practicum placement. The CEIEC's **Jane Page** reports.

First-year international students undertaking their first placement must negotiate the cultural differences between Victoria's educational systems and their own. Those cultural differences can make students lose confidence, feel inadequate and fail to communicate successfully with children and supervisors. In response, the Faculty of Education is providing international students with a specialist tutor to familiarise them with the cultures of Victorian schools and pre-schools; and with university and field supervisors experienced in cultural diversity.

(Literacy & children's voices in the curriculum

CEIEC Director A/Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton was invited to an **Early Years Forum in Mt Gambier in late August.**

South Australia's Dept. of Education and Children's Services ran the forum, which examined different approaches to literacy in the early years. Glenda's keynote and workshop linked literacy with children's rights, asking, 'How can literacy help children to transform their world?'

'Saying the unsayable'

September 20 saw the latest in the series of seminars run jointly by the CEIEC and DARE (Directions in Action Research for Equity). The CEIEC's **Merlyne Cruz** - who led the seminar - reports.

My presentation, 'Saying the unsayable: investigating worldviews and commitment to cultural diversity' discussed my doctoral research. Critical reflection ('pagninilay' in Filipino) is creating pathways in her research. I drew on autobiographical narrative to underscore the difficulties associated with learning to question and daring to speak as a third-world migrant and beginning researcher. Through (re)telling my personal story, I mapped my struggle for decolonization and my ongoing 'discovery/recover' of my cultural identity.



In the CEIEC/DARE seminars, researchers show how their work relates to current issues and concerns in the early childhood field. Each seminar runs from 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. in the University of Melbourne's Alice Hoy Building, Parkville. The series attracts practitioners, policy-makers and researchers.

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CEIEC REPRINTED

CEIEC Issues Paper 2, 'Boys who like to be different' (August 2003) has been reprinted in Bedrock - the early childhood services magazine' published jointly by NSW/ACT and Queensland Education Unions



“Combining research and fulltime work has not been easy - and the decision to renovate a house in the middle of it wasn’t the wisest! But it has been worthwhile. The benefits far outweigh the drawbacks and the hospital’s support has made it so much easier.”

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 **Leanne Halliwell**.

My work as an Educational Play Therapist at the Royal Children’s Hospital is certainly the most rewarding, challenging and interesting that I have ever done. Working in an environment where research is not just valued but expected certainly influenced my decision to undertake a research degree.

My research examines whether play therapy could be valuable to young children undergoing a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan. Previously, children under 6 years old being prepared for an MRI had been given a general anaesthetic. Even when these children received an MRI in later life, they were still given a general anaesthetic, because that was how it had been done before.

We wanted to see whether we could use play therapy as a substitute for a general anaesthetic before an MRI; whether (and, if so, why) the child and their family would approve this change in practice; and whether this change in practice held any economic benefits for the hospital.

Of the children we have seen, 85% were recommended for an MRI without a general anaesthetic; 90% of that group are likely to cope with the experience; and waiting lists have been reduced by a few months. We are building an international reputation for our work and we have additional office and clinical practice space in a new unit. We are using our current data to develop a proposal to increase our hours in the MRI unit; we are participants in another research project and in two applications to the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for research grants.

.....and some research that’s making a difference!

“As you can imagine, I am pretty excited that the work is actually available for people to read and to use if they feel it has value.”



Lisa Mackay -Brown is a postgraduate student at the CEIEC who has recently had a publishing success! Lisa reports.

Earlier this year, I co-authored a ‘curriculum toolkit’ for the Department of Education in Victoria about inclusive classrooms for students with disabilities. I wrote Section 3: *Teaching and Learning Strategies* and Section 5: *Positive Behaviour Support*.

The Department released the ‘toolkit’ recently on the Web and

it is now available freely to educators.

In the first semester this year, I spoke about the ‘toolkit’ to third-year early childhood students at the University of Melbourne. They responded enthusiastically and said that they wanted to read the material when it was available.

I hope that they - and early childhood educators generally - will find the ‘toolkit’ valuable. See it for yourself:

www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/pdf/CurriculumToolkit.pdf

Postgraduate students developing CEIEC's research



Heather Sheard

Congratulations to two CEIEC postgraduate students, each of whom has recently received good news!

Congratulations to **Heather Sheard**, who has been awarded a Master's degree for her thesis, "Victorian Baby Health Centres 1926-1950". Heather examined how the voluntary efforts of a small group of women developed into a state-wide system. Heather was the featured postgraduate student in **CEIEC News 2.2** (2003)



Margaret Burnell

Congratulations, too, to **Margaret Burnell**, who has just

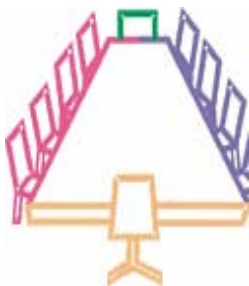
received approval to develop her Master's research into a Doctoral project - 'Listening to the voice of the child in silence: an ethnographic study of children's silences in a culturally diverse early childhood setting'.

For Margaret, silence is part of meaning making and power relations in cultural diverse settings and she is interested in whether/how children's meaning-making can inform early childhood pedagogies. Margaret was the featured postgraduate student in **CEIEC News 3.3** (2004). Warm CEIEC congratulations to each of you!

And still more ... TRAINING WITH A DIFFERENCE

The CEIEC's Ms Heather Lawrence, Dr. Sharne Rolfe and Dr. Kylie Smith are running a 10-week action-learning program for early childhood staff in the City of Knox (Victoria).

The program concerns children who challenge and it runs from August to October. It assists participants to pose research questions that, in turn, drive their professional inquiry into how best to work with such children.



In mid-September, CEIEC Director A/Prof Glenda Mac Naughton ran a training day for early childhood staff from the University of Melbourne's Children's Services.

Glenda described how to use 'critical' reflection to examine 'the politics of truth' and their uneven effects on relationships between children, staff and parents.

Children's voices in an Early Years Plan

The CEIEC has started a long-term collaboration with the Mornington Peninsula Shire to support the development of the Shire's Early Years Plan.

An Early Years Plan embodies a strategy to develop and co-ordinate early childhood educational, care and health (ECECH) programs, activities and other local developments that affect children in a municipality.

A CEIEC team (including **Dr. Kylie Smith**, **Ms. Heather Lawrence**, **A/Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton**, **Dr. Patrick Hughes**) will support Mornington Peninsula Shire to consult families and children (birth to twelve) on how to make human services meaningful and relevant to families and children. In their work, the team will draw on the CEIEC's research into including young children's voices in policy-making.

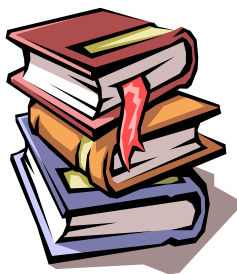
CEIEC RESEARCHERS GO GLOBAL!

New links with research in Malaysia

CEIEC Director A/Prof. Glenda Mac Naughton has been invited to be an International Fellow of the Institut Sosi al Malaysia (Director, Prof Dr Roziah Omar).

On 1 October, Glenda attended the formal launch of the Institute by the Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, who invited her formally to be an International Fellow of the Institut.

The CEIEC looks forward to a developing relationship with the Institut Sosial Malaysia. The next edition of CEIEC News will report in more detail.



CEIEC researchers are presenting the results of CEIEC research to conferences on three continents!

In early September, CEIEC Director A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton was invited to attend a conference in London, organized by the Education Faculties of the Universities of London, Madisson & Melbourne. The conference theme was 'Social class inequality and politically engaged scholarship'. Glenda co-chaired a session on race and class with Professors David Gillborn (London) & Gloria Ladson-Billings (Madison), where she discussed current CEIEC research on young children's constructions of race.

In October, Glenda and the CEIEC's Dr. Kylie Smith and Dr. Karina Davis will present a paper to the annual conference on *Reconceptualising Early Childhood Education*, held this year in Madisson, Wisconsin. Their paper draws on the CEIEC research (funded by the Australian Research Council) on young children's understandings of 'race'.

of 'race'.

From Madisson, Glenda and Kylie join the CEIEC's Dr. Patrick Hughes at an international conference in Shanghai in late October. Glenda will give a keynote address on integrating young children's understandings of diversity in curriculum; Kylie and Patrick will run a research seminar drawing on the CEIEC's work on helping governments to consult with young children.

The Shanghai conference's theme is 'Early Childhood Education in a Multicultural Background' and it has been organized by the Soong Chin Ling Foundation and the China Welfare Institute (CWI). Soon after its establishment in 2002, the CEIEC developed a working relationship with the CWI, which regularly sends staff to the CEIEC for custom-built professional development.



NEW CEIEC PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Page, J. (2005) "Early Childhood Practitioner's Views on Planning for Young Children's Futures" Journal of Australian Research in Early Childhood Education. 12 (2) 17-24.
- Page, J. (2005) Reviews of Montano, J. & Ottley, M. "The Bubble." and of Jaunn, A "Caruso's Song to the Moon." Every Child. 11 (1) 18.
- Page, J. (2005) Review of Morrow, R. & Michael King, S. "And the Roo Jumped over the Moon. Australian stories and poems for children." Every Child 11 (2) 18.
- Hughes, P. (2005) "Baby, it's you: international capital discovers the under-threes." Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood. 6.1. 30 – 40.



CONFERENCE CALL 2/2005

“Acting Together To Make A Difference: Honouring the child, honouring equity 5”

“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:
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CEIEC will run its fifth annual conference between Thursday 17 and Sunday 20 November 2005 at the University of Melbourne’s Carlton campus. The conference title is: ‘Reconsidering rights and responsibilities’.

This ‘Conference Call’ outlines the program and the keynote speakers.

A special, stand-alone “Conference Call 3” (late October) will be a full conference guide.

CEIEC News 4.4 (late December) will carry a comprehensive report of the conference.

CONFERENCE THEMES

- Linking rights, relationships & early childhood pedagogies.
- Innovative ways to enact children’s rights.
- Social justice & reciprocity in relationships with children.
- Resistance & responsibilities in creating greater equity with & for children.
- The challenges & possibilities of respectful relationships with children & their communities

Draft Conference Program

Thursday 17 November
17.30 Registration, light buffet
18.30 Welcome
Wurundgeri elder
19.00 Formal opening
19.30 Keynote
20.30 Evening finishes

Friday 18 November
08.30 Registration
09.30 Sessions
13.15 Lunch
14.00 Sessions
17.30 Champagne, my dears!
19.00 Conference dinner

Saturday 19 November
08.30 Registration
09.30 Sessions
13.15 Lunch
14.00 Sessions
15.30 Wine & Cheese

Sunday 20 November
11.00 Brunch starts
11.15 Action Planning Sessions
14.30 Closing Session
15.00 Conference finishes



Four keynote speakers will address the conference: Dr. Deevia Bhana (South Africa), Mr Bevan Cassady (Australia), Prof. Alan Pence (Canada); Ms Rita Walker (New Zealand). Read their biographies on the CEIEC website:
www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LED/CEIEC
and follow the link.

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