

Summer 2005

Vol. 4, Issue 4

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

# CEIEC News

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

## CEIEC DEVELOPS ITS DIGITAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

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**Two recent initiatives - both led by the CEIEC's Dr. Karina Davis - have developed the CEIEC's profile as a leading research centre in the early childhood field.**

The first initiative was a successful application to the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education Research Infrastructure scheme. The grant will enable CEIEC to buy a highspeed, flatbed scanner and two PCs with significantly enhanced storage capacity.

The second initiative was the creation of *Scrapbook* - a new software program to store, manipulate and retrieve digital research data in a diversity of formats. Karina worked with students in the University of Melbourne's School of Engineering, who designed and produced this new software as an assessable part of their degree course. When used together, the infrastructure and

software will enable CEIEC researchers to create, store and use digital data from early childhood research in diverse formats (e.g. artwork from CEIEC-led consultation with young children). They will enable CEIEC researchers to explore radically new ways to analyse data and to present conclusions and recommendations.

### ARC AWARDS CEIEC A SECOND DISCOVERY GRANT

**The Australian Research Council (ARC) has awarded a Discovery Grant to CEIEC Director A/Prof Glenda MacNaughton and CEIEC Research Fellow Dr. Patrick Hughes.**

The grant covers three years (2006 - 2008) and will enable Glenda and Patrick to develop their continuing research into staff-parent relationships in early childhood centres. The grant will give new impetus to their research, which has resulted in several journal articles and book chapters already.

This is the CEIEC's second Discovery Grant. The first one covers 2004 - 2006 and is supporting Glenda's research into children's understandings of 'race'.

### Seasons Greetings!

Thanks to our readers for your support in 2005 and every best wish for Xmas and the New Year.

We'll be making some changes in 2006, so 'watch this space' and let us know what you think.

### REGULAR FEATURES

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



Michelle Ortlipp -  
ECA Award-winner!

Each edition of *CEIEC News* usually introduces the work of one of the Centre's postgraduate students.

Here, however, we offer an update on the career of Dr. Michelle Ortlipp, a former CEIEC postgraduate student who was recently awarded a PhD (see [CEIEC News 4.2](#))

At the recent Early Childhood Australia (ECA) biannual conference in Brisbane, Michelle was presented with the ECA Doctoral Thesis Award. This award recognizes the outstanding quality and academic rigor of the recipient's doctoral thesis and its contribution to early childhood knowledge and research.

Congratulations and best wishes, Michelle, from all at CEIEC!

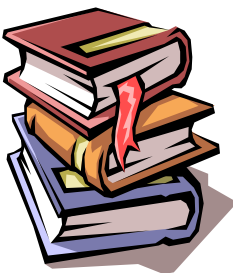
### New textbook develops the CEIEC's 'China Connection'

The CEIEC's China connection continues to develop, with the publication in 2006 of *Doing Early Childhood Research in Chinese*.

This popular textbook (published originally by Open University Press and Allen & Unwin) is co-edited by CEIEC Director Glenda MacNaughton, with Sharne Rolfe and Iram Siraj-Blatchford, of London University's Institute of Education; and it includes chapters by CEIEC Research Fellows Patrick Hughes, Mindy Ochsner and Sheralyn Campbell.

The first print-run of 5,000 will be published in mainland China, only (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) by Beijing publisher Educational Science Publishing House - an established publisher of local and international titles in the field of education.

### NEW CEIEC PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS



- MacNaughton, G. & Smith, K. (2005) Exploring ethics and difference: the choices and challenges of researching with children. In A. Farrell (Ed.) *Exploring ethical research with children*, Open University Press.
- Blaise, M. (2005) *Playing it straight: uncovering gender discourses in the early childhood classroom*. New York: Routledge.  
In this unique, qualitative study, CEIEC Research Fellow Mindy Blaise offers a fascinating, behind-the-scenes look at how children create, take-up and perform gender.  
*Playing it straight* shows how teachers and students can use post-developmental perspectives to rethink gender as a social, historical, cultural and political construction.
- Hughes, P. (2005 in press) "Mickey and Barbie and Strawberry Shortcake: children growing up in promotional webs." [International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood](#). 2 (2).

## New CEIEC members

The CEIEC is delighted to welcome two more researchers to its ranks.

**Dr. Christina Hart** and **Dr. Sherie McLamm** have joined the CEIEC from the University of Melbourne's Department of Science and Mathematics Education. Each has a background in science education and each will bring fresh, new perspectives to bear on the CEIEC's work.

(Both Christina and Sherie have evaded the request from **CEIEC News** for a photo, but rest assured, readers - we know where each of them lives! Watch this space!)



*Kylie Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> left) and Glenda MacNaughton (3<sup>rd</sup> right) front the Mornington Shire Early Years Plan.*

## New links with Malaysia

On October 1, CEIEC Director A/Prof Glenda MacNaughton met Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, when he launched the Institut Sosial Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Earlier this year, Glenda was asked to be an International Fellow of the Institut (**CEIEC News 4.3**). The Prime Minister formalized this invitation at the Institut's opening.



*L-R: Glenda, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development.*

## Developing an Early Years Plan: an update

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has asked the CEIEC to assist it to develop an Early Years Plan (See **CEIEC News 4.3**).

The Plan will cover the development and co-ordination of early childhood education, care, health and activity programs for children from birth to six years old.

The Shire wants to develop its Plan by consulting with local communities and in October, a CEIEC team led by **Dr. Kylie Smith** started to prepare Shire staff to consult young children and their families about what

they want to see in the Plan.

Participating staff come from across the Shire, including preschool, education, family day care, youth support, domestic violence, library services, maternal & child health and psychiatric health services.

## Stronger links with China

The CEIEC continues to consolidate its links with the Shanghai-based China Welfare Institute.

The CWI invited the CEIEC's A/Prof Glenda MacNaughton, Dr. Kylie Smith and Dr Patrick Hughes to an international conference in Shanghai in late October (**CEIEC News 4.3**). The conference - 'Early Childhood Education in a Multicultural Background' - was organized by the Soong Chin Ling Foundation and the China Welfare Institute (CWI).

Glenda's paper concerned ways to integrate young children's understandings of diversity in the curriculum; Kylie's and Patrick's paper discussed the CEIEC's research into consulting with young children

Since 2002, the CEIEC has had a working relationship with the CWI, which regularly sends staff to the CEIEC for custom-built professional development.



*Glenda with senior CWI officials in Shanghai.*

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