



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

Volume 6 Number 3

October 2007

CENTRE NEWS

'Children, carer & country' team 'go bush' to learn

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The Children Carer & Country project is ending its first year. The project aims to find ways of growing more culturally relevant and respectful services. Learning Circles form a key strategy.

As part of the project CEIEC team members Heather Lawrence and Vicki Hynam recently participated in the annual Indigenous Women's Bush Meeting in the Fitzroy Valley in the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. Over 100 women and children from Indigenous communities in the region attended.

Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre based in Fitzroy Crossing organized the bush meeting held over 5 days. Topics discussed ranged from the current changes in approach toward communities by the Federal Government to culturally relevant education.

Heather writes:

"We listened to the Indigenous women's deep concerns for the future and for their children. We learnt about the negative effects of alcohol abuse in their communities and the loss of hope this brings.

The women wanted to see children: protected; growing strong knowledge of their culture and language and learning on country not in the classroom.

For adults, they wanted: a ban on alcohol in Fitzroy Crossing for a period of 12 months and men to receive services to support their efforts and that government work in a holistic way with community members to strengthen the capacity of all.

We learned how to dye cloth from natural dyes and to make a simple kiln in the earth to fire simple pots to use as tea sets for children's play.

We brought resources too and young and older children played. Some of the bigger children made big cubbies down by the creek by cutting down branches and pulling large sheets of paperbark for the roofs."

The last project CCC Learning Circle for 2007 will be in Broome on October 13th.

Participants from the CCC Learning Circle will be presenting at the CEIEC conference in November.

For more information about the project contact Glenda (gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au) or Heather Lawrence (hlaw@unimelb.edu.au)



CEIEC publications and presentations – sharing research outcomes

Presentations

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Gender in early childhood: current challenges and possibilities, Eastern Region Preschool teachers, 31st August, Knox Council Offices, Wantirna. 50 staff attended the session.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Children's voices in the curriculum. Yorke Early Childhood Conference, South Australia, 13th September.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). How our actions empower children. Keynote address, Family Day Care Annual Conference, Brisbane, 17th August.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Who's got the power? Workshop, Family Day Care Annual Conference, Brisbane, 17th August.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Children's voices in the curriculum. Workshop, Creche and Kindergarten Association, Brisbane, 16th August.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Trials and transitions to citizenship: what really matters in early childhood education? Dean's Lecture Series, Faculty of Education, the University of Melbourne, 7th August.

MacNaughton, G. (2007). Embracing the spirit of research: knowledge sharing in practice. Keynote address to the Singapore Child Care Symposium, Singapore, 4th September. This conference was attended by over 800 delegates and organized by the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Community Services and the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Singapore. The Minister opened the conference.



Glenda MacNaughton at the Singapore Child Care Symposium, 4th September, 2007

Professional development

Enhancing Relationships in school communities (ERIS)

A CEIEC team is working with colleagues from the Faculty of Education (Liz Freeman & Margot Trinder) and Latrobe University (Eleanor Wertham) and two Victorian primary schools on cultural diversity in the curriculum. The CEIEC team is delivering a five-session professional learning package at each school. Participants reflect on any issues or tensions in their current approaches to cultural diversity and the CEIEC team offers them diverse perspectives (drawn from their diverse research work and experience) from which to re-examine their approaches and to respect and support cultural diversity in their classrooms and throughout the school.

Both schools have committed to being involved in the PD across late 2007 and early 2008.

This PD forms part of the projects: Enhancing Relationships in Schools (ERIS) and Creating Culturally Respectful Primary Schools: enhancing relationships through strategic professional learning, which is funded through a Linkage grant from the Australian research Council.

The CEIEC team consists of Ms. Sue Atkinson, Ms. Merlyne Cruz, Dr. Karina Davis, Ms. Heather Lawrence and Ms. Prasanna Srinivasan and is led by CEIEC Director Prof. Glenda MacNaughton. More information: gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au

Research with a difference to make a difference

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

Double congratulations to Kate Alexander.

Kate has been awarded a \$400 Academic Activity Grant for the event 'Critical Literacy: Images, Ideologies, and Legitimate Knowledge'. In addition to providing funds, the School of Graduate Research aims to support, celebrate and publicise postgraduate initiative within the University's research community.

Kate has also successfully completed her Masters study Master of Education (Research), exploring the use of 'gender-neutral' characters in children's picture books. 'Gender-neutral' characters aren't identifiably male or female, so they can be interpreted as male, female or just ...

New project to begin on child observation and assessment

Dr. Kylie Smith has been as Early Career Researcher (ECR) grant of \$21,900 for her project:

'Observation, documenting and reporting outcomes in Australian early childhood classrooms. This funding is for one year, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 and furthers Kylie's doctoral studies in this area.

"The ECR Scheme is a core part of the University's research development strategy, which places a high priority on the support of early career researchers. It is expected that key outcomes will be the enhancement of staff members' competitiveness in bidding for external research funds and the encouragement of new staff members to establish their programs of research at the University of Melbourne." (Erin Dolan, Senior Grants Officer, Melbourne Research Office).

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Kate Alexander

The Academic Activity Grant scheme is a highly competitive and Kate is to be congratulated for producing a strong and successful application.

Administrative staff

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Anna Ng – retiring from the University of Melbourne

www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/CEIEC

... and a CEIEC farewell to Anna Ng

Best wishes to Anna Ng, CEIEC Administrator on her retirement. Anna will be missed by the CEIEC team.

Dominique and Karthi can assist with queries related to:

- CEIEC annual conference, CD ROM: Equity adventures and Cultural Diversity, INSPIRE, Diversity Dolls, CEIEC memberships, IJIEC subscriptions, CEIEC newsletter and members brief, CEIEC web, Study tours, Undergraduate and postgraduate studies, Visiting scholars.

Kate Alexander joins the CEIEC administrative team and she can assist with queries related to:

- CEIEC staff appointments, CEIEC financial matters excluding CEIEC conference, CD ROM, memberships and study tour-related accounts, Special projects: FACSIA, RESPECT, Undergraduate and postgraduate studies

Karthi Subramanniam returns to support the CEIEC team in the lead up to the 2007 conference. Welcome back Karthi.

CEIEC's work on children's rights continues

International visitor to the CEIEC furthers work on children's rights

On August 28-29 Professor Martin Woodhead visited CEIEC.

Martin Woodhead is Professor of Childhood Studies at the Open University, UK and a leading international scholar. He has published extensively on early childhood, including *In Search of the Rainbow*, (Bernard van Leer Foundation, 1996), *Cultural Worlds of Early Childhood* (Routledge, 1998) and *Understanding Childhood, Childhoods in Context and Changing Childhoods*, (all published by Wiley, 2003). He has carried out policy analysis and research review and studies on child labour and children's rights for a number of leading international organisations, including the Council of Europe, OECD, UNICEF and Save the Children. Professor Woodhead is co-editor of the journal *Children & Society*, a member of the editorial board for *Childhood*, and of the International Advisory Committee of *Journal of Early Childhood Research*. In 2005 he was appointed Special Advisor to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva, in preparation of United Nations General Comment 7: Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood.

During his visit to the CEIEC he met with CEIEC staff and postgraduate students and presented 2 seminars. The first was a seminar for staff at the Faculty of Education concerning his involvement in 'The Young Lives project' and children's citizenship.

The second was a public seminar at Melbourne City Town Hall entitled: Changing perspectives on early childhood: implications for children's rights and participation from an international perspective. In this presentation Professor Woodhead gave an overview of the different theories that have informed our understanding of children. He explored how a perspective of children as right holders creates new possibilities for thinking about and working with children.

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are needed to see this picture.

The CEIEC team is working with the City of Melbourne on how Melbourne can be a more child and youth friendly city. The City of Melbourne is working towards becoming accredited as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. This project report includes a review of international and Australian literature on child friendly cities and the results of consultations conducted with children, young people, families, City of Melbourne staff and organisations working with children and youth. The findings from the consultations form part of an implementation plan that identifies the steps needed for the City of Melbourne to receive accreditation as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. For more information on the project contact Glenda MacNaughton at gmmacn@unimelb.edu.au or visit the project website at <http://www.geocities.com/glendamacnaughton/VOICES/MCCcfc.html>

To learn more about membership of the CEIEC, contact education-ceiec@unimelb.edu.au



The Centre for Equity & Innovation in Early Childhood presents

Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 7: Transforming Connections - Local & Global Possibilities

2007 Annual International Early Childhood Conference

Thursday, 15 November — Saturday, 17 November 2007 The University of Melbourne | Melbourne, Australia

Featured Speakers

Sue Atkinson | University of Melbourne, Australia

Gloria Swindler Boutte | Benedict College of Education, Columbia, South Carolina, U.S.A

Paul Connolly | Queens University, Belfast, Ireland

Chris Sarra | Institute for Indigenous Leadership in Education & Development, Queensland, Australia

Beth Blue Swadener | Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A

Register at : <http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec/>



With over 60 presentations with presenters from Australia, UK, Kenya, USA, Norway, New Zealand, Denmark and Ireland this year's conference is bound to inspire.

Inspire new possibilities

The 2007 C.E.I.E.C International Conference is sponsored by the following organisations

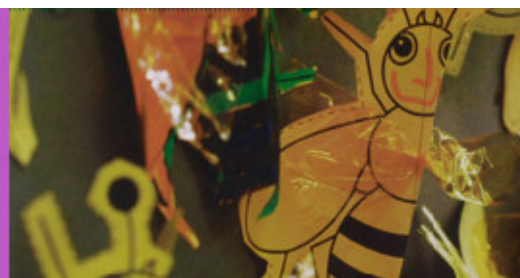


THE CRESWICK FOUNDATION



EXPLORE CURRENT ISSUES OF IDENTITY & DIVERSITY & HOW THEY INTERSECT WITH THE POSSIBILITIES OF HONORING THE CHILD

what linkages can inspire new possibilities for children's rights?



How are citizenship & partnerships with children being imagined & practised in diverse contexts?