

Message from the ACFE Board

This month members of the Board and Regional Councils have been busy with the selection of grants as part of the Round 2 Capacity and Innovation Fund.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified shortly. Please contact your regional office if you require feedback on the outcome of your application.

Outstanding Learner

Congratulations to Jessica McKenzie who won the 'Outstanding Learner' award at the 2011 Victorian Learn Local Awards in early September. We think her story is incredible and we want to share it with you.

Jessica is one of seven children. She grew up in Wattle Glen and moved to Strathewen in 1994. At 14 years of age, in Year 9, Jessica's secondary education "went off the rails" and she was asked to leave school.

Deciding not to give up on her education, she enrolled at Diamond Valley Learning Centre (DVLC) in February 2007 and within a couple of years successfully completed studies in Maths, a Certificate III in Children's Services and a Certificate II in Community Services Work.

In 2009 Jessica experienced a further set-back and took 6 months off study after her family home was destroyed in the Black Saturday bushfires. Despite this, Jessica went on to complete VCE Maths Unit 1 at DVLC while living in temporary accommodation and working to support herself. She sat her VCE exams in November 2010 and passed with flying colours!

Studying at DVLC gave Jessica the confidence to apply for a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University and received a first round offer. Jessica said *"I was pretty excited because I thought I had screwed my exams up, I was pretty much studying in my car really. It was a real struggle."*

In 2011, Jessica has scored very well in her first term University tests and has just received her semester one exam results. We should all take a leaf out of Jessica's book and live by her motto *"just do something"*.

Check us out on



or our [website](#)

or on the [Learn Local Wiki](#)

Important Dates (State-wide only)

Friday 7 October – CALD Action Research Workshops

Wednesday 12 October – Activity Schedule



Sian Lewis (far left), Jessica McKenzie (middle) and the Minister for Higher Education and Skills, the Hon. Peter Hall, MLC at the 2011 Learn Local Awards.



If you haven't seen it already – [check out the Learn Local television commercial on YouTube...](#)

Interesting Statistics

173 Learn Local organisations attend the Learn Local Communications and Marketing Training days held from July to September with a total of 257 attendees. – Learn Local Communications Team

As of Tuesday 26 September, the A House Around the Corner website has had 1,426 hits on the info page, 930 views of episode one and 544 hits on the Learn Local info page.

– Anne Burgoyne, Regional Manager, Eastern Metro.

Update – Improving Governance in the Learn Local sector

In the August edition we talked about the project 'Improving Governance in the Learn Local sector' which is aimed at improving the capabilities of Learn Local Organisations in the training environment.

This project looks at providing Committee of Management (COM) members with a framework and relevant tools to manage their education and training activities more effectively in a competitive skills-delivery environment.

A survey has been conducted to further identify and analyse the issues and define the key areas of focus for COM and a report is currently being finalised. The report will be presented to at the next meeting of the Projects Reference Groups for their input into the types of resources and tools to be developed.

An update on the findings will be included in a future Newsletter.

Learn Local success stories

It's been wonderful to see more organisations get on board promoting Learn Local. This month we are acknowledging Coonara Community House (CCH) and Mansfield Community Education Centre as successful advocates!

Recently, Coonara Community House placed the Learn Local logo prominently on their website and added it to their Course Guide for Term 3. We can't stress how important this is for brand recognition. With the advertising campaign in full flight, customers need to know when entering your website they are in the right place! Consistent branding will ensure customers recognise Learn Local and understand you fall under the umbrella of Learn Local organisations. Check out the CCH website at www.coonarahouse.org.au

Mansfield Community Education Centre has also used the branding effectively on printed publications such as the July-October course guide and general brochures. They have recently re-vamped their website where the Learn Local logo sits prominently. It really looks fantastic – take a look www.mace.vic.edu.au/our-community/

Why don't you go through the checklist below to see if you are promoting Learn Local effectively!

Checklist:

- ✓ Learn Local certificate is up on the wall
- ✓ Utilising Learn Local giveaways
- ✓ Learn Local posters are displayed
- ✓ Using branding on printed material and website
- ✓ Utilise banners once received
- ✓ Utilise lapel pins/badges once received

Learn Local competition!
WIN an iPad2 – tell your learners to enter via the [YouthCentral website](http://YouthCentral.com.au)



Recent Memos

[Click on this link to read the memos:](#)

- 2011 / 33 ACFE Numeracy Review (with 6 attachments)

A House Around the Corner...

is on the small screen!

A House Around the Corner is a weekly television series running for 13 weeks on Channel 31 highlighting the incredible range of educational programs Learn Local organisations provide across Victoria.

It includes an associated website, providing viewers with follow up information and links to Learn Local and Neighbourhood House activities.

The aim of this project is to increase engagement with Learn Local and accredited training by showcasing examples and opportunities.

We hope it will increase visibility and awareness of local community learning opportunities and hopefully improve understanding of the community house based adult education sector.

Students from Coonara House's Certificate II in Media are involved in filming, lighting and editing of the series. This experience offers a range of skills and is helping provide growth paths for those seeking employment in Media with particular focus on the television industry in Melbourne.

Thankyou to all involved - it's off to a great start!

To take a look at episodes already aired (especially if you are in an area without Channel 31 access) visit:

<http://ahousearoundthecorner.org/Episodes>



REGIONAL INFORMATION

Indigo Fireflies

The Indigo Fireflies is a Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre Community Learning Partnership project that aims to build resilience amongst women in the Indigo shire to support the individual and community response, recovery and healing after a crisis or trauma. The project is well underway with a range of community events taking place. Indigo fireflies have been featured on "House Around the Corner" on Channel 31.



Participants in the Indigo fireflies project enjoying a community forum



The project includes three sets of activities for participants: Community forums – designed to seek advice from women on the detail of the project. Interactive workshops – to build skills, knowledge and networks. Community projects – undertake identified projects that will build capacity

Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre has developed strong partnerships to support the project with Indigo U3A, Yackandandah Community Education Network, Stanley Ladies Group, Beechworth Community Support Group, Indigo Shire Council and Integrated Primary Mental Health Service.

Hume Region Provider Forums

Please mark the dates in your diary for the forthcoming provider forums in November:

Wednesday 2 November – Seymour
Thursday 3 November – Wodonga
Friday 4 November – Shepparton

The forums are a terrific opportunity to meet with other providers, discuss important topics and keep up to date with all the latest news from ACFE.

Further details of times and venues will be provided closer to the date. Please let us know if there are any key issues you would like included in the forum discussions.

Did You Know?

The **ACE Business Survey** is used by ACFE to inform decision making in regard to key initiatives, support and funding? This information is vital to capture your experience and knowledge, so *many thanks* to those who have completed the 2011 survey.

However, this year the response has been lower and slower and ACFE is keen to have your feedback about the survey in order to decide future actions. We ask that providers answer a couple of brief questions regarding the survey. Your advice will be aggregated into a response from the region to ACFE central and your organisation will not be identified.

Q1. Have you completed the ACE Providers Business Survey this year?

- If yes, any feedback?
- If no, is there a particular reason?

Q2. Have you completed the ACE Providers Business Survey in previous years (2006-2010)?

- If you have completed in previous years, but not in 2011, why not?

Please tell us of your responses to the above questions (you can cut and paste the questions into an email) and send to: tinkler.ross.w@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone the office for a chat: 03 5762 4655

The Survey is now open until Monday 17 October 2011

Sharing the Good News –

If you have some good news about your centre or a special event to celebrate please let us know. We would love to acknowledge the great work being done by Learn Local providers across the region. Send us a note and photos if possible, via email to our office.



Don't forget to check out Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with other providers in the region and across the state!