



# early childhood education council of nsw inc

Vol 24 no. 1 April 2006

*This is the fourth newsletter of 2005 for the Early Childhood Education Council of NSW. Please refer any comments to the Editor, c/- PO Box 418 Leichhardt NSW 2040 [editor@ecec.asn.au](mailto:editor@ecec.asn.au)*

## Our Vision

The Early Childhood Education Council of NSW Inc. is a professional association promoting child centred practices through advocacy and professional development, informing on current trends in early childhood education and ensuring a high profile for early childhood issues.



This is the first newsletter for 2006, and unfortunately it is late and the committee apologise for any inconvenience.

### 2006 ECEC committee

#### *Executive committee*

President: Suzanne Ziems

Vice President: Karen Buck

Secretary: Vilma Fyfe

Treasurer: Janelle Ford

#### *Committee*

Carol West (Public Officer)

Trish Harrington

Robyn Wild

Cathi Barralet

Cate Ryan

Kate Highfield

Ceryl Turi

Kim Dunn

Celine Elks

Helen Still

The committee are delighted to welcome Helen Still back to the committee. Helen is currently teaching at Mona Vale Public School.

### What is ECEC?

The Early Childhood Education Council of NSW inc (ECEC) is now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Over this period of time the association has developed a respected profile as a peak professional association for advocacy in the area of early childhood education.

Our vision which appears at the top of each newsletter has been reviewed frequently over the past 15 years since it was first agreed to, however, each time the committee and other invited friends of ECEC agree that it cannot be improved.

A professional teachers' association exists to benefit its members. While ECEC is not a large organisation, we have maintained a consistent membership of individuals and schools from the past 25 years. We hope you will continue to support your association. 2006 membership renewals are now due. A renewal form is included on the last page of this newsletter.

ECEC is committed to providing:

- professional support for each other
- professional development activities for those responsible for the education of young children
- a forum for the sharing and dissemination of information which is of interest to our members
- a forum for discussion and, where appropriate, action on matters of professional concern.

ECEC currently has representation on the primary Curriculum Committee of the Board of Studies, the Primary Education Development Committee, the Early Childhood Reference Group, The Class Size Advisory Committee and the Successful Transition from prior-to-school to school for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children Reference

Group for the Department of Education and Training, where we are able to ensure the needs of young students and their teachers are highlighted and addressed.

ECEC conducts a regular professional development program which focuses on current issues relating to K-2 across the curriculum. ECEC always uses practising teachers, adult educators or consultants who are leaders in their area of expertise, to ensure those who attend receive the most up to date information available. To support this program we also publish regular newsletters and Current Topics on curriculum and other issues which are distributed free to our members and are available for purchase. We are endeavouring to cater for our country membership by targeting rural centres.

Our bright green flyers are sent to all members and metropolitan schools. Conference flyers are also distributed to every school in the state.

ECEC have been successful in applying for an AGQTP grant for our professional development program for 2006. The major activity will be a one day conference on Saturday 28 October. It will be held at the Australian Technology Park at Redfern. The focus of the program is the innovative use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) across the KLAs and some sessions on strategies for differentiating the curriculum. There will be a series of other workshops both in the city and at least two regional centres along the same theme during Terms 2 and 3. Early information about the conference will be available on the ECEC website and in the next newsletter.

## **ECEC website**

The ECEC website is currently under redevelopment and should be available very soon. As an organisation we are anxious to endeavour to meet the needs of our members and believe that it is now time for us to make greater use of the website for keeping in contact. The website has copies of newsletters, publication details and order form and a current membership form.

The website can be found at [www.ecec.asn.au](http://www.ecec.asn.au)  
**Publications**

Members should have recently received a copy of the 2005 Annual Report and a Current Topics. The Current Topics *Special Needs students in the K-2 classroom* includes three articles we hope you will find useful and a topic for discussion with colleagues.

## **2006 Membership**

Membership renewal reminders have recently also been sent to members. Membership is current until 31 March. The committee hope that you will consider rejoining for the 2006 year.

A 2006 membership form is also included on the last page of the newsletter. Please feel free to pass it onto a friend or another school.

## **ECEC 2005 survey**

Surveys results are in!  
Thank you so much to all our members, course attendees and friends of members who filled in our survey late last year. We had a large number of responses and we're really grateful for the information you've given us.

## **Professional development topics**

It seems that afternoon and dinner courses are most popular and we'll continue to provide these throughout the year. A wide range of interest areas were suggested for in-services and we'll endeavour to cover many of these topics in the future. ICT was clearly an area of interest, as was curriculum differentiation. These two topic areas will be the focus of 2006 professional development program and our conference.

## **Course venues**

A few great suggestions were made for venues and while Leichhardt was a popular choice we will investigate some of the venues suggested.

Thanks again for taking the time to fill and return the form and our

congratulations to Gabrielle Darlington from All Saints College, Bathurst, who won the \$100 voucher.



*Tom Alegounarias selecting the winning entry*

## Term 1 professional development

The ECEC committee for 2006 hope that the program of professional development planned for this year will have something to meet your needs. In Term 1 we have held three professional development afternoons that have all been held for different audiences. Each one was very well attended and again indicates that we are meeting the needs of early childhood teachers

The first workshop was for 'New Scheme' teachers to provide them with information about accreditation with the NSW Institute of Teachers. Tom Alegounarias, Chief Executive of the NSW Institute of Teachers presented an overview of the requirements for accreditation for new scheme teachers and answered a range of questions from the audience. Three teachers each shared their experiences as 'New Scheme' teachers and the positive outcomes and challenges that they had experienced in the first year of this program.

The second workshop was for pre-school teachers with information about the NSW Curriculum Framework. Dilys Nicolson, A Children's Consultant with KU Children's Services provided an overview of the Relationships section of the Framework, and Rebecca McCrudden, Teacher-in-charge at John Brothie Nursery School at Botany

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provided practical examples of how the framework is implemented in her school. This was the first time ECEC had targeted pre-school teachers specifically for a workshop. The response was very positive and we are hoping to have a second workshop for pre-school teachers later in the year.

The third course was a repeat of a session from the 2005 Conference on 'Using flow charts as a tool for programming'. Cate Ryan, Deputy Principal of Punchbowl PS provided the background on the development of Flow Charts at her school for use with programming. Jillian Bowden and Voula Spiripoulos spoke about how they use them with the classes and had examples from the classrooms to share with the group.

The following notice is included for interested teachers.

A poster for the NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships 2006. The title is 'NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships 2006'. Below the title, it says 'Teachers in schools and TAFE NSW Institutes across New South Wales have the opportunity to apply for the NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships.' There is a map of NSW with dashed lines radiating from a central point. Below the map, it says 'With generous support from a variety of companies, the 2006 NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships encompass:'. A list of subjects follows: English Literature, Mathematics, Rural and Remote Education, Leadership, Indigenous Education, Environmental Education, Business Studies and Economics, Information and Communication Technologies, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Languages (German and Chinese), History, Commerce, Special Education, and Science. To the right of the list, it says 'APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 12 MAY 2006'. Below that, it says 'FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS CONTACT Premier's Teacher Scholarships Secretariat Locked Bag 53 Darlinghurst NSW 2010'. Contact details: T (02) 9244 5008, F (02) 9244 5646, E lloyd.christison@det.nsw.edu.au, W www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards. At the bottom, there are logos for the New South Wales Government and the Department of Education and Training.

## NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships 2006

Teachers in schools and TAFE NSW Institutes across New South Wales have the opportunity to apply for the NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships.

With generous support from a variety of companies, the 2006 NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships encompass:

- + English Literature
- + Mathematics
- + Rural and Remote Education
- + Leadership
- + Indigenous Education
- + Environmental Education
- + Business Studies and Economics
- + Information and Communication Technologies
- + Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- + Languages (German and Chinese)
- + History
- + Commerce
- + Special Education
- + Science

APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
FRIDAY 12 MAY 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND  
APPLICATION FORMS CONTACT

Premier's Teacher  
Scholarships Secretariat  
Locked Bag 53  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

T (02) 9244 5008  
F (02) 9244 5646

E [lloyd.christison@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lloyd.christison@det.nsw.edu.au)  
W [www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards)







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ABN: 40452650361 – Not Registered for GST

## 2006 Membership Form

*(Privacy Statement: The data collected is for the purpose of Membership only and will not be disclosed to other parties.)*

Please indicate by ticking the appropriate boxes

New  **Renewal**  **and Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ (Not sure? Then leave blank)

**Individual Membership**

**\*Student Membership**  \*Student No. \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms/Mrs/Miss/Mr/Dr):- Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Membership**  (Remember to complete the contact person's name in the section above.)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: No. \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please note school membership will be mailed to school address)*

### Payment Details

Individual: \$37.50  School: \$75.00  Student: \$10.00

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of my/our 2006 membership. (Current to March 2007)

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheque payable to ECEC and forward to** ECEC, Membership Secretary,  
PO Box 418 Leichhardt NSW 2040

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Rec: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_ Filed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Accepted by the management committee on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) (name)