

## List of Presenters in Alphabetical Order

### **Gavin Bannerman**

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Gavin Bannerman is the Oral History and Digital Storytelling Coordinator at the State Library of Queensland. He is involved in commissioning, creating, acquiring, registering, documenting and making accessible oral histories and digital stories that relate to SLQ's strategic objective of capturing "Queensland Memory." Stories that have been captured include the stories of people living in remote Indigenous communities, local historians, high school children, politicians, activists and Ms Quentin Bryce AC, when she was still the Governor of Queensland.

### **Dr John Benseman**

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John Benseman has worked in adult education and literacy for over 30 years as a practitioner and program administrator, but mainly as a researcher and evaluator. He started his working life as an elementary school teacher, but "became disillusioned with the task of constantly trying to motivate reluctant learners and became much more interested in working with adults who were much more motivated". After studying adult education in Sweden for a year, he worked in continuing medical education, followed by seven years of running a community-based adult education organisation and a similar period of self-employment as a researcher. After teaching adult education at the University of Auckland for twelve years, he moved in 2007 to the Department of Labour to run a national workplace literacy research project. The project will be completed in late 2009.

### **Ron Cox**

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Ron is the Director, Adult Education Vocational Education and Training with the Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Australia. In this position he is responsible for managing the delivery of education and training to offenders in all Queensland correctional centres. Ron also manages the Post Release Employment Assistance Program that supports ex-prisoners to gain and maintain long-term employment post release. Prior to his involvement in corrections Ron worked in Vocational Education and Training (VET) for approximately 27 years within the Queensland Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system. Ron has a Bachelor of Education and a Certificate in Mechanical Engineering and is currently the President of the Australasian Corrections Education Association (ACEA).

### **Hazel Davidson**

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Hazel Davidson has been an ESL teacher for some 25 years, with a special interest in beginners' literacy. She also has a strong background in grammar, which she has taught for many years to students (and teachers and tutors) at all levels. She has also produced a number of books and other resources for adult literacy and ESL learners.

### **Nicola Donaldson**

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Nicola Donaldson is employed as a Rehabilitation worker in Stepping Stone Clubhouse - a community based psychosocial rehabilitation service for adults with a history of mental illness. Nicola completed a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Hons) at the University of Queensland in 2008. She is interested in community health services, adult learning and emotional cognition.

### **Mervyn Edmunds**

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Merv is a teacher, trainer and therapist. He is the first Australian qualified in a new approach to emotional health from the UK that has implications for teaching and learning. Merv has enabled many disenfranchised learners to experience success through innovative practice, and has presented at many conferences here and overseas.

**Robyn Ernst**

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Robyn Ernst has 15 years experience working in Corrections, primarily with female prisoners. She is currently the Manager of Helena Jones Centre, a low security correctional centre for females. She holds a bachelor degree in Social Science and a Masters in Suicidology.

**Alicia Eugene**

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Alicia Eugene is currently the Manager, Throughcare and External Services Unit within Queensland Corrective Services (QCS). In this role, she is responsible for overseeing the delivery of contracted services for prisoners, including chaplaincy and Indigenous services. She was responsible for designing and implementing the Agency's release preparation and reintegration support model, and continues to oversee this model across the state. She received a public service Australia Day Award for this work in 2008. Alicia has previously worked as a high school teacher, a prison Education Officer and as a senior project officer on various projects within QCS. She holds a Bachelor of Justice (Criminology) with 1st class Honours and a Grad B. Ed (Secondary). She completed her Honours thesis on the self-identified reintegration needs of Indigenous offenders in Queensland and has a particular interest in the fields of Indigenous justice and social justice.

**Sue Feeney**

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Sue Feeney teaches literacy and numeracy at Southbank Institute of Technology, Brisbane. She is interested in specific learning difficulties and the need for the teacher to have the opportunity to diagnose what is not working for the student in their learning. Her approach emphasises creating new learning patterns. She believes an individualized approach to teaching is vital to success when working with many adult learners. Her presentation looks at several individual learners, their difficulties, and different teaching approaches.

**Ann Kelly**

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Ann Kelly is a lecturer in adult literacy at Griffith University. She has been involved in this field for over twenty years as a teacher, researcher and executive officer for both the Queensland Council for Adult Literacy and the Australian Council for Adult Literacy.

**Ross Kelly**

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Ross Kelly has been a special educator, education administrator and educational consultant for nearly forty years. His teaching experience includes working with students presenting with learning difficulties, disabilities and challenging behaviour. Ross is currently the National Disability Coordinator Officer for South East Queensland, promoting training and higher education opportunities for people with a disability as a pathway to employment.

His interest in the use of adaptive technology in the classroom began in 1979 when he obtained an early model personal computer and began to develop simple educational software to use with students in his class. Interest in the use of the broad range of educational and adaptive software has continued throughout his professional life. Currently Ross is exploring and promoting ways adaptive technology can be integrated into programs offered by registered training organisations.

**Beth Marr**

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Beth Marr has extensive experience in adult numeracy teaching, curriculum development, resource production and professional development. During her time teaching in TAFE and university (VET teacher training) she has worked with teams of teachers to produce a collection of adult numeracy resources, including: Mathematics: A new beginning; Strength in Numbers; Breaking the Maths Barrier and Numeracy on the Line. She has also conducted interactive professional development workshops for teachers all over Australia. Most recently Beth has led a team of teachers to develop and conduct workplace numeracy training in the East Timor Ministry of Finance. This has made her enthusiastic to become involved in further development work, particularly to find opportunities for working with indigenous people in Australia. Beth is currently working on adapting a new series of US adult numeracy resources for use in Australia.

**Philippa McLean**

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Philippa McLean has extensive experience in quality assurance in adult education, with particular expertise in adult language, literacy and numeracy. In recent years Philippa's prime focus has been on project management and the delivery of professional development and project work for adult language literacy and numeracy teachers and trainers at a statewide and national level, including the development of an assessment tool for Corrections Victoria, and on quality assurance and compliance issues in the VET sector. Philippa is a member of the project team that developed the Australian Core Skills Framework, ACSF.

**Rod Nason**

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Rod Nason is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at the Queensland University of Technology. Rod's areas of research interest are: (1) computer-support for mathematics teaching and learning, (2) pre- and in-service education of mathematics teachers, and (3) computer-support for collaborative learning in mathematics. In these studies, he has developed iconic representation tools, cognitive scaffolds and authentic math problems. He is the principal researcher in the Enhancing Numeracy in Prisons Project (ENIPP), a research project funded by a large Linkage Research Grant from the Australian Research Council.

**Dr Sarah Prestridge**

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Dr Sarah Prestridge has always been interested in technologies and how they can enhance learning outcomes. As a primary school teacher she tinkered with early simulations and communications technology. She ran an ICT Lighthouse project that examined ICT and mathematics, studied her Masters in ICT education and worked as an ICT Curriculum Adviser for the Department of Education. Her passion for leading others along the pathway of technology integration has been fuelled by the excitement both teachers and students generate while engaging with ICT. Her current interests focus on the use of communications technologies in both social and educational spaces. Sarah currently lectures in ICT education at Griffith University.

**Elaine Roberts**

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Elaine is a Public Service Medalist, a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and a teacher. She was Group Manager of Training and Development in Queensland Rail where she instigated major workplace literacy initiatives. She now works across a range of industries to research and facilitate learning where people work.

**Chris Schluter**

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Chris Schluter works for Career Employment Australia. She has been implementing and researching literacy/numeracy programs in the VET sector for the past 13 years. For the past 7 years her focus has been on co-ordinating programs in prisons, research and designing best practice methodologies for corrective services. She is passionate about the delivery of education to all, particularly those unable to access programs through traditional delivery modes – people isolated in our community. Her favorite saying is "Bloom where you are planted" through the vehicle of education. She holds a Master of Education (International Education)

**Jean Searle**

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Jean Searle is the Vice-President of the Queensland Council for Adult Literacy. She is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Education and Professional Studies (Brisbane-Logan), Faculty of Education, Griffith University where she taught subjects focusing on adult literacy in both under-graduate and post-graduate degrees. Jean is also a member of the Griffith Institute for Education Research and through the previous Centre for Learning Research she completed a research project investigating the literacy and numeracy profiles of prisoners on remand in selected correctional centres in SE Queensland.

**Alison Sutton**

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Alison has worked in adult literacy for 21 years as a researcher, evaluator and project developer. Her interest is in building an evidence base for effective adult literacy and numeracy teaching. She is currently leading a family learning and literacy development.

**Deb Symes**

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Deb Symes entered the adult literacy field as a volunteer tutor in the late 1990s. She has a Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education and a Master of Education. She has been teaching adult literacy and numeracy since 2002 and is currently facilitating literacy and numeracy learning with students from a diverse range of backgrounds and abilities at Southbank Institute of Technology. She is also co-ordinator and facilitator of the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Teaching at Southbank.

**Andy Yeh**

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Dr Andy Yeh is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Education, University of Southern Queensland. His research interests include the design and evaluation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in higher education and schools, and the use of ICTs particularly in facilitating the learning in mathematics and science.