



## The Conference

*Stories, places, spaces: Literacy and identity* is a national conference covering all aspects of English and literacy teaching in Australia. It is being convened by the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) SA local council and the South Australian English Teachers Association (SAETA), on behalf of two peak professional associations, the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) and the Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE). The conference will be held at the **Adelaide Convention Centre 6-9 July, 2008** and will focus attention on successful strategies and ideas from leading educators from Australia and around the world.

## The Target Audience

Approximately 800 participants are expected to attend the conference, comprising the following clientele:

- preschool educators
- primary teachers with English literacy interest and expertise
- primary principals and executives
- secondary teachers of English
- secondary principals and executives
- teachers of English as a second language
- education authority representatives from government and non-government sectors across Australia
- undergraduate and postgraduate teacher educators from tertiary institutions Australia wide
- literacy consultants.

## Aims and Themes

This significant educational conference brings together speakers and delegates from across Australia and around the world to share research and explore strategies for improving teaching and learning in literacy and in English classrooms.

Stories, as they are told, retold, represented and enacted define, unite and situate us. They have the power to shape our pasts and create our futures. Communicating through stories occurs in an ever expanding range of places and narrative spaces. Teachers play an essential role in nurturing the capacity of children and students to share, critique and produce their own stories, in dynamic and relevant ways.

This conference will present exciting opportunities for teachers to come together and explore the potential of stories, both fiction and non-fiction, through the four main strands:

- Cultural - Tales from many places and of many peoples that recognise and respect diversity and enhance our ways of knowing
- Critical - Told and untold stories that acknowledge how some groups are heard and some are silenced
- Professional - Learning stories where teachers share their practice and knowledge, their inquiries and successes, and raise their professional standards
- Multimodal - Many ways of telling through the range of texts emerging and merging in technological, visual, performance and community spaces.

## The Program

The program consists of:

- Two and a half days of entertaining plenary and keynote speakers and concurrent workshop sessions plus an opening night
- A social program including Welcome Reception and conference drinks.

## Keynote speakers

The Keynote speakers at our conference will consist of professional educators, academics and researchers who contribute significantly to advancing literacy education both nationally and internationally. The keynote speakers will discuss the relevant and current issues surrounding literacy in Australia, in relation to our topic: *Stories, places, spaces: Literacy and identity*. The following is a list of the keynote speakers to date, although other guest speakers will be invited and confirmed closer to the commencement of the conference:

- Mr Dave Brown
- Professor Victoria Carrington
- Associate Professor Phil Cormack
- Mr David Hornsby
- Professor Glynda Hull
- Mr Mike Ladd
- Bronwyn MacLeod
- Dr Jackie Marsh
- Dr Karen Martin
- Dr Daniel Meadows
- Associate Professor Helen Nixon
- Professor Annette Patterson
- Ms Ruth Pfeiler
- Mr Rex Rehn
- Professor Judith Rivalland
- Mr Shaun Tan

## THE CONVENING ASSOCIATIONS

### Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA)



The Australian Literacy Educators' Association was established in 1964 as the Australian Reading Association (ARA). In 1991 ARA changed its name to reflect the changing nature of literacy teaching. ALEA has an Australian-wide membership of approximately 2500, with local councils in every state and territory. National membership is made up of primary teachers, principals and schools; secondary teachers, principals and schools; English literacy consultants within the government, and non-government education sectors; independent literacy consultants and undergraduate and post graduate tertiary educators and education students.

ALEA is dedicated to literacy development and language learning at all levels of education. ALEA provides members and interested educators with support and professional development in literacy teaching and learning through international and national conferences and state and regional workshops and seminars. Members are part of an international network of teachers with a commitment to teaching and learning in the field of language and literacy. States and territories are each represented by a delegate at meetings of the ALEA National Council. ALEA is a member of the International Reading Association and the National Education Forum.

ALEA publishes the *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy*, *Practically Primary*, *Literacy Learning: The Middle Years*, and a range of other publications for parents and educators.

### Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE)



The Australian Association for the Teaching of English is the national arm of Australian state / territory associations for the teaching of English. It has an Australia - wide membership of approximately 5800. This membership is made up of secondary teachers, undergraduate and postgraduate teachers in training and undergraduate and postgraduate tertiary educators.

AATE publishes and distributes the quarterly journal *English in Australia* and a range of other quality resources for teacher and student use (in a variety of media). It makes funds available to assist teachers with research and special projects. AATE assists in the organisation of international and national conferences and seminars.

AATE also reviews and responds to state and national educational initiatives thereby giving English teachers a national voice. AATE members are part of an international network of teachers with a commitment to teaching and learning in the field of language and literacy. The state associations are each represented by a delegate at meetings of the AATE Council. AATE is a member of the International Federation for the Teaching of English and the National Education Forum.