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These days, representatives from educational, local government and employers' groups are looking for the similarities instead of the differences.

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by Mary Hamilton

There are no absolutes in literacy, and this is made apparent by the shift from psychological and cognitive models to those that include social and cultural factors.

- 16 **Revisiting the past: a rhetorical approach to language and literacy education**
by Rob McCormack

Current political attitudes aside, there are some valuable lessons to be learned from looking back to the past. The use of rhetoric as a means of formulating persuasive arguments is one of these.

- 19 **More than just graffiti: writing on the surface**
by Jack Frawley

Writing is more than a series of arrangements of the Latin alphabet on paper. In the Aboriginal community it is a form that encompasses painting, carving, etching and many formal and free-form styles of written expression.

Regulars

- 21 **Open Forum**

As always, there is a lot happening at the edge of formal literacy work. Tricia Bowen and illustrator Ana-Maria Espinoza show us how—once again—a map helps refugees and others from NESBs find a place to rest; Margaret Hanrahan fills the gaps between teaching sessions; Robin Tymms makes us aware of the valuable but uncostable outcomes to be found in teaching CGEA classes.

- 27 **Policy Update**

In the first of two articles, Rosa McKenna discusses the evolution of the Australian Quality Training Framework, which comes into effect in July.

- 30 **Beside the Whiteboard**

Jane Casey talks to Rachel Wilson about the new Managed Individual Pathways program for young people making the transition from school to work, training or further education.

Publication Details

Commissioning Editor: Helena Spyrou

Copy Editor: Glen Dower

Fine Print Editorial Group: Rachel Wilson, Michael Chalk, Sarah Deasey, Paul Rawlinson, Chris Anderson, Katrina Lyle

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Fine Print is published by the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council Inc. (VALBEC).

Fine Print is the registered journal of VALBEC
ISSN No: 0159 – 3978

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The opinions expressed through material are not necessarily those of the *Fine Print* Editorial Group or VALBEC.

Layout: digital environs
mick@digitalenvirons.com

Printing: Document Printing Australia P/L, Port Melbourne

Cover image: Michael Chalk