

Public Meeting – Adult Ed – 16April08

Launceston: Centre of Democracy



Bob McMahon: Master of Ceremonies. Began proceedings with a preamble dealing with his own connections to Adult Education, noted the absence from the meeting of the Minister for Education, David Bartlett, as well as that of various regional managers and bureaucrats, pointed out the democratic nature of the community's role in seeking to influence its government. He outlined a program of 5 minutes speeches from the invited speakers, and 2 minutes each for speakers' comments/questions from the floor of the meeting.



Dr Frank Madill was introduced to the meeting as an icon, and an ex Liberal Minister, and as a supporter of Adult Ed. He introduced his remarks on the Govt's changes to Adult Ed, by saying "if it ain't broke don't fix it." It was clear that he is a public figure, quite well known and liked by the community, there was a niceness about the way he spoke. He told us that Adult Education was "a wonderful part of our community" and he won acclamation from the MC for having taken just 3:12 seconds to make his views known.

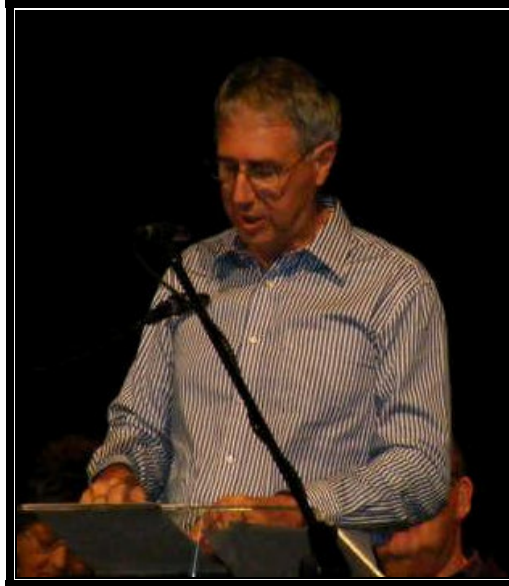
“Keep fighting & you'll win,” he said, “It's as simple as that!”

Peter Cundall was next. Bob introduced him as the Tasmanian of the Year, and a former Adult Education tutor. Peter himself told the meeting how in the early 60's he got involved in Adult Education. He said that Adult Ed arose out of groups of 2nd AIF returned servicemen, following the end of the Second World War. It then became the Workers Education Association before evolving into what is now known as Adult Education. He himself, had become involved in teaching people how to grow plants. As an ex machine-guns weapons

instructor, he said it “wasn’t much difference dealing with plants as it was with machine guns.” This drew laughs.

He told us how Cape Barren Islanders had wanted help in establishing a large vegetable garden. Adult Ed flew him there. They’d done a lot of work clearing the ground for the garden. He told us about a problem that the islanders reported to him. They’d planted cabbages, and described to him how their cabbages had developed cancerous tumours on them. Peter told us that on investigation, he discovered the “best crop of broccoli I’d ever seen in my life.” It’s still in living memory that there was a time once, when broccoli was an unknown on the Australian dinner plate.

Peter complimented Adult Education, saying that in the last 10 to 20 years, there had been non-stop criticism of the Ed Dept, but not of Adult Ed. “Why kill it?” he asked. Because “they want to flog it.” He said he would ‘fight to the death’ to try to stop this. **“Keep fighting and you’ll win,” he told us, “It’s as simple as that!”**



Malcolm White CEO Skills Tasmania (TAFE). He was at the meeting to represent the Minister for Education, David Bartlett, and to deliver us a message from the Premier. Adult Ed? “It’s not under threat”. In fact, it wants to engage more people in it. He told the meeting that the Adult Ed brand would continue as long as there were enrolments and for as long as courses were financially viable. This evoked polite jeers from the audience. He continued. ‘Funding per student has risen’ he told us.

“It’s about improving the system.” He told us how aspects of the new system had been trial-led in Summer Schools and that there were ‘no buildings up for sale,’ this last he qualified by adding ‘though venues might change’.

Statistics: ‘Adult Education has 30,000 enrolments annually.’ Everyone had agreed on that, and it sounded good... at the end he delivered the conclusion at which he had undoubtedly been directing his remarks: “The future of Adult Ed in Tasmania is assured.”

An out-of-order reflexion on Peter Cundall’s statement:

“Keep fighting and you’ll win, it’s as simple as that!”

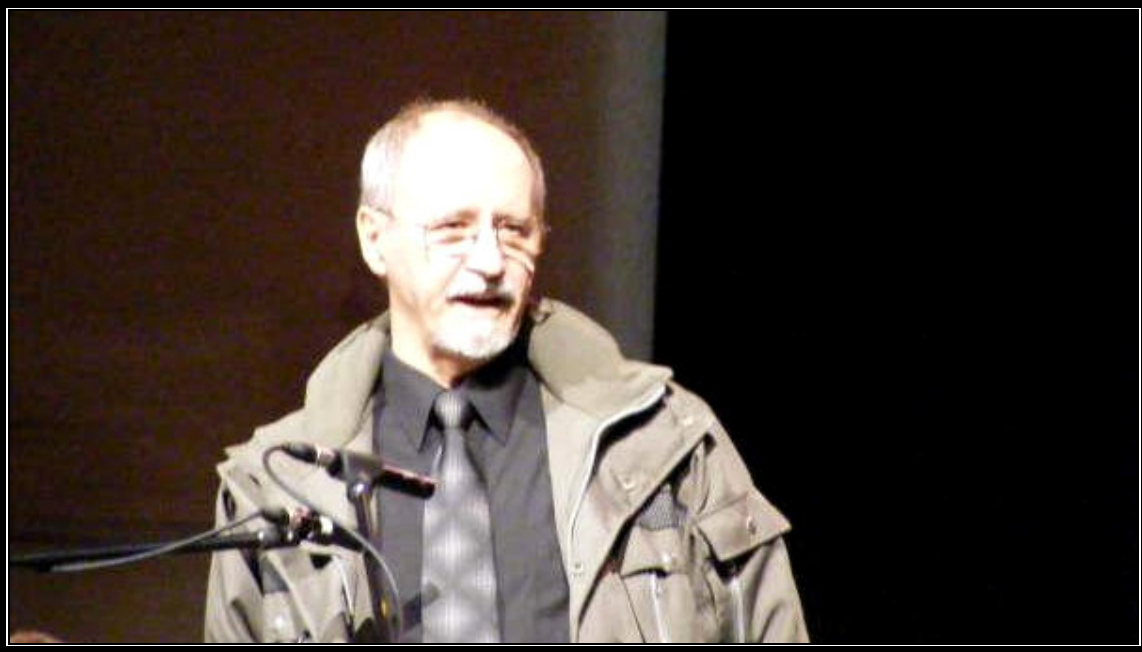
Peter has said this many times over the years. If I’ve thought about it in the past, maybe I’ve been a little uncomfortable – as if here is some easy promise that can’t be delivered. But on Thursday night, hearing it again, I began thinking about it and trying to come to some final conclusion. A promise of easy victory, or something far more subtle? I’m tending to the ‘far more subtle’ and would offer these remarks: Maybe he means, that those who surrender, lose. While you keep fighting, the battle is not over. Maybe his **“Keep fighting and you’ll win”** statement is an army motto - meaning that the winner is the one who throws the last punch. If we keep fighting, longer than our opponents, then we’ll win. What a pity I express it in terms of fighting. Combat rather than simply competition. Okay, we should try and out-compete. But sometimes we can’t get back to square one, sometimes the damage is done. Is competition itself acceptable as an agent for/against change? Then there is another view: **“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”** What about if rather than wanting to change things, however, you want to resist change? I feel affinity with some of the speakers at the Tailrace, the ‘we just want it to keep on going, we like it, we don’t want it to change’ category. How do we make a new idea obsolete, an old one popular? A hearts and minds approach? Maybe there’s no winning, maybe everything has its price. Dunno. I think I’ll go with Cundall, I’ll keep fighting, and I won’t give up, but the battle lines seem to keep on changing.



June told us of a 50 year connection with Adult Ed. She told us that learning is part of life – and that it helps to extend people’s lives. Adult Community Ed (ACE) helps adults lead fulfilling lives before and after retirement.



Jocelynn: a former refugee and now social worker, told how “education signifies freedom” How the stigmas around those who lack education lead to self doubt - ‘you don’t believe in yourself.’



Ian from Reptile Rescue, told us that it was David Bartlett who had helped him get started. Reptile Rescue had done a lot for wildlife in Tas, and he said it needed Adult Ed to recruit new members to the cause. Will Adult Ed disappear? “Let it not happen in Tas”



Kim: said she was confused. She said that from the Friends of Adult Ed, she heard talk of doom and gloom but that according Bartlett there were no threats to Adult Ed and that [the changes in Adult Ed] were the “best thing since sliced bread.”

She then began to speak about another matter¹, saying that she felt used and abused, being here at the meeting which she said was a “quasi TAP meeting.” (Tasmanians Against the Pulpmill). She referred to TAP propaganda which had been placed on all the seats. “I’m sorry”, she concluded, “but you’ve lost me.” She returned to her seat amidst modest applause.



Barry: spoke of the friendships formed, how for him Adult Ed was a place to be. It gave him satisfaction to be able to help in giving people what they want.

Malcolm: tutor in Adult Ed 32 years. Said that he was an agent for change. That he was not at the meeting to oppose change, but that he wanted improvement in how it was managed.

He spoke of the lack of a strategic plan and how the process of change was not just about outcomes, but also about communication [that was necessarily a part of the process]. He wanted tutors 'kept in the loop' and some evaluation: "review and address these shortcomings." He finished by calling for the release of a survey that had been done 6 months prior by Adult Ed.



Kerry Finch: MLC Rosevears "lifelong education starts at birth ...before birth ... and goes on till the moment of our death". It's not an add-on hobby, he told us.. According to Kerry, half of Adult Ed's members were concession card holders. He gently questioned whether this might mean not enough youngsters were currently participating. He cautioned that Adult Ed would be judged on numbers. The 30,000 figure he saw as good, but drew attention to the lack of growth in the figure. Why was this the case?

He spoke of the concept of social capital, saying that such a thing was something that you couldn't have too much of. He said that 12 months down the track, we'd be able to judge whether the government been genuine that there should be seen an increase in numbers.



Sue Napier in a good-humoured address, cautioned the government not to “throw the baby out with the bathwater” “As far as I’m concerned the capital A stays and the capital E stays.”

Echoing Malcolm, the tutor, she asked “What is the big vision? What is the big plan?” Adult Education needed to stay an independent unit. Her impression was that the ERMS survey (cf. Malcolm: 6 months ago) had only just been completed. If Adult Ed was running at a loss, that to her suggested that there was bad management from the top. If the public could be convinced [of the merit of the changes] then it would be ok, she said. However she pointed out the human factor, how some of us get attached to particular buildings. If Adult Education offered quality, affordable, and accessible, then changes would be acceptable. She finished by referring to the \$1.8m budget, saying that the Annual report of the Education Dept projected a decrease in ...the budget?



Nick McKim had attended Barry’s woodturning classes. He’d seen lots of woodturning but also people who were wanting up-skilling and the sort of personal contact and support offered by Adult Ed staff to students. “These are the intangible benefits of Adult Ed in Tas,” he told the meeting. [quite a few claps...] He told us the Community Knowledge Network will absorb Adult Ed, and he recalled Malcolm White’s remark that all courses will be maintained as long as viable. He questioned what this meant, did it mean that

each course will have 'of itself' to cover its costs? It seemed to McKim that there would be no more cross-subsidising from popular courses. No more undersubscribed courses being funded out of the earnings of the over subscribed. Ultimately McKim said that Adult Ed should not be about the money, but that it was about the outcomes.

He told the meeting that it was a shame David Bartlett wasn't at the meeting to answer some of the questions. 'Nothing's up for sale' at the moment!
Adult Ed was being reduced, subsumed, the brand under threat. Its name and its brand must be maintained and its outcomes enhanced – he said that the Greens would fight for it.

Bob McMahon: remarking that democracy always came at a price, told Kimⁱⁱ who hadn't been happy about it being [in her view] a 'quasi TAP meeting', that the propaganda on her chair was about the new planning laws proposed by the government.



Lyn Jarvis: Meeting Coordinator, Friends of Adult Ed spokeswoman, told us how Adult Ed had become an icon because it has survived over the course of time. She said that courses had helped her physical and mental well-being. It had taught people to do so many things, and Lynne reeled them off. Some she mentioned were how to use computers, run groups, to keep mind and body healthy “instead of just sitting on the couch at night eating potato chips” We were told about the School for Seniors, in High St, Launceston and how it's always been a separate organization uncovered by bureaucracy and goes above and beyond expectations. ‘Its achievements are great.’ If merged, she said that it would lose that special quality. She asked the meeting to “to press for the retention of Adult Ed – [it] has the runs on the board [and] remains immensely popular with the general population”

She informed us that David Bartlett had said that Adult Ed was a luxury and that it should be grateful for the funding it gets. It seemed as if it would be dominated by the library. “Someone has come up with a grand plan and that's it ... we have to have it.” She asked where is the research was, to justify the changes, There had been no demand for the changes from the public, she and complained that bureaucrats had been already at this change for 2 and a half years without a single educational outcome. She was prepared to accept the building of a range of new LINC Centresⁱⁱⁱ which she said was a good idea, but she asked why sacrifice Adult Education? Some of her concerns:

*Cost increases will not just be ordinary run of the mill increases, there would be new charges, though apparently the night before the meeting an instruction to reverse the cost increases has been issued.

*Concessions will be calculated differently and some will be worse off *Upfront payments will suit management, but not the customer who has no credit card – they will miss out. *upfront payments were inappropriate for dedicated AdultEds - they always paid up. *Neither were phones appropriate *(cf Sue Napier): OK to close some programs, but need to know: why? *Nick McKim was correct to be concerned that cross-subsidising would end, meaning for example, that Adult Ed in the north-west would be at risk, without the \$s that usually came from solvent operations down in Hobart. *half staff of 2½ years ago has left.

Nothing in this process so far gave her any hope that those in charge have best interests ... she asked that ...take stock, listen and act accordingly, “lest it fade into nothing.”



Elaine: told of her husband's health going, of depression, of becoming a widow, how she got "down in the dumps." "Being with other people keeps you up and going." She thought that the decrease in people doing Adult Ed came about because some can't enrol in courses because they aren't online, or don't have credit cards.



Rosemary: tutor 15 years. Said Adult Ed has students "that really want to learn...they trust you...always there to support you." The Critique sheets are full. "No assessments hence no pressure" "You don't have to scratch very far below the surface to find a need" [the human factor] "They give some students the reason to get out of bed" No need to change it. "Let it stay as it is please"

Barry Lumley: Chairman, Launceston School for Seniors, uses Adult Ed premises in the daytime. Appointment of extra strata of bureaucracy have resulted in loss of **morale**. Bartlett's promise not to move School for Seniors at odds with Andy Norris who wants to put everything in the State Library. Bartlett says he has "no plans to change" the school, but Barry told us how you can withhold maintenance from a building, so that it gets run down, till it gets to the stage it has to be vacated – lack of maintenance – in order to close it! He told us of School for Seniors' 400 enrolments, of its 50 courses and 70 tutors. This, he said, was a success story. All they wanted, was to be allowed to continue.

Danny: spoke of changes to Computer services, of falling numbers, that consultation had highlighted poor management and lack of planning, of falling standards in Information Technology support. He told us that Online Access Centres wouldn't provide as good computer Education ...



Mary Bassano: (whose introduction elicited strong applause) representing the AEU (TAFE) – exec member, told us how the union had been receiving report of negative changes in Adult Ed, how staff leaving Adult Ed had meant extra workloads for those remaining, how management seemed disinterested, the staff were fearful of speaking out. The perception was that Adult Ed no longer welcomed critical thinkers.

Bob McMahon: put two resolutions to the meeting, noting that there was a difference between a resolution and a motion, and that the former could be dealt with immediately [it would not require the speakers for and against scenario associated with formal motions]:

1 That Adult Education be removed immediately from the Community Knowledge Network (CKN) structure and re-instated as an independent, state-wide organisation, complete with pre-CKN facilities, staffing levels and funding.

-Accepted unanimously by the meeting.

2 That an open and transparent mechanism be established to consult the community about the future of Adult Education an adult and community learning in Tasmania for the purpose of ensuring this sector remains properly funded and able to provide equitable, affordable and accessible learning opportunities for adults into the future – to be acted on without delay

Accepted unanimously by the meeting after the last 6 words were tacked on..

FURTHER QUESTIONS canvassed:

-a drop in online access numbers

-proposition that online access centres were rivals to Adult Ed

-Malcolm White was asked what he would take back to Bartlett. He replied that his answer would include:

*confusion

*the perception that the changes had not been managed well

*that Adult Ed is valued highly in the north

-Adult Ed numbers dropped in the last 2 years with the new organisation

-Govt contributions to Adult learning had actually increased

-that the messages were exceedingly clear for Malcolm to take back to the Premier.

AFTER THE MEETING: I spoke to Mary Bassano. (AEU) She told me that:

- the trouble had been going on for 2½ years.
- Adult Ed generated \$2.6m (last year?)
- staff don't see own budgets or statistics
- Paula Wreidt was ok, the changes started with Bartlett
- Joanna said it was about them (the Govt?) wanting Adult Ed's \$1.8m funding

FURTHER READING:

Friends of Adult Ed

<http://www.friendsofae.org/> ✓✓✓✓✓

Get Adult Ed out of the network ...

Lynn Jarvis Friends of Adult Education

Meeting votes: Get Adult Ed out of the Community Knowledge Network

<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php?/weblog/article/get-adult-ed-out-of-the-network/> ✓✓✓

CKN Strategy "Community Knowledge Network: Libraries, Online Access Centres, Adult Education and Archives Working Together" [David Bartlett, Oct 2006]

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/strategies/communityknowledgenetwork.DOC> ✓

2007-2008 Annual Report / Department of Education.

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/annualreport/07-08/Direction-Chapter.pdf>

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/annualreport/07-08/Financial-Statements-Chapter.pdf> ✓

[All I could glean was that for Adult Ed, budgets were blowing out, numbers decreasing]

Pg 10 - THE EXAMINER, Saturday, April 18, 2009 Ignored McKim's finger-on-the-pulse address

"Public Meeting reflects worries over Adult Ed" Conveyed impression Polley made a +ve contribution to the discussion.

[Public meeting reflects worries over Adult Ed](#)[20 credits] ✕✕✕ Not worth the money – see it on Appendix 3

18/04/2009 | A LAUNCESTON public meeting called this week to discuss concerns about the 60-year-old Adult Education sector's future brought a mixed reaction yesterday. Meeting coordinator and Friends of Adult...

Adult Ed unrest

Ross Dale

A formal investigation into the conduct of a number of senior Department of Education managers involved in the restructure of Adult Education under Premier Bartlett's Community Knowledge Network initiative has been commissioned.

<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php?/weblog/article/adult-ed-unrest/> ✓✓✓✓✓

Appendix 1: What got Kim Polley 'hot under the collar'.

<p>Do you trust the Government? In whose interest are the Government's proposed new planning laws? Why are they being fast-tracked?</p> <p>TAP Into a Better Tasmania is alarmed about the State Government's urgent changes to regional planning. Should the legislation be passed, local council involvement and public consultation will be curtailed and replaced by an executive decision-making process authorised by the Government Minister of the day.</p> <p>Good government acts in the best interests of the people, with full and open periods of public consultation. But the State Government is rushing new planning legislation through without saying much to councils and the community. Three 2-hour information sessions around the state for councils were the only avenue for learning about the most far-reaching changes to planning the state has seen in many years. The Minister did belatedly grant an extra week (over Easter) after some pressure.</p> <p>The proposed planning legislation provides –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inadequate time for public comment. Despite the enormous impact this proposed legislation will have on every Tasmanian, less than three weeks has been allowed for public comment.2. More Ministerial executive power and less community say on development projects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. More secrecy. There is no requirement for the Minister to make public any decisions that are made about projects deemed to be of regional significance. Secrecy opens the way for project developers to curry favour with substantial donations to election campaigns.4. Severely restricted rights to appeal planning decisions.5. Local planning regulations over-riden to comply with a potentially controversial, Government-backed development.6. Restricted focus on economics. Best practice assessment also includes the pluses and minuses of the project on society and their environment.7. Powers to label a project as being regionally significant if the "Minister forms the opinion" that a council has shown bias towards or against a project before it is assessed.8. Powers to declare a Project of Regional Significance (PORS) on any land that the State identifies, simply by making a regulation. The Government has not ruled out compulsory acquisition of private land for a PORS. <p>In summary, the new planning laws appear tailor-made for a project like Gunns' pipeline, or an application like Forest Enterprises' plan for plantations at Lilydale, or the plan by DIER to install T-junctions for the East Tamar Highway instead of safer roundabouts promoted by the Launceston City Council. In all these cases, the community and their councils could be shut out.</p>	<p>Turn over for a story on how the Government's new planning laws might work for a current issue – Gunns' water pipeline.</p> <p>What can you do? Doing nothing means that the government will have the legislation passed as "early as possible". The next Parliamentary sitting is 12–14 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come to the public information forum 12.30 – 1.30pm, Tuesday 21 April in Civic Square, Launceston.• Find out the position of the five candidates for Legislative Council electorate of Windermere. Under electoral law, we can't tell you their names with-out their express permission.• Ask your local council to hold an urgent public information meeting. Launceston did and got 150 people at short notice.• Ring Minister David Llewellyn, or your member of the Legislative Council; write about your concerns to the media; ring up ABC radio; do something! <p>To protect the community, TAP Into a Better Tasmania strongly demands that the State Government's planning review process be stopped to allow a full and proper input by the public and all local councils.</p> <p>More information at the TAP website http://www.tapvision.info/node/562 Join online discussion at www.tasmaniantimes.com.au</p>
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Open letter to David Bartlett on the future of Adult Education 1 April 2009
No acknowledgement or answers to any of these questions has been received.

Dear Mr Bartlett

As you are aware, Friends of Adult Ed is organising a public meeting in Launceston, 16 April 2009 because of concerns about the long-term future of the organisation. These concerns have arisen out of ambiguous statements and commitments made over the past 18 months, from information contained in an Examiner article in January this year and from informal reports from within Adult Education about what is really happening to that organisation.

I am writing to you in the hope that you can clarify these issues now.

Given recent events, particularly in relation to the sale of TOTE Tasmania, you can understand that we are hesitant to accept broad, blanket statements and will instead only be satisfied when specific questions and issues are addressed and answered in a clear, straightforward and un-ambiguous way.

1. Can you tell us what the continual statements that Adult Education will be retained "as long as classes are viable" or "as long as people continue to enrol in courses" actually mean? That is:
 - i. How exactly will 'viability' be determined?
 - ii. Under the previous organisation model of Adult Education the state was looked at as a single entity and certain courses and areas could be subsidised to ensure more equitable provision. Will this model continue?
 - iii. If prices rises are imposed on courses and enrolments decline, will this mean they are deemed 'not viable' and therefore reason to discontinue provision?
 - iv. If other bureaucratic decisions (see point 4 & 7 below) result in falling enrolments, will that then be cause to discontinue provision?
2. The renaming of Adult Education teams under the banner of 'Community Learning'. Do your comments of yesterday mean this is off the agenda entirely? Or does it mean Adult Education will exist as a brand, but with no discreet structure or funding, under some Community Learning umbrella?
3. Andy Norris, Adult & Community Learning Services manager was quoted in the 23 Jan Examiner article saying, "...the name Adult Education was still being used on the front cover of both the autumn and winter program guides. But he said that it would be one of the issues looked at in a review of brands in the next 12 months." Do your comments of yesterday override this?
4. Retention of facilities (particularly in urban centres) – Mr Norris said whilst there were "no immediate plans to sell off facilities...eventually he would like to see all parts of the northern Community Knowledge Network housed at the Launceston Library". This, along with already implemented plans in Hobart to 'rationalise' facilities, suggests that the selling off of buildings is highly likely in the future therefore,
 - i. What commitment do you give that environments suitable for adult learning will be maintained and that adults will not become second-class learners having to 'make do' wherever they can?
 - ii. Can you confirm the South Hobart and Eastern Shore Adult Education facilities are being closes and/or sold?
 - iii. If facilities are sold, will that money go to provide for facilities hire for classes now without venues?
 - iv. Or will the cost of hiring alternative facilities then have to be absorbed by individual course fees? If so and enrolments decline as a result (simple principles of supply and demand dictate they are likely to fall at a given point) will this mean that this provision is 'no longer viable' and therefore may not be supported into the future?
6. You state that course guides are still coming out, however, we believe this is no longer the case in the North West. Can you inform us whether or not this is correct, and if so, why this has happened?

You were quoted in the Examiner as saying that you wanted to see "the guides come out every Autumn and every Spring". Does this mean there will be no winter guide in the future?
7. Despite your statement that staff at Adult Ed still have their jobs, please comment on the fact that half of the staff have left either resigning, being reassigned or due to ill health, since coming in to the CKN structure. What do you believe this says about how effectively this process has been managed by high-paid senior bureaucrats?
5. You describe the current \$1.8 million allocation to Adult Education as a luxury and far more generous than other states. This along with comments from CKN management about 'hobby' and 'lifestyle' courses indicates from our perspective a serious lack of understanding of and appreciation for the myriad of benefits the provision of a wide range of adult learning opportunities brings to both individuals and the community in general. We would be interested to hear what your experience of adult learning is (outside formal institutions), and how many people and/or groups you have consulted to gain an understanding of this sector? Also what research and/or community consultation process was undertaken as a basis for these new policy directions?
7. Your letter to the editor boasts of a new web-based enrolment system for Adult Education. We have had advice that a key feature of this system is the forced 'up-front' payment for classes. This heavily favours those people who are both computer literate (many of whom have no doubt learnt their skills through Adult Ed as it was and remains at the forefront of IT education for the general population for the past 20 years) and those people with credit cards. There are many issues of social equity that are brought up by the use of such a payment method – one that has bureaucratic benefits but little benefit for the student enrolling and seem contradictory to the CKN's aims of creating a more inclusive adult learning environment. Issues of particular concern are:
 - i. Many groups will now be disadvantaged, particularly when accessing popular classes – eg people outside urban areas who are unable to get to payment outlets to enrol and pay, people with mobility or transport problems, working people without credit cards. How can you guarantee all Tasmanians will have fair and equal access under this system? What policy or strategy covers this?
 - ii. If under this system there is a marked decline in enrolments, will you be making this information public?
 - iii. Will such a decline in enrolments then lead to this provision being deemed 'unviable' and therefore no longer supported by your government?

The reality is that it is decisions such as the one above that make us uneasy about the real 'education and social equity' credentials of those managing current policy changes in CKN and makes it difficult for us to trust that provision will truly be maintained and supported.

We look forward to your clarification of these points.
 Friends of Adult Ed

[devotes substantial space to Polley's remarks, as well as space to Sue Napier and Lyn Jarvis, the coordinator. Readers of the Examiner article would have been unaware that Nick McKim (Greens) addressed the meeting as an invited speaker – just as did Sue Napier (Lib) and Malcolm White representing David Bartlett (the Minister)]

Public meeting reflects worries over Adult Ed

By ALISON ANDREWS

A LAUNCESTON public meeting called this week to discuss concerns about the 60-year-old Adult Education sector's future brought a mixed reaction yesterday.

Meeting coordinator and Friends of Adult Ed spokeswoman Lyn Jarvis said that a resolution was passed at the meeting to push for the sector to be removed from the planned merger of libraries, offline access centres and adult education into the State Government's planned Community Knowledge Networks.

The meeting also called for urgent and transparent community consultation about the future of Adult Education and adult and community learning general in Tasmania.

Opposition education spokeswoman Sue Napier said that on paper the combining of Adult Education and other services into the new Community



Lyn Jarvis

Knowledge Networks seemed a reasonable idea.

"But we are now seeing a growing number of practical problems associated with this," she said.

"Two and a half years after Mr Bartlett announced the establishment of the Community Knowledge Network, there has been no effective consultation with staff and clients and as a consequence, stakeholders have no clear idea as to where the education provider is headed, nor do they have confidence that Mr Bartlett will not downgrade this valuable education provider."

Northern Midlands Mayor Kim Polley, who

attended the meeting as an Adult Education student, said that she was disappointed that the meeting appeared to have been hijacked by a Tamar Valley environmental lobbyist group, with leaflets left on seats inviting people to other meetings.

She said that there were mixed messages coming from the meeting, also attended by Skills Tasmania chief executive Malcolm White, representing Mr Bartlett and the State Government.

"If there are real issues, why can't both bodies sit down and sort them out, consult the tutors as well as the heads of the organisation?" she said.

Ms Jarvis said that she had nothing to do with the Tasmanians Against the Pulp mill group and that Friends of Adult Ed had been upfront about the involvement of Bob McMahon, who is also a spokesman for TAP.

ⁱ finding a pamphlet questioning the gov't's proposed Planning System changes on her seat.

ⁱⁱ Kim Polley:

-**Mayor** of Northern Midlands Council, member of the Polley Family Labor Dynasty. Perceived conflict of interest as local government representative which is about to have its planning scheme independence reduced by the Labor Bartlett Govt., of which her husband is a member of some standing.

-**Daughter** of Geoffrey Chisolm (dec.). MHA for Braddon (ALP) 15 years: 1964-79 Minister 1974-79

-**Sister-in-law** of Helen, (ALP) Federal Senator 2004-, who recently attacked Bob McMahon (Tasmanians Against the Pulp-mill) over Senator Bob Brown's criticism of an actual police terrorist exercise, in which scenario, anti-pulp mill activists were 'shot dead' by police after hypothetically hijacking a plane en route to King Island and taking it to Devonport. [The Police apologised]

-**Wife** of Michael, (ALP) Member of Tasmanian House of Assembly since 1972. Currently the Parliament's longest serving MHA. Held Ministries 1976-1980, Speaker twice (current speaker). Has overseen the PMAA 2007, and doubtless will ensure the Planning System changes will go through.

-**Mother** of Tim, Local Govt Councillor, who sits with her on the Northern Midlands Council. Tim this year (27th Jan) seconded a motion at Council "That the Council cease to act as a Planning Authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, for the remainder of the meeting" [maybe they just don't like planning – but please, before you go racing for your guns, this was procedural, nothing underhand, it's included for its ironical nature -GS]

ⁱⁱⁱ Learning Information Network Centre: a number of schemes housed under one roof? E.g., online centre, library, open learning.