

Tui Tuia

Newsletter of Literacy Aotearoa

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Kia ora koutou e ngā taura, ngā pouako, ngā kaiarahi katoa, tena koutou katoa. Greetings to you all. Our 'Week' is fast approaching, check out the links below if you are still trying to think of some activities or events to celebrate adult learning in your area. In this issue the new computerised system for learner licence theory testing is reviewed and includes online resources that learners can access. A new DVD is available from TEC and a new numeracy website has been launched.



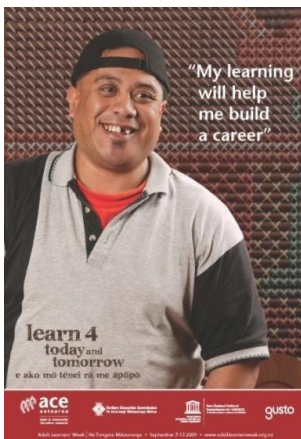
Adult Learners' Week - He Tangata Mātauranga 2010

06-12 Mahuru (September) 2010

Adult Learners' Week - He Tangata Mātauranga is a UNESCO* initiative that was established in Aotearoa New Zealand in 1998. International Literacy Day, 8 Mahuru (September) is also celebrated within the week. The week provides an opportunity to celebrate the effort and achievements of learners, tutors, managers, coordinators and organisations participating in adult learning provision.

'In Aotearoa New Zealand there are thousands of opportunities to take part in adult learning which doesn't necessarily take place in classrooms, require enrolment, assignments or assessments. Each year around half a million adult New Zealanders participate in learning programmes.' (ACE Aotearoa)

Some of our Poupou have announced their plans for their Adult Learners' Week – He Tangata Mātauranga events.



Literacy Aotearoa Wellington is holding an outdoor Scrabble game in Cuba Mall (just north of the West Bank arcade) on International Literacy Day, Wednesday 8 Mahuru (September), from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm. Passersby will be invited to contribute a word, and scores will be recorded. Wellington Central MP Grant Robertson will be in attendance from 1.00 - 1.30pm as will learners from Literacy Aotearoa Wellington. Anybody and everybody is welcome.

Literacy Waikato has organised a morning tea on the 9th to celebrate their amazing adult learners. 'We will have an opportunity for learners and tutors to express the way they feel about their learning. Written or drawn or both!'

They also suggested some ideas for individual tutors to do with their learners including: Take time to talk about progress made; publish some excellent writing your learner has done; have a treat at your learning session and share the recipe for a treat; think of achievements that can be rewarded with a certificate; write a poem/acrostic together; buy yourself a new book and encourage your learner to do the same; encourage your learner to read to a child; ask your learner (in advance) for suggestions of ways they would like to celebrate; set a new goal – for both of you. For more ideas go to:

<http://www.literacy.org.nz/reports.php#alw-htm>

*UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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www.adultlearnersweek.org.nz

06-12 Mahuru (September)

International Literacy Day
08 Mahuru (September)

ALW-HTM Launch 2010

This year's launch is being hosted by the Southern Network and will take place at Te Rau Aroha Marae, Bluff on Monday, 9 Mahuru (September) commencing with a Pōwhiri at 9.30am. For more information contact:

maryg@paradise.net.nz

[Click here](#) to view planned events, information, media updates, and regional contacts for the week; or go to:

<http://www.adultlearnersweek.org.nz>



New Zealand Road Code Learner Licence Theory Test – From scratch to click

BACKGROUND - For many years adult learners throughout the country have attended courses delivered by Literacy Aotearoa and other adult community education providers preparing them for the learner, restricted and heavy traffic road licences.

LEARNING STRATEGIES - These courses have commonly been run as group sessions of approximately two hours each, over a 6-8 week period.

Tutors and learners worked from the A4-size New Zealand Road Code books, reading through the book, section by section and learning the rules and requirements for passing the test. Some providers (e.g. Literacy Whangarei) have used data projectors to show the pages on a large screen, a great strategy for keeping everybody 'on the same page'.

Many of these learners had not had positive exam experiences throughout their schooling. They were taught learning strategies to aid comprehension, retention, to reduce anxiety and raise confidence in order to pass the test. Learners were also given opportunities to practice the test throughout the course.

PRACTICE - The scratchies were available for practice (with grey scratch boxes taped over, allowing repeated use) and learners wrote their answers (ABCD; or Y/N) for marking and review.

Learners had the opportunity to answer every single question printed in the Road Code book, and to answer every question from each of the 20 'General' test question sheets, and the 5 'Specialist' question sheets.

KNOWLEDGE - Learners were encouraged by the fact that they would not be tested on questions they hadn't seen before. Every question that could possibly be asked was available to them. This was reassuring for learners with literacy or language difficulties.

TEST ENVIRONMENT - In some areas, larger groups were able to sit the test together at their provider's premises with an LTSA staff member coming out to deliver and assess the tests. Smaller groups also had the opportunity to sit the test in a group setting on location at a testing centre. Typical exam procedures were in place for group testing, e.g. no talking, space between each applicant, each with a different test paper. Other learners chose to sit the test in their own time.

SUCCESS - We have enjoyed phenomenal success with close to a 100% pass rate with learners who participated in our courses. Many learners were inspired by their success to consider further learning opportunities.



In 2009 a new computerised test was introduced. The media was quick to report on the resulting 50% failure rate.

- http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10624619 'Drive needed to pass test' 07/02/10
- 19/06/10 <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/national/3830282/Driving-test-debacle-50-failure-rate>

RESPONSE FROM NGĀ POUPOU - Some tutors from Ngā Poupuu have been concerned about the introduction of the new computer-based learner licence testing process, including Will Monk (Manager, Literacy Whangarei) who described it as 'really a bit of a disaster'. Will reviewed the new test following its introduction and provides some examples of the test questions below.

REVIEW : NEW LEARNER DRIVER LICENCE TESTING

Will Monk, Literacy Whangarei

News reports revealing that up to 50% of test applicants have been failing the test, confirmed what we anticipated. The media quoted transport industry statements that the failure rate shows how little knowledge New Zealand drivers have of the Road Code. However it is just as likely that people have been failing because they did not have the opportunity to learn the knowledge in a computer-based context, and were bewildered by the change from the scratchies.

Thank goodness we had advised our learners not to sit the test until we had had a chance to find out exactly what was in it and details of the testing process.

New Zealand Road Code - online

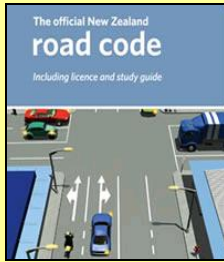
<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/theory-test-questions/index.html> is the link for the New Zealand Road Code with questions divided into sections: Core questions, Parking, Emergencies, Signs and markings, Road position, Behaviour, Intersections, and Specialist questions. I counted a total of 218 questions here but they don't appear to include many from the pool of new questions that crop up in the random test generator.

A selection of the new questions is available from Literacy Aotearoa <http://www.literacy.org.nz/links.php#RoadCode>

New Zealand Road Code Practice Tests

<http://www.roadcodepractice.co.nz/> is the link to purchase practice tests. You can buy them individually or in bunches. They are randomly generated from a pool of over 350 questions. Cost is from \$12.50 for five tests to \$20 for twenty (35 questions each). The web page records how many practices you have remaining each time you use it, as well as your test history so you can check back to find which questions you got wrong.

The old scratchy cards cost \$2.50 each, so \$1- \$2.50 for an online test with no consumables seems expensive. Presumably it will pay for the cost of developing the



website and maintaining it online. You would hope that it will be like a toll for a new road that is paid for over a year or two and then becomes a free public service. The fact that you have to use a credit card to purchase the tests though, limits its accessibility for a lot of our learners (at least that appears to be the only payment method offered at the moment; my local AA didn't know of any other access).

On the other hand, having the Road Code itself available free online saves \$25 (cost of the books). We use a data projector in our Poupuu to put it all up on a big screen, which makes it easy to discuss the material in a group.

The Road Code website is very good; well designed and user friendly, with easily navigable links.

But watch out for the odd trick question in the testing site, e.g. (note underlining is added for examples here)

- "The 100 speed limit sign shown is the minimum speed you are allowed to drive in good conditions". The media have been crowing about the apparent idiocy of people who think 100kph is the minimum, but obviously the test reader has learned the phrase from the Road Code as 100kph maximum and simply hasn't noticed that it's a trap with two letters of the word altered.
- "A broken yellow line painted close to the edge of the road means you may stop or park your vehicle there at any time". Again, learners are used to reading the statement in the Road Code as 'may not' so the mind naturally reads the question as such and does not perceive that the word has been omitted; i.e. they know the correct answer but get punished for failing to spot the trick.
- "When you have a learner licence you must always drive with a supervisor. A supervisor is a person who has held a current and valid licence for a year". The first statement is true; the second part false, i.e. deliberately confusing.

NZTA needs to weed out this nonsense from the tests. They should be verifying correct knowledge, not deceiving with tricks. I requested AA to allow me to sit an actual test for the purpose of this review but NZTA would not allow them to let me do this.

DT Driving Test - Practice Test Questions [free]

A useful practice website is

<http://www.drivingtests.co.nz/index.php> which has a wide range of random questions from the Road Code. It has trick questions too but that's probably good practice for the real thing!



SOME QUESTIONS FROM NGĀ POUPOU

- The Road Code should be a test of knowledge of the rules of the Road Code, not a test of reading ability. Shouldn't learners have the opportunity to know what is going to be tested? Why not provide all of the questions?
- Paper-based tests allow you to work on what you do know, and come back to the more difficult questions later, after you have 'warmed up'. Does the computer-based test allow people to 'pass' on a question and come back to it later?

Do you have any questions or suggestions?

Email: moana@literacy.org.nz

MORE WEBLINKS

AA – Automobile

Association:

<http://www.aa.co.nz/motoring/licensingandtraining/driverlicence/learners/Pages/default.aspx>

Free online quiz:

<http://www.aa.co.nz/motoring/licensingandtraining/drivertraining/learning-the-road-code/Pages/Road-Code-quiz.aspx>

Note these links will be placed on the Literacy Aotearoa website:

<http://www.literacy.org.nz/links.php#RoadCode>



Online Resources

Engaging Pasifika Learners (DVD) – TEC, NZ

Introduction

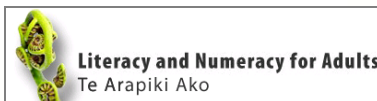


Knowing Pasifika



'The Tertiary Education Commission has recently produced a second DVD resource to accompany the Learning Progressions for Adult Literacy and Numeracy. It follows an earlier DVD, *Knowing your Learner, Engaging Māori learners*. The purpose of the DVD is to develop greater understanding of Pasifika peoples and provide a Pasifika lens through which to view tertiary teaching. The *Knowing your learner – Engaging Pasifika learners* DVD will assist educators to better engage Pasifika learners and provide a more responsive learning environment. The information in this DVD can be used to inform terms of engagement when working with learners of various Pasifika descent.'

To order a free copy of the DVD, email your postal address and details to literacyandnumeracy@tec.govt.nz.



You can also watch the DVD online at:

<http://literacyandnumeracyforadults.com/Educator-resources/Knowing-your-learner-Engaging-Pasifika-learners/>

To view more **Educator Resources** including those below, go to:

<http://www.literacyandnumeracyforadults.com/Educator-resources>

Educator resources

- Knowing Your Learner, Engaging Māori Learners
- Knowing your learner, Engaging Pasifika Learners
- Learning Units
- Case Studies
- Professional Reading
- The Theoretical Framework
- Reading Collections
- Managing My Money



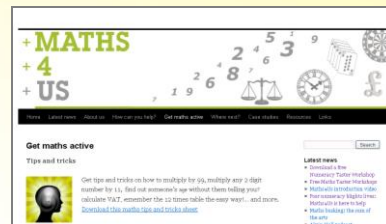
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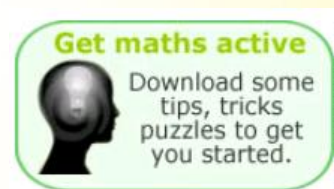
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Maths4Us - UK

<http://maths4us.org/>



'Maths4Us is a joint initiative between unionlearn, NIACE and National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) to encourage people to tackle numeracy, take-up numeracy learning and have fun with maths.'



Click on the 'Get Maths Active' button, or on this link: <http://maths4us.org/get-maths%C2%A0active/> to access:

- Tips and Tricks
- It makes you think
- Did you know?

On the 'Resources' tab you will find a 'Catching Confidence in Maths' resource which may assist in encouraging and motivating adult learners to have a go.

