

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK 2023

LAUNCH

DATE: Monday 4th September
TIME: 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM AEST
WHERE: Live in Naarm/Melbourne
and live-streamed online



OUR PROGRAM



- 12.30** Welcome to Country with traditional custodian Mandy Nicholson
Didge performance Brent Watkins
- 12.45** Brian Nankervis, MC
Opening remarks
- 12.55** Kathleen Priestly, President, Adult Learning Australia
- 1:00** Setting the scene
- 1:05** It's never too late interviews
Jackie French, author and Australian Senior of the Year 2015
Karise Eden, winner of The Voice Australia 2012
- 1:30** ALW2023 ambassadors share stories of learning
Deanie de Boer, Libraries Tasmania
Sunil Abbott, Wyndham Community Education Centre
James M., The Big Issue
- 2:00** A message from the Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Skills and Training
- 2:05** Announcement of ALW scholarships
- 2:10** Musical performance by Karise Eden
- 2.20** Closing remarks
Afternoon tea supplied by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Catering

ABOUT OUR GUESTS

ALW
2023

Our MC for the day is **Brian Nankervis**. Brian is a comedian, actor, poet, co-creator of the SBS music trivia series, 'Rockwiz' and co-host of the 'The Friday Revue' on ABC Radio Melbourne. Brian's career in comedy was born after he ditched his career as a primary teacher and fled the classroom to become a waiter at Melbourne's iconic The Last Laugh theatre restaurant.

Karise Eden dropped out of school at 12 and spent the next six years as a state ward living in a series of youth refuges. At 19 she shot to fame winning the first series of The Voice Australia. Since then Karise's musical career has taken off. She's released albums and toured Australia and internationally. But she's always had a secret dream to go back and complete the education she missed out on. At 30 she has taken the plunge and enrolled in an adult tertiary preparation course and she's loving it.

Jackie French AM is a best-selling author, 2014-15 Australian Children' Laureate; and 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. She has written over 200 books for adults and children and is a passionate advocate for literacy, which has been inspired by her own struggles with dyslexia.

Deanie de Boer, 46, struggled throughout her school years. She found it hard to keep up with her peers and her teachers labelled her as below average academically. She never thought that when she grew up she would be able to pursue a professional career.

As an adult Deanie was diagnosed with ADHD and decided to give education another go. After completing a Business /Administration course she got the learning bug. Now she is doing her Masters and running her own business.

At 69, **Sunil Abbott** migrated to Australia in 2011 to reunite with his family. Despite his prior experience running a multinational business in India, when he arrived in Australia he had little or no knowledge of computers and technology, or how systems and services worked. Undeterred, he set out to learn.

He now runs two busy Melbourne restaurants with his family and is a passionate lifelong learner. He never misses an opportunity to expand his own knowledge and help others do the same. Having achieved a Certificate 3 in commercial cookery, he's about to begin Certificate 4 to become a professional chef.

Born in England, **James M.** left school prematurely, grappling with teen challenges like addiction. After moving to Australia, rehab and supported housing enabled his return to education. He pursued a Community Services Certificate IV and Diploma which he successfully completed at RMIT.

James is actively engaged in The Big Issue's Community Street Soccer Program and education initiative, The Big Issue Classroom. He's studying social work to realise his aspiration of becoming a social worker, leveraging his own experiences to empathize and support those dealing with similar challenges.