



Australian  
Association  
for Research  
in Education

Annual Report,  
2012



*AARE President 2011-2012,  
Professor Christine Halse*

## Introduction

Dear AARE members,

In the past, portfolio reports from the AARE Executive were distributed at the AGM held during the annual conference. This practice disadvantaged members who, for various reasons, are not able to attend the conference. The AARE Executive has this year decided to publish an Annual Report so that all members have access prior to the AGM to the report about AARE's activities during the preceding year, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report which will be tabled at the AGM following receipt of the auditor's report. After reading the following information, I'm sure, like me, you will commend the dedicated commitment and contributions of the AARE Executive - all busy people who have generously volunteered their time, energy and resources to support the interests of education research and researchers in Australia.

My sincere thanks to each of them for their valuable contributions.

*Christine Halse*

# Annual Report

## **President's Report – Christine Halse**

During 2011-12, AARE has increased the benefits for members by negotiating a 10 per cent discount for members on all Springer publications and complimentary access to four journals: Australian Education Researcher (AER); Early Childhood Education Journal; Journal of Educational Change; and Higher Education. AARE has added two prestigious awards to its award portfolio: the 'Distinguished Fellow Award for Outstanding Service' and the 'Annual AER Best Paper Prize' (presented by Springer). Building on the successes of our annual 'AARE Theory Workshop', AARE has increased the number of capacity-building workshops and symposia offered around Australia. These include well-received workshops on 'Writing a Successful ARC Application' and research symposia organised by the Early Childhood Special Interest Group with ACU and Community Child Care Australia; and symposia jointly organized by the Sociology of Education SIG, TASA and Deakin University. AARE has continued to campaign to keep education research on the national political agenda as a member of CHASS and through submissions to different government inquiries, including those on the National Research Priorities and the National Research Infrastructure Priorities.

A less obvious but important area of work in the last 12 months has been to put in place robust, transparent administrative and accounting systems to enable long-term planning and to better serve members' interests. These include: building an on-line database for on-line workshop registration and effective communication with members; introducing a membership term of 1 July - 30 June to align with the AARE financial year; and publicly disseminating the AARE Annual Report through AARE NEWS prior to the AGM during the annual conference.

As we move towards the end of 2012, other innovations are already in train. These include the joint

AARE/APERA/WERA conference in Sydney in December - AARE's largest international conference collaboration - and a member vote on proposed constitutional changes that will address important access and equity issues, including enabling reduced membership rates for members in sessional or part-time work.

## **Secretary's Report – Debra Cunningham**

The AARE Executive Committee for 2012 consists of 13 members elected by the general AARE membership and 4 co-opted members. A list of members and their positions and terms on the Committee is provided in this Report.

In keeping with past practice, the Executive met three times during the past year – in Hobart immediately before the 2011 Annual Conference, in Melbourne in February and in Sydney in June. Meetings generally ran for one to two days. A small management group (President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Officer) met fortnightly using Skype to oversee AARE business between Executive meetings.

Under the terms of AARE's incorporation, we must appoint a Public Officer who resides in South Australia. During the year, Professor Mike Lawson stood down as AARE's Public Officer on his retirement from Flinders University. The Executive thanks Professor Lawson on behalf of the Association for performing this role diligently for the past several years. Emeritus Professor Alan Reid has kindly accepted the Executive's invitation to replace Professor Lawson in the Public Officer role.

AARE maintained its membership of national peak bodies CHASS and NEF and of international bodies APERA and WERA.

At recent meetings the Executive has discussed making amendments to the AARE Constitution to

remove certain out-dated references and provide for greater flexibility. The Executive has now proposed a number of specific changes which will be put to the general membership at the forthcoming AGM in Sydney (5 December). Members unable to attend the AGM may vote on the proposed changes by electronic ballot before the meeting.

### **Awards Report –Joel Windle**

AARE has a number of special awards for exceptional achievement. At the 2011 Hobart Conference the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions:

- ▶ Ms Debra Cunningham, inaugural winner of Distinguished Fellow Award for Outstanding Service
- ▶ Dr Dan Woodman, The University of Melbourne, thesis title: 'The Post-Secondary School Transition and the Desynchronisation of Everyday Life' - Award for Doctoral Research In Education (joint winner)
- ▶ Dr Mary Chen Johnsson, UTS, thesis title, 'A Relational Re-view of Collective Learning: Concerts, Condiments and Corrections' - Award for Doctoral Research In Education (joint winner)
- ▶ Dr Linda Graham, Macquarie University, 'For whose purposes and to what ends? Disproportionate over-representation of Indigenous students in NSW government "Schools for (Very) Specific Purposes" ' - Early Career Researcher Award
- ▶ Ms Roslyn (Rose) Carnes, Murdoch University – 'Education for incarcerated Aboriginal Western Australians: "Education Revolution" or Just Plain Revolting?' - Postgraduate Student Research Award
- ▶ Ms Laura Scholes, University of Queensland – 'Boys' experiences as readers in school contexts: Exploring notions of diversity and difference' - Postgraduate Student Research Award
- ▶ Mr Gunnar Jonsson, Lulea University of Technology, Sweden - ACDE Student/ECR

Award for Best Poster

- ▶ Ms Melinda Miller, Meg Knowles and Professor Sue Grieshaber , 'Cultural support workers and long day care services', AER 38 (3) - inaugural Springer Award for Best Paper published in the Australian Educational Researcher

This year AARE has worked on aligning the award application process with conference registration and submission, and on establishing clear guidelines for the value and number of awards in each category. The integration of the awards with the conference system and dates will be implemented in 2013. Attracting submissions for the Indigenous awards remains a challenge, and we are increasing efforts to encourage nominations.

### **Publications Report – Jill Blackmore**

The Australian Educational Researcher has published online with Springer three issues and one special issue annually for over two years. In 2013 we will be moving to four issues per year and a special issue. This provides an excellent opportunity for researchers to submit papers and also special issue proposals. Of the papers submitted in 2012, over 50% have been international. We continue to have difficulty in getting appropriate reviewers for the wide range of papers that are submitted. Reviewing other people's submissions is an excellent way of learning about how to write for journals, and something of value for both early career academics and doctoral students. The AER publications manager has worked with the Annual Conference Committee in 2011 and again in 2012 to offer workshops on 'How to Write a Book Proposal' and also 'How to Get Published in Journals' with the support of Springer and Routledge. These were extremely popular last year and so we have arranged for a larger venue in 2012 to cater for increased numbers. Springer again is offering an award for the best article published in the Australian Educational Researcher for 2012.

### **Research Development Report – Peter Goodyear**

The most significant part of the work undertaken this year has been in connection with the joint AARE/ACDE initiative on Strategic Capacity Building for Australian Educational Research. Five task groups have been working on aspects of the remit. Landmarks have included a one day event in June, at which task groups presented status reports and plans for completing the work were agreed, and a two day session at the ACDE conference in September. The initiative is on track for delivery of its final report and recommendations at the AARE conference in early December. In addition to this work, the Research Development Co-ordinator prepared draft submissions on behalf of AARE for a number of federal government and other consultation exercises.

AARE has continued to offer the highly popular Theory Workshop, this year held in conjunction with the University of Newcastle. AARE is indebted to the senior academics who volunteer their time to present and mentor at these workshops.

### **Communications Report – Nicole Mockler**

2011-12 has seen a number of major improvements to the 'back end' of the Association's website, including the integration of our membership database with our website and general improvements to the architecture of the site itself. 2012-13 will see a redesign of the 'front end' of the website, providing a new look and feel for the Association's public face on the World Wide Web, and the establishment of a Communications Standing Committee, which will streamline the co-ordination of the communications portfolio.

### **Postgraduate Student Report – Carmel Patterson**

Key activities this year included publishing Postgraduate (PG) Student information on the AARE website (<http://www1.aare.edu.au/pages/page33.asp>) and publishing PG Profiles in each edition of AARE News. A major achievement is the organisation of the two programs for AARE Pre-conference Workshops at the University of Sydney, Sunday 2nd December 2012. These are the preliminary activities for the 2012 Joint AARE/APERA Conference and WERA Focal

Meeting in Sydney. The enormously popular Postgraduate Student (PGS) and Early Career Researcher (ECR) pre-conference workshops are presented by academics eminent in their respective fields who generously volunteer their time. The inaugural Teacher Research pre-conference workshop for K-12 teachers is also presented voluntarily by academics with expertise in practitioner inquiry, in collaboration with teachers of The Coalition of Knowledge Building Schools. The morning and afternoon sessions offer an opportunity for teachers to connect with international colleagues and to engage in conversations on teacher research. For PGS and ECRs who are full-conference delegates, there is also Research Speed Dating at the President's Conference Reception - a fun way to network with colleagues. As well as ongoing informal meetings during conference breaks, PGS and ECR members celebrate together at their conference dinner on Wed 5 Dec.

### **Early Career Researcher Report – Steven Hodge**

A major focus this year has been looking for ways to learn more about the needs of Early Career Researchers (ECRs). An Education ECR Network is being developed with the aim of including one ECR from each Australian university. At this stage, ECRs from 11 universities have accepted the invitation to join. Initially, the network will identify support offered to ECRs by institutions. Another task this year has been to work with the PG Student Representative, Carmel Patterson, to assist with the organisation of the ECR and Post-Grads Pre-Conference Workshops.

### **Conference Standing Committee Report – Jan Wright**

The work of the Conference Standing Committee covers 3 conferences in any one year. In 2011 – 2012 the Hobart Conference was held in December 2011, the Sydney AARE-APERA Conference planned for December 2012 and preliminary investigations made for the 2013 Conference in Adelaide.

The Hobart conference was very successful academically and socially. Over 600 people attended and 660 abstracts were accepted for presentations. Participants enjoyed the service provided by the

Hotel Grand Chancellor and the beauty of the Hobart waterfront. Conference Design was contracted by AARE to manage the conference. Conference Design also took full responsibility for the abstract and paper submission process and the management of the program. Over the last few years the AARE Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have taken an increasingly important role as presentations are now organized around the themes of the SIGs and SIG Convenors and members take responsibility for reviewing abstracts and papers. SIG dinners have also replaced the conference dinner and were popular events in Hobart with so many choices around the waterfront.

The Sydney AARE-APERA Conference and WERA Focal Meeting looks like being a substantial and exciting conference with over 1000 delegates. The theme for the conference is 'regional and global cooperation in educational research'. AARE has engaged Think Business Events as the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) after a competitive tender process. The conference will be held in the Eastern Precinct and the New Law Building at The University of Sydney. A local NSW conference committee has been formed with A/Prof Ken Cruickshank as Chair and member of the AARE CSC.

Think Business Events will continue as conference organiser for the next three conferences. A suitable venue is currently being sought in Adelaide for AARE in 2013. The theme for the conference is 'Shaping Australian Educational Research'.

### **Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report – Martin Mills**

AARE currently hosts 23 Special Interest Groups (SIGs), each with a designated convenor(s) and each eligible for a \$500 grant annually to support organised activities within the group such as discussion groups, research training or convening symposia. In addition, each year AARE offers a competitive large grant of up to \$3000 to one SIG, or a consortium of SIGs, to fund a significant SIG project. In 2011 the Early Childhood SIG was awarded this grant for a proposal to hold a one day national symposium in Melbourne – Researching Integrated Service Provision in Early Childhood. This highly successful event took place on Tuesday 22 May, 2012 with additional sponsorship

from Community Child Care Victoria and Australian Catholic University. The development of AARE's interactive database in 2012 has meant that SIG Convenors now have direct access to those members who have nominated their particular SIG, whenever new developments arise in their area of interest.

The SIGs have also taken on an increasingly important role with the AARE Annual International Conference. Where possible paper strands are now organised around the SIGs and SIG members have been heavily involved in the refereeing process of papers that fall within their area.

### **Office Report – Joan Warhurst**

The AARE Office is located within the Universities Australia Building at 1 Geils Court, Deakin, ACT. The office is staffed by a part-time Executive Officer, with administrative and financial management contracted to the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA). IT support and development has been provided by Daryl Witt of Witt-IT. The development of an interactive database has meant all renewal and reminder notices are sent automatically to members, substantially reducing the administrative load in the office.

Membership of AARE is the cornerstone of the organisation and service to members is one of the key functions of the office. The move to a fixed annual membership period from 1 July to 30 June the following year has facilitated the separation of payment of the membership fee from payment of the conference registration fee. The Executive has worked hard to increase the benefits for members so that members will choose to join for reasons other than merely attending the conference. Recruiting and retaining new members is a major goal for 2013 as the more members there are the greater is the capacity of AARE to foster educational research in Australia and to support the next generation of education researchers.

## Acknowledgements

The Executive wishes to thank the following for their major voluntary contributions to the work of AARE during the past year:

- ▶ Editor of AARE News, Lisa Papatraianou
- ▶ Subeditors of the AARE Newsletter, Damian Maher, Neil Tucker, and Erica Spray
- ▶ University of Sydney ECR and PGS representatives and the Conference Standing Committee members for their assistance in organising and coordinating conference-related activities.
- ▶ George Aranda, Deakin University, for IT assistance
- ▶ Julie White as CSC Chair-designate
- ▶ Members of the Doctoral Award Committee, Bob Lingard(Chair), Helen Watt, Michael Singh, Jennifer Sumsion and Joanne Orlando
- ▶ Members of the selection panel for the 2012 Postgraduate Student Research Award: Catherine Doherty (QUT), (Peter Sullivan (Monash University), Philip Riley (Monash University), and Debra Cunningham (QCT).

The Executive wishes to place on record its appreciation of the outstanding support provided by our 'part-time' Executive Officer, Ms Joan Warhurst. AARE also owes a debt of gratitude to Ms Kathy Schoo and the ACSA office for critical administrative support and to Mr Daryl Witt for IT development and support.





## AARE Executive 2012

HALSE, Christine (Prof), President

SIMONS, Michele (Assoc Prof), Honorary Treasurer

CUNNINGHAM, Debra, Honorary Secretary

MOSS, Julianne (Assoc Prof), President Elect

BLACKMORE, Jill (Prof), Editor AER

GOODYEAR, Peter (Prof), Research Development Co-ordinator

HENDERSON, Michael (Dr), Systems advisor (co-opted)

HODGE, Steven (Dr), ECR Member

LEE, Alison (Prof), Ordinary Member (deceased 4 September 2012)

MARTIN, Karen (Assoc Prof), Indigenous Researcher (co-opted)

MILLS, Martin (Prof), Ordinary Member

MOCKLER, Nicole (Dr), Communications Co-ordinator

ORLANDO, Joanne (Dr), assisting with Research Development Co-ordination (co-opted)

PATTERSON, Carmel, Postgraduate Student Member

SALTMARSH, Sue (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member

WINDLE, Joel (Dr), Ordinary Member

WRIGHT, Jan (Prof), Chair, Conferences Standing Committee 2009-12 (co-opted)