Australian
Association
for Research
in Education
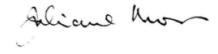
Annual Report,
2013

Introduction

AARE President 2013-2014,
Associate Professor Julianne Moss

Dear AARE members,

Welcome to our second Annual Report for AARE. This report will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting. The report is produced so that all members have access before the Annual General Meeting to information about AARE activities over the past calendar year. The commitment and dedication of the AARE Executive, who continue to generously volunteer their time, energy and resources to support education research and researchers in Australia is impressive. In addition to the Executive I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of many AARE members who volunteer their time to support AARE. The convening of the Special Interest Groups, reviewing of journal articles, presenting at workshops, supporting the annual conference or representing AARE at other national and international forums are a snapshot of members' contributions to the association. My sincere thanks to you all.

Annual Report

President's Report – Julianne Moss

During 2012-13, AARE has strengthened its place as a leading member organisation of educational researchers. Our membership base has continued to grow. This growth in numbers supports the decision made by the Executive in 2012 to offer membership from 1 July - 30 June to align with the AARE financial year. Of the 734 members as of early October 2013, postgraduate students make up 30 per cent.

The services to members continue to include the annual AARE Theory Workshop and the annual international conference. The 2013 AARE Theory Workshop was again generously supported by the University of Queensland. Member led sessions and the support of past and current Executive members continue to ensure this event is a significant and well established annual capacity-building workshop. The combined APERA-AARE-WERA 2012 Conference was an outstanding success, with some 1286 attendees. In Adelaide in 2013, abstracts have been accepted for 781 presentations. Also to be presented at the conference are our annual awards that celebrate new and long-standing contributions to Australian educational research. A signed agreement with ERIC (the US Education Resources Information Centre) is now in place so that the AARE conference papers collections are available through the ERIC clearinghouse.

AARE has continued to campaign to keep education research on the national and international agenda. Drawing from the comprehensive and critical appraisal of our research capacity jointly funded by the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) and AARE, the paper 'Living in a 2.2 World' authored by Terri Seddon and colleagues, indicates sharply the future imperatives that the association and the community of educational researchers must face. In times when funding for research is unlikely to expand we need to carefully strategise the future

opportunities for educational research. While the age of 'big data' saturates us, the scale of our endeavours must make the most of our strengths, support early career researchers and acknowledge that the development of new alliances and networks will be needed as traditional funding sources such as large Australian government agencies feature less in funded partnerships. Based on the work of the 'Living in a 2.2 World', we made recommendations to the then federal government request for submissions to *Assessing the wider benefits arising from university-based research*, submitted as the caretaker government was in place before the 2013 federal election.

In 2013 we farewelled our Executive Officer, Joan Warhurst, and welcomed Deborah Cracknell. To adjust our organisational activities to better meet the day-to-day needs of members, the Executive moved to name the position 'Office and Events Manager'. Since taking up her position in July, Deborah has introduced a number of initiatives to ensure services to members are responsive and efficient. Deborah's support for members will also be enhanced by the new look AARE website which is due for completion in 2013 and displays our refreshed AARE logo.

Internationally AARE and the strength of member research are visible through our continuing presence at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) and British Educational Research Association (BERA) conferences. The opportunity to present the AARE invited symposia at these events is keenly sought by Australian educational research teams. The attendance by conference delegates at both invited symposia in 2013 at San Francisco and at Brighton, UK reflect the continuing interest and respect held for Australian research. Looking ahead AARE is working with BERA as they celebrate their 40th Birthday. The invitation to be part of the BERA year of celebration endorses the contribution that

Australian educational research makes in the international community.

I would like to thank all members of the 2013 Executive, the Conferences Standing Committee and members of the association for their support and collaboration in growing the esteem of the Australian educational research community. The various sections of the 2013 Annual Report document the many achievements and strengths of our member organisation.

Treasurer's Report – Michele Simons

AARE is funded principally from membership fees and funds raised through conference surpluses. Income from membership fees alone is insufficient to fund the services that AARE provides. AARE's major expenses are :

▸ Publishing the AER Journal

▸ Funding for the Special Interest Groups

▸ Supporting researcher development through workshops

▸ Maintaining the AARE office, website and member database.

In line with good financial practice, AARE aims to retain in reserve an amount equivalent to at least one year's worth of trading, and the Association currently has a healthy level of reserves. Although the Association is running a deficit budget in the 2013-2014 financial year, it plans to be able to return to surplus budgets in the next year or two through enhanced recruitment and retention strategies, largely enabled through the employment of an Office and Events Manager.

Secretary's Report – Debra Cunningham

AARE is a membership-based organisation. The General Meeting of members is the ultimate governing body of the Association. However, it is the Executive Committee, elected by the members, which controls and manages the affairs of the Association.

In 2013 the AARE Executive Committee comprised 14 members – 12 who were elected by the general membership of AARE and two who were co-opted

by the Executive. Members were based at institutions and organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. A full list of members is provided elsewhere in this Report.

The Executive held three two-day meetings during the past year: one immediately before the annual conference (1 - 2 December 2012, in Sydney), one early in the new year (4 - 5 March, in Sydney), and one mid-year (11 - 12 June, in Melbourne). Meetings were held at university campuses where meeting rooms were kindly provided free-of-charge by the relevant faculties.

A small management group consisting of the President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Executive Officer (replaced by the Office and Events Manager from July 2013) met fortnightly by electronic means to oversee AARE business between Executive meetings.

Awards Report – Annette Woods and Debra Cunningham

In the past year AARE has been proud to continue its tradition of presenting awards for excellence in research and scholarship. At the 2012 Sydney Conference the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding research and contributions to AARE and education more generally.

▸ Distinguished Fellow Award: Professor Jan Wright, University of Wollongong.

▸ Radford Lecture: Emeritus Professor Alan Reid. Lecture titled 'Renewing the Public: Public Education and the Role of Research in Education'. A vodcast of this lecture is available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wujZ88wPL4w.

▸ Award for Doctoral Research in Education: Dr Amy Chapman, for her thesis titled 'Towards a New Paradigm of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education', completed at the University of Newcastle. A special commendation was presented to Dr Bronwyn James, for her thesis titled 'Silences, Voices, Negotiations: Becoming a Postgraduate Research Writer', completed at the University of Wollongong.

▸ Early Career Researcher Award: Dr Greg Thompson, Murdoch University, 'The Effects of

NAPLAN: Teacher perceptions of the impact of NAPLAN on pedagogy and curriculum ' (co-authored).

▸ Postgraduate Student Research Awards: Ms Zoe Morris, Monash University – 'What is popular is not always right - Measuring teacher professional behaviour' (co-authored).

▸ ACDE Postgraduate Student/Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award: Dr Matthew Winslade, Charles Sturt University.

▸ Springer AER Best Paper Award: Lisl Fenwick and Maxine Cooper for their paper 'Prevailing Pedagogies for Classes in Low SES contexts and the Implications for Standards Based Reform in Australia ', *Australian Educational Researcher*, 39(3), 349-61.

The processes for nomination for some of the awards continue to require changes to streamline the procedures, and these changes will be in place for the 2014 nomination period.

In 2013, the Awards Committee was pleased to accept a substantial number of nominations for awards. The review process was rigorous and those selected to receive awards had demonstrated real excellence in research. The Awards Committee oversees the award of the Early Career Researcher Award, the Postgraduate and Indigenous Postgraduate Student Research Awards, the Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award and the ACDE Postgraduate Student/Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award. Award winners will be announced at the 2013 Adelaide Conference.

AER Report – Jill Blackmore

All members have complimentary access to the AARE peer-reviewed journal, *The Australian Educational Researcher*, which is published online through Springer. In 2013 the number of issues increased from the three general issues and one special issue published annually in 2011 and 2012 to four general issues plus a special issue. This provides more opportunity for researchers to submit papers. The overall number of submissions and the proportion of overseas submissions continue to increase: of the 152 papers submitted in 2013 (up to the end of September), 78 per cent have originated from overseas. The journal's impact factor continues to slowly increase.

To help ensure an adequate supply of appropriate reviewers for the wide range of papers submitted, members are invited to consider taking on this role. Reviewing other researchers' submissions can be very helpful for both doctoral students and Early Career Researchers as it is an excellent way of learning how to write for journals.

The 2013 special issue, edited by Professor Terri Seddon (Monash University), is based on the AARE 2012 symposium on ERA, capacity building and the topography of Australian educational research. It reports on the research conducted by Task Group 1 for the AARE-ACDE joint project on Strategic Capacity Building for Australian Educational Research.

The third annual Springer award for the best article published in The Australian Educational Researcher in the past 12 months will be presented during the conference in Adelaide.

As my three-year term of office as Editor comes to an end at this year's AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming Editor and their team (still to be decided by election at the time of writing) all the best in the role.

Review of Australian Research in Education Report - Christine Halse

A new issue of the Review of Australian Research in Education (RARE) is in train on the challenging issue of within school stratification. Edited by James Ladwig and James Albright, this new issue of RARE is expected to be available early in 2014. Building on the tradition of RARE, AARE has moved to establish a regular book series for the dissemination of education research in Australia. Following a call for expressions of interest and review by a panel that comprised the President and Immediate Past President (Julianne Moss and Christine Halse) and three senior scholars (Professors David Hogan, Di Mayer and Jo Reid), the inaugural editorial committee for the new book series is Professor Peter Renshaw (Senior General Editor) and Drs Nicole Mockler and Greg Thomson (General Editors). The editorial committee will take carriage of progressing the book series and further details will be announced in the near future.

Research Development Report – Roger Slee

This year has been a time of review and transition. Following the outstanding work led by Professor Peter Goodyear that included a project culminating in the report: "Living in a 2.2 world: ERA, capacity-building and the topography of Australian educational research", we have focussed upon building upon this project in collaboration with the Australian Council for Deans of Education (ACDE). As part of its remit to foster educational research, AARE aims to promote the standing of this field in Australian universities by liaising with the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE). To this end, AARE is represented on the ACDE board.

A series of discussions between members of the AARE Executive and the President of ACDE have been conducted in order to plan the research focus for the recent ACDE Annual Conference at University of Technology Sydney. At this conference focus was applied to continuing to develop coordinated strategies to promote education research, especially in a changing political context for higher education. Workshops also sought to identify areas for developing workshops for research training. Further details for training events will be made available prior to the AARE conference in Adelaide.

AARE sends representatives to relevant meetings and events throughout the year. In 2013 these meetings include sending a representative to the Australian College of Educators Roundtable on the future of the teaching profession and the LH Martin Institute conference on "How should the role of tertiary education in research and innovation be governed to better contribute to national development?" Reports tabled from these events will assist in strategic planning for the Research Development portfolio next year.

AARE delivered the very popular Theory Workshop again this year. This workshop, held at the University of Queensland in May 2013, was attended by 58 postgraduate students and early career researchers. Feedback from this event was very positive. AARE is again indebted to the senior academics who volunteer their time to present and mentor at these workshops.

Communications Report – Nicole Mockler

2013 has been a big year behind the scenes in the Communications Portfolio. In preparation for the development of our new website, the AARE logo has been 'refreshed', and will be launched along with the website in October of this year. The website itself will provide a new public face for AARE, and incorporate a range of different options and virtual spaces for SIGs. One of the most exciting parts of the new website project is the development of a searchable database of AARE conference papers back to 1979, making our conference papers far more readily retrievable than they have ever been before. A new-look newsletter will accompany the website.

The AARE Blog, EduResearch Matters, was established in March of 2013 to provide a new forum for educational researchers to publicly share their research and 'speak' into the public space. The blog will migrate from Wordpress to the new AARE website in October and we will be working in late 2013 and throughout 2014 to enhance its profile and the regularity of posts.

In October 2013 we introduced a monthly member email update, designed to 'bridge' the quarterly newsletter and provide timely information to members about news and events within our community.

Postgraduate Student & ECR Report – Kimberly Pappaluca & Steven Hodge

A significant part of the work undertaken this year has been achieved through collaboration between the Postgraduate (PG) member and the Early Career Research (ECR) member. A major focus has been the development of the AARE pre-conference workshops before the 2013 Adelaide Conference with a program developed around career building and engaging with the craft of researching. These workshops will be presented by eminent academics who have generously offered their time to the event. A key task has been to consider alternative ways that these workshops could become more widely accessible to our members through the use of multimedia technology. We are currently investigating the possibility of recording selected sessions for future use by AARE members. In addition to this work, the PG and ECR members have been working closely with Executive member Sue

Saltmarsh on developing one-day workshops around methodology and theory. It is anticipated that these workshops – 'Research Dialogues' – will be aimed at those members who cannot participate in the pre-conference workshops or other AARE events. At this stage, Research Dialogue workshops are being considered for Western Australia, Tasmania and Sydney.

Conference Standing Committee Report – Julie White

The 2012 AARE-APERA Conference and WERA Focal Meeting in Sydney was a very successful international and regional event with 1286 people attending from over 35 countries and 1314 abstracts accepted for presentations. The theme for the conference was 'Regional and global cooperation in educational research'. The venue at The University of Sydney was very successful. This conference was also the first year of a three-year contract with Think Business Events, the professional conference organizer appointed following a competitive tender process. The organization of peer review and programming continued to be undertaken through the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). And the SIG dinners, that replaced the Conference dinner, proved to be popular.

The 2013 AARE conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide and promises to be a successful event with 781 abstracts submitted. The conference theme is 'Shaping Australian Educational Research'. The local organising group has supported the conference planning, by providing local advice and organising a number of venues to host the Postgraduate pre-conference workshop and the Practitioner Day also held prior to the main conference. Think Business Events has very efficiently ensured that all processes related to the conference have run smoothly.

The 2014 conference will be jointly held with the New Zealand Association for Research in Education (NZARE) at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus in Brisbane.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report – Sue Saltmarsh

Sue Saltmarsh has replaced Martin Mills in the role of SIG Coordinator, commencing in December 2012.

Two new SIGs were approved in 2013:

Philosophy of Education SIG. Convenors are John Quay (Melbourne) and Steven Stolz (La Trobe), with international advisors Peter Roberts (University of Canterbury) and Michael Peters (University of Waikato), and currently 19 members.

History and Education SIG. Convenors are Julie McLeod (Melbourne) and Robert Parkes (Newcastle), and currently 26 members.

The provisional status for new SIGs no longer applies. Once the AARE Executive has approved applications for new SIGs, they will be registered as active SIGs. New SIGs are now eligible to apply for annual funding and competitive grants once their status has been approved by the AARE Executive.

Funding available to SIGs has been increased to $800 for annual funding. This is available to all SIGs upon application. Funding available to SIGs in the form of grants has been increased to $3000 (x 2) and $5000 (x 2) available on a competitive basis each year.

Due dates for all applications for SIG Annual Funding and Competitive Grants, and for applications for new SIGs, have been changed to 30 June each year, to coincide with due dates for membership renewals.

New funding guidelines are in development in consultation with SIG Convenors. The new guidelines will be available for use in 2014 as a supplement to the existing AARE policy statements regarding SIG funding.

Applications for annual funding were received from eight SIGs. One application was declined, and modifications were requested from three, and four were approved in full.

One application for Competitive Funding was received and approved from the 2012-2013 budget. This was a $5000 Grant to the Politics and Policy and Poststructural Theory SIGs (Combined).

Five applications for Competitive Funding were received and approved from the 2013-2014 budget. These were $3000 Grants to the Educational Leadership SIG and the Gender, Sexualities and Cultural Studies SIG and $5000 Grants to the Arts Education and Practice SIG, the Sociology of Education Research SIG and the Assessment and

Measurement and Motivation and Learning SIGs (Combined).

A handbook is in development, in order to clarify a range of processes for convening SIGs. The handbook will contain information regarding SIG convenor responsibilities, processes for resignation and replacement of convenors and co-convenors, and other relevant information.

Office Report – Deborah Cracknell

AARE continues to focus on fostering educational research in Australia and its members are the cornerstone of the organisation. One of the key functions of the AARE office is to provide support to the membership. During the 2012/2013 year this support was provided by an Executive Officer, Joan Warhurst, who retired in June and AARE would like to thank Joan for all her hard work and dedication. The AARE Office has a new Office and Events Manager, Deborah Cracknell, who works part time, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

During the past year financial services continued to be contracted to the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA) and Witt-IT services provided IT support.

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, Dr Lisa Papatraianou

▸ Subeditors of the AARE Newsletter, Neil Tucker, Erica Spray and Lyn Alderman

▸ Professor Jan Wright for her support as a member of the Conferences Standing Committee in 2013

▸ Associate Professor Ken Cruickshank for his support and assistance with the 2012 conference venue

▸ Professor Peter Renshaw for hosting the 2013 AARE Theory Workshop at the University of Queensland

▸ All researchers who presented at the annual Theory Workshop and Pre-conference Workshop for Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers

▸ Members of the Doctoral Award Committee, Professor Bob Lingard(Chair), Professor Helen Watt, Professor Michael Singh, Professor Jennifer Sumsion and Dr Joanne Orlando

▸ Members of the selection panel for the 2013 Conference Awards – the Early Career Researcher Award, Postgraduate Student Research Award and the Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award, Professor Jo-Anne Reid, Associate Professor Kaye Price (Chair of the Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award), and Associate Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay.

▸ Convenors and Co-Convenors of the Special Interest Groups

We also wish to note our appreciation of the outstanding support provided by:

▸ Former Executive Officer, Ms Joan Warhurst (to June 2013)

▸ Our new Office and Events Manager, Ms Deborah Cracknell (from July 2013)

▸ Ms Kathy Schoo and Ms Liz Bell of the Australian Curriculum Studies Association office

▸ Mr Daryl Witt of Witt IT

AARE Executive 2013

MOSS, Julianne (Assoc Prof), President
SIMONS, Michele (Assoc Prof), Treasurer
CUNNINGHAM, Debra, Secretary
HALSE, Christine (Prof), Immediate Past President
BLACKMORE, Jill (Prof), Editor AER
HENDERSON, Robyn (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member
HODGE, Steven (Dr), ECR Member
MACKINLAY, Liz (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member
MOCKLER, Nicole (Dr), Communications Co-ordinator
PAPPALUCA, Kimberly (Ms), Postgraduate Student Member
SALTMARSH, Sue (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member
SLEE, Roger (Prof), ARDEN & Research Development Co-ordinator
WHITE, Julie (Dr), Chair, Conferences Standing Committee (Co-opted)
WOODS, Annette (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member

CRACKNELL, Deborah, Office and Events Manager