



Australian Association  
for Research in Education

# Australian Association for Research in Education

## 2016 Annual Report



AARE President 2015 - 2016  
Professor Martin Mills

# Introduction

Dear AARE members,

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Report for AARE. This report documents activities during the period from late 2015 to late 2016. The President will also report on this period at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 30 November 2016 in Melbourne as part of the Annual AARE Conference. In addition, the report is emailed to members and made available on the AARE website so that all members have access to this document.

This report is produced by the AARE Executive Committee members and they in turn are supported by the Office and Events Manager. A list of members of the 2016 Executive Committee can be found at the back of this report. Feedback on the report is welcome so please forward all comments to the AARE Office at [aare@aare.edu.au](mailto:aare@aare.edu.au).

## President's Report

Martin Mills

This has been a busy year for the Association as all of the reports indicate.

The Canberra Forum (27-28 October) brought together academics from across the country with senior policy officers and the ARC to discuss the current Engagement and Impact agenda. This was well attended and a statement is currently being drafted as the trial is announced. This built on work conducted by the Research Development Coordinator (RDC) and the President – details are in the RDC report.

AARE has provided submissions to the Productivity Commission and the ARC on issues related to educational research in Australia. The submissions are available on the AARE website.

Our relationships with other associations have been enhanced. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the European Educational Research Association (EERA) to provide association benefits to members – including member rates to their annual conference, ECER.

There have been AARE symposia at the conferences held by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the British Educational Research Association (BERA) and the New Zealand Educational Research Association (NZARE). How these symposia are determined still needs some work and will be further considered by the Executive.

Talks have been held with The Australian Sociological Association (TASA) to consider greater coordination of our associations' events and conferences.

The project on Building a Research Rich Teaching Profession, being conducted jointly with the Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) and the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) (through the Community of Associate Deans Research in Education CADRE), is ongoing. Ethical clearance has been obtained through ACU and the project will begin data collection in February.

Support has been provided to the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA), of which

AARE is a founding member, in relation to the development of their constitution. However, issues are ongoing in its development. Executive member Robyn Henderson represented AARE at the APERA Board Meeting in Taiwan in early November.

The relationship between AARE and the Research in Education Network (REN), which consists of officers involved in research in the government departments of education and in the various Catholic and independent school systems around Australia, has been developing well. For example, members of REN delivered a very well attended webinar in May on forming research partnerships with 'industry'. The RDC attends REN meetings and REN representatives are invited to attend AARE Executive meetings.

AARE has become a platinum sponsor of the Media Centre for Education Research Australia. This will be launched at the conference in Melbourne.

The next round of applications for AARE Strategic Initiative Grants closes on the 30th November. This year we funded Research-Creation Workshops: Developing Arts Based Interventions into Sexism in the Academy at RMIT and QUT and Poverty Network events at UniSA and USQ.

We are currently working to produce an apology on behalf of AARE to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for damages caused by educational researchers. Our work in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members is regarded as critical and is overseen/facilitated by two designated members on the Executive – see report below.

Our support of members through Theory workshops and SIGs has been ongoing – see relevant reports below. These workshops and SIG events are highlights in the academic calendar.

Our new book series published through Routledge is being well supported with new contracts being offered and an in-press manuscript is in the pipeline.

The AARE journal, *The Australian Educational Researcher* (AER), is going from strength to strength as indicated in the report below from the editor.

We have provided awards in most categories to highly deserving recipients. Processes for

determining awardees are regularly under review.

And our Melbourne conference is promising to be another highly successful event.

I would like to thank all members of the Executive, and others in the Association, who have made my term as President personally rewarding and have worked so hard to advance the aims and objectives of the Association.

## Treasurer's Report

Michele Simons

During 2015-16 AARE continued to hold its position as a financially healthy organisation. This position is able to be maintained through sound levels of income from membership fees and proceeds from very well run and managed conferences. Income from membership fees is an issue that the Executive continually monitors; growth from this source of income is projected to be limited over the short term. This means that we need to continue to be vigilant in our efforts to diversify the sources of our income in order to continue to provide a wide range of member benefits and services. For the 2015-16 financial year, AARE's major areas of expenditure were the following:

- conducting the annual conference;
- maintaining the national office and events management for the various activities of the Association;
- publishing the AER Journal;
- funding for the Special Interest Groups, both annual funding and the Competitive Grants;
- supporting researcher development through the Theory workshops and pre-conference workshops; and
- providing Strategic Initiatives grants

Our Audited Financial Statements for the 2015 - 16 financial year can be accessed on the AARE website.

The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the financial position of AARE as at 30 June 2016. It lists our assets (the money that we hold in our accounts), the liabilities that we are responsible for and our equity position (what we 'have' in terms of funds available to us).

The Balance sheet records that our equity position remains very healthy but it has declined relative

to our position at the same point in time in 2015. In the past year we have drawn on our equity by \$143,508 to fund a range of initiatives for AARE. This is in line with the strategy set by the Executive and part of good governance for a not-for-profit organisation like AARE.

The profit and loss statement shows our income and expenditure for the year 1 July 2015 – June 30 2016. Memberships comprise a significant part of our income (aside from any surplus that we make from the annual conference which is used to fund a number of our activities including our Strategic Initiatives). Operating expenses totalled \$292, 838 – just under double our income for the same period.

AARE currently holds a little more than three times the amount of funds it needs to operate annually (based on current costs). In line with good financial practice, AARE will continue to retain in reserve an amount equivalent to at least one year's worth of trading. The Association currently has a healthy level of reserves beyond this benchmark. This will allow us to continue to invest and grow the benefits that we will be able to return to members for the coming financial year. This is a very healthy position. However, it remains important for AARE to continue to monitor its equity position and to ensure that it continues to grow its income so that it can continue to fund its strategic priorities both now and into the future.

## Secretary's Report

Debra Cunningham

The running of AARE business between Annual General Meetings is undertaken by the Executive Committee, whose composition and role are set down in the AARE Constitution.

In 2016 the AARE Executive Committee comprised 16 members – 12 elected by the general membership of AARE and four co-opted by the Executive. Members were based at institutions and organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania. A full list of members is provided elsewhere in this Report.

As usual, the Executive held three meetings during the past year: one over the weekend immediately before the annual conference (28-29 November 2015, in Fremantle), one early in the new year (25

- 26 February, in Sydney), and one mid-year (28 - 29 July, in Sydney). The pre-conference meeting was held at the University of Notre Dame (the conference venue) and the two Sydney meetings were held at the University of Sydney.

SIG convenors were invited to attend the pre-conference meeting to discuss emerging and ongoing SIG issues with the Executive, and a number of convenors took up this opportunity. The February meeting included a morning tea for University of Sydney Education staff where Executive members spoke about the role and activities of AARE. The February and July meetings in Sydney included discussions with representatives of the NSW branch of the Research in Education Network, with which the Executive has set up a mutually helpful ongoing relationship.

Throughout the year, a small management group consisting of elected office-bearers from the Executive (the President, the President Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer) and the Office and Events Manager (AARE's sole ongoing employee) teleconferenced fortnightly to oversee AARE business between Executive meetings. The CSC Chair also participated in many of these meetings to keep the management group apprised of conference arrangements.

A proposed change to the AARE Constitution, to make the SIG Co-ordinator a formally designated, elected, position on the Executive, was endorsed at the AGM held during the 2015 conference. This change was instigated by the Executive to reflect the increasing prominence of SIGs in the association.

## Awards Report

**Bernadette Walker- Gibbs and Debra Cunningham**

In the past year AARE has been proud to continue its tradition of presenting awards for excellence in research and scholarship. Full details of all awards may be found on the AARE website, [www.aare.edu.au](http://www.aare.edu.au). At the 2015 Conference at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding research and contributions to AARE and education more generally.

### Honorary Life Membership Award

In 2015 Honorary Life Membership of AARE was

awarded to the following members for their long-term service to the association and their distinguished contributions to educational research:

Professor Jill Blackmore, Alfred Deakin Professor, Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University— Former President of AARE and former Editor of the association's journal, *The Australian Educational Researcher*;

Professor Bob Lingard, Professorial Research Fellow, School of Education, The University of Queensland— Former President of AARE and current chair of the Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research in Education selection committee.

### Radford Lecture

One of the keynote lectures at each annual conference is traditionally named in honour of the late Dr William Radford, one of the founders of AARE and a significant player in the mid-twentieth century development of educational research in Australia. The presenter is specially invited by the AARE Executive.

The 2015 Radford Lecture was presented by Professor Barbara Comber of the Queensland University of Technology. Professor Comber's lecture, "Poverty, place and pedagogy in education: research stories from front-line workers", may be viewed on the AARE website.

### Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research in Education

Nominations of recent theses in education were received from 17 universities. On the recommendation of the Doctoral Award Committee, chaired by Professor Bob Lingard, the 2015 award was presented to:

Dr Harsha Perera, for his thesis entitled 'The role of trait emotional intelligence in adaptation and achievement during the transition to university', completed at the University of Technology Sydney.

In accordance with a decision of the Executive at its February 2015 meeting, the awardee was presented with a copy of the memorial book about Dr Ray Debus put together by Dr Jennifer Archer of the University of Newcastle.

## Awards based on conference papers

In 2015, the Awards Committee, chaired by Amanda Keddie, was pleased to accept many more nominations for these awards than in previous years.

### Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award

Dr Anthony McKnight for his paper entitled 'Meeting Country and self to initiate an embodiment of knowledge: Embedding a process for Aboriginal perspectives'

### Early Career Researcher Award

Dr Lucinda McKnight for her paper entitled 'Meet the phallic teacher: designing curriculum and identity in a neoliberal imaginary'

### Postgraduate Student Researcher Award

David Bright for his paper entitled 'Signs to be developed: Experiments in writing'  
Amanda Heffernan for her paper entitled 'The Emperor's Perfect Map: Leadership by Numbers and Cartesian Effects'  
Paul Swan for his paper entitled 'Mentalization and Empathy among Australian Primary School Teachers'  
Sara Weuffen for her paper entitled 'Exploring racialised spaces as productive environments for reconstructions of my positioning as a non-Indigenous Researcher engaged in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge spaces'

### Indigenous Student Researcher Award

Liesa Clague for her paper entitled 'Thinking outside the circle: Reflections on school-based garden research'

### ACDE Postgraduate Student Poster Award

AARE again would like to thank the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) for their support of this award. In 2015 this was awarded to: Karyn Carson for her poster entitled 'Predicting literacy pathways using web-based screening and monitoring of essential pre-reading skills in the early childhood to schooling years'  
Kerstin Oberprieler and Simon Leonard for their poster entitled 'Gamification not Zombification: Design thinking for education in complex changing environments'

### Springer Award for Best Paper

The Springer Award for best paper published in *The*

*Australian Educational Researcher* was inaugurated in 2011. The journal's editorial team chooses the best paper from those published in each calendar year, and the Award is presented at the AARE Annual Conference by the Springer Representative. In 2015 the award was presented to Melinda Miller for her paper entitled 'Consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in early childhood education: the impact of colonial discourses'. November 2015, Volume 42, Issue 5, pp 549-565

### Springer Award for Best Reviewer

The Springer Award for best reviewer of papers to be published in *The Australian Educational Researcher* was inaugurated in 2015. The Award is presented at the AARE Annual Conference by the Springer Representative. The award was presented to Gigi Forster.

## Indigenous Engagement Report

### Tracey Bunda

Thank you for this opportunity to report our endeavours and achievements for 2016. We have had a very busy year both within the Executive as well as within our roles as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG. These include:

#### Aboriginal representation to the Executive

This year, the Aboriginal representation to the AARE Executive Committee expanded to include the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG – Mrs Melitta Hogarth. Melitta is employed at QUT.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG

The SIG structure currently is represented by the Chair – Mrs Melitta Hogarth [QUT], Deputy Chair – Professor Tracey Bunda [USQ], and Communications Officer – Ms Sara Weuffen [Fed Uni]. The 2016 SIG meeting scheduled during the Annual AARE Conference will seek to expand the representative positions in consultation with the members.

#### SIG Communications

The SIG has its own Facebook page to assist in the dissemination of information to SIG members. Currently, there are 14 members in this Closed Group. A broader communication strategy will need to be developed for 2017 to further encourage members to nominate for the Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Awards and Scholarships as well as the refereeing of papers, etc.

### **AARE Theory workshops 2016**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation was evident in all three Theory Workshops offered in 2016. They include:

Griffith University:

Associate Professor Karen Martin (Noonuccal woman [North Stradbroke Island – south east Queensland]) – “Getting excited and getting real: The roles of theory, methodology and knowledge in closing gaps in Aboriginal research”.

RMIT:

Professor Liz McKinley (NZ Maori woman - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Ngāi Tahu descent) and Dr Nikki Moodie (Kamilaroi woman) – “Contemporary Indigenous theories in educational research”.

## *The Australian Educational Researcher Report*

Linda Graham

### **Progress**

AER has received 142 new submissions since January 1, 2016. There are currently 19 manuscripts in Editorial Manager – 11 are under review and 8 are awaiting handover to the new Editor, Dr Nicole Mockler. I will be working with Nicole for a full day at USYD to pass on the intricacies of the Editorial Manager system.

### **Springer/AER Best Paper Award**

The winner, see the Awards report above, was announced at the 2015 AARE conference and was presented with a plaque and a \$500 cheque provided by Springer Publishing.

### **Springer/AER Reviewer of the Year Award**

The winner, see Awards report above, of the 2015 Springer/AER Reviewer of the Year was also presented with a plaque and a \$500 cheque provided by Springer Publishing.

### **Impact Factor**

AER's 2015 Impact Factor increased to 0.696 from 0.438. This represents another very positive trend. As the 2015 Impact Factor is coming from a broader base (more citations from a wider range of articles) than previous years, this has improved our other metrics as well.

For example, we've gone up in the journal rankings, now placed at 148/230. This means AER is now the 2nd highest ranked education journal with an Asia-Pacific regional focus, compared to:

1. Australasian Journal of Educational Technology 0.798 (134/230)
2. Australian Educational Researcher 0.696 (148/230)
3. Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education 0.667 (154/230)
4. Asia-Pacific Educational Researcher 0.573 (169/230)
5. Australian Journal of Education 0.564 (170/230)
6. Asia-Pacific Journal of Education 0.531 (176/230)
7. English in Australia 0.513 (177/230)
8. Australasian Journal of Early Childhood 0.427 (194/230)
9. Asia-Pacific Education Review 0.394 (201/230)
10. Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling 0.250 (217/230)
11. Australian Journal of Adult Learning 0.186 (221/230)

This is a vast improvement on our 2012 previous ranking of 219. AER is now in Quartile 2 in the SCImago rankings.

### **Promotional Strategies**

One article per issue is being selected (on the basis of potential interest to a broad audience and the profession) for 2 months free-access. Full paper downloads have increased by 40% since this strategy and other related strategies have been in place (from 31,953 in 2014 to 44,697 in 2015).

### **Visibility**

@AER\_AARE now has 662 followers! With the release of every new issue, a link to the Table of Contents is being tweeted and then retweeted by @drlindagram (2,764 followers), @nicolemockler (1,956 followers), @AustAssocResEd (1,871 followers), and more...

Table of Content Alerts: An alert is being sent to all AARE members via aare@aare.edu.au upon the release of each new issue.

### **Upcoming Special Editions**

Each year AER includes a special edition and in 2016 the issue was (Vol 43:1, March) on think-tanks and edu-businesses, co-edited by Greg Thompson, Sam Sellar and Bob Lingard.

## Communications Report

Nicole Mockler

In 2016, AARE's social media presence has been further consolidated, and we now have over 1850 followers on Twitter and 630 on the Association's Facebook page. EduResearch Matters now has its own Twitter account, with over 200 followers. Furthermore, the AARE website has had over 280,000 views over the course of 2016 to date, with about 42% of these visitors located in Australia. The AARE Blog, EduResearch Matters, now has over 500 subscribers, and has had over 110,000 views in the past year.

In 2016, AARE News has been replaced by more frequent members' updates, which has allowed up-to-date information about activities and events to be delivered on a more regular and timely basis. The first book in the AARE book series, *Local/Global Issues in Education*, was published in December 2015, and a call for proposals in early 2016 led to a further two books being commissioned by Routledge. The second book in the series is now in production, with a third manuscript due for submission in mid-2017.

## Conferences Standing Committee Report

Margaret Baguley

The 2015 AARE Conference was held from 29 November to 3 December 2015 at The University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus in Western Australia. This was a very successful conference attracting 671 delegates. The conference theme was Coast to coast: locations and directions in educational research. We were particularly appreciative of the support and hospitality afforded by our local members Dr Anne Coffey, Dr Derek Hurrell and their Dean Professor Michael O'Neill who also presented a wonderful welcome to the conference delegates. The smaller size of this university campus and its location within the heart of Fremantle made for a very immediate sense of collegiality with important networking opportunities throughout the conference itself.

The Conferences Standing Committee (CSC) worked tirelessly in their various roles to ensure the success of the conference including: Ms Deborah Cracknell - AARE Office and Events Manager; Ms Debra Cunningham - AARE Executive Management Team

Representative; Professor Tracey Bunda - Indigenous Research and Engagement; Associate Professor Sue Saltmarsh - Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator; Professor Michele Simons - Treasurer; Dr Anne Coffey - Local Member; Dr Derek Hurrell - Local Member; Ms Sara Weuffen - Postgraduate Student Member; Dr Lisa Papatraianou - Early Career Researcher Member; and Dr Amanda Keddie - Awards Coordinator.

The keynote speakers for the 2015 AARE Conference were: Professor Deevia Bhana, University of Kwazulu-Natal; Professor Barbara Comber, Queensland University of Technology (Radford Lecture); Dr Lyn Henderson-Yates, The University of Notre Dame; Professor Bobby Harreveld, Central Queensland University; and Professor Michael Singh, University of Western Sydney. Some of these presentations were recorded and are available on the AARE website. The presentations covered a diverse range of areas and were well attended and received.

This was the first year International Conferences and Events (ICE) have been engaged as professional conference organisers for the AARE Conference and their dedication and commitment to ensuring an exemplary conference experience for everyone was greatly appreciated. Li Mei Giam was the project team leader and also managed the social program (Welcome Reception and SIG dinners). The rest of the team were: Rebekah Toole (Registrations); Danielle Falso (Marketing, Sponsorship and Exhibition) and Peta Freeman (Academic Program). The hard work and dedication of ICE was evidenced through the conference survey which revealed high levels of satisfaction with a range of areas and particularly the creative and individualised catering which was beautifully prepared and presented by Tihana Simich from 'Pasta Addiction'. The overall results of the survey revealed 90% of delegates would recommend the AARE Conference with a number of people referring to it as 'the friendly conference'. This was the result of many people who worked very hard to make the 2015 AARE Conference such a success and an important opportunity for delegates far and wide to network and advance educational research nationally and internationally.

The 2016 AARE Conference will be held at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in Melbourne, Victoria from 27 November – 1 December. The theme for the conference is Transforming Education Research which will enable delegates to explore areas of research aligned with the 27 AARE Special



Interest Groups.

We look forward to an exciting and engaging AARE Conference in the beautiful city of Melbourne. Thank you to the hard working members of the Conference Standing Committee and particularly Deborah Cracknell and Debby Cunningham for their ongoing support, enthusiasm and guidance during my three years (2014 – 2016) as the Chair of the committee. It has been a privilege to know and work with you.

## Postgraduate Student and Early Career Researcher Report

Sara Weuffen (PGS) and Abbey MacDonald (ECR)

This year has been a year of forward momentum and future planning for better support of the Postgraduate Student (PGS) and Early Career Researcher (ECRs) members of the AARE community. Early in 2016, Dr. Abbey MacDonald took up the two-year role of the ECR representative (2016-2017) on the AARE Executive committee, to work alongside Sara Weuffen who completes her two-year (2015-2016) position as the HDR representative.

Sara and Abbey are delighted to announce that the 2016 pre-conference workshop will mark the inaugural delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plenary, presented by Dr Julie Andrews from Latrobe University. Further to this inaugural plenary, the pre-conference workshop continues to explore and navigate challenges inherent to the HDR and ECR experience. The exciting Keynote delivered by Dr Stuart Riddle (a fellow ECR) will explore pathways from Doctoral Candidate through to Early Career Researcher and beyond, combined with a special afternoon plenary session that will unpack getting over academic imposter syndrome to be delivered by esteemed Professors Pat Thomson and Barbara Kamler. These presentations combined with an exciting and eclectic range of workshop themes spanning Research Design, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Methodologies and Academic Online Presence reflect varied learning experiences that are timely, topical and will no doubt be of immense value to the AARE HDR/ECR community. Please visit the Conference website for more information ([http://www.aareconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AARE-2016-Workshop-Program\\_161110.pdf](http://www.aareconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AARE-2016-Workshop-Program_161110.pdf))

In 2016, by working together Sara and Abbey have

implemented the following changes for the HDR/ ECR portfolio and pre-conference workshop. Sara and Abbey believe these changes align with the strategic direction of AARE and should be retained for future years:

- Set up and maintenance of an AARE cloud space for documents relating to the portfolio. This will ensure incoming representatives have a historical archive of previous pre-conference workshop programs and email records. This requires working with Deb Cracknell (Office and Events Manager).
- Ensuring that a Welcome to Country will precede any proceedings at the pre-conference workshop. This requires working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Special Interest Group (SIG) in order to follow protocols and customs.
- Inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plenary. This requires working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Special Interest Group (SIG) in order to follow protocols (currently being developed by the SIG) to invite presenters from Country on which the conference is being held to deliver this plenary.
- Video recording of Keynote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plenary, and Closing plenary sessions at the 2016 pre-conference workshop. This requires working with Deb Cracknell and ICE. These videos will be briefly edited and stored in the AARE members only space as a historical archive for HDR and ECR members.

In addition to the main role of co-ordination and management of the pre-conference workshop (with ICE), Sara and Abbey have considered and brainstormed a range of activities that could be implemented in the coming years in order to provide better on-going and year-round supports to the PGS/ECR community.

- A series of Professional Development (PD) modules, preferably online, and leading up to the pre-conference workshop that focuses on guiding PGSs/ECRs on:
  - o Abstract development and submission
  - o Conference paper development
  - o The art and craft of conference presentations
- Continue developing an online presence and community for the AARE HDR/ECR community. This may include:
  - o A space in the members only section of the AARE webpage
  - o Social Media presence (eg: Facebook page/

group, Twitter feed)

## Research Development Report

### Val Klenowski

AARE continues to collaborate with the Research in Education Network (REN), which includes members from all state, Independent and Catholic education departments. In 2016 we continued to work with REN colleagues to keep informed of national research priorities, ethics, consent issues and developments, such as progress in the development of the National Research Repository.

Part of this collaboration included a Webinar that was held in May this year. It was very well attended and the recording of this webinar is still available on the AARE website.

REN have developed a Research in Schools National Application Form and this is also available on the AARE website.

Meetings continued to take place with senior education department officers across the country including colleagues in Tasmania and the Northern Territory in 2016. Colleagues in Canberra from the Department of Education and Training were also contacted and the decision to hold a Research and Engagement and Impact Forum was supported and sponsored with a donation of \$5 000 towards the event.

- The event took place in Canberra at the University of Canberra on 27 – 28 October, 2016. The first day of the forum involved academics and Senior Policy officers from the Department of Education and Training, REN, ARC, cADRE and ACARA.
- After input from colleagues from the Department of Education and Training and the ARC regarding the outcomes of the recent consultation process and the Commonwealth's plans and processes for the next steps there were responses from colleagues from REN, cADRE, ACARA and input from ARC.
- Academics and policy officers considered the principles of effective engagement and impact for education. The second day commenced with input from Professor Marian Simms (Executive Director, Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences of the ARC) who also responded to a range of questions from academics. The remainder of the second day

involved:

- A discussion of the key questions to be addressed and
- Development of the draft Canberra Statement for Educational Research Engagement and Impact: Beyond Short Term Solutions. It is intended to disseminate the statement to all participants and research partners of AARE.

Marian Simms has agreed to talk to members at the AARE conference to be held in Melbourne. See AARE conference program for details.

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report

### Mary Lou Rasmussen

#### SIG Networking Events

SIG networking events were held across two evenings at the 2015 Conference in Fremantle. These replaced the SIG dinners held in previous years. This change overcame some of the organizational issues encountered in previous years and the approach will be further refined at the 2016 conference.

These events, held at each AARE Conference, are designed to provide an opportunity for newcomers to meet people involved in several SIGs, as well as allowing SIG members to have some time to socialize post their business meetings with members of their own SIGs and with members of others SIGs.

#### Competitive Grants and SIG Funding

##### Funding Amounts

At the February 2016 meeting of the AARE Executive Committee, a decision was made to increase the number of Competitive Grants available to SIGs. Beginning in the 2016 funding round, the total number of Competitive Grants available was increased from six to 10, with up to \$5000 per grant available.

#### Application Process and award of grants

This year we trialed an online application for all SIG annual and competitive grant applications. This helped to streamline the process in comparison to previous funding rounds where applications were submitted via email.

The selection of grant winners was undertaken by the Executive at its meeting in July. This enabled the

process to be finalized more expeditiously.

### SIG Competitive Grants

The following Competitive Grants were awarded for the 2016-2017 Financial Year:

- Poststructural Theory \$4,670
- Qualitative Research Methodologies: \$5,000
- Sociocultural Activity Theory: \$4,925
- Social Justice: \$5,000
- Arts Education Practice and Research \$4,970

The following SIG Annual Funding was awarded for the 2016-2017 Financial Year:

- Inclusive Education \$750
- Professional and Higher Education \$800
- Sociocultural Activity Theory \$800
- STEM Education \$648
- Teacher Education and Research Innovation \$800
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research \$1,160
- Educational Leadership \$800

### SIG Coordinator Administrative Support

This year we have employed a person to assist the SIG coordinator in their role. The purpose of this part time position is to help with processing of grants, updating the website to address changes in SIG leadership, and to assist with liaison with SIG leaders throughout the year.

### SIG Coordinator - election

At the 2015 AGM, an amendment was passed to the AARE Constitution to make the SIG Coordinator an elected office-holder on the Executive. Previously the role was allocated to ordinary members once they were elected to the Executive. The position was therefore included in the call for nominations for Executive positions falling vacant at the end of 2016. Unfortunately, however, no nominations were received.

Mary Lou, the current SIG coordinator, will endeavor to identify potential nominees for the role at this year's annual conference. She will stay in the role until the end of 2017.

### Duration of SIG Convenor appointments and SIG Convenor responsibilities

The convenor of a SIG holds the term of office for two years and may nominate for re-election for one consecutive two-year term. AARE financial membership is due annually. Some SIG convenors are failing to renew their financial membership

in a timely manner. This year this had particular repercussions for one SIG because the co-convenors didn't renew their membership and were not available to assist with the reviewing of papers for the annual conference; this role then fell to the Executive.

### Annual registration of SIGs

SIG convenors are currently slow to reregister their SIGs.

SIG must be registered each year with the AARE Executive. The SIG proforma must be completed each year by the SIG convenor and returned to the AARE SIG Coordinator on the AARE Executive by the 30 June.

### Reporting

Some SIGs have not yet submitted reports for the 2015-2016 financial year.

SIG convenors have been advised that the list of responsibilities of SIG convenors includes obtaining and providing a report on projects/activities that receive AARE funding via their annual or competitive grants.

### SIG numbers

The number of SIGs continues to grow and now stands at 27. During the year, the new STEM SIG was confirmed, the Doctoral Education SIG merged with the Professional and Higher Education SIG and the Narrative Research SIG was renamed the Qualitative Research Methodologies SIG.

### AARE SIGs and membership numbers (as at November 2016)

SIG Name	No.	SIG Convenors & Co-Convenors
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research	55	Tracey Bunda Melitta Hogarth
Arts Education Practice Research	71	Susan Davis Kim Snepvangers
Assessment and Measurement	67	Lenore Adie Fabienne van der Kleij
Early Childhood	84	Jo Bird Monika Krajcovicova Kathy Swinkels
Educational Leadership	129	Richard Niesche Jane Wilkinson

Educational Theory and Philosophy	96	Steven Stolz Maurizio Toscano
Environmental and Sustainability Education	30	Helen Widdop Quinton Amy Cutter-Mackenzie Karen Malone
Gender, Sexualities & Cultural Studies	84	Daniel Marshall Annette Bromdal
Global contexts for K-12 Education	45	Edlyn Chao Lucy Bailey
Health and Physical Education	48	Michael Gard Benjamin Williams
History and Education	41	Julie McLeod Helen Proctor
Inclusive Education	77	Linda Graham Ilektra Spandagou Ben Whitburn
Language and Literacy	113	Sue Nichols Samantha Disbray Christopher Walsh
Middle Years of Schooling	32	Katherine Main Tony Dowden
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## Theory Workshop Report

### Robyn Henderson

Three theory workshop weekends were conducted during 2016, as part of AARE's commitment to research training. The workshops offered opportunities for neophyte researchers to be immersed in theory for a whole weekend, to learn from experienced researchers in the field of education, and to extend their networks. With specific support from Griffith University, the University of Western Australia and RMIT, the workshops were held in Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne, with workshop presenters from 15 different universities. Over 100 HDR students and ECRs participated in the workshops, which covered a diverse range of topics that related to theory and methodology. AARE thanks the workshop presenters for their willingness to share their expertise, as well as the site hosts for their assistance in organising the events.

The Alison Lee 'Theory in Educational Research' Scholarships provide support for attendance at the workshops. This year, scholarships were awarded to: Gillian Anstee (Southern Cross University), Dr Leanne Coll (Deakin University), Michelle Jeffries (QUT), Rachel O'Brien (University of Sydney) and Dr Angela Page (University of New England).

## Office Report

### Deborah Cracknell

During the 2015-16 financial year, the AARE Office and Events Manager, Deborah Cracknell, has continued to focus on improving the support provided to AARE members, SIG Convenors and Executive members. This has been achieved by:

- Providing support to the Executive members, assisting them in their specific AARE Executive portfolios.
- Assisting the Secretary in organising the Executive meetings.
- Sending out membership renewal notices and

reminders.

- Continuing to streamline AARE's accounting processes allowing for flexible payment and/or reimbursement processes for those who travel for or receive AARE funding.
- Providing administration support to SIG convenors by sending out SIG emails to specific SIGs.
- Improving the touch points with members by providing a monthly member update as well as working with AARE Executive to produce the AARE newsletter.

During the past year accounting services were moved to a company called Figures Matter. This has allowed the Office and Events Manager to take a larger role in the finances of AARE with Figures Matter providing oversight of Payroll and BAS documentation.

The AARE Office is situated in Deakin, ACT and the Office and Events Manager works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. She can be contacted by phone during these hours on 0499 338 835 or by email: [aare@aare.edu.au](mailto:aare@aare.edu.au)

## AARE Executive 2016

Professor Margaret Baguley  
Professor Tracey Bunda  
Debra Cunningham  
Associate Professor Linda Graham  
Associate Professor Robyn Henderson  
Dr Melitta Hogarth  
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Dr Abbey MacDonald  
Professor Julie McLeod  
Professor Martin Mills  
Dr Nicole Mockler  
Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen  
Professor Michele Simons  
Associate Professor Bernadette Walker-Gibbs  
Sara Weuffen  
Professor Annette Woods

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

Members of the Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research Committee, Professor Bob Lingard (Chair), Professor Lyn Yates, Professor Jennifer Sumsion, Professor Helen Watt and Professor Michele Simons. The Conference Awards Committee.

All Convenors and Co-Convenors of the Special Interest Groups.

Professor Jan Wright for her support to the Conferences Standing Committee.

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

Our Office and Events Manager, Ms Deborah Cracknell.