



# **AARE**

# **Annual Report**

# **2022-2023**

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## Introduction

Dear AARE Members,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual report for the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE). This report documents activities of AARE from the period of mid 2022 to late 2023. The 2023 President, Professor Julie McLeod will also report on this period at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in Melbourne on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 5.30 pm (local Melbourne time) as part of the AARE Annual Conference program. In addition, all members will receive a link to this report on the AARE website so that all members have ready access to the reporting of the Association's activities.

The items in this report are produced by the AARE Executive Committee members, with the support of Amanda Mehegan and Susie Knight from the Association's management team at FineHaus. As volunteers of the Association, the Executive Committee members take carriage of different portfolios within the Association's business. A list of the 2023 Executive Committee members is available at the end of this report. As with all the Association's business and activities, feedback on this report is very welcome. Any comments or queries should be forwarded to the Executive Committee via [aare@aare.edu.au](mailto:aare@aare.edu.au). Alternatively, please connect with Julie as President or any other Executive member before or at the Conference in Melbourne.

## AARE Executive 2023

## President's Report

### Professor Julie McLeod

It is a great privilege to have the chance to serve as President of AARE, an Association that has had a formative role in my own academic career, with its annual conferences and associated events providing a critical and supportive research community. My term as President commenced at the conclusion of the extremely successful 2022 AARE conference held at UniSA. This event, our first in person conference since the COVID years, was a vivid reminder of the strength of our membership and research culture. It also affirmed the commitment of members and the generous and diverse contributions they make to sustaining our research community. It was an exciting time for me to begin.

I want to acknowledge the enormous efforts involved in bringing together the 2022 conference; as ever, the success of such major events is a collective effort. But I do want to thank particularly the work of the local conference committee at UniSA and Professor Anna Sullivan, Research Development Coordinator, Dr Kathryn Grushka as Conference Committee Chair, our professional conference organiser (PCO) ConferenceNational, the AARE Executive and the then President, Professor Allyson Holbrook, and the AARE office staff. We are now in the final stages of planning for the 2023 conference at the University of Melbourne (November 26-30) and looking forward to a bumper program and lively sessions and exchanges.

As a member association committed to advancing 'high quality educational research

to enhance the public good', AARE and its members are engaged on many fronts in responding to the complex and changing research environment which also intersects with public policy initiatives and wider political agendas. In recent years this has included reviews of the Australian Research Council, a comprehensive review of the higher education sector (the Accord), and reviews (again) of Initial Teacher Education (Strong Beginnings: Report of the Teacher Education Expert Panel, 2023 chaired by Mark Scott). Acknowledging the diversity of views across the membership on such consequential issues and reviews, the AARE Executive seeks to promote informed debate and advocacy for the importance of educational research and enhancement of 'educational processes, policy and practice at all levels' (as per the statement of our purposes in the Constitution). As one example: following the release of the 2023 TEEP report, the AARE Executive issued a [statement](#) to members, and in partnership with ATEA (Australian Teacher Education Association) planned a joint online forum (August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023) with invited panellists providing expert commentary on the framing and recommendations of the report during a plenary discussion and Q&A from the audience.

Debates about the referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament are directly relevant to the purposes of the Association, and to the principles reflected in AARE's [Statement of Reconciliation](#), and in the [Preamble](#) to our own constitution.

After considered deliberation, the AARE Executive issued a [statement](#) in support of a Yes vote, which also acknowledged the increasingly hostile and harmful nature of debates about the referendum, recognised and respected the broad range of views held by members, and acknowledged the earlier overwhelming support of AARE for the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) (2017).

### **Membership of the Executive**

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, we welcomed the following new members of the Executive:

- Professor Chris Boyle, Ordinary Member (Uni Adelaide)
- Professor Kal Gulson, Research Development Coordinator (USyd)
- Ms. Sarah Langman, PGR Representative (ACU)
- Dr Amanda Levido, Communication Coordinator (QUT)
- Professor Annette Woods, Secretary (QUT)

In doing so, we also farewelled with deep appreciation the following members of the Executive whose terms had concluded or who stepped down at the end of 2022.

- Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Member (UWS)
- Ms. Natalie Downs, PGS Representative (UC)
- Professor John Lester, Secretary (Univ Newcastle)
- Dr Abbey McDonald, Communication Coordinator (UTas)
- Professor Anna Sullivan, Research Development Coordinator (UniSA)

- Dr Sara Weuffen, Ordinary Member, (UNSW)

This also marked the transition of the President, Professor Allyson Holbrook, to the role of immediate Past President. I thank Allyson for all her work and able steering of the Association as it navigated the challenging environment during the COVID era, and for her generous support of me as I learnt the ropes.

In early 2023, after overseeing the organisation of the 2022 conference and with many other commitments, Dr Kathryn Grushka stepped down as Conferences Standing Committee Chair. We thank Kathryn most sincerely for her time on the Executive and for all her good grace in managing the complexity of conference arrangements.

Following an Expression of Interest process, Dr Catherine Smith (UniMelb) was appointed to the role of Conferences Standing Committee Chair in March 2023. Catherine has stepped into the role with great energy and commitment, and we thank her fulsomely for getting up to speed so speedily, and for all her efforts in overseeing the organisation of the conference, working in tandem with the AARE conferences and local committees and with our PCO, Think Business Events (TBE).

During 2023, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG has been led by four caretaker leaders and we thank these members for fulfilling the duties of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Member Executive positions during this period.

## Member support and strategic planning

The AARE Executive has been fully engaged in strengthening support for our members, through providing a wide range of offerings such as SIG grants, events, and bursaries as well as recognizing researchers' achievements through awards. A crucial role of the Executive is to ensure responsible governance and financial management of the Association, essential for our ongoing sustainability as a member organisation.

One key focus has been finalising the AARE Strategic Plan 2023-2026, the development of which began at the 2022 mid-year meeting of the Executive. The planning process was iterative, informed by the objects and purposes of the Association, assessment of the changing sector and research environment, and emerging member needs and interests. Five main priorities areas have been identified, each with their strategic initiatives which are then linked to detailed operational plans.

- Priority 1: Strengthen Research Capability
- Priority 2: Amplify AARE Impact & Visibility
- Priority 3: Enrich Member Engagement
- Priority 4: Diversify & Grow Membership
- Priority 5: Enhance Organisational Sustainability

A two-page summary of the Strategic Plan can be found at **Appendix 4**.

## Events and activities

Across the year, AARE has provided a rich suite of offerings for members, supporting many SIG events, Theory Workshops and seminars and workshops for PGR and ECR members. The detail of these activities is provided in the reports of the relevant portfolio leads and at **Appendix 3**. I thank members of the Executive and SIG leaders who have coordinated these valuable events. I also extend thanks to members of the wider AARE community who provide their time and expertise to these activities and events, all of which contributes to their success. The Executive welcomes suggestions for future events and activities.

## Links with international education research associations

Like many researchers adjusting to the circumstances following the intense disruptions of the COVID pandemic, AARE is in the process of renewing links and exchanges with international research associations. We have enjoyed strong connections with BERA (British Educational Research Association); AERA (American Educational Research Association); and NZARE (New Zealand Educational Research Association). This has included AARE providing funding towards supporting a selected symposium to represent AARE at the annual conferences of these associations. And AARE likewise offers a symposium slot to these associations at our annual conference.

While these arrangements were on pause during and immediately after the COVID lock downs, we have been making determined

efforts to renew these links, and this has been welcomed by the above associations.

Selection of a symposium to represent AARE at one of these conferences usually proceeds via an EOI process advertised to members.

At the 2023 AERA conference in Chicago, the AARE symposium was 'Dreams for Digital Spaces: What Shapes the Worlds of Children, Educators and Researchers?', with presenters Aleesha Rodriguez (QUT), Rebecca Ng (UoW), Xinyu Zhao, (Deakin); Sarah Healy, Kathryn Coleman, Amanda Belton (UniMelb); Dan Harris (RMIT) and Daniel Hickey (Indiana).

An EOI was held for the BERA conference, but no nominations were received, likely due to the tight time frame. An EOI process was scheduled for the NZARE conference during second semester 2023, with priority given to symposiums from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG due to existing collaborations and the value of building Indigenous research partnerships across the Tasman and in Oceania.

Arrangements are being put in place for EOI processes for the 2024 round of conferences hosted by international partners.

## AARE Book Series with Routledge

The [AARE Local/Global Issues in Education](#) continues to provide a valuable means of publishing and giving greater national and international profile to the range and calibre of members' research. The 2022 conference saw the launch of *Community Matters: The complex links between community and young people's aspirations for higher education* (Gore, Patfield, Fray and Harris); and in June

2023 a new edited volume *Temporality, Space and Place in Education and Youth Research* (McLeod, O'Connor, Davis and McKernan) was published and will be launched at the 2023 conference. We acknowledge the crucial work of the series Editors – in commissioning, selecting, and reviewing proposals as well as final manuscripts, discussions with prospective authors and editors, and their support for contributors throughout the process. Our sincere thanks go to Professor Greg Thompson (QUT), Associate Professor Jessica Gerrard (UniMelb); and Professor Marcia McKenzie (UniMelb). In mid-year, Jessica Gerrard advised of her intention to step down from this role due to other commitments and an Expression of Interest process was initiated for a new series editor.

### **Constitutional review**

Review of the AARE Constitution commenced in February 2023, led by the Secretary, Professor Annette Woods and a subcommittee comprising myself as President, past President Professor Allyson Hollbrook, and Dr Olivia Johnston (Ordinary Member). This is an important undertaking, essential for responsible governance and for ensuring that the Constitution accurately reflects the aims, aspirations and conduct of the Association. Further details are provided in the Secretary's report. I thank Annette for her leadership of this major program of work.

### **Policies and procedures**

Across 2022-2023, the policies scheduled for development or review have included:

- AARE Community Guidelines – completed, June 2023

- Social Media Policy – completed, June 2023
- Cyber Security Policy & Procedures – completed, June 2023
- Executive Committee Office Bearer Policy – completed, Feb 2023
- Executive Committee Funding Policy – completed, Nov 2022
- Conflict of Interest Policy – completed, July 2022

Policy development remains an important item of business for the Executive to ensure adequate risk management and association governance. Ongoing development is scheduled across privacy, data management, financial management, risk management, stakeholder engagement and further constitution review in the year ahead.

### **Contract negotiations**

During 2023, three major contracts have been scheduled for negotiation.

These are:

- Routledge as the publisher of the AARE series, *Local/Global Issues in Education*.
- Think Business Events (TBE): the current Professional Conference Organiser:
- FineHaus: the current AARE Office Management and Services

The unanimous decision of the Executive was to renew the contract with Routledge, and to request a further three-year contract. Routledge is also keen to retain the contract and values the strong relationship it has with AARE and its members and with the education research community more widely.



The details of the new contract with Routledge are being finalised, and it should be in place by the end of November 2023.

The Executive also decided to begin negotiations with FineHaus and TBE with a view to contract renewal, subject to updated documentation on scope of works and costing (FineHaus) and Event Brief and indicative budget for the 2024 conference (TBE). In order to consolidate stability, the Executive is looking to two-year contract extensions. These negotiations are well underway, with the intention to finalise both contracts by the end of November 2023.

Early-stage planning is in train for contract renewal discussions with Springer, as the publisher of the *Australian Educational Researcher*.

### **Awards and Bursaries**

An important role of the Association is to recognise research achievements of members through the suite of our awards, which acknowledge the work of researchers at different stages in their careers, from the Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research in Education to the award of Honorary Life Membership. This year, in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG, we developed a new award, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Award, which sits alongside the existing (but renamed) Betty Watts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Award. I thank all selection committee chairs and members, and Dr Olivia Johnston for coordinating the awards process.

The provision of bursaries is another important way in which AARE supports its members,

with investment focused on enabling the participation of doctoral and early career researchers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers in AARE conferences and Theory Workshops. Again, many thanks to all who are involved in the distribution of bursaries.

### **Meeting Schedule**

Given the volume of business and initiatives in which the Executive is engaged, we increased the number of meetings of the full Executive, running this as a trial during 2023.

We retained our face-to-face meetings at three times a year – with the usual schedule being a two-day meeting in February, June/July and then immediately before the annual conference at the end of November. We introduced three further meetings per year, held online and for 2 hours each.

The 2023 the meeting schedule was as follows:

- February 9 & 10, (UniMelb)
- April 3, online
- June 15 & 16, (USyd)
- August 7, online
- October 9, online
- November 25 & 26 (UniMelb)

The increased frequency of meetings has allowed members of the Executive to be fully engaged in active decision making and priority setting. We appreciate that this has been an additional commitment for members but on balance we see this is an important way to ensure robust participation, open processes, and full engagement of diverse views.

This has also reduced the need for decisions to be made via email circulation. Minutes of



these meetings are available for all members on the AARE website.

In addition, the EMT (Executive Management Team) comprising the President, Secretary, Treasurer and incoming or outgoing President, continues to meet fortnightly in order (as per the Constitution) to attend to day-to-day business and track actions following from the Executive meetings. Summary notes of these meetings and any actions are circulated to members of the Executive.

Time and time again, I am amazed by and grateful for the service and generosity of colleagues who provide leadership and a multitude of valuable contributions to AARE and its many endeavours. For me, this is the essence of what it means to be a part of a collaborative and collegial research culture and member association. That said, it is equally vital to acknowledge the sheer hard work and long hours that many members give to AARE. Thank you.

I also extend huge thanks to our FineHaus colleagues, in particular Amanda Mehegan and Susie Knight for their always professional and effective management of the AARE office. This includes dealing with member inquiries, assisting SIG convenors with arrangements, and supporting the work of the Executive and EMT.

And a final note of appreciation to members of the Executive for all their hard work and contributions, and for bringing the goodwill that helps make it such a positive and productive committee.

## Treasurer's Report

### Professor Michele Simons

The 2022-23 financial year has seen the continuation of an improvement in the overall financial operating conditions for AARE.

Our Audited Financial Statements for the 2022-23 financial year are reproduced as an attachment to this report and can be accessed on the AARE website. The profit and loss statement shows our income and expenditure for the year 1 July 2022 - June 30, 2023. With the significant income from our national conference and memberships, our income totalled \$862,758. Operating expenses for the financial year totalled \$695,450 and is reflective of the significant outlays that AARE needs to cover so that we can continue to operate.

This financial year also saw a continued shift in the ways in which the Association spends its money. The contracting of FineHaus to manage AARE's business now means that the Association has no expenses associated with the direct employment of staff. We continue to benefit from the expertise of colleagues in the Association as we continue to refine roles and responsibilities across association management and other service providers.

Income from membership fees is an issue that the Executive continually monitors. I am pleased to report that we have achieved an increase in membership receipts over the past financial year (\$128,395 22-23 against \$73,744 21-22). We will continue to monitor the level of memberships, particularly in light

of the significant changes that are expected to play out in the Higher Education sector as a result of the outcomes from the Accord which will be released late in 2023. We will need to continue to be vigilant on the matter of membership fees as many of our members feel the impact of decisions being made in universities to manage their financial circumstances in a highly volatile operating context. Previous means open to us to grow our income may not be so readily available to us and we will need to be sensitive to the circumstances of our members as we seek to balance our need to generate income to meet the operating costs of the Association with ensuring we provide a vital and energised space for educational research to thrive.

For the 2022-23 financial year, AARE 's major areas (top ten) of expenditure were as follows:

Conference expenses	\$417,033
Association Management	\$115,680
FineHaus	
Editorial Support	\$39,776
SIG Funding	\$32,992
Meeting Expenses	\$23,857
Awards and Scholarships	\$19,612
Website	\$11,537
Publication expenses	\$10,592
Subscriptions & memberships	\$6,171
Strategic projects	\$5,666

The Statement of Financial Position provides a summary of the financial status of AARE as of 30 June 2023. It lists our

assets (the money that we hold in our accounts), liabilities (costs and expenses that we are responsible for) and our equity position (what we 'have' in terms of funds available to us). Our equity position has improved this financial year because of the successful 2022 conference and the efficiencies that have been put in place by the Executive throughout 2023.

The AARE Constitution requires us to have one year of operating costs held in reserve, accessible and available to support operations in the event of unexpected circumstances. The Executive looks closely and carefully at its level of reserves and typically considers best practice to hold at least 1.5 year of operating cost in reserve. As operating costs fluctuate year-on-year we recalculate our assessment of cash reserves to ensure that the amount held in reserve reflects current costs of operations. As noted above, in the 2022-2023 financial year, total operating costs were \$695,450, so 1.5 times operating costs equates to holding \$1,043,175. The fact that we have exceeded this benchmark (identified as retained earnings/equity on page 6 of the audited financial report) does give the Association some room to consider new initiatives. However, we still need to be vigilant; how much we can devote to strategic activities will continue to be determined by careful monitoring of our approved budget over the year to ensure that funds can be equitably spread across all the activities and benefits that members expect from the Association.

Risk management has continued to be a focus for the Executive and it has been part of the

AARE Treasurer's portfolio to monitor and mitigate risk with the primary goal of financial security and sustainability.

With support from our Association Management service provider FineHaus, the Executive maintains a detailed Risk Register and reviews a risk management action plan throughout the year during formal meetings. Our suite of policies has expanded across the last two years with a range of financial, reputation, governance, risk and procedural policies having been developed (seven in the last twelve months) and a number of significant policy updates planned over the remainder of this year. Cyber security is now an essential part of organisational governance and is a key point of focus for AARE with thorough policies and procedures in place, aligned to best practice. With the ever-expanding and complex risks facing non-profit organisations in Australia, AARE is constantly re-evaluating how it resources risk management and how best to engage its volunteer Committee members so that all play an active role in risk governance.

In concluding this report, it would be remiss of me not to thank Amanda Mehegan and colleagues at FineHaus. Their commitment to learning all about AARE so they can service our members has been wonderful and augurs well for a sustainable and effective partnership over the coming years.

## **Secretary's Report**

### **Professor Annette Woods**

It has been exciting to take up a new role on the Executive in 2023. I had thought in 2019

when I finished my four-year term as AARE President (with incoming and immediate past commitments that I would not have the opportunity to return to the Executive Committee for a third time, but somehow I've been lucky enough to return as Secretary for 2023-2024.

AARE Membership in the July 2022 to June 2023 period has returned to pre COVID-19 numbers, with the Association finishing the financial year in June 2023 with 976 members. As of September 2023, we had 845 members which is in line with last year at this same time. Just over 30% of membership are early career researchers, which is good news for the Association's future.

As the Secretary I see my focus related to ensuring that the Association's processes are clearly framed and transparent, and as such that has been a key focus of the work I've been engaged in during 2023.

We have engaged in a work plan to update handbooks and policy and procedure documents. These include updates to the Awards Handbook (thanks to Olivia Johnston), and Conferences Handbook, initial drafts of the SIG Convenor Handbook (thanks to Ilektra Spandagou), and Theory Workshops Handbook (thanks to Kal Gulson and Stewart Riddle) are also in process. In relation to policies and procedures we have worked in the areas of cyber security, privacy, data management, social media (thanks to Amanda Levido) and finance (thanks to Michele Simons). With plans for further work on our documents and procedures in 2024, I'd like to acknowledge the important work of Amanda Mehegan of FineHaus who has provided excellent support of efforts in this area.

AARE has continued to provide support for members' participation in activities and in building research capacity within the field during the 2022-2023 period. This includes 27 events held (please see the details of these events at **Appendix 3** of this report), and a full range of awards and bursaries provided to members as well. As just one example of the commitment in this space, 25 recipients were recently awarded Conference Support Bursaries, and 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members were provided with Indigenous Conference Support Bursaries.

The Constitutional Review has also been a focus of the Secretary role in 2023. To date, work completed has included a comparison of the current Constitution to the Example Rules for an Incorporated Association (under the SA Associations Incorporation Act, 1985), and to the Constitutions of international and national like-Associations. A survey was administered to members for input on the current Constitution and five members took the opportunity to provide feedback. Further opportunities for consultation will be provided at the 2023 Conference, with the Constitutional change proposal resulting from this review put to membership for voting in 2024. Thanks to the Constitutional Review sub-Committee of Olivia Johnston, Julie McLeod, Allyson Holbrook who have supported me in this work.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working party, led by Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, has also completed extensive work related to Indigenous governance, and presented the Executive with options and opportunities for change. We thank these members for this work during such busy and

complex times. The Executive will continue to consult with membership, and it is planned that a Constitutional change proposal will be put to membership in 2024 to encompass these proposed changes. A Constitutional change proposal to instate two (2) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Members on to the Executive Committee was put to membership in the form of an electronic vote late in 2023. The results of this membership vote will be announced at the 2023 AGM.

## Communications Portfolio

### Dr Amanda Levido, Coordinator

In 2023 AARE maintained its public presence through several means, including the website, the EduResearch Matters Blog and several social media channels.

#### AARE website

During 2022-2023, the AARE website [aare.edu.au](http://aare.edu.au) received 29,344 unique visitors, and 70,110 page visits. It was a key channel for promotion of blog updates, news, events, policy updates, products, reports, funding opportunities and member services during the period:

- 28 events (22 virtual, 4 in-person, 2 blended)
- 67 News posts
- 108 blog posts
- 7 policy updates
- 8 products in the online shop
- 10 funding/grant opportunities
- Access to membership benefits

The AARE Conference website [aareconference.com.au](http://aareconference.com.au) is a vital resource for promoting the Association's annual conference.

A variety of system updates were undertaken in 2023 highlighting the importance of AARE's web host and web development service providers. Review of systems, service providers and website strategy will continue into 2024.

### **EduResearch Matters Blog**

The EduResearch Matters Blog continues to be an exceptional blog where informed debate takes place across a range of topics and issues in education research. Dr Jenna Price continues her Editorial Leadership, publishing pieces that garner attention for the individual researchers and the Association. A huge thank you to Dr Jenna Price for her ongoing commitment to ensuring the blog is of high quality and interest to our members and beyond.

### **Social Media**

The AARE social media channels primarily feature content that is of interest to all members, however we also feature information pertaining to particular AARE Special Interest Groups (SIGs) where space allows. A process has been set up where SIG convenors can send their requests to post on the main Association social media channels through a template form.

In 2023 we commenced using a social media platform management tool to allow for ease in posting across multiple platforms. This has reduced the time required to post across multiple sites.

Changes to some social media platforms mean in future years we may need to evaluate what social media platforms are most suitable for the Association. However, as this is a rapidly evolving area, in 2023 we have maintained our existing accounts and added a LinkedIn account to the suite of channels.

The number of followers of our social media accounts continues to grow, demonstrated by the follower numbers below:

- X (formally Twitter) – 5,680
- Facebook – 2,426
- LinkedIn - 343

While Facebook and Twitter continue to be the social media outlets most engaged with, since our new LinkedIn channel was combined with the EduResearch Matters blog in July 2023 the page has seen continuous growth within the education community.

SIGs also run their own social media channels. This year, each SIG was contacted to update these details. We thank the SIG convenors for their work in this space.

Several communications policy and procedure documents have been revised or developed over 2023 to ensure consistency in our approaches moving forward.

A special thanks to Dr Abbey McDonald for her contribution to the portfolio in 2022 and to the AARE office team and Executive for their continued support for what can often be a time sensitive portfolio.

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

**A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou, Coordinator**

### SIG Convenor Meetings

Quarterly SIG Zoom meetings provide opportunities for SIG Convenors to come together. The meetings are timetabled at critical points in the Association Calendar. The first meeting focused on the annual SIG funding round and the remaining were timetabled to coincide with important dates related to the preparation for the annual conference. This allows SIG Convenors to share information. The AARE President, Professor Julie McLeod joined the second meeting in June 2023. SIG meetings are very well attended by SIG Convenors. Meetings are recorded and disseminated to all SIG Convenors and Co-Convenors.

### SIG Administration Support

The SIGs require varied administrative support in processing of grants, to update information on the website, to send out mailouts and to provide support for SIG Events. The processes established for this were refined this year ensuring responsive, timely support for SIG Convenors and members.

### 2023-2024 Competitive SIG Grant Scheme

AARE recognises the important role of SIGs in building research capacity and strengthening collegial networks within our research community. To support the SIGs activities, AARE provides a competitive funding scheme.

Based on the positive outcomes of the scheme in the previous year, the same model was used in 2023 to provide funding for 2023-2024.

These included Major+ grants (\$5000), Major grants (up to \$3000) and Minor grants (up to \$1000). For the Major+ category SIGs needed to demonstrate in the application the existing, sustained capacity and activity of the SIG. SIGs also had the option for joint applications of up to \$8000. This year a new budget proforma was introduced and trialled providing more budgetary and risk management detail at the application and reporting stages.

The following SIGs were awarded funding in 2023 for the 2023-2024 financial year:

#### **Major+ & Major Joint grants (up to \$8000):**

Educational Leadership SIG

Schools and Education Systems SIG

#### **Major+ grants (up to \$5000):**

Arts Education Practice Research SIG

Health and Physical Education SIG

#### **Major grants (up to \$3000):**

Cultural Historical & Activity Theory SIG

Gender, Sexualities and Cultural Studies SIG

Inclusive Education SIG

Motivation and Learning SIG & Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics SIG (joint grant)

Professional and Higher Education SIG

Teacher Education & Research Innovation SIG

Teachers' Work and Lives SIG

Technology and Learning SIG

#### **Minor grants (up to \$1000):**

Assessment and Measurement SIG

Qualitative Research Methodologies SIG



## AARE SIGs

There are 29 current SIGs in AARE. Each AARE member can select membership to up to three SIGs. In the AARE 2022 Conference in Adelaide, SIG meetings took place over two days to allow delegates to attend meetings of more than one SIG across the two days. Feedback for this approach has been positive.

All SIG leadership positions are voluntary. This year a change in terminology removing the term co-convenor, was introduced to capture the way that Convenor Teams currently operate. All relevant website information was updated.

Convenor Teams offer AARE members the opportunity to build professional networks and to demonstrate leadership at a national level. At the time of writing this report, there is one call for nominations for a SIG Convenor open and further calls are planned for the period leading to the AARE Conference. Changes in the Convenor Teams take place throughout the year.

### AARE SIGs membership numbers and Convenors as at 29 September 2023:

SIG	Active Members	Convenors
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research	53	The SIG is currently supported by: Tracey Bunda, Kevin Lowe, Melitta Hogarth, Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews
Arts Education Practice Research	42	Kathryn Coleman, Peter Cook

Assessment & Measurement	35	Gulay Erin Dalgic, Samantha Low-Choy, Ameena Payne
Children & Student Voice Across All Sectors	36	Manaia Chou-Lee, Trang Hoang, Heather Manning
Cultural Historical & Activity Theory	17	John Cripps Clark, Samran Daneshfar, Judith MacCallum, Hongzhi Yang, Suxiang Yu
Early Childhood	56	Jo Bird, Vicki Schriever, Kathy Swinkels
Educational Leadership	111	Katrina MacDonald, Michelle Striepe, Pauline Thompson
Educational Philosophy & Theory	64	Steven Stolz, Robert Stevens, Maurizio Toscano
Environment & Sustainability Education	32	Amy Cutter-Mackenzie-Knowles, Claudine Lagier, David Rousell, Thilinka Wijesinghe
Gender, Sexualities & Cultural Studies	58	Michelle Jeffries, Lizzie Maughan, And Pasley, Victoria Rawlings, Barrie Shannon



<b>SIG</b>	<b>Active Members</b>	<b>Convenors</b>
Global Contexts for Education	50	Rhonda Di Biase, Rebecca Spratt
Health & Physical Education	33	Cassandra, Carla Luguetti, Jacqui Peters
History & Education	21	Alison Bedford, Yeow-Tong Chia, Robert Parkes
Inclusive Education	72	Kate de Bruin, Sofia Mavropoulou, Haley Tancredi
Language & Literacy	75	Janet Dutton, Yang Liu, Shu Ohki, Jemima Rillera Kempster
Motivation & Learning	41	Emma Burns, Natasha Kett, Anne Suryani
Politics & Policy in Education	138	Jessica Holloway, Steven Lewis
Poststructural Theory	47	George Variyan, Benjamin Zonca
Professional & Higher Education	76	Giedre Kligyte, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Knight, Alisa Percy, Jing Qi
Qualitative Research Methodologies	103	Sheena Elwick, Keith Heggart,
Rural Education	27	Hernan Cuervo, Jennifer Dove, Karl Maton

Schools & Educational Systems	63	Zid Mancenido, Melissa Tham
Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics	36	Liang Li, Victoria Millar, Emma Stevenson, Ben Zunica
Social Justice	106	Tim Fish, Lesley Friend, Ana Larsen, Aaron Teo
Sociology of Education	107	Babak Dadvand, Sarah McDonald, Nerida Spina, Garth Stahl
Teacher Education & Research Innovation	177	David Clements, Bianca Coleman, Jessica Premier, Melissah Thomas
Teachers Work & Lives	90	Ellen Larsen, Craig Wood
Technology & Learning	47	Elham (Ellie) Manzari, Natalie McMaster, Ellie Meissner

## Research Development Portfolio

**Prof Kal Gulson, Coordinator**

### 2023 Theory Workshop

The long-awaited return of the in-person Theory Workshop was held on September 15/16 at the Springfield campus of University of Southern Queensland (USQ). The workshop was generously supported by AARE and the USQ School of Education through room bookings, catering and speaker travel. We thank USQ for their support, which allows AARE to offer the Theory Workshops to early career and post graduate researchers. Other members who would like to help support AARE Theory workshops in a similar partnership would be welcome to contact the AARE Executive or Office.

The theme of the 2023 workshop was ***The future of method and education research.***

Lyn Yates kicked off the event with her opening presentation: A thinking through of what good educational research looks like, 20 years after the publication of the book of the same name. Respondents Nicole Mockler, Greg Thompson and Andrew Hickey, and the audience, delved into how much has changed and how much has remained the same when it comes to doing quality research in and on education.

Saturday saw the workshops with two broad streams organised around qualitative and quantitative approaches, with workshops led by Nicole Mockler, Jason Lodge, Danielle Armour, Andrew Hickey, Naomi Barnes, Sam Hames, and Greg Thompson. But it was clear by the end of the day that the categories of quantitative and qualitative are not as useful

as thinking through the relationship of theory, methods and problems when it comes to doing educational research.

The event was attended by PhD candidates and ECRs from just down the road and across the country.

A key concern was that some who registered for the event did not attend. We will do a short survey of all registered in order to find out why people did not attend. We are also interested to receive feedback of participants as a way to inform future workshops.

Thanks to all our presenters and attendees for giving up their weekend, and to Stewart Riddle, Sarah Langman and Ellen Larsen for the work of putting on the event.

### UPCOMING RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

#### DECRA seminar – 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

A DECRA seminar will be run on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, focusing on the new guidelines especially the ROPE section.

Presenters: Martin Mills, Jen Alford, Sophie Rudolph and Kalervo Gulson

#### Reviewing ARC applications and journal articles: similarities and differences – 8<sup>th</sup> November

This seminar will be delivered by Kalervo Gulson, Julie McLeod and Nicole Mockler.

### PORTFOLIO FOLLOW UP

A handbook is being prepared about the practices and processes of running theory workshops so that important details are passed on and adapted as different Executive members take on the responsibility.

## **Australian Educational Researcher (AER)**

### **A/Prof Stewart Riddle, Editor in Chief**

The *Australian Educational Researcher* (AER) has received 419 new paper submissions from 1 January to 29 September 2023. This is a substantial increase on the 315 submissions received for the entire of 2022 and has resulted in considerable journal workload. I am grateful to the dedicated and exceptional team of editors with whom I work, including Associate Editors A/Prof Melissa Barnes, Dr Emma Burns, Prof Hernan Cuervo, Dr Troy Heffernan, A/Prof Anna Hogan, Dr Abbey MacDonald and Dr Meghan Stacey, and ECR Editor Interns Dr Sally Larsen and Dr Sally Patfield.

### **AER Awards 2022**

The Springer/AER Best Paper Award for 2022 was awarded to Marnee Shay, Rhonda Oliver, Helen McCarthy, Tetiana Bogachenko and Boori Monty Prior for their paper, 'Developing culturally relevant and collaborative research approaches: A case study of working with remote and regional Aboriginal students to prepare them for life beyond school', which was published in Volume 49, Issue 4.

The Springer/AER Reviewer of the Year Award for 2022 was awarded to Professor Annette Woods from the Queensland University of Technology.

### **Journal Metrics**

AER's 2022 JCR 2-year Impact Factor is 2.1 and 5-year Impact Factor is 2.6. The 2022 Scimago Journal Rank remains comfortably Q1 and the 2022 Scopus CiteScore has risen to 4.3.

The journal is performing very well and is a journal of 'first choice' for many education researchers, both in Australia and internationally. There were over 364,000 paper downloads from AER during 2022, which is a 41% increase on papers downloaded in 2021. A contributing factor to the increased downloads is the Council of Australian University Librarians' Read and Publish deal with Springer Nature, which has resulted in the majority of AER papers being published gold open access since the beginning of 2022.

### **Special Issues**

The 2023 special issue (Volume 50, Issue 1) was edited by A/Prof Kevin Lowe, Dr Sara Weuffen, A/Prof Cathie Burgess, Dr Nikki Moodie, and Dr Aleryk Fricker, and was based on the *Aboriginal Voices* project.

The 2024 special issue is in progress, edited by Prof Susanne Gannon, Dr Erika Smith and Leanne Higham. The special Issue is entitled *Gender and Schooling in Australia*, and is anticipated to be published as Volume 51, Issue 1. The 2025 Special Issue will be edited by Prof Jane Kenway and Dr Matthew Sinclair, and is entitled *Critical policy junctures for public schooling*. A call for special issue proposals for 2026 and 2027 will be made during 2024. Please keep an eye out for the call in the AARE member updates.

## Post Graduate & Early Career Research Portfolios

### Ms Sarah Langman (PGS)

### Dr Ellen Larsen (ECR)

### Ordinary Members (Postgraduate Student and Early Career Researcher)

In December 2022, Sarah Langman (ACU) commenced as the AARE Ordinary Member (Postgraduate Student) for the 2023-2024 period, joining Dr Ellen Larsen Ordinary Member (Early Career Researcher) in the PGEER Portfolio. Sarah's role on the Executive follows on from two years of exemplary service in the role by Ms Natalie Downes (UC) for the 2021-2022 period.

Ellen's term as the Ordinary Member (ECR) draws to a close in December 2023, after two years in the role. Ellen has been a tremendous mentor to both Natalie and Sarah during her term of service, and an invaluable contributor to the AARE Executive team. She has advocated for apt and timely support for both postgraduate students and early career researchers across her two year term. We wish Ellen all the best as she continues her teaching and research at UniSQ and thank her for her vital contributions as Ordinary Member (Early Career Researcher) on the AARE Executive Committee.

### Building Capacity: Online Events

Throughout 2023, the PGEER Portfolio has arranged five online events for new and continuing postgraduate and early career researchers. These sessions were designed to support the common needs identified for this cohort of members, as well as offering capacity building opportunities in line with the 2023 AARE Conference schedule.

The topics and presenters for these sessions were as follows:

Event One: 'Shining a Light on your Research Work' with Dr Meghan Stacey (UNSW) - 44 registrations.

Event Two: 'Small Steps Towards Building a Track Record of Funding' with Dr Abbey MacDonald (UTAS) - 17 registrations.

Event Three: 'How to Nail that Conference Abstract' with Dr Anna Hogan (QUT) - 61 registrations.

Event Four: 'Beginning to Decolonise Research in Education' with Dr Al Fricker (DU) - 20 registrations.

Event Five: 'Creating and Delivering Conference Presentations with Polish and Punch' with Associate Professor Stewart Riddle (UniSQ) and Professor Annette Woods (QUT) - 37 registrations.

These events were all recorded and uploaded to the AARE website for subsequent viewing access for all AARE members. Given the mean number of registrations for these events was 36 members, it is safe to say that these events were well-received for their content. We thank the presenters for their generosity of time and expertise.

### Theory Workshop

In September, the PGEER Portfolio collaborated with Research Development Coordinator, Professor Kal Gulson, and AER Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor Stewart Riddle, to host the 2023 Theory Workshop at University of Southern Queensland's Springfield Campus.

This event, 'The Future of Method and Education Research', was designed specifically with postgraduate students and early career researchers in mind.

The event provided opportunities for attendees to learn about a range of qualitative, quantitative, participatory and digital methods.

The opening plenary on the Friday evening saw a keynote delivered by Professor Lyn Yates (UniMelb) from the UniSQ Springfield Campus Auditorium to a hybrid audience (85 registrations in total), followed by in-person Saturday workshops attended by 37 delegates. We wish to thank Professor Yates, as well as workshop presenters Professor Nicole Mockler (USYD), Associate Professor Danielle Armour (UQ), Dr Naomi Barnes (QUT), Dr Sam Hames (UQ), Professor Andrew Hickey (UniSQ), Associate Professor Jason Lodge (UQ) and Professor Greg Thompson (QUT). Thanks to the support of AARE and the utmost generosity of the University of Southern Queensland, particularly Associate Professor Peter Cook (Head of the School of Education), in providing the facilities as well as catering on the day. As a result of this support the event was able to be provided free of charge to all AARE members.

Two successful applicants from within the PGECR membership domain were also awarded with The Alison Lee 'Theory in Educational Research' Scholarships. Congratulations to recipients, Ameena Leah Payne and Andreia Peñaloza Caicedo.

## **2023 Pre-Conference Workshop**

The 2023 AARE Pre-Conference Workshop, to be held on Sunday 26 November, will be the keystone event for the PGECR Portfolio. Planning commenced for this event in February to ensure ample time and consideration into the effective running of this core event. The day will feature a combination of keynote speeches and panel discussions, as well as 21 attendees electing to share their research via 'Lightning Talks', a capacity building opportunity in preparation for the main conference as well as being a networking prospect.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Associate Professor Kevin Lowe (UNSW), Dr Jessica Holloway (ACU) and Associate Professor Stewart Riddle (UniSQ) for their incredible contributions as key speakers for this event. We also thank Dr Jessa Rogers (QUT), Dr Simon Knight (UTS) and Dr Eve Mayes (DU), for offering their valuable insights as ECR panelists.

## **Conference Bursaries**

We were very fortunate to be able to offer 25 bursaries in 2023 for postgraduate and early career researcher applicants to attend the AARE Conference. These bursaries generously included a complimentary Conference registration, including the Pre-Conference workshop and daily catering, as well as a 12-month AARE Membership. Upwards of 140 applications for this scheme demonstrates its importance with ECR and Postgraduate student members. This year a newly developed online process ensured the application for and award of the bursaries was efficient.

## Communication with Members

Throughout the year we have continued to promote key PGECR events via social media channels in conjunction with registration links on the AARE website. Our social media presence has been largely based within the AARE PGECR Facebook page and the AARE Postgrads & ECRs (#AARE\_PGECR) handle on Twitter.

Thank you to AARE Communications Coordinator, Dr Amanda Levido, for her assistance in synchronising social media promotion via the associated AARE Twitter and LinkedIn handles.

## Into the Future

It is intended that the PGECR Portfolio will continue to provide high quality, inclusive professional learning opportunities to AARE members throughout 2024. It is hoped that the provision of PGECR bursaries will continue to support conference participation and attendance. The PGECR team will continue to work in partnership with the AARE Research Development Portfolio Coordinator to develop and deliver theory workshops and other events relevant to the needs of this specific subset of members. We would like to continue conversations around best inclusion practices for postgraduates and early career researchers to support their educational research development and ongoing participation in AARE events.

Dr Ellen Larsen wishes the incoming Ordinary Member (ECR) all the best and is very sure that they will have a highly productive and enjoyable experience during their term on the AARE Executive.

## Conferences Standing Committee

**Dr Catherine Smith, Chair (2023)**

**Dr Kath Grushka, Chair (2022)**

2023 saw a change-over of AARE Conferences Standing Committee Chair. After a very successful 2022 Annual Conference, Dr Kath Grushka finalised her term in the role. We thank Kath for steering the operations of such a successful conference, being the Association's first in-person conference after COVID-19. Kath worked with a PCO new to the Association, and a new Conferences Standing Committee and Local Committee, but managed all of the dimensions of the organisation efficiently and professionally. Thank you Kath, from all involved in the Association.

During January to March, the Executive Management Committee with FineHaus support called for Expressions of Interest for Professional Conference Organising services for the 2023 Conference, and at the same time sought expressions of interest from members for the Conferences Standing Committee Chair position. While waiting for the selection process to be finalised, President, Professor Julie McLeod acted as an interim Chair, ensuring that contracts, bookings and other organisational details were completed in a timely fashion.

After a selection process completed by a panel of Executive Committee members, Dr Catherine Smith was appointed to the Conferences Standing Committee Chair role in March and has quickly settled into the role.



Catherine has been ably supported by the Conferences Standing Committee, the Local Conference Committee and FineHaus, and our new PCO, but should be thanked for taking on the role and being so professional in a context where the lead in time was short. In April, Think Business Events were contracted as Professional Conference Organisers for the 2023 Conference, and since then all focus has been on delivering an exciting and professional 2023 Conference in Melbourne in November.

We thank everyone who has helped support the organisation of the Conference during this time of transition.

### **The 2022 Annual Conference**

The 2022 Annual AARE Conference was held at the University of South Australia, City West Campus, from Sunday the 27th of November through to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

AARE was thrilled to be able to return to a full in person conference program following the unfortunate need to cancel the 2020 conference and flip to an online format for the 2021 Conference, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The conference theme - ***Transforming the future of education: The roles of research*** - invited education researchers to reimagine their ways of thinking and working to interrupt or disrupt the taken-for-granted ways of thinking and working in early learning settings, schools, universities and other sites of formal and informal education.

The Professional Conference Organiser, Conferences Standing Committee, Local Conference Committee and Chair worked together to ensure success through critical

pathways and timelines including abstract submissions and review, program development, marketing, venue liaison, event and exhibition planning, and logistics to ensure everything proceeded smoothly throughout the conference.

AARE is grateful to the 2022 Conferences Standing Committee CSC and Local Committee members for their tireless effort and contribution to a resoundingly successful event.

These members were:

- Chair, Conferences Standing Committee: Dr Kathryn Grushka
- AARE President : Prof Allyson Holbrook
- AARE Treasurer: Prof Michele Simons
- Indigenous Researcher Liaison: Prof Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews
- Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator: A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou
- Early Career Researcher Member: Dr Ellen Larsen
- Communications Coordinator: Dr Abbey MacDonald
- Postgraduate Student Member: Ms Natalie Downes
- Awards Coordinator: Dr Olivia Johnston
- Local Working Group Lead: Prof Anna Sullivan
- Local Working Group member: Dr Bev Rogers
- Local Working Group member: Dr Jenni Carter
- Professional Conference Organiser (PCO): ConferenceNational
- ConferenceNational Event Manager: Ms Kaye Sweeney



More than 900 abstracts were accepted, with 36 posters and 29 workshops also accepted. Registrations were a very healthy 876, with 131 attending the Preconference Workshop on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The Welcome Reception was held on Sunday, 27 November, and was well attended. The beautiful National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide was the perfect setting for this event. As well as the many informal get togethers attended by attendees, other events held throughout the conference included: First Timers' Lunch Gathering; Meet the SIG Convenors Event; and Climate, Art, and Digital Activisms Festival of Ideas, which was an inter SIG pre-conference event.

The Preconference Workshops were enriched through keynote presentations by Dr Sam Osbourne, University of South Australia; A/Prof Stewart Riddle, University of Southern Queensland; and A/Prof Nicole Mockler, University of Sydney, and as always provided an exciting and engaging start to the 2022 Conference for early and higher degree researcher participants.

Conference attendees were provided with the opportunity to engage with exceptional research across the full program, evidenced particularly in the diverse Keynote Addresses given during the program. On day one Professor George Siemens, University of South Australia, presented *A complex view on the future of learning and learning research*. This was followed on Tuesday by the long awaited 2020 Radford Lecture, *Cultures are us: Why cultural education matters*, presented by Professor Pat Thompson, Nottingham University. Professor Michelle Trudgett, Western Sydney University, presented the

Blakout Tuesday Indigenous Keynote Address entitled *Looking back in order to look forward: Reinforcing Indigenous leadership in the Australian higher education sector*.

Unfortunately, Prof Susan Danby was not able to deliver the 2022 Radford Lecture but has been invited to do so at the 2023 Conference.

The third day of the Conference saw the President (2021-2022), Professor Allyson Holbrook, The University of Newcastle, give the Presidential Address entitled *Capturing transformation. Education doctorates: Taking stock – formulating action*.

Adding to the rigour of the conference were Featured Symposia from the Politics and Policy in Education; Professional and Higher Education; Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education; Educational Theory and Philosophy; Politics and Policy in Education; Post-structural Theory; Qualitative Research Methodologies; Social Justice; and Teachers' Work and Lives Special Interest Groups.

Several publications were launched during the conference program. These include the latest in the AARE LGIE (Routledge) series *Community Matters* edited by Jennifer Gore, Sally Patfield, Leanne Fray, and Jess Harris. Additionally, a new Routledge Book Series 'Bourdieu and Education of Asia Pacific' and two edited volumes to be included in this book series were launched. At the same featured event the Handbook on Bourdieu and education (Bloomsbury) was launched, along with a children's picture book informed by Bourdieu and educational research. *Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice in Education: A critical exploration of the Sustainable Development Goals* (Springer)

edited by Sara Weuffen, Jenene Burke, Margaret Plunkett, Anitra Goriss-Hunter, Susan Emmett was also launched during the Conference.

In their final wrap up, Dr Kath Grushka and Professor Allyson Holbrook acknowledged the following key people and teams for their contribution to the 2022 conference planning and organisation.

- Conferences Standing Committee members;
- Local Conference Committee Chaired by Professor Anna Sullivan;
- Professor Debra Hayes and team for the Feature Symposium Review;
- SIG Convenors and their abstract review teams;
- A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou for her important work on the reviewing and program;
- Dr Bev Rogers for her expert work on the program;

#### **Sponsors, partners and exhibitions at the 2022 Annual Conference**

AARE is thankful for support from the following sponsors, partners and exhibitors:

- Premier Partner: UNiSA
- Curtin University: Major Sponsor

Exhibitors:

- Springer
- Oxford University Press
- Cengage
- Cambridge University Press
- Routledge

#### **2023 Conference Planning**

The 2023 Annual AARE Conference will be held at the University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus, from Sunday the 26th of November through to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Conference promises to be engaging with 855 paper submissions reviewed and accepted, and a further 74 symposiums which include 373 papers also accepted.

The conference theme - **Voice, Truth, Place: Critical Junctures for Educational Research** has drawn responses from a wide variety of approaches. The call for papers stated:

*The year 2023 is a critical time for Australia to come to terms with its colonialist history and address the deep-seated fractures it has caused. The forthcoming [referendum](#) proposes recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution through an independent, representative advisory body for First Nations people – a voice to parliament. The [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) (2017) sought such constitutional reform ‘to empower our people to take a rightful place in our own country’.*

*Our 2023 conference asks, what are the possible roles of education and education researchers in responding to these powerful calls for Voice, Treaty, and Truth? While these calls have a particular resonance in contemporary Australia, they also speak to movements for justice and decolonising agendas globally.*

### The Conference Standing Committee (CSC) for 2023 includes:

- Chair, Conferences Standing Committee: Dr Catherine Smith
- Professional Conference Organiser: Think Business, Ms Anita Martin
- AARE President: Professor Julie McLeod
- AARE Treasurer: Professor Michele Simons
- AARE Executive Member: Professor Annette Woods
- Indigenous Researcher Liaison: Dr Al Fricker
- Communications Coordinator: Dr Amanda Levido
- Awards Coordinator: Dr Olivia Johnson
- Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou
- Early Career Researcher Member: Dr Ellen Larsen

### Local Organising Committee

- Ringmaster: Ms Diana Langmead
- Dr. Al Fricker
- Dr April Edwards
- Dr Annabelle Leve
- Dr Catherine Smith
- Associate Professor Jason Beech
- Professor Julie McLeod
- Professor Kylie Smith
- Dr Matthew Harrison
- Associate Professor Thomas Cochrane

### Awards Portfolio

#### Dr Olivia Johnston, Coordinator

The AARE Awards continued in their strong tradition of presentation and celebration at the conference in South Australia in 2022. These special awards recognise exceptional achievement and scholarship of AARE members. High quality work was acknowledged through recipients of the 2022 awards, who are acknowledged again here.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the awards selection panels. More than 30 anonymous reviewers accepted invitations to serve on the conference paper awards panels alone. Further generosity from the Ray Debus Award panel, chaired by Prof Kath Holmes (Newcastle), and the editors of the Australian Educational Researcher, led by Stuart Riddle, supported the presentation of other awards listed here. Further detail about each of the awards and instructions about eligibility criteria, merit criteria, benefits to the awardees, and nomination processes is available on the website in the [Awards](#) section.

#### Changes to Awards offered for 2023

I am pleased to announce that after consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and the Executive committee and relevant life members, that the 'Betty Watts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher award will revert to its original name in 2023, this being: The Betty Watts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Award.

A new conference paper award has also been introduced, this being: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Award.

Further information about these awards is also available on the website.

### **Awards recipients in 2022**

#### Distinguished Contribution Awards

##### **Radford lecture**

Professor Susan Danby, Queensland University of Technology

The promise of digital technologies:  
Researching Children's ways of living with others in a digital age.

Unfortunately, Susan was unable to present during the 2022 Conference and will instead present the 2022 Radford Address at the 2023 Conference.

##### **Ray Debus Award for Doctoral Research in Education**

Dr Roz Ward, RMIT

Family Values: An autotheoretical exploration of the backlash against Safe Schools in Australia

#### Conference Paper Awards

These awards are for contributions that are based on a presentation at the annual conference. In 2022, these included:

##### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Post-Graduate Student Researcher Award**

Amy Thomson, The University of Queensland  
Colonial texts on Aboriginal land: The dominance of the Canon in Australian English classrooms

##### **Betty Watts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Award**

Dr Mitchell Rom, The University of Queensland

“Just play the game”: Some of the key learning and teaching challenges situated in Indigenous education at University

##### **Early Career Researcher Award**

Dr Somayeh Ba Akhlagh, The University of New England

Australian and Iranian Pre-school Teachers' Conceptualizations of Creativity

##### **Postgraduate Student Researcher Award**

Karen Nociti, Edith Cowan University

Hacking observational literacy tools in early childhood studies

##### **Researcher Poster Award**

Ella Suortti, University of Eastern Finland

Parent's Science Capital

AARE would again like to extend thanks the Australian Council of Deans of Education for their support of the annual conference poster award.

#### Publication Awards

These awards recognise contributions to the Australian Educational Researcher and the EduResearch Matters blog.

##### **Springer Award: Best Paper**

Marnee Shay, Rhonda Oliver, Helen McCarthy, Tetiana Bogachenko & Boori Monty Prior

For the paper “Developing culturally relevant and collaborative research approaches: A

case study of working with remote and regional Aboriginal students to prepare them for life beyond school” published in Volume 49, Issue 4.

### **Springer Award: Best Reviewer**

Professor Annette Woods QUT

For best reviewer of papers to be published in The Australian Educational Researcher.

### **EduResearch Matters Award**

Dr Babak Dadvand, La Trobe University

For best blogger/blog in 2022: “Why restoring trust in teaching now could fix the teacher shortage”

## **AARE Office Report**

### **Amanda Mehegan, Executive Office Manager**

FineHaus Management continued to provide Association Management services during the 2022-2023 period with no change to support staff who are:

- Amanda Mehegan, Executive Office Manager
- Susie Knight, SIG & Admin Support

Amanda and Susie work closely to support the Executive Committee, portfolio holders, sub committees and SIG Convenors to undertake their duties and obligations as well as providing direct member support and undertaking all operational functions for the association.

A range of organisational policies and procedures have been developed and updated during the period including cyber security, privacy, data management, social media and finance with further development and internal audit activity planned through to the end of the calendar year.

FineHaus has also been engaged to provide project and management support including the 2023 Constitutional Review project, conference, website and contract management support.

The AARE Office services are provided in a virtual format and the team is available to support members as required:

11/456 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

03 5955 2412  
aare@aare.edu.au

## Appendix 1 AARE Executive Committee 2023

President	Prof Julie McLeod
Secretary	Prof Annette Woods
Treasurer	Prof Michele Simons
Immediate Past President	Prof Allyson Holbrook
Communications Coordinator	Dr Amanda Levido
SIGs Coordinator	A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou
Research Development Coordinator	Prof Kalervo Gulson
AER Editor in Chief	A/Prof Stewart Riddle
Ordinary Member (Awards Coordinator)	Dr Olivia Johnston
Ordinary Member Early Career Researcher	Dr Ellen Larsen
Ordinary Member Postgraduate Student	Ms Sarah Langman
Ordinary Member	Prof Chris Boyle

Chair, Conferences Standing Committee	Dr Catherine Smith
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher member, and Co-opted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher member	Two roles shared by four caretaker SIG leaders:  Prof Tracey Bunda A/Prof Kevin Lowe A/Prof Melitta Hogarth  Prof Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews

### Formal Sub Committees and Working Parties of Executive Committee in 2023

#### Executive Management Team

- President – Professor Julie McLeod
- Secretary – Professor Annette Woods
- Treasurer – Professor Michele Simons
- Immediate Past President – Professor Allyson Holbrook

#### Conference Standing Committee 2023

- Chair – Dr Catherine Smith

#### Ray Debus Doctoral Research in Education Award Committee

- Chair – Prof Kathryn Holmes

#### Public Officer

- Professor Robert Hattam

## Appendix 2 AARE Executive Committee 2022

President	Prof Allyson Holbrook
Secretary	Prof John Lester
Treasurer	Prof Michele Simons
President Elect	Prof Julie McLeod
Communications Coordinator	Dr Robert Parkes Dr Abbey McDonald
SIGs Coordinator	A/Prof Ilektra Spandagou
Research Development Coordinator	Prof Anna Sullivan
AER Editor in Chief	Prof Nicole Mockler
Ordinary Member (Awards Coordinator)	Dr Olivia Johnston
Ordinary Member Early Career Researcher	Dr Ellen Larsen
Ordinary Member Postgraduate Student	Ms Natalie Downes
Ordinary Member	Dr Sara Weuffen
Co-opted Chair, Conferences Standing Committee	Dr Kathryn Grushka

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher member	Prof Gawaiian Bodkin- Andrews
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### Formal Sub Committees and Working Parties of Executive Committee in 2022

#### Executive Management Team

- President – Professor Allyson Holbrook
- Secretary – Professor John Lester
- Treasurer – Professor Michele Simons
- President Elect – Professor Julie McLeod

#### Conference Standing Committee 2023

- Chair – Dr Kathryn Grushka

#### Ray Debus Doctoral Research in Education Award Committee

- Chair – Prof Kathryn Holmes

#### Public Officer

- Prof Robert Hattam



<b>SIG Events</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Portfolio Events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AARE Events</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>1420</b>

### Appendix 3 AARE Events delivered 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Event name	Month	Event Type	Organiser	Format	Duration	Cost	Registered delegates
AARE DECRA Seminar Series Two	JULY	Portfolio	RDC	Online	1 hr	Non member \$30	44
AARE DECRA Seminar Series Three	JULY	Portfolio	RDC	Online	1 hr	Non member \$30	40
AARE DECRA Seminar Series Four	AUGUST	Portfolio	RDC	Online	1 hr	Non member \$30	42
ARC & Education: Issues for the Pending Review Townhall Meeting	AUGUST	AARE-Online	EMT	Online	1.5 hrs	Free	72
TWL SIG Online Symposium - Time Use, Time Poverty and Teachers' Work	AUGUST	SIG	TWL	Online	1 hr	Free	62
AARE Theory Workshop, 2022, Curriculum – Theory, Equity, Policy, and Practice	OCTOBER	Portfolio	RDC/PGECER	Online	3 hrs	Non member \$30	80
AARE Theory Workshop, 2022, Curriculum – Theory, Equity, Policy, and Practice	OCTOBER	Portfolio	RDC/PGECER	Online	3 hrs	Non member \$30	62
Democracy and teachers' work and lives (book launch)	OCTOBER	SIG	TWL	Online	1 hr	Free	80
Basics of media engagement (MCERA) (MCVERA PGECR event)	OCTOBER	Portfolio	PGECR	Online	1 hr	Free	15
TERI SIG symposium: Teacher Education: Preparing Teachers for a Changing World	OCTOBER	SIG	TERI	Online	3 hrs	Free	117

A cultural-historical perspectives on STEM imagining and learning: Conceptual PlayWorlds in primary schools (3 SIG groups - STEM, CHAT, GCE)	NOVEMBER	SIG	STEM,CHAT,GCE	Online	1.5 hrs	Free	58
Climate, Art, and Digital Activisms 4-day Festival of Ideas	NOVEMBER	SIG	AEPR, PST	Face-Face	3 Days	Free	External
TWL SIG dinner	NOVEMBER	SIG	TWL	Face-Face		Free	4
ARC Film screening	NOVEMBER	SIG	GSCS	Face-Face	1 hr	Free	External
AARE 52nd AGM	NOVEMBER	AGM	EXEC	Hybrid	1 hr	Free	91
Children and Student Voice Symposium: Session 2: Provocations	FEBRUARY	SIG	CSV	Online	1 hr, 15 mins	Free	42
Children and Student Voice Symposium: Session 1: What Student Voice looks like in educational settings	FEBRUARY	SIG	CSV	Online	1 hr, 15 mins	Free	49
Shining a Light on your Research Work	MARCH	SIG	PGEGR	Online	1 hr	Free	42
Children and Student Voice Symposium: Session 3	MARCH	SIG	CSV	Online	1 hr, 15 mins	Free	35
Educational Leadership Research Seminar: What school leaders need to know about teachers' perceptions of their work	MARCH	SIG	EL	Online	1 hr	Free	External
International Collaborations: Opportunities, Challenges and Tensions - 2-day Free Seminar	MARCH	SIG	STEM,CHAT,GCE	Hybrid	2 Days	Free	84
PGEGR Event: Small Steps Towards Building a Track Record of Funding	APRIL	SIG	PGEGR	Online	1 hr	Free	17

Qualitative Analysis Panel with Anna Hickey-Moody (RMIT), Emily Gray (RMIT) and Melissa Wolfe (SCU)	MAY	SIG	GSCS	Online	2 hrs	Free	130
AARE Teachers' Work and Lives SIG Online Symposium - Teachers' work and challenging times	MAY	SIG	TWL	Online	1 hr	Free	50
PGEER Event: How to nail that conference abstract	JUNE	SIG	PGEER	Online	1 hr	Free	61
AARE Teachers' Work and Lives SIG Online Symposium - Teachers' work and challenging times	JUNE	SIG	TWL	Online	1 hr	Free	74
Fostering Community Engagement in Education for Social Justice Education	JUNE	SIG	SJ, SoE	Face-Face	8 hrs	Free	37
AARE Assessment and Measurement SIG Webinar: Jimena de Mello Heredia	JUNE	SIG	A&M	Online	1 hr	Free	32

## Our Vision

High quality educational research to enhance the public good.



## Our Purpose

To promote, support and improve research and scholarship in education; to enhance educational processes, policy and practice at all levels; and to improve quality and equity in education within Australia and more broadly.

## Promise to Members

Being a member of AARE provides opportunities to:

- **Connect and collaborate** with diverse education research communities and networks;
- **Engage** with and contribute to high quality education research;
- **Extend** research interests and capabilities;
- **Communicate** research to wide audiences; and
- **Contribute** to contemporary debates about education.

## Commitment to Reconciliation

AARE affirms the important position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in education and in Australian society.

AARE asserts as a fundamental principle that research with and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must:

- be undertaken using respectful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols;
- ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership is respected and engaged with throughout the research journey;
- and be necessarily beneficial to the material, social, political, legal and/or cultural interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.



# AARE Strategic Plan FY23 - 26



	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	PRIORITY 5
	<b>Strengthen Researcher Capability</b>	<b>Amplify AARE Impact &amp; Visibility</b>	<b>Enrich Member Engagement</b>	<b>Diversify &amp; Grow Membership</b>	<b>Enhance Organisational Sustainability</b>
<b>STRATEGIC INITIATIVES</b>	<p>Provide research capability development programs catering for diverse membership</p> <p>Support Indigenous-led research capability development programs and events</p> <p>Implement annual program of events including theory workshops and PGS/ECR events</p> <p>Review board roles and responsibilities &amp; develop succession plans</p> <p>Provide continued support for and promotion of <i>The Australian Education Researcher</i></p> <p>Create resources to strengthen researcher skills across core areas, e.g reviewing, assessing and grant development</p>	<p>Develop Indigenous-led approaches projects to empower and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research</p> <p>Build online presence to ensure AARE links to key related sites and showcase the work of members</p> <p>Provide continued support for the AARE EduResearch Matters Blog and review impact</p> <p>Review and develop integrated social media engagement policy</p> <p>Strengthen alliances and networks to promote excellence and innovation in education research to inform policy and practice</p>	<p>Develop an event framework with an annual plan and appropriate procedures</p> <p>Review and explore conference / event opportunities and partnerships</p> <p>Conduct member satisfaction and engagement research to inform member engagement activities</p> <p>Develop communications plan to tailor communications and engagement approach for member segments and stakeholder groups</p> <p>Establish expectations statement for SIGs to ensure consistency of member experience to support active, high functioning SIG and SIG convenors</p> <p>Increase nominations for Awards and refine and extend categories to support innovative research and collaborations</p>	<p>Develop a plan to grow and diversify membership</p> <p>Engage with key subgroups to join, support and promote AARE (including education professors, HDRs, lapsed members, blog contributors etc)</p> <p>Review website, communications and programs to ensure they reflect the diversity of research and researchers</p> <p>Clean member/customer data, integrate and improve reporting to include conference, blog subscriber and member data</p> <p>Map and leverage strategic partnerships with key stakeholder groups to grow membership</p>	<p>Develop and maintain a comprehensive suite of relevant policies</p> <p>Improve induction for volunteers and transfer of organisational knowledge management</p> <p>Review and update legal structure and constitution</p> <p>Review roles and responsibilities of officers, authority, consultation, decision making process (in context of constitution)</p> <p>Review key business processes &amp; streamline structure/time commitment/workload of volunteers</p> <p>Monitor and review operational partnerships/agreements (FineHaus, PCO and other suppliers)</p> <p>Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and decision making is at the forefront of activities impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and communities</p>