



Australian  
Association for  
Research in  
Education

Annual Report 2015

# Introduction



AARE President 2015-2016

Professor Martin Mills

Dear AARE members,

Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report for AARE. This report documents activities during the period from late 2014 to October 2015 and will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 2 December 2015 in Fremantle WA 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 before the Annual General Meeting.

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 the existing Executive Committee can be found on the AARE website and 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).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Annual Report

## President's Report

Martin Mills

I would like to thank all members of the Executive in 2014 and 2015, the Conference Standing Committee, other committees such as the Doctoral Award Committee, Conference Awards Committee and other members of the association who have given their support and collaboration in progressing AARE's vision of supporting high quality research to enhance the public good. The various sections of the 2015 Annual Report document the many achievements and strengths of our member organisation.

In addition to these reports I'm pleased to be able to say that this year AARE has also supported several other activities throughout the year.

The first of these involved two strategic initiatives during the past year. These successful projects were selected through a competitive application process.

The two projects were:

1. Righting the Ship: Psychology's Passage Through Education, three one-day workshops, held in Melbourne Brisbane and Perth. Professor Tom Billington, Associate Professor Lise Bird Claiborne and Dr Tim Corcoran critically examined how psychology informs educational practice.
2. 2015 National Summit on Student Engagement, Learning & Behaviour, hosted by AARE, QUT, The Queensland Department of Education and Training and Springer Publishing. The workshop included guest speakers Dave "Teach like a Pirate" Burgess, Dr Andrew Martin, Professor John Smyth and Maxine McKew.

These initiatives were very successful and AARE is happy to be able to provide further funding for strategic initiatives in the 2015 financial year.

AARE also supports two of each year's invited symposia to take up the allocated AARE sessions at the AERA or BERA conferences. This year, the AARE symposium at AERA was 'Mobile touch-screen devices and techno-literacies: Emergent policies and practices in Canada and Australia', Convenor, Joanne O'Mara. And at BERA the symposium was 'Learning Sciences Institute Australia: Context, disengagement and re-engagement for success among disadvantaged children and youth in mainstream and

alternative education', Convenor Clarence Ng. Next year's symposia will be Arts, Artists and Pedagogy: enabling the child as subject', Convenor Chris Naughton (AERA) and 'Assessment and Measurement Key words: Validity; teacher assessment; standards-referenced assessment; teacher professional judgements; threats to validity; moderation; national assessment; National Curriculum Assessment', Convenor Val Klenowski (BERA).

Another project AARE has invested in this year is the AARE Oral History Project. This project seeks to record accounts of AARE's history from the perspectives of members who have built and shaped the Association. We are inviting foundation members, past presidents and long serving members to participate in interviews about their career in educational research, the emergence of AARE and its current role. When completed these interviews will be available on the AARE website.

I am also pleased to say that AARE's new Book Series, to be published by Routledge, has been established. The Book Series will be titled Local/Global Issues in Education and will investigate the interplay between the local and global in contemporary education policy and practice. AARE is expecting the first book of this series to be available by the time of the 2015 AARE Conference. Calls for proposals are now being sought for future issues.

Professor Val Klenowski and I have also visited numerous organisations such as the ARC and Universities Australia, and senior education department officers in Queensland, the ACT, New South Wales and South Australia to discuss the aims of AARE and to enhance our relationship with them. For more information on these meetings please see Val's Research Development report.

We have also been in discussion with colleagues in other international education research associations to enhance our relationships with them, and with other national associations such as ATEA and ACDE.

I have enjoyed my first year as President of AARE and again I would like to thank the other members of the AARE Executive for giving up their time and expertise to help guide the association for the past year.

I would encourage all members of the Association to consider nominating for Executive positions when they become available; being an Executive member of AARE is a tremendously rewarding experience.

## Treasurer's Report

Michele Simons

During 2014-15 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 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 2014-15 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;
- providing Strategic Initiatives grants; and
- continuing to build national and international links with like-minded organisations concerned to promote and foster educational research.

In line with good financial practice, AARE continues to retain in reserve an amount equivalent to at least one year's worth of trading, and the Association currently has a healthy level of reserves. 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.

## Secretary's Report

Debra Cunningham

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

In 2015 the AARE Executive Committee comprised 15 members – 12 who were elected by the general membership of AARE and three who were co-opted by the Executive. Members were based at institutions and organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. A full list of members is provided elsewhere in this Report.

As usual, the Executive held three meetings during the past year: one over the weekend immediately before the annual conference (29 - 30 November 2014, in Brisbane), one early in the new year (26 - 27 February, in Sydney), and one mid-year (22 - 23 July, in Sydney). The pre-conference meeting was held at the QUT campus (the conference venue) but the two Sydney meetings were held at airport hotels to save on transport and accommodation costs.

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 in Sydney included a fruitful discussion 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 Immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer) and the Office and Events Manager (AARE's sole ongoing employee) met fortnightly by electronic means 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 facilitate compliance with requirements of financial institutions and other organisations regarding authorised signatories on behalf of the association, was endorsed at the AGM held during the 2014 conference. Another Constitutional change has been proposed by the Executive this year, for voting on by the membership in conjunction with the ballots for upcoming vacancies on the Executive.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Report

Tracey Bunda

As the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement officer for AARE, Professor Tracey Bunda – USQ, participates in the AARE Executive meetings, Conference Committee meetings, AARE Theory Workshops and is Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group.

The Theory Workshop held in Darwin in May again showcased a stellar cast of Educational Theorists and included Dr Kathryn Gilbey. Kathryn was the first Aboriginal doctoral graduate of the Batchelor Institute, NT in 2014.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pre-conference activity for Fremantle has engaged Professor Len Collard –UWA to provide an Aboriginal interpretive tour of Rottnest Island. It is proposed that this type of activity become a standard for the AARE Conference so that Welcome/Acknowledgement to Country is understood with deep meaning. Additionally the conference this year will have Professor Lyn Henderson Yates, recent DVC of Notre Dame University and current Adjunct Professor to this university as a keynote speaker.

There is a need for the Association to become better acquainted with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and potential members' needs. To this end the Executive has approved the release of funds to engage in research to develop understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Scholarly Community profile and the type of engagement this community wishes to have with the Association. It is proposed that the research project will be put to competitive tender in 2015 with the conduct of the research completed in 2016.

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*The Australian Educational Researcher* will publish a special edition in 2017 in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Research. The editors for the Special Edition are Val Klenowski and Tracey Bunda. A call for contributions has occurred.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Executive for their leadership in supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement portfolio.

## Awards Report

Amanda Keddie 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 2014 Brisbane Conference at the Queensland University of Technology the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding research and contributions to AARE and education more generally.

### Honorary Life Membership Award (2014):

2014: Professor Jo-Anne Reid, School of Teacher Education, Charles Sturt University (past President of AARE).

### Radford Lecture:

Professor Terri Seddon, Professor of Leadership Studies, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. Lecture titled: 'Navigating 21st Century Contexts: Reflections on education and knowledge-authority orders'. Professor Seddon's lecture may be viewed on the AARE website.

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

#### Joint winners:

In 2014 the Doctoral Award was renamed in honour of Dr Ray Debus, a long-term member and Honorary Life Member who passed away in February 2014.

Dr Susan Creagh for her thesis titled: 'A Foucauldian and Quantitative Analysis of NAPLAN, the category 'Language Background Other Than English', and English as a Second Language Level' (nominated by The University of Queensland).

Dr Cheryl Jakab for her thesis titled: 'Molecules as Tools: Discourse, artefacts and children's meaning-making about particles of matter' (nominated by The University of Melbourne).

### Early Career Researcher Award:

Dr Hannah Soong (University of South Australia) for her paper titled: 'The Imagination of Mobility: Windows into Australian Teacher Education as a Site of Transnational Lifeworld Negotiations'.

### Postgraduate Student Research Awards:

Md Aktaruzzaman (Monash University) for his paper titled: 'Community Perception Towards Integrating Vocational Elements in Open and Distance Learning in Bangladesh'.

Sandra Houen (Queensland University of Technology) for her paper titled: '"I Wonder What You Know...": Teachers Designing Requests for Factual Information'.

Uswatun Qoyyimah (Queensland University of Technology) for her paper titled: 'Secular and Religious Moral Grounds Resonating Across State Schools in Indonesia'.

### Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award:

Robyn Heckenberg (Federation University) for her paper titled: 'Cultural interfaces: Cultural mapping and learning in place: Sustainable Values'.

### ACDE Postgraduate Student/Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award:

Sally Staton (Queensland University of Technology) for her poster titled: 'Mandatory sleep practices in early childhood education and care settings: Implications for children's night-time sleep'.

### Springer AER Best Paper Award:

Susan Creagh (The University of Queensland): Creagh, S. (2014) 'A critical analysis of problems with the LBOTE category on the NAPLAN test'. 41(1) pp 1-23.

In addition to the awards presented at the 2014 Brisbane Conference. A special award ceremony was held in August 2015 to award an Honorary Life Membership Award to Emeritus Professor Sid Bourke, Faculty of Education and Arts, University of Newcastle. Due to Professor Burke's failing health this was presented at a special ceremony in Newcastle in August 2015.

In 2015, the Awards Committee has been pleased to accept a substantial number of nominations for awards – many more than in 2014.

In 2014 there were 7 submissions for the Postgraduate Student Researcher Award, 3 submissions for the Early Career Researcher Award and 1 submission for the Betty Watts Award. In 2015, there were 11 submissions for the Postgraduate Student Researcher Award, 12 submissions for the Early Career Researcher Award and 2 submissions for the Betty Watts Award (one of these was also eligible for the Indigenous Student Researcher Award). For the first time ever, 2015 will see the Indigenous Student Researcher Award awarded.

Special thanks to Annette Woods for her support of Amanda Keddie as Conference Awards Coordinator this year.

Award winners for 2015 will be announced at the Annual Conference in Fremantle.

## Australian Education Researcher Report Linda Graham

This year the focus at AER has been on consolidating reforms undertaken last year and improving quality.

In December 2014, AARE renewed its publishing contract with Springer for a term of five years. This involved a renegotiation of the contract terms which previously brought no income to the Association. As a result, royalties are no longer dependent on the journal's impact factor and AARE is receiving a consistent income from Springer for the first time. Due to the low number of institutional subscriptions, however, this income is not high.

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It does at least now cover the Editorial stipend (\$5,000), which used to be paid out of AARE's general revenue.

At the December 2014 Executive Committee meeting, the Executive put forward a motion (approved at the AGM) to re-invest the income earned to increase this stipend from \$5,000 pa to \$8,000 pa. This increased funding will enable the Editorial assistant to take on additional responsibilities, which are necessary due to changes in the academic publishing model worldwide. Serious errors in typesetting and copyediting have been a source of concern to the Editorial team and the AARE Executive, as these reflect poorly on the journal, the Association, and the discipline as a whole. Unfortunately, these errors are often not picked up by authors during the proofing process, as it seems many do not subject their own articles to a full proofread at this stage, responding only to Author Queries.

Previously, final PDFs have not been sent to the Editor for approval: however, since January 2015 every article proof is sent to the Editor prior to publication. At this point, the Editorial Assistant proofreads the article, notes corrections needed and these are then sent to the Editor for approval. The edited PDF is then sent back to Production (or the author if serious errors are identified; e.g., numbers in tables not adding up) and the final corrected/approved version is then published online. Whilst relatively new, this process has led to a significant improvement in the presentational quality of articles published in AER.

Another initiative underway is an increase in the number of reviewers per article, and the cycles of review each article undergoes. Reviewers are being encouraged to provide constructive feedback that will assist in improving the manuscript, whether they perceive it as suitable for the journal or not. As part of the publishing contract negotiations, Springer agreed to sponsor a "Reviewer of the Year Award" to recognise and celebrate the work of AER reviewers. The first Reviewer of the Year Award will be made at the annual conference in December 2015.

A video of the Editor explaining the AER review process and journal aims has been produced and is currently in production. This will be promoted on both the AARE and AER websites to provide prospective authors with a guide to successfully publishing in AER.

AER's 2014 journal impact factor was 0.438, which is a decline from 2013; however, this impact factor is even more pleasing, because it came off a much stronger base. Impact factors are determined by the number of citations articles published in the preceding two-year window receive. The impact factor for 2014 of 0.438 (released in June 2015) was based on citations received in 2014 and 2013. The impact factor for 2013 (based on citations in 2013 and 2012) was 0.102. The massive increase between 2013 and 2014 was due to a high number of citations for one article. The impact factor for 2014 was based on a lower number of citations for a much wider range of articles suggesting that quality, readership, topicality, profile, etc continues to increase and/or improve. As a result of the increase in impact factor and other changes (editorial board, reach etc), **AER is now ranked as a Quartile 2 journal** in the SCImago journal rankings.

AER aims to be Australia's No. 1 educational research journal; a sister publication to journals published by BERA (BERJ, IF: 0.891) and AERA (Educational Researcher, IF: 2.527). Achieving a SCImago Quartile 1 ranking is a key ambition.

To achieve this, we need high quality submissions, fast and rigorous reviewing, and even greater engagement with our published research from the AARE and international research communities. An overall increase in submissions however is not desired as there are only five issues per year including one special issue, leaving space for approximately 28 regular articles. In 2014 there were 210 articles submitted to AER and in 2015 as of October, there have been 131. The decrease in the rate of submissions is the result of a successful campaign to respond very quickly to submissions that bear no relevance to the journal aims, a challenge experienced by many ISI listed journals. Reference to this process is now listed on the website via a 'Note to prospective authors', which is reiterated in rejection letters:

**Note to prospective authors:** As submissions to the journal are increasing and reviewers are in short supply, please be advised that manuscripts that are not sufficiently proofread, internationalised and/or that do not engage with prior research published in AER will not be sent out for review.

Streamlining the review process in this way means that there are fewer manuscripts going out for review, which frees up existing reviewers. This also enables the selection of more reviewers per article (3 in preference to 2), whilst avoiding reviewer burden.

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

The fifth annual Springer award for the best article published in *The Australian Educational Researcher* in the past 12 months will be presented during the AARE conference in Fremantle, alongside the new 'Reviewer of the Year Award'.

## Communications Report Nicole Mockler

In 2014-15, we have further established AARE's social media presence, reaching over 1400 followers on Twitter and 250 on the Association's newly established Facebook page. Furthermore, the AARE website has had over 250,000 views over the course of 2015 to date, with approximately 45% of viewers located in Australia.

The AARE Blog, EduResearch Matters, had a major facelift in the beginning of the year to bring it into line with the look of our website. The blog now has over 250 subscribers, and has had over 110,000 views since the new version went 'live' in January.

AARE News was delivered electronically in March, May and September in 2015. This Newsletter keeps AARE members up-to-date with the latest happenings in the major AARE portfolios such as the Conference planning, Special Interest Groups and the President's message. It also includes updates on members such as through the 'Recently Completed Thesis' and the 'Post Graduate Profile' sections.

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The electronic AARE Members Updates are sent out when required to ensure that members are informed about emerging matters in educational research.

The contract for the AARE book series, *Local/Global Issues in Education* has now been finalised with Routledge. The series is edited by Peter Renshaw, Nicole Mockler and Greg Thompson, and the first annual call for proposals is currently open, closing on January 25, 2016. The first book in the series is in production and will be launched at the AARE Conference in Fremantle in December 2015.

## Conferences Standing Committee Report Margaret Baguley

The joint 2014 AARE-NZARE conference was held from 30 November to 4 December at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Kelvin Grove campus in Brisbane and attracted a record 892 delegates. The high attendance may have been due to the attention on the G-20 Summit held a few short weeks before. The conference theme was "Speaking back through Research". Professor Wendy Patton the Dean of Education, made us feel very welcome and Professor Carol Dickenson provided the welcome to the conference on behalf of QUT which was also greatly appreciated. A/P Annette Woods played a pivotal role as both a CSC member and a QUT staff member in ensuring important aspects such as rooms, signage and technology were in hand and we are very grateful for her commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism throughout.

This was a very successful conference due to the hard work of the members of the Conferences Standing Committee (CSC) including: Professor Tracey Bunda (Indigenous Research and Engagement), Ms Deborah Cracknell (AARE Office and Events Manager), Ms Debra Cunningham (AARE Executive Management Team representative), A/P Annette Woods (Awards Coordinator), A/P Sue Saltmarsh (Special Interest Group SIG Coordinator), Ms Kim Pappaluca (Postgraduate Student Member), Professor Michele Simons (Treasurer), A/P Jenny Ritchie (NZARE), A/P Cheryl Stephens (NZARE), and Ms Kim Stevenson (Professional Conference Organizer – PCO, Think Business). We were very pleased to work with the New Zealand Association for Research in Education (NZARE) and particularly their local representatives Associate Professor Jenny Ritchie and Associate Professor Cheryl Stephens who also joined the CSC for this year.

The keynote speakers for the 2014 conference were well received and included: Professor Elizabeth Adams St Pierre from the University of Georgia, USA and Professor David Hogan from the University of Queensland, Brisbane. Professor Terri Seddon from the Australian Catholic University presented the Radford Lecture, and Professor Graham Hingangaroa Smith presented the NZARE Herbison lecture. These lectures are now available for AARE members to view on the AARE website.

We were very appreciative of the hard work of our Professional Conference Organisers 'Think Business Events' and particularly Kim Stevenson, Denise Broeren and Melanie Miller for their hard work and efforts over the past three years in ensuring each AARE conference was well organised and managed. A tender process was called during 2014 and the successful recipients were International Conferences

and Events (ICE) who have secured a three-year term with AARE to manage the conferences to be hosted in Fremantle (2015), Melbourne (2016) and Canberra (2017). Li Mei Giam is overseeing the project team and managing the social program (Welcome Reception and SIG dinners). The rest of the team are as follows: Rebekah Toole (Registrations); Danielle Falso (Marketing, Sponsorship and Exhibition) and Peta Freeman (Academic Program).

I wish to thank all of these people and the many others who are working behind the scenes to make the 2015 AARE conference an important forum to foster and strengthen the profile for Australian Educational Research.

There are a number of new initiatives which will be implemented at this year's conference including SIG Social Networking Events to provide further opportunities for SIGs to interact and pursue research initiatives. The 2015 conference has the theme *Coast to coast: locations and directions in educational research* and will be held at The University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus in Western Australia. We are particularly appreciative of the support and hospitality afforded by our local members Dr Anne Coffey and Dr Derek Hurrell and their Dean Professor Michael O'Neill as we work towards this year's conference.

## Postgraduate Student and Early Career Researcher Report

Lisa Papatraianou and Sara Weuffen

The Postgraduate (PG) and Early Career Researcher (ECR) roles on the AARE Executive are to develop the Pre-Conference Workshop Program for PG and ECRs. It is crucial that the topics are of interest to PG and ECRs and are of relevance in the current academic climate. At the 2014 conference, held the Sunday prior to the AARE Conference in Brisbane, more than 130 PG and ECRs attended. This attendance was phenomenal and we were pleased that the keynote and workshops were well received. The keynote was presented by Professor Pat Thompson.

The breakout sessions were facilitated by the following academics: Professor Barbara Comber, A/ Professor Sue Saltmarsh, Dr Sam Sellar, Dr Stewart Riddle, Dr Lisa H. Papatraianou, Professor Susan Danby, Professor Karen Thorpe, A/ Professor Jo Lampert, A/ Professor Bruce Burnett, A/ Professor James Ladwig and A/ Professor Linda Graham. The Keynote Speakers of the main conference, Professor Terri Seddon, Professor Elizabeth Adams St.Pierre, and Professor David Hogan, also very generously gave their time to be part of the final panel.

A Pre-Conference Workshop Program is being held again on the Sunday prior to the 2015 conference in Fremantle. The sessions address a variety of relevant topics including establishing research agendas, working with theory and different research designs, working with education stakeholders and managing the complexities of the academic role. The final panel will focus on the realities and opportunities of academic life and work. Please visit the Conference website for more information ([https://www2.iceaustralia.com/ei/images/AARE%202015/AARE2015\\_PreConference\\_Program.pdf](https://www2.iceaustralia.com/ei/images/AARE%202015/AARE2015_PreConference_Program.pdf))

## Research Development Report

Val Klenowski

Martin Mills and Val Klenowski have collaborated with the Research in Education Network (REN), which includes members from all state, Independent and Catholic education departments. We have been working with REN colleagues to keep informed of national research priorities, ethics, consent issues and developments, such as, progress in the development of a single application form to conduct research in different jurisdictions. See AARE website for details.

Martin and Val also met with Marian Simms (Executive Director, Social Behavioural and Economic Science, ARC) who has agreed to talk to members at the AARE conference to be held in Fremantle. See AARE conference program for details.

Connections have been made with ACDE and cADRE to discuss mutual areas of research interest in education generally and pre-service and teacher research specifically.

Universities Australia have been contacted and members have been informed to use the Keep It Clever website <https://keelitlever.com.au/> to disseminate research findings.

Meetings have taken place with senior education department officers in Queensland, Canberra, New South Wales and South Australia. Meetings have been set in 2016 to meet with senior policy officers in the Northern Territory and Tasmania. The purpose of these meetings has been to inform these colleagues of the work of AARE and to raise awareness about the quality research conducted by members and Special Interest Groups. Additionally, AARE wish to strengthen and support major research partnerships and networks for the Australian educational research community. AARE are encouraging policy officers to contact the co-ordinators of AARE Special Interest Groups to engage with the research that is currently being conducted.

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report

Sue Saltmarsh

### Newly proposed SIG

A Sustainability Education SIG has been proposed by Amy Cutter-Mackenzie, Karen Malone and Helen Widdop-Quinton. Although the SIG has not as yet attained the minimum number of 15 current financial members of AARE, it has been offered provisional status and a scheduled SIG meeting in this year's conference program, in order to facilitate discussions with AARE members who may be interested in joining.

### Funding changes

Funding for AARE Competitive Grants has been increased in 2015, with AARE now offering six \$5000 grants each year on a competitive basis. This represents an increase of \$14,000 per annum.

Annual SIG funding remains at \$800 per annum available upon application, and subject to review by the Executive Committee.

Funding guidelines were reviewed by a working party in April 2015, and the guidelines subsequently updated to reflect the recommendations of the working party and approved by the Executive Committee. Key changes implemented and made available online to members in the revised Funding Guidelines document include:

- SIG annual funding no longer able to be used for SIG dinners

- SIGs to be named on no more than two competitive grant applications in each round
- SIGs may collaborate on a competitive funding application up to \$5000, but may not combine more than one application for essentially the same activity
- Funding applications may combine annual and competitive funding toward support of an activity or event

### Funding applications

Six funding applications were received for Competitive Grants in 2015. All were approved without amendment. Successful applicants for the \$5000 grants were as follows:

- Arts Education and Practice
- Educational Theory and Philosophy
- Gender, Sexualities and Cultural Studies
- Poststructuralist Theory
- Teacher Education Research and Innovation
- Teachers' Work and Lives

Seven applications for SIG Annual Funding were received in 2015. Five were approved without amendment, and two were declined. Successful applicants for SIG Annual Funding were as follows:

- Educational Leadership
- Educational Theory and Philosophy
- Gender, Sexualities and Cultural Studies
- History and Education
- Teachers' Work and Lives

### SIG Leadership Roles

The transition to two-year terms for SIG Leadership roles is in its third year, and feedback from members about this change has been overwhelmingly positive.

## Theory Workshop Report

Robyn Henderson

During 2015, three theory workshops weekends were conducted as part of AARE's research training for higher degree research students and early career researchers. The workshops were organised for locations outside the large capital cities as a way of facilitating access for HDR students and ECRs from regional and remote locations. With the support of three universities – the University of Tasmania, Charles Darwin University and the University of Southern Queensland – the workshops were held in Launceston, Darwin and Toowoomba in January, May and October respectively. Altogether, 123 HDR students and ECRs participated in the workshops, which were conducted by 18 experienced researchers from 12 of Australia's universities. AARE thanks the presenters for their willingness to share their expertise.

Another addition to the workshop program was the introduction of the Alison Lee 'Theory in Educational Research' Scholarships, which provided funding for six HDRs or ECRs to attend the workshops.

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In 2015, scholarships were awarded to Renae Acton (James Cook University), Dr Jennifer Charteris (University of New England), Ting Liu (University of Newcastle), Eve Mayes (University of Sydney), Dr Stewart Riddle (University of Southern Queensland) and Amy Walker (Federation University Australia).

## Office Report

### Deborah Cracknell

During the 2014-15 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:

- 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 continued to be contracted to the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA).

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 AEDT. 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)

## Acknowledgements

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

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 and Associate Professor Helen Watt.

The Conference Awards Committee, Professor Jo-Anne Reid, Professor Tracey Bunda, Mr Graeme Gower and Associate Professor Liz Mackinlay

All Convenors and Co-Convenors of the Special Interest Groups and all members of the Conferences All members of the Conferences Standing Committee.

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

Ms Kathy Schoo, and Ms April Clayton of the Australian Curriculum Studies Association office

# AARE Executive 2015

MILLS, Martin (Prof), President  
CUNNINGHAM, Debra (Ms), Secretary  
SIMONS, Michele (Prof), Treasurer  
BAGULEY, Margaret (Assoc Prof), Chair, Conferences Standing Committee  
BUNDA, Tracey (Prof), Indigenous Researcher Liaison  
GRAHAM, Linda (Prof), Editor AER  
HENDERSON, Robyn (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member  
KEDDIE, Amanda (Dr), Ordinary Member  
KLENOWSKI, Val (Prof), Research Development Co-ordinator  
MOCKLER, Nicole (Dr), Communications Co-ordinator  
MOSS, Julianne (Assoc Prof), Immediate Past President  
PAPATRAIANOU, Lisa (Dr), ECR Member  
RASMUSSEN, Mary Lou (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member  
SALTMARSH, Sue (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member  
WEUFFEN, Sara (Ms), Postgraduate Student Member