



# AARE NEWS

Newsletter of the Australian Association for Research in Education

Editor: Peter Jeffery

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## President's Report

This is the last of my President's Reports for the newsletter [AARE NEWS] so I will be reflecting on the year past as well as looking forward in my comments. In particular, I will be reflecting on the events of September 11, and the implications for us as a research community.

## Executive Issues

Let me first acknowledge the work of the Executive of our Association – we are in very good shape financially and in terms of membership. The services provided to members have been maintained at a high level. I would like to thank Jill Blackmore (immediate past editor of the AER) and Jane Kenway (new editor) for ensuring a smooth transition in the publication of the journal. Bob Lingard (our only two-year President) will be retiring from the Executive in December so I would like to acknowledge Bob's outstanding contribution over the past few years in representing our interests. In terms of the day to day administration of the affairs of the Association, Debra Cunningham as Hon Secretary, and Peter and Ruth Jeffery have continued their high quality and generous services - thanks. Everyone on the Executive has contributed in important ways this year to the successful conduct of the Association – so thank you all.

## Broadly based Executive Members

I would like to invite each of you to consider standing for the Executive. Occasionally we hear criticism that the Executive is not representative of all members. That is probably true – but not willfully so. We are volunteers – and although it is the *Year of the Volunteer* and even an economic rationalist like Peter Costello has spoken recently (and sincerely, I am sure) of the redemptive virtue of volunteering – getting colleagues to volunteer for additional professional activities is becoming increasingly difficult. It is important that AARE remains inclusive of the diverse interests of the education research community, and to ensure this, the Executive itself needs to be broadly based. So get involved.

## Research Priorities

Earlier this year I had commented on the Ryan by-election and the possibility that issues of central concern to us in educational research might be prominent during the Federal election. I could not anticipate then that “border protection” and “international terrorism” would completely dominate political events. The discourse related to knowledge nation/society seemed earlier in the year to provide an opportunity for us to lobby for renewed support for education research. This hope has been largely swamped by a myopic concern with security. This is regrettable – not primarily in the limited sense that our interests as a lobby group have been sidelined – but because the broadly-conceived process of education is even more important when there is division, distrust and uncertainty in society. It is now that we need research on building a society that is not only prosperous and secure, but compassionate, tolerant and able to value and appreciate diversity. What is interesting and deplorable in our current political and social circumstances, is that mentioning qualities like compassion, tolerance and appreciation of diversity, sounds highly political rather than the simple restatement of widespread community values. So it seems to me, that our personal research agendas, and our national research priorities cannot remain unchanged in the light of September 11<sup>th</sup>. We urgently need research on how the community values of compassion and appreciation of diversity can be promoted and sustained (in schools, other educational institutions, and the broader community) during a period of insecurity and conflict. We will be considering issues related to research priorities at the conference in Fremantle in December.

## ARC funding

You will know by now the outcome of the ARC funding round. I am in the process of examining the types of projects that were funded and the extent of overall funding. My initial reaction is that funding levels remain appalling both in the Discovery and Linkage schemes, and the few projects that are successful represent a somewhat random tip of the educational research iceberg. I guess our challenge is to get beyond a culture of (mere) complaint to a position where we can influence the future course of events. Again we hope to consider this issue at the conference in Fremantle.

## Looking Out

Returning recently from a brief study leave in The Netherlands, I stopped in Singapore to meet with A/Professor Agnes Chang who is President of ERA - Educational Research Association, Singapore. Many of you will know Agnes well from her participation in conferences in Australia and her time as a doctoral student at Macquarie University. AARE has maintained a close association with ERA in recent years and it is a measure of our continuing close relationship that they have decided to participate in our annual conference this year rather than conduct their own separate conference. Such joint ventures can be seen partly as the outcome of AARE Executive initiatives of the early 1990s to turn towards our immediate neighbours in Asia and the Pacific, and build a broadly

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based research community that could address the needs of this region. With the ongoing political unrest in the region and the Australian Government's current fortress mentality, it is timely that we will be hosting a large number of delegates from various countries in South-East Asia, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore. The Executive of AARE warmly welcomes all the delegates from the Asia-Pacific region to the Fremantle conference, and looks forward to the opportunity to share research insights, to discuss recent events and consider how the research community can respond.

**Finally**

I wish you well for the remainder of the year, I hope to see you in Freo, and I foreshadow that some of us are already well into planning the 2002 conference in Brisbane. So if you can't make the trip west this year, plan for a northern excursion next year.

Cheers...

Peter Renshaw.

URL – [www.aare.edu.au/news37/pr3701.htm](http://www.aare.edu.au/news37/pr3701.htm)

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**THANKS TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

The Executive, on behalf of all AARE members, would like to express sincere thanks to Peter Renshaw for his leadership of the Association during 2001. Peter's lengthy involvement with AARE and his ability to clearly see the big picture where education research is concerned have stood him in good stead as President. His patience and ability to retain his sense of humour during Executive meetings have been exemplary. Fortunately we are not to lose his considerable expertise just yet, as Peter will continue on the Executive next year as Immediate Past-President.

**AARE NEWS NEWS**

This is one of the 'brief' newsletters in which we mainly point to places on AARE Website where people can go to get further information on topics of interest. As you can see we have reproduced in full the final report of the current President and the "last say" in print of the AARE 2001 Conference Convenor. All other items are very brief but if you follow the URLs given you will reach extended documentation. By keeping this printed version of the AARE NEWS brief we can print and distribute it before those who are going to AARE 2001 Conference depart for Fremantle and other go about other seasonal activities away from their desks. We also save some trees!

Peter Jeffery

URL – [www.aare.edu.au/news37/pj3701.htm](http://www.aare.edu.au/news37/pj3701.htm)

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**RECENT DOCTORAL THESES IN EDUCATION**

This number of the newsletter features five doctoral thesis abstracts: one EdD and four PhDs by P. Smith (Deakin), S. Warren (Wollongong), K. Wicks (Adelaide), J. Wilson (Melbourne) and K. Yoshimitsu (Monash).

Once again I am grateful to ACER's Cunningham Library for supplying information concerning them and draw your attention to ACER's Research Theses Database (the *Bibliography of Education Theses in Australia*) at [http://www.acer.edu.au/library/theses/search\\_theses.html](http://www.acer.edu.au/library/theses/search_theses.html) where you can access details on over 9000 Australian theses in education.

Please send details of doctoral theses (completed within the last six months) from your institution via email to [t.gale@cqu.edu.au](mailto:t.gale@cqu.edu.au).

Trevor Gale

URL – [www.aare.edu.au/news37/tg3701.htm](http://www.aare.edu.au/news37/tg3701.htm)

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**AARE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**University of Notre Dame Australia**  
**Fremantle**  
**2-6 December 2001**

**FINAL WORDS FROM THE CONVENOR**

Virtually everything is in place now for a great conference. Most people are still coming despite September 11 and the domestic air travel situation, over 670 papers will be presented, the State Minister of Education has agreed to open the conference, and at the end of each day a variety of ethnically diverse restaurants, cafes, coffee shops and bars will be waiting to serve you.

The following notes contain some information and reminders that may be of use to you, and the organising committee.

**Transport:** To get to Perth from the domestic airport catch Bus 37 (leaves hourly outside the Qantas terminal) which for \$2.80 will take you to Perth where you can catch a train to Fremantle. The taxi fare to Perth from the domestic airport is \$21-\$24 and from the international airport it is \$26-\$29. The shuttle bus fare from these airports is \$9-\$12. The taxi fare to Fremantle from the airports is \$42-\$47 and the shuttle bus fare is \$15-\$18. The 25 minute train trip from Perth –Fremantle costs \$2.80 (or 10 tickets for \$23.80).

**Accommodation:** A twin room at the Esplanade Hotel costs \$157.50 per night (\$78.75 per person) if booked through Glenwood Travel Centre (phone 03 9819 2933; fax 03 9819 1263; email [tlandhawthorn@i.net.au](mailto:tlandhawthorn@i.net.au) ) before November 10.

**Registration:** will begin at 10 am Sunday 2 December, at the University of Notre Dame (Mouat Street, Fremantle) in building 3.

**The Pre-Conference Workshop** (publishing for doctoral candidates and early career researchers) on Sunday 2 December from 12 noon – 5 pm will be held at the University of Notre Dame in building 3 (room ND3/102). A light lunch will be provided. It would be helpful if those attending this workshop could arrive before 12 noon to complete their conference registration.

**Sunday Evening President's Reception:** begins at 5.30 pm at Notre Dame University (ND/3 and courtyard) with wine and cheese and continues with an Indigenous Welcoming Ceremony.

**AARE Executive Meeting:** will be held on Monday from 6 – 9 pm in room ND Courthouse.

**A book launch:** hosted by the UWA Centre for Inclusive Education will be held on Monday evening from 5.45 - 6.45 pm at Notre Dame University in room ND3. More wine and cheese, and publications.

**Conference Dinner** (wine, dine, dance, prison tour): on Tuesday night from 7 pm, at the Fremantle Prison. To assist catering arrangements, could you please register and pay for this event by sending \$75 to Ruth Jeffery at the AARE Office. Credit card payment can be made by AARE Secure E-Commerce (see AARE for details, see AARE website: <http://www.aare.edu.au> ). Cheques can be posted to AARE, PO Box 71, Coldstream, Victoria, 3770

**Postgraduate Students AGM:** will be held on Wednesday from 12.45 – 1.15 pm in room ND3/102.

**The Association's AGM:** will be held on Wednesday from 6 - 7 pm in room ND3/102.

**And much more.** Best wishes as you put the finishing touches to your papers.

Rod Chadbourne

Chair, Conference Organising Committee



**AARE 2002 CONFERENCE – BRISBANE**

**Conference Dates**

December 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2002 -- University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane.

**Special dates to plan for:**

**30 April 2002**

Abstracts of all Proposals due by email (200 words max.). Send to [aare@aare.edu.au](mailto:aare@aare.edu.au)

**18 May 2002**

Applications for AARE Postgraduate Student Travel Awards due.

**25 May 2002**

Full papers due for refereeing. Maximum 8,000 words. Titles should match abstracts previously supplied.

**PAPER CODES ARE ISSUED WHEN ABSTRACTS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.**

**CODE NUMBERS MUST BE USED.** Submission of full papers for refereeing is optional.

**30 June 2002**

Last date for notification of acceptance of Abstracts.

**16 July 2002**

Notification of acceptance of fully refereed papers.

**31 August 2002**

Early Bird Registrations close.

**LAST DATE FOR PRESENTERS TO REGISTER FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM.**

**USE AARE SECURE ECOMMERCE WEBSITE FOR ALL CREDIT-CARD PAYMENTS.**

**CREDIT-CARD REGISTRATIONS SENT BY FAX WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**31 October 2002**

Last date for withdrawal of proposals by presenters. Letters to registered presenters with timetable details sent after this date. BY EMAIL. Make sure your small address with us is kept up to date and your email box has space to receive mail. Refunds (less \$100 administration fee) available to this date.

(This partial refund does not apply to the full paper refereed category).

**19 November 2002**

Last date for withdrawal by non-presenters.

**1 December 2002**

Conference commences with collection of satchels at the registration desk.

Pre-conference activities including **President's Reception** on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

URL: [www.aare.edu.au/conf2002/dates.htm](http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2002/dates.htm)

Contact – [aare@aare.edu.au](mailto:aare@aare.edu.au)

**AARE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Nominations have now closed and all positions have been filled without the need for a ballot to be held. The new 2002 Executive will be announced at the AGM to be held on the Wednesday afternoon at the conference in Fremantle. Thanks to all those who have nominated.

Debra Cunningham  
Hon. Secretary