Australian Association for Research in Education

Australian Association for Research in Education

2018 Annual Report
Dear AARE Members

Welcome to the 2018 Annual report for the Australian Association for Research in Education. This report documents activities during the period from late 2017 to late 2018. As the President I will also report on this period at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in Sydney on Wednesday 5th December at 5.30 pm as part of the Annual Conference program. In addition I have arranged for the membership to receive a link to this report on the AARE website so that all members have access to the reporting of the Association’s activities.

The items in this report are produced by the AARE Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee members take carriage of different portfolios within the Association’s business, and are ably supported by the Office and Events Manager who works in the AARE Office in Canberra. A list of the 2018 Executive Committee members is available at the back of this report. As with all the Association’s business and activities, feedback on this report is welcomed. All comments or queries should be forwarded to the Executive Committee through the AARE Office via aare@aare.edu.au.

Yours faithfully

Annette Woods
AARE President 2017 - 2018
Association with record attendance, and rigorous discussion. Two motions were made from the floor and passed by a vote of the attending members. The first asked that the Association make a public statement denouncing the current Australian policy on refugees and asylum seekers related to offshore detention. As a result of this motion being moved, a statement was crafted and members were provided with the opportunity to offer a vote of support by signing a petition supporting the statement. The statement and the list of signatories was forwarded to the leaders of the Government and the Opposition, and other relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers. Social media was also used to spread the Association’s position on these policies. More recently to respond to campaigns in the community, the statement was rewritten and updated to appear as a blog post on EduResearch Matters, and again the subject of a social media campaign.

The second motion related to a call for the Association to become involved in work to highlight issues related to the academic Gecos workforce, research funding, and issues of time, specialisation and progression as they relate to educational research and education academic careers. A working party of those involved in putting the motion forward at the AGM has continued to work with me as President through 2018. A Special Session will be held at the same time as the 2018 Conference activities led by these members. The activities will move the work in the area to the next phase, and part of this will be to open opportunities for other members to be involved in the working party. Having worked alongside the committed academics involved in prioritising these initiatives I’d like very much to particularly thank Amy McPherson, Sophie Rudolph, Rosie Barron, Marie Brennan, Jane Kenway and Lew Zippin for their continued work in this area.

The Association made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into funding Australia’s research during 2018. Being engaged in these public debates is crucial for the Association as a national education research organisation and voice for educational research. As a result of the Association’s position on these policies, there has been a large amount of work completed to ensure our web presence is functional and engaging and I thank the Communications Officer for her work in this regard as well.

The Communications portfolio continues to expand our reach into social media for public comment as well as being a way to advertise the Association, its purposes and activities. A new initiative is to provide podcasts to make comment about issues that fit with a broader community agenda. As an example, the ‘Because of her we can vodcast launched during NAIDOC 2018’ was highly successful attracting watches from a broad audience. After this success, there are plans for similar activities in 2019 to fit in with other community initiatives. There has been a large amount of work completed to ensure our web presence is functional and engaging and I thank the Communications Officer for her work in this regard as well.

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The Association is also excited to announce a new SIG for 2018. Built on work by many over a number of years to strengthen and support connections between AARE and education policy work within systems, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to announce the new SIG Schools and Education Systems and know that this will be supported by members who work in this area.

We continued to offer a range of opportunities for awards to highly deserving recipients across a number of categories in 2017. The process for the awards to be provided in 2018 is well underway with very strong fields in all categories. Our awards are given in recognition of excellence in each category and importantly mark our focus on quality, engaging research.

In answer to calls for more support to postgraduate students and early career researchers a new scheme for conference bursaries was trialled this year. It is hoped that such initiatives may be continued with the generosity of the membership through the Lend Hand program. The Association is also pleased to provide support to postgraduate students and early career researchers a new scheme for conference bursaries was trialled this year. It is hoped that such initiatives may be continued with the generosity of the membership through the Lend Hand program. The Association is also pleased to provide support to postgraduate students and early career researchers a new scheme for conference bursaries was trialled this year. It is hoped that such initiatives may be continued with the generosity of the membership through the Lend Hand program. The Association is also pleased to provide support...
connect with postgraduate students in the South Pacific region, and will welcome the first recipient of the South Pacific Scholarship who will attend and present their doctoral work at the 2018 AARE Conference in Sydney.

Several Executive members will complete their terms on the Executive at the end of 2018. I know you will join me in thanking these members and in wishing the new Executive members well when they join the Executive Committee at the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

The Sydney Conference promises to be an important event in the AARE calendar. In 2019 we will meet in Brisbane and planning for this meeting is well underway.

Finally, 2018 marks the last year in my Presidency and I want to take the opportunity to thank all members for the privilege of leading the Association over the past two years. A professional association such as AARE is the membership. I encourage you all to become involved in whatever ways you can in the activities, leadership and directions of the Association. After the 2018 AGM I will hand the President role over to the current Incoming President, Debra Hayes. I know that Debra has plans for the Association that will continue to ensure its place in the national education agenda and wish Debra and the 2019 Executive well in their pursuits. I will continue to be involved in the Association in other capacities wherever this is useful to AARE members.

Annette Woods
Australian Association for Research in Education President 2017-2018.

Treasurer’s Report
Michele Simons

During 2017-18 AARE’s financial position continued to be sound. However, as in previous years, we continued to draw on our reserves to meet all operating costs for this financial year. While the level of reserves the Association currently holds allows us to adopt this strategy, the ongoing financial sustainability for the organisation will rely heavily on the Association being able to maintain sound levels of income from membership fees, proceeds from very well run and managed conferences and other revenue producing activities.

Income from membership fees continues to be an issue that the Executive continually monitors; growth from this source of income is projected to be limited over the short term. This means that we need to continue to be vigilant in our efforts to diversify the sources of our income in order to continue to provide a wide range of member benefits and services. A Membership Working Group has been formed to explore strategies for building the financial stability of AARE including ways to increase and maintain members, diversifying the Association’s income streams and minimising the short term expenditure of the Association.

For the 2017-18 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 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.

Our Audited Financial Statements for 2017-2018 can be found at the end of this report and are available from the AARE website. The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the overall financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2018. Our overall equity position, while healthy, has declined relative to our position at the same time in 2017. In the past year we have drawn down $87,941 from our reserves to fund a range of initiatives. These reserves are now approaching the equivalent of two times what we currently need to operate the Association for a year. We need to be prudent to ensure that these funds do not continue to decline to a point where we do not have a comfortable margin of funds (usually at least equivalent to the total amount of funds required to operate the Association for 12 months) available to support our work.

The Profit and Loss statement shows our income and expenditure for the year 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018. Membership continues to be a significant source of income as well as the surplus that we retain from the annual conference. Both of these sources of income are important if we are to sustain funding for strategic initiatives and other member benefits.

Secretary’s Report
Debra Cunningham

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), in which all members of the association are entitled to participate, is the main decision-making body for the association. The AARE AGM is always held in conjunction with the association’s annual conference. The 2017 AGM was held at the Hotel Realm in Canberra (the conference venue) and saw the largest attendance in many years.

The AARE Executive Committee is responsible for managing the association’s business between Annual General Meetings. The composition and role of the Executive are set down in the AARE Constitution.

In 2018 the AARE Executive Committee comprised 15 members – 12 elected by the general membership of AARE and three co-opted or appointed by the Executive (the CSC Chair and the two Indigenous Liaison members). Members were based at institutions and organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. 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 (25-26 November 2017, at the Hotel Realm in Canberra), one early in 2018 (22-23 February, at the University of Sydney), and one mid-year (7-8 June, at QUT in Brisbane). SIG convenors were invited to join members for lunch at the pre-conference meeting to discuss emerging and ongoing SIG issues with the Executive, and many convenors took up this opportunity. The Sydney and Brisbane meetings included morning teas with Education faculty staff of the hosting universities where Executive members spoke about the role and activities of AARE. All three Executive meetings included discussions with representatives of the national Research in Education Network (REN), with which the Executive has a mutually helpful ongoing relationship.

Throughout the year, a small management group consisting of elected office-bearers from the Executive (the President, the President Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer) and the Office and Events Manager (AARE’s sole permanent employee), teleconfemed fortnightly to oversee AARE business between Executive meetings. The CSC Chair regularly joined a part of these meetings to keep the management group apprised of conference arrangements. Other Executive members such as the Research Development Coordinator also occasionally joined a section of the meeting to report on their portfolios.

Annual returns to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs in South Australia (where AARE is incorporated) were submitted as required, soon after the AGM, as was relevant information to ASIC (with which AARE is registered as a Registrable Australian Body).

Awards Report
lisahunter 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. At the 2017 Conference at Hotel Realm in Canberra, the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding research and contributions to AARE and education more generally.

Honorary Life Membership Award
In 2017 Honorary Life Membership of AARE was awarded to Professor Jane Kenway for her long-term service to the association and her distinguished contributions to educational research.

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

The 2017 Radford Lecture was presented
by Professor Margaret Somerville. Professor Somerville’s lecture, “Education research for the Anthropocene: The (micro) politics of researchers becoming”, may be viewed on the AARE website.

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

Nominations of recent theses in education were received from 15 universities. On the recommendation of the Doctoral Award Committee, chaired by Professor Bob Lingard, the 2017 award was presented to:

- Professor John Lester for his thesis entitled "Why do Aboriginal Kids Switch Off School? A Holistic Examination of the System, School, Students and Their Community in One Rural District" completed at the University of Newcastle.

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

**Awards based on conference papers**

In 2017, the Awards Committee, chaired by Bernadette Walker Gibbs, awarded the following:

- **Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award**
  - Nikki Moodie, University of Melbourne, ‘Operationalising Threshold Concepts in Indigenous Education Studies’

- **Early Career Researcher Award**
  - Dr Jenny Martin, Australian Catholic University, ‘Researching preservice teachers’ environmental agency in times of post truth and denial’

- **Postgraduate Student Researcher Award**
  - Angela Rose, The University of Sydney, ‘Refugee students, teacher agency and neoliberalism in Australian education’

- **Aboriginal Postgraduate Student Researcher Award**
  - Melitta Hogarth, University of Southern Queensland, ‘Talkin’ Bout a Revolution: The Call for Transformation and Reform in Indigenous Education’

- **ACDE ECR/Postgraduate Student Poster Award**
  - AARE again would like to thank the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) for their support of this award. In 2017 this was awarded to:
    - John Kennedy, ‘Measuring student attitudes towards school using a new digital instrument’

- **Springer Award for Best Paper**
  - The journal’s editorial team chooses the best paper from those published in *The Australian Educational Researcher* in the past calendar year, and the Award is presented by a representative from Springer.
  - In 2017 the award was presented to:
    - Deb Hayes and Cathy Doherty for the paper ‘Valuing epistemic diversity in educational research: an agenda for improving research impact and initial teacher education’.

- **Springer Award for Best Reviewer**
  - The Springer Award for best reviewer of papers to be published in *The Australian Educational Researcher* was inaugurated in 2015. The Award is presented by the Springer representative. The 2016 award was presented to:
    - Dr Angelique Howell from the University of Queensland.

- **EduResearch Matters Award**
  - Begun in 2016, this award is to recognise an outstanding contribution to the public understanding of educational issues. In 2017 this award was presented to:
    - Dr Susan Davis, Central Queensland University for a series of posts provided throughout the year.

**Indigenous Engagement Report**

**Melitta Hogarth and Kevin Lowe**

Thank you for this opportunity to report our endeavours and achievements for 2018. We have had a very busy year both within the Executive as well as within my role as Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG and with the focus on the Acknowledgement to be presented at this year’s Conference. These include:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG**
  - The SIG structure currently is represented by the Chair – Dr Melitta Hogarth [USQ], Deputy Chair – Professor Tracey Bunda [USQ], and Communications Officer – Dr Sara Weuffen [Fed Uni]. The 2018 SIG meeting scheduled during the Annual AARE Conference will seek to expand the representative positions in consultation with the members.

- **AARE Conference Standing Committee membership and organisation**
  - Melitta Hogarth, as Chair for the SIG, provided representation to the Conference Standing Committee.

- **AARE Conference Proceedings and Initiatives to increase representation**
  - Together, Kevin and Melitta have arranged the following Conference activities:
    - In collaboration with the Higher Degree by Research Representative, Ms Michelle Jefferies, and the ECR Representative, Dr Amanda Heffernan, the SIG has ensured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation at the ECR/ HDR Pre-Conference workshops including:
      - Indigenous Keynote, Dr. Leanne Holt (Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Strategy) [Macquarie University]
      - Panel Discussion, Dr Kevin Lowe [Macquarie University].

  - Further to this, within the AARE Conference Proceedings:
    - Indigenous Keynote, Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews [UTS]
    - Aboriginal Interpretive Tour, Tribal Warriors – Sydney Harbour Cruise
    - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG Symposium, "Intercultural conversations about the engagement and impacts of Treaty Presence and Treaty Futures for Indigenous higher education in Aotearoa and Aboriginal Australia”.
    - Chair, Dr Melitta Hogarth [USQ]
    - Discussant, Professor Tracey Bunda [USQ]

- **Panellists**
  - Professor Margie Kahukura Hohepa [University of Waikato],
  - Dr Kimai Tocker [University of Auckland],
  - Dr Rachel Martin [University of Canterbury],
  - Miriama Postlethwaite [Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi – Institute for Post-Treaty Settlement Futures]

- **SIG Special Initiative Grant**
  - A Special Initiative Grant was approved for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG to invite four Maori HDR students to attend the Conference. The Maori students will participate in the HDR/ECR Pre-Conference Workshop as well as participate in the new initiative included in the Conference Proceedings.

  **New initiative within Conference Proceedings**
  - To work towards building HDR students’ capacity and to further give them opportunity to share their research within a culturally safe space, a new initiative has been included within the Conference Proceedings to allow time for HDR students to participate in a 3 minute thesis type event. A panel of experts has been assembled to provide feedback and advice to students.
  - The panel is inclusive of:
    - Professor Marie Brennan
    - Dr John Guenther
    - Professor Margie Kahukura Hohepa
    - Dr Kevin Lowe
    - Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews
    - Dr Kimai Tocker

**Acknowledgement from AARE to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**

Members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research SIG have been working with AARE Executive in the development of the Acknowledgement to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from AARE. Release of the Acknowledgement will occur in the 2018 Conference.

**Future agendas**

- The AARE and SIG will work towards developing a Reconciliation Action Plan after the release of the Association’s Apology statement.
- SIG protocols and processes manual to be updated.
- Continue increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Conference Proceedings through avenues such as an Art Exhibition, an Elders Yarning Circle and so forth.
- Seek to build on the relationships with the Maori academics and students (Members of the NZARE)

**The Australian Educational Researcher Report**

**Nicole Mockler**

The Australian Educational Researcher has continued its upward trajectory in 2018, with a growing social media profile and a continued increase in journal metrics.
As of early August, AER has received 135 new submissions to date since January 1, 2018, and in Editorial Manager there are currently 23 manuscripts under review and a further 21 out for first or second revisions. This represents a significant rise in the number of submissions to date in 2018 and suggests that we will well surpass the 167 submissions received in 2017.

The new Editorial Team, comprised of Associate Editors Drs Radhika Gorur (Deakin), Ian Hardy (UQ), Deborah Pino-Pasternak (Murdoch), Stewart Riddle (USQ), and Garth Stahl (UniSA) and Editorial Assistant Dr Meghan Stacey (USyd) have now been in place for a full calendar year, and are ably managing the increased copyflow.

AER Awards 2017
The Springer/AER Best Paper Award for 2017 was awarded to Professors Debra Hayes and Catherine Doherty for their paper ‘Valuing epistemic diversity in educational research: an agenda for improving research impact and initial teacher education’, published in Volume 44, Issue 2.

The Springer/AER Reviewer of the Year Award was awarded to Dr Angelique Howell from the University of Queensland.

Journal Metrics
AER's 2017 Impact Factor increased from 0.910 to 1.104, once again representing an upward trend. The 2017 Impact Factor score, calculated on the basis of citations of articles published in 2015 and 2016 in journal articles published in 2017, is once again a result of the excellent work of previous Editor in Chief Professor Linda Graham and the 2014-2016 editorial team.

Additionally, AER's Scimago Journal Rank for 2017 has placed it into the 1st Quartile for the first time since 2013, a result that also reflects the journal's upward trajectory in recent years.

Promotional Strategies and Visibility
We continue to select one article per issue (on the basis of potential interest to a broad audience) for two months free access, and this strategy, coupled with social media activity, appears to have a positive effect on the number of full paper downloads.

@AER_AARE has 1168 followers to date, and is used predominantly for the sharing of papers and promotion of new issues of the journal as they reach publication. Associate Editor Dr Stewart Riddle maintains the AER Twitter account and Facebook Page, which to date has just over 300 followers.

A table of contents alert is sent to all AARE members via aare@aare.edu.au upon the release of each new issue.

Special Issues
The 2018 Special Issue of AER (45, 1, March) was co-edited by Dr Lenore Adie, Dr Jill Willis and Dr Fabienne Van der Kleij. Full papers within the Special Issue have been downloaded over 12500 times and cited 10 times since its publication five months ago.

One Special Issue has been commissioned for 2019, to be edited by Dr John Guenther, Dr Catherine Burgess and Associate Professor Neil Harrison. The title of this Special Issue is Aboriginal voices: Systematic reviews of research on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

A further Special Issue, to be edited by Dr Sindu George, Dr Paul Swan, Professor Helen Watt, Professor Paul Richardson and Associate Professor Philip Parker, has been commissioned for 2020. This Special Issue will emerge from the quantitative methodology summar meeting sponsored by AARE in 2018, and will be entitled Quantitative Methodology and Analysis for Survey Research in Education.

A rolling call for Special Issue proposals is now in place. Details of how to propose a Special Issue can be found on the AER page on the AARE website.

With Thanks
Many thanks to the Editorial Team for their outstanding work over this first full year of their tenure, steep learning curves notwithstanding! Collectively, they share my commitment to continuing to shape AER as a journal of choice for the publication of outstanding educational research, an objective that would be impossible without their dedication, and the careful and thoughtful way in which they engage in their editorial work.

Thanks also to our Editorial Board and International Advisory Board Members for their work in 2018, along with the many, many AARE members who have willingly and generously reviewed manuscripts for us.

Communications Report
Aspa Baroutis
In 2018, the Australian Association for Research in Education has expanded its public presence through the website, the education research blog, Twitter, Facebook and the YouTube channel.

AARE website
For a six-month period in 2018 (January to June), the AARE website (aare.edu.au) had approximately 70,000 visitors from 198 different countries, but predominantly from Australia, the United States, Philippines, the United Kingdom, and India. The AARE website has been redeveloped, including the AARE EduResearch Matters blog enabling the Association to present a more contemporary public presence. The website content has been streamlined and reorganised to better align with the Association’s current needs.

EduResearch Matters
AARE promotes informed public debate and scholarship on education issues through the EduResearch Matters blog. Education researchers are encouraged to write opinion pieces, responses to policies, short reports on research, and short summaries of publications for the blog. EduResearch Matters publishes one post per week, or four posts a month.

For the period December 2017 to July 2018, the EduResearch Matters blog has had another very successful year. The 24 September, 2018 was the blog’s most successful day this year with 6,014 views. The views have increased on average by 25% per month, with September 2018 being a 55% increase in views. Most of these views were referred by website search engines, and to a lesser degree by Facebook and Twitter.

Social Media
AARE operates various social media channels to promote the work of the organisation, its members, and education research in general. There has been substantial increase in these modes of communication, demonstrated by the growth in followers of existing channels. There are now approximately:

- 3,000 followers on the main Twitter account (@AustAssocResEd),
- 1,600 followers on the EduResearch Matters Twitter account (@AAREBlog),
- 1,400 followers on the Association’s Facebook page (@AusAssocResEd).

In addition to the channels operated by AARE, numerous Special Interest Groups and the Australian Educational Researcher journal also run their own social media promotions. A new hashtag, #AAREhotTopics, has been created to enable Twitter users to easily identify some of the current debates in education and education research.

‘Thinking with...’ series
As part of this year’s NAIDOC week celebrations, the Communications portfolio produced the first video in our ‘Thinking with...’ series. This short video features a number of the Association’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women researchers who share their thoughts on the theme, Because of her, we can. This, and other AARE videos can be accessed via our You Tube channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/AustAssocResEd/).

Conferences Standing Committee Report
Georgina Barton
The Annual AARE Conference in 2017 was held at the Hotel Realm in Canberra, our capital city. The conference ran between Sunday the 25th through to Thursday the 30th of November. The theme for 2017 was Education: What’s politics got to do with it?, which was apt given it was the final week of parliamentary sitting. As one of our regional areas, the conference was very well attended with over 750 delegates and feedback commented on how personal and welcoming this particular conference felt for those that attended.

We were very fortunate to have a special guest at the Welcome Reception – the Honourable Linda Burney MP. Ms Burney so eloquently engaged a large group of delegates throughout the reception speaking about the issues young Indigenous people, their families and communities face today. I would like to acknowledge the critical work that the Indigenous Education Research SIG carried out in supporting Ms Burney’s visit as well as the content throughout the entire conference program.

Our keynote speakers addressed pertinent topics...
related to the politics of education including: our international keynote speaker, Professor Yvette Taylor from the University of Glasgow on gender and ethics, Associate Professor Nerida Blair on Indigenous knowledges and participation, and Professor Greg Noble on diversity, society, and schooling. All keynote speeches were well received. Professor Margaret Somerville presented the Radford Lecture which provided some insightful, careful thought into early education and sustainability. Thank you to these participants for their contribution to the 2017 conference. The Conferences Standing Committee (CSC) worked tirelessly in their various roles to ensure the success of the conference including: Ms Deborah Cracknell – AARE Officer and Events Manager; Ms Debra Cunningham – AARE Executive Management Team Representative; Professor Tracey Bunda and Ms Melitta Hogarth – Indigenous Research and Engagement; Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen – Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator; Dr Abbey MacDonald – Early Career Researcher Member; Michele Jeffries – Postgraduate Student Member; Professor Michelle Simons (Treasurer); and Dr Bernadette Walker Gibbs (Awards Coordinator). Special thanks goes to Sarah Fraser Chitticks and Lisa Batten for their assistance throughout the conference. Once again, Professor Jan Wright deserves recognition and appreciation for the wonderful job she did on the conference program. I would also like to thank ICE, the conference organising team, for all the hard work they did to ensure this conference was a success with particular thanks to Ms Li Mei Giam who led the team. Thanks also to the Hotel Realm for their support each day, particularly in ferrying people up and down the lifts! The Annual AARE conference for 2018 will be held at the University of Sydney. The CSC is looking forward to welcoming you at this familiar venue. This year, a number of new initiatives have been introduced in useful introductory packages.

**Postgraduate Student and Early Career Researcher Report**

Michelle Jeffries (PGS) and Dr Amanda Heffernan (ECR)

The ECR and Postgraduate Student Representatives have continued to work towards a variety of initiatives that will address member needs or concerns.

**Representatives**

In 2018, Dr Amanda Heffernan took up the two-year role of Early Career Researcher (ECR) Representative (2018-2019) on the AARE Executive, taking over from Dr Abbey MacDonald whose two year position concluded in December 2017. We thank Dr MacDonald for her service and commitment to ECRs. The ECR Representative worked alongside Michelle Jeffries, the Postgraduate Student Representative, who completes her two-year (2017-2018) position at the conclusion of the Sydney AARE 2018 Conference in December, 2018. We are continuing to strengthen handover methods to ensure consistency in representation for Postgraduate Students and ECRs and streamline processes where needed.

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

The annual ECR/PGS Pre-Conference was held in Canberra on 26 November, 2017. The content included advice on applying for grants, networking, peer reviews/reviewing; building a media plan and expanding methodologies/approaches to research. A new “panel” session was introduced to these workshops, providing opportunities to hear from experienced academics and ECRs about navigating the academic landscape post-PhD and to ask questions. The conference was scored highly by attendees, with a survey of attendees scoring the Pre-Conference at an average 4.3 out of 5 (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent). Participants also provided feedback which was taken forward into the planning for the 2018 conference, including an increase in opportunities to establish and develop networks with each other. The 2018 Preconference workshop program has been a major focal point of our service during the first half of 2018.

**Communication with Members**

A social media presence has continued to be a priority this year. Facebook members have continued to grow and a Twitter page was created (which now has 203 followers). These pages aim to keep ECRs and PGS abreast of relevant information, such as AARE workshops, promoting AARE activities and opportunities, employment and scholarship opportunities, and sharing relevant information/articles. Relevant news continues to be sent via a ECR/PGS email list also. This variety of ways of keeping in touch provides accessibility and flexibility to members and ensures timely and wide dissemination of important information. Supporting Postgraduate Students and ECRs in Insecure Employment Conditions This year, a number of new initiatives have been introduced in order to support unwaged/part-waged PGS/ECR members in attending the annual conference. A number of bursaries have been provided for this year’s conference. In addition, we have focused on ensuring that members are aware of other financial support such as Alison Lee Theory Workshop Scholarships and the annual paper awards. We are also working with members of the Working Group investigating the current and future research climate, sharing our members’ feedback on issues affecting ECR and PGS researchers.

**Looking Forward**

Future plans include the possibility of developing podcasts or podcasts that feature members and their research, or that provide snapshots of theory or method in useful introductory packages. We continue to investigate possibilities of doing this sustainably over time.

**Research Development Report**

**Allyson Holbrook**

AARE continues to collaborate with the Research in Education Network (REN), which includes members from all state, Independent and Catholic education departments. In 2018 we continued to work with REN colleagues to keep informed of national research priorities, ethics, consent issues. Details of this collaboration include:

- AARE hosting the National Application Form and the National Research Repository on its’ website. We look forward to improved access with changes made to the AARE website.
- AARE providing an opportunity for REN to present a Symposium at the 2017 and 2018 AARE Conference.
- REN leaders have been successful in proposing a new SIG to join our suite of AARE SIGS. Entitled Schools and Education Systems the SIG promises to be an exciting space for research work related to educators in schools and early childhood education contexts.

**Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report**

**Stewart Riddle**

**SIG Zoom Meetings**

In the lead up to the 2018 conference, AARE conducted three SIG Zoom Meetings throughout the year. These meetings were recorded and disseminated to all SIG Convenors and Co-Convenors with a brief report.

**SIG Administrative Support**

A casual administrative position has continued to assist the SIG Coordinator in their role. The purpose of this part-time position is to help with the processing of grants, updating the website to address changes in SIG leadership, create email mailouts for SIG Convenors, and to assist with other various SIG matters throughout the year.
The following SIGs have been awarded competitive grants for the 2018-2019 Financial Year:
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education Research
- Educational Theory & Philosophy
- Motivation & Learning
- Qualitative Research Methodologies
- Sociocultural Activity Theory
- Sociology of Education
- Teacher Education & Research Innovation
- Technology & Learning

The following SIGs were awarded a joint competitive grant of $10,000
- Gender, Sexuality & Cultural Studies
- Poststructural Theory

AARE SIG MEMBERSHIP Numbers
There are 27 current SIGs and some have grown their membership since the previous financial year. There has also been a number of new Convenors and Co-Convenors taking on the leadership of the SIGs over the past 12 months. Many SIGs are now led by leadership teams comprising of senior and early career researchers. All SIG leadership positions are voluntary, but offer AARE members the opportunity to build professional networks and to demonstrate leadership at a national level.

A new SIG, called the Schools and Education Systems SIG, has been approved by the AARE Executive and will commence at the 2018 conference. The SIG aims to provide a forum for researchers from schools, universities and policy contexts to promote the role of research in informing and improving policy and practice in schools and education systems.

SIG Competitive Grants
AARE recognises the important role of SIGs in building research capacity and strengthening collegial networks within our research community. To offer further support for the activities of SIGs, AARE provides a competitive funding scheme. Applications for this funding may be made for grants of $5000 (ten available per annum), with the option of SIGs combining to apply for a grant of up to $10,000. During the 2018-2019 financial year the first $10,000 grant was jointly awarded to two SIGs.

The following SIGs were awarded competitive grants for the 2016-2017 Financial Year:
- Arts Education Practice & Research
- Gender, sexuality & Cultural Studies
- Inclusive Education
- Language & Literacy
- Motivation & Learning
- Poststructural Theory
- Rural Education

SIG Annual Grants
On application, each SIG is entitled to apply for up to $800 annual funding to support SIG development activities.

The following SIGs were awarded annual funding for the 2017-2018 financial year:
- Assessment & Measurement
- Educational Leadership
- Gender, Sexuality & Cultural Studies
- Language & Literacy
- Middle Years of Schooling
- Motivation & Learning
- Poststructural Theory
- Professional & Higher Education
- Sociocultural Activity Theory

The following SIGs were awarded annual funding for the 2018-2019 financial year:
- Arts Education Practice & Research
- Assessment & Measurement
- Environment & sustainability Education
- Global Context for K-12 Education
- Health & Physical Education
- Middle Years of Schooling
- Motivation & Learning
- Poststructural Theory
- Sociocultural Activity Theory
- Teacher Education & Research Innovation

A new SIG, called the Schools and Education Systems SIG, has been approved by the AARE Executive and will commence at the 2018 conference. The SIG aims to provide a forum for researchers from schools, universities and policy contexts to promote the role of research in informing and improving policy and practice in schools and education systems.

AARE SIGs and membership numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th># in 2018</th>
<th>Convenors and Co-Convenors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Tracey Bunda, Melitta Hogarth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Education Practice Research</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Susan Davis, Kim Snepvangers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theory Workshop Report

The first Theory Workshop for 2018 was held at and co-hosted by Monash University, Peninsula Campus on Friday July 6th to Sunday July 8th convened by Dr lisahunter (Monash University). The theme of 'Research Openings' framed the weekend. The Acknowledgement of Country was provided to participants by the Boonwurrung Foundation. After a generous offering of refreshments by Peninsula Campus Management the formal presentations were led by Professor Jacinta Elston (Monash Uni) as keynote who paid tribute to NAIDOC week and outlined the importance of relationships and particular practices for ethical research with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Presenters for the weekend workshops introduced themselves and their work and an informal dinner completed the evening.

There were 42 registered attendees, plus 7 presenters including Assoc Prof Nicola Johnson (Federation Uni), Dr Sindu George (Monash Uni), Dr Wanty Widjala (Deakin Uni), Professor Julie McLeod (Uni Melbourne), Professor Tony Rossi (Western Sydney Uni) and Dr Elke Emerald (Independent scholar) who stepped in for an ill Professor Karen Malone with 24 hours-notice. All presenters participated in at least one plenary and most for all sessions and two plenaries, contributing generously to the dialogues over the 3 days.

Many participants reported learning a lot through rigorous discussions, new ideas and new relationships nurtured during the workshops. Participants came from NSW and Victoria.

Recipients of the Alison Lee Scholarships were doctoral Students Katie Ross (UTS), Matt Harrison (Uni Melb), Kathleen Smithers (UoN).

Thanks go to Monash University and in particular Michael Watchorn (Peninsula Campus Manager) and Melinda Cafarella (Executive Officer) for the financial sponsorship and on-the-ground-support for the weekend, and to Black Tie catering for flexibility, quality food and service.

Professor Jacinta Elston presenting about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander encounters with researchers.

Office Report
Deborah Cracknell

During the 2017-18 year, the AARE Office and Events Manager, Deborah Cracknell, has continued to provide support to AARE members, SIG Convenors and Executive members. This has been achieved by:

• Providing support to the Executive members, assisting them in their specific AARE Executive portfolios.
• Assisting the Secretary in organising the Executive meetings.
• Providing support to members and SIGs who have received AARE funding to allow for ease of payments and reimbursements.
• Providing administration support to SIG convenors by sending out SIG emails to specific SIGs.

Over the past year Deborah has been assisted by Lisa Batten who provides casual administration assistance in the area of SIGs. This support has been invaluable in relation to sending SIG convenor emails to SIG members and management of the SIG funding rounds.

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

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 Helen Watt and Professor Michele Simons. The Conference Awards Committee, Professor Emeritus Alan Reid for being AARE’s Public Officer. All Convenors and Co-Convenors of the Special Interest Groups.

Professor Jan Wright and Margaret Kettle for their support to the Conferences Standing Committee.

AARE Executive 2018

WOODS, Annette (Prof)
Queensland University of Technology
President 2017-18

HAYES, Debra (Prof)
University of Sydney
President Elect 2016-18

SIMONS, Michele (Prof)
Western Sydney University
Treasurer 2016-18

CUNNINGHAM, Debra (Ms)
Queensland College of Teachers
Secretary 2015-18

BAROUTSIS, Aspa (Dr)
Queensland University of Technology
Communications Co-ordinator 2018-20

BARTON, Georgina (Assoc Prof)
University of Southern Queensland
Conferences Standing Committee Chair 2017-18

HEFFERNAN, Amanda (Dr)
Monash University
ECR Member 2018-19

HOGARTH, Melitta (Dr)
Queensland University of Technology
Indigenous Researcher Liaison 2016-18

HOLBROOK, Allyson (Prof)
University of Newcastle
Research Development Co-ordinator 2017-18

lisahunter
Monash University
Ordinary Member 2018-19

JEFFRIES, Michelle
Queensland University of Technology
Postgraduate Student Member 2017-18

LOWE, Kevin (Dr)
Macquarie University
Co-opted Indigenous Members

MOCKLER, Nicole (Assoc Prof)
The University of Sydney
AER Editor 2016-19

NICHOLS, Sue (Assoc Prof)
University of South Australia
Ordinary Member 2017-18

RIDDLE, Stewart (Dr)
University of Southern Queensland
SIG Coordinator 2018-20
Annual Audited Report

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
Committee's Report

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
For the year ended 30 June 2018

Committee's Report

Year committee members submit the financial report of AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annette Woods (Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Simons (Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspa Baroutsis (Dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgina Barton (Assoc Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Cunningham (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Hayes (Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Heffernan (Dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Hunter (Dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Hogarth (Dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allyson Holbrook (Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Jeffries (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Lowe (Dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Moolker (Assoc Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Nichols (Assoc Prof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Riddle (Dr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: to promote, support and improve research and scholarship in education and, through its dissemination and application, to enhance understanding of educational processes and the development of policy and practice at all levels.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The loss after providing for income tax for the financial year amounted to, as per below: $87,914.

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:

[Signature]

Annette Woods (Prof) - President
Date 10 / 10 / 2018

Signed electronically
Michelle Simons (Prof) - Treasurer
Date 10 / 10 / 2018
## Income and Expenditure Statement

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**  
For the year ended 30 June 2018

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AER Membership</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>1,609</td>
<td>18,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concessional Membership</td>
<td>22,287</td>
<td>25,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Income</td>
<td>613,503</td>
<td>583,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright fees</td>
<td>3,955</td>
<td>8,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Support - AER Income</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Expenses - Reconciled</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>1,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Concession Membership</td>
<td>3,350</td>
<td>4,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Membership Income</td>
<td>4,140</td>
<td>8,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routledge Book Income</td>
<td>1,738</td>
<td>1,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative Income</td>
<td>2,444</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Income</td>
<td>4,273</td>
<td>4,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Memberships Income</td>
<td>15,062</td>
<td>18,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operations</td>
<td>748,117</td>
<td>1,341,737</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrator Fees Paid</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archiving Fees</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>3,680</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Expenses</td>
<td>7,748</td>
<td>9,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>1,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping - Figures Matter</td>
<td>3,265</td>
<td>7,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Expenses</td>
<td>588,452</td>
<td>596,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Support - AER</td>
<td>6,437</td>
<td>10,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Support - E-BLG</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Attendance</td>
<td>5,175</td>
<td>1,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Meetings</td>
<td>36,684</td>
<td>42,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Postage</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurances</td>
<td>3,170</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>3,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant Charges</td>
<td>1,644</td>
<td>1,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Space Rental</td>
<td>8,019</td>
<td>8,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PID for Staff</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.*
## Balance Sheet

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**

**As at 30 June 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30 JUN 2018</th>
<th>30 JUN 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>13,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA Business Online Saver</td>
<td>11,968</td>
<td>108,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA Credit Card 2387</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>(3,144)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA TERM DEPOSIT 56156521</td>
<td>890,080</td>
<td>800,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Seed Funding</td>
<td>59,590</td>
<td>59,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Cheque Account 1868</td>
<td>41,924</td>
<td>36,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Debtors New</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>938,777</strong></td>
<td><strong>997,906</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>938,777</strong></td>
<td><strong>997,906</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATO Integrated client account</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST Adjustments</td>
<td>- (46)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GST Rounding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVAX Tax</td>
<td>3,294</td>
<td>2,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Annual Leave</td>
<td>5,130</td>
<td>6,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGC Superannuation Payable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(532)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Creditors New</td>
<td>3,801</td>
<td>5,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,218</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,407</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,218</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,407</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>896,559</td>
<td>884,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>896,559</td>
<td>884,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>896,559</td>
<td>884,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Statement by Members of the Committee

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**

**For the year ended 30 June 2018**

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Australian Association for Research in Education as at 30 June 2018.
2. Presents fairly the financial performance for the year ended on that date.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Committee is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Annette Woods (Prof)
President

Signed electronically

Michele Simons (Prof)
Treasurer

---

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.
Notes to the Financial Statements

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

For the year ended 30 June 2018

1. Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031: Materiality
AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other Australian Accounting Standards or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

Australian Association for Research in Education
ABN 27 453 170 942
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members


Opinion
We have audited the financial report of Australian Association for Research in Education (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

Basis for Opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting
We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report
The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.
Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association’s internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on: 23rd October 2018

Michael George Sinclair, Registered Company Auditor
Sinclairs Pty Ltd - Chartered Accountants
(02) 6230 9245  PO Box 486, HALL ACT 2618