



Australian Association for Research in Education

Annual Report 2014

Introduction



AARE President 2013-2014,
Associate Professor Julianne Moss

Dear AARE members,

Welcome to the 2013-14 Annual Report for AARE. This report will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting in December 2014. The report is emailed to members and made available on the AARE website in October so that all members have access before the Annual General Meeting to information about AARE activities over the past year.

The report is produced by the AARE Executive Committee supported by the Office and Events Manager. A list of members of the 2014 Executive can be found at the back of the report.

Feedback on the report is welcome – please send comments via the AARE Office:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julianne Moss'.

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Annual Report

President's Report

Julianne Moss

I would like to thank all members of the 2013-14 Executive, the Conferences Standing Committee and members of the association for their support and collaboration in growing the esteem of the Australian educational research community during my two year term as President. The various sections of the 2014 Annual Report document the many achievements and strengths of our member organisation. Being President of AARE could be construed as yet another thing 'to do'. As I reflect on the past two years, yes there were many meetings and administrative matters, but overwhelmingly the collaboration between members, SIGS and the hardworking Executive show that this is a strong member organisation that will continue to advocate for and improve the understanding and contribution of education to the wider community through educational research.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Deborah Cracknell our AARE Office and Events Manager. Deborah's knowledge and understanding of the needs of the association have been central to the smooth running and enactment of our AARE vision during 2013-2014.

Finally I welcome Professor Martin Mills as the incoming President for 2015-16. I look forward to continuing on the AARE Executive as Immediate Past President. I would encourage all members of the association to become involved at Executive level. Being President of AARE is a rewarding experience.

Treasurer's Report

Michele Simons

During 2013-14 AARE continued in sound financial health. AARE is funded principally from membership fees and funds raised through conference surpluses. Income from membership fees continues to be an issue that the Executive continually monitors. Diversifying our income in order to ensure that we can continue to provide a wide range of member benefits and services remains a key goal. For the 2013-14 financial year, AARE's major areas of expenditure were the following:

- Conducting the annual conference
- 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
- Strategic Initiatives grants
- Enhancing our web and social media presence

In line with good financial practice, AARE aims 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 has allowed us to invest in additional services for members and to support new strategic initiatives for the 2013-14 and 2014-2015 financial years.

Secretary's Report

Debra Cunningham

While the Annual General Meeting of members is the ultimate governing body of the Association, the running of AARE business between General Meetings is undertaken by the Executive Committee. The composition and role of the Executive Committee is set down in the [AARE Constitution](#).

In 2014 the AARE Executive Committee comprised 14 members – 12 who were elected by the general membership of AARE and two 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.

To help the Association to implement its objective of better engaging with Australian Indigenous researchers, the Executive co-opted Dr Tracey Bunda to the position of Indigenous Engagement Coordinator for 2014 and 2015. Dr Margaret Baguley kindly accepted the Executive's invitation to take on the role of Chair of the Conferences Standing Committee after Dr Julie White withdrew in January 2014, and Dr Val Klenowski kindly stepped in to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation, for personal reasons, of Professor Roger Slee from the Research Development position in June.

The Executive held three meetings during the past year: one over the weekend immediately before the annual conference (30 November and 1 December 2013, in Adelaide), one early in the new year (26 February, in Sydney), and one mid-year (2 July, in Sydney). The pre-conference meeting was held at a university campus but the two Sydney meetings were held at an airport hotel to save on transport and accommodation costs.

A small management group consisting of elected office-bearers from the Executive (the President, the President Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer) and the Office and Events Manager (AARE's sole ongoing employee) met fortnightly by electronic means to oversee AARE business between Executive meetings.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Report

Tracey Bunda

In 2013-14 a number of initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education matters have taken

place and show that AARE has a long-term commitment to building this important profile within the organisation. The 2013 AARE Conference held in Adelaide was inclusive of an Aboriginal keynote address provided by Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE, of the Narungga people (South Australia) and Dean: Indigenous Scholarship, Engagement and Research at the University of South Australia. Professor Buckskin spoke of 'Policy to Praxis: Addressing the tension between what happens inside versus what happens outside the school gates'. It is expected that the practice of inviting an Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander keynote address will continue as standard practice of the annual conference.

The diligence and perseverance of Dr Elizabeth Mackinlay (University of Queensland) and Associate Professor Karen Martin (Griffith University), and the support of AARE President Julianne Moss, has enabled the formation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group (SIG) in 2014. The formation of this group and the nomination of Professor Tracey Bunda (University of Southern Queensland) to the Executive was endorsed by an informal gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators at the 2013 Conference. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SIG will formally meet for the first time at a dinner during the 2014 Conference.

The 2014 joint AARE and NZARE conference will commence with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori and Pasifika Education Pre-Conference Workshop to be held on Saturday 29 November at QUT in Brisbane. This Workshop aims to bring together the expertise of experienced educators and researchers from both sides of 'the ditch' for dialogue and engagement. The Conference will commence with the appropriate protocols for Welcome to Jagera Country, undertaken by Raymond Walker.

To assist Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander postgraduate students to attend this workshop and the 2014 Conference, AARE is funding two scholarships which are inclusive of the costs for membership of AARE and registration to attend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori and Pasifika Education Workshop, the Post-Graduate and ECR Workshops (Sunday 30 November) and the Conference.

A future critical objective for the AARE is to raise the numbers of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership.

Awards Report

Annette Woods 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](http://www.aare.edu.au), www.aare.edu.au. At the 2013 Adelaide Conference the following recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding research and contributions to AARE and education more generally.

Honorary Life Membership Award:

Professor Peter Renshaw, School of Education, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Queensland.

Professor Renshaw was a member of the AARE Executive for over a decade (1991-2002), serving as Secretary (1991 – 1996) inclusive) and later as President (2001). He also convened the 2002 Conference held in Brisbane.

Radford Lecture:

Professor Jill Blackmore, Alfred Deakin Professor, School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University. Lecture titled 'Cultural and gender politics in Australian education and the "fragile project" of critical educational research'. Professor Blackmore's Lecture may be read in the latest issue (Vol 41, Issue 5) of *The Australian Educational Researcher* and may also be watched on the [AARE website](http://www.aare.edu.au).

Professor Blackmore was President of AARE in 2002 and served two periods (1992-2000 and 2011-2013) as Editor of the association's journal, *The Australian Educational Researcher*.

Award for Doctoral Research in Education (joint winners):

Dr Kin Yee Chan for her thesis titled 'A Comparison of Automated Scoring Engines and Human Raters on the Assessment of English Essay Writing' (nominated by James Cook University) and

Dr Clare Hall for her thesis titled 'Voices of Distinction: Choirboys' Narratives of Music, Masculinity and the Middle-Class' (nominated by Monash University).

Early Career Researcher Award:

Dr Niranjan Casinader, Monash University, for his conference paper, 'A failure to communicate? Cultural dispositions of thinking and some implications for teacher education'.

Postgraduate Student Research Awards:

Anne Bennison, The University of Queensland, for her conference paper, 'Exploring numeracy teacher identity: an adaptation of Valsiner's zone theory'.

Natal'ya Galliot, Macquarie University, for her conference paper, 'Who struggles most in making a career choice and why? Findings from a cross-sectional survey of high-school students'.

Eve Mayes, University of Sydney, for her conference paper, 'Students researching teachers' practice: lines of flight and temporary assemblage conversions in and through a students-as-co-researchers event'.

Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award:

Professor Tracey Bunda, Flinders University, for her conference paper, 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teachers - Tellin' the stories of teachers: Tellin' the stories of teaching' (Co-authored with Jackie Wurm).

ACDE Postgraduate Student/Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award:

Sindu George, Monash University, for a conference poster titled, 'Self-Efficacy of Early Career Teachers: A longitudinal study'.

Springer AER Best Paper Award:

Jonnell Uptin, Jan Wright and Valerie Harwood, ' "It felt like i was a black dot on white paper": examining young former refugees' experience of entering Australian high schools', *The Australian Educational Researcher*, Volume 40, Issue 1 (February 2013), pp 125-137.

The processes for nomination for the awards based on conference papers have been updated with the system being streamlined and simplified.

In 2014, the Awards Committee was pleased to accept a substantial number of nominations for awards. The review process was rigorous and those selected to receive awards had demonstrated real excellence in research. The Awards Committee oversees the award of the Early Career Researcher Award, the Postgraduate and Indigenous Postgraduate Student Research Awards, the Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award and the ACDE Postgraduate Student/Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award. Award winners will be announced at the 2014 Brisbane Conference.

Australian Educational Researcher Report

Linda Graham

All AARE members have complimentary access to the AARE peer-reviewed journal, *The Australian Educational Researcher (AER)*, which is published online through Springer.

AER has undergone a bit of a makeover this year. It has a new cover, a Twitter handle (@AER_AARE) and a revamped review process that has significantly reduced review and production times.

Our new outreach strategy – Table of Content alerts to AARE members, promotion of new articles via social media, free “highlight” articles, promotion of the journal on the AARE website, and invitations to authors to blog about their recently published pieces on AARE’s [EduResearch Matters](#) blog – is assisting in communicating educational research to the whole community: researchers, teachers, school leaders, parents, public servants and politicians.

These strategies are aimed at increasing the quality and impact of research published in AER; something that is beginning to be recognised by our **2013 journal impact factor of 0.704**.

This is AER’s highest impact factor yet and it signals AER’s increasing readership and the relevance of the work published. It also points to the hard work of the previous Editorial team, the ongoing contribution of AER’s Editorial Board members and the support of the AARE research community.

In 2014, six new Editorial Board members were appointed to help us to continue that great work. These include: **Peter Goodyear** (University of Sydney), **Sue Grieshaber** (Monash University), **John Hattie** (University of Melbourne), **Allyson Holbrook** (University of Newcastle), **Amanda Keddie** (The University of Queensland), and **Tom Lowrie** (University of Canberra).

AER aims to be Australia’s No. 1 educational research journal; a sister publication to journals published by the British Educational Research Association (*British Educational Research Journal*, IF: 1.172) and the American Educational Research Association (*Educational Researcher*, IF: 2.963).

To achieve this, we need high quality submissions, fast and rigorous reviewing, and even greater en-

gagement with our published research from the AARE and international research communities.

To ensure an adequate supply of appropriate reviewers for the wide range of papers submitted, 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 journals.

The fourth 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 Brisbane.

Communications Report

Nicole Mockler

The new AARE website has been launched with great success during 2014. The new look website has enabled AARE to promote its activities to members and also allows members and non-members to register and pay for events very easily.

One of the most useful and exciting parts of the new website is the searchable database of AARE conference papers. We now have papers dating back to 1979, making our conference papers far more readily retrievable than they have ever been before.

The AARE Blog, [EduResearch Matters](#), has been going strong with 179 followers to date and a total of 36 posts by a wide range of members of the Australian educational research community in 2014. The Blog aims to provide a forum for educational researchers to publicly share their research and ‘speak’ into the public space. The Blog will be reconfigured with a new look in November 2014.

AARE News has been delivered electronically in March, May, August and October in 2014. 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. Sections such as the ‘Recently Completed Thesis’ and the ‘Post Graduate Profile’ have proven to be popular.

The electronic AARE Members Updates have been sent out when required to ensure that the membership is informed about emerging matters in educational research.

AARE is in negotiation with a publisher regarding the planned new series of books to replace the current

RARE series (*Review of Australian Research in Education*). We hope to progress the new series shortly.

Postgraduate Student and ECR Report Kimberly Pappaluca, and Lisa Papatraianou

Given the often overlapping interests and needs of postgraduate students and early career researchers, the Postgraduate (PG) member and the Early Career Researcher (ECR) member of the Executive collaborate closely to develop activities to support these groups. Last year 72 PG students and ECRs attended the Pre-Conference Workshops, held the Sunday before the AARE Conference in Adelaide.

Similar workshops are being held again before the 2014 Brisbane Conference with a program developed around a variety of issues facing new researchers. These workshops will be presented by eminent academics who have generously offered their time to the event. Please visit the [Conference website](http://aare-nzare2014.com.au/program/pre-conference-workshops/) (<http://aare-nzare2014.com.au/program/pre-conference-workshops/>) for details.

Theory Workshop Report Robyn Henderson

AARE held a weekend of Theory Workshops in Sydney at the Australian Catholic University on 9-11 May 2014. Approximately 40 ECR and PG students attended this event. Participants attended workshops conducted by eight experienced researchers and were able to network with other participants from across the country.

Next year a series of workshops will be held in various locations around Australia. The first of these will be at the Launceston Campus of the University of Tasmania on 30 January to 1 February 2015. The second weekend of workshops will be held in Darwin during May.

Conferences Standing Committee Report Margaret Baguley

During February 2014 Margaret Baguley took on the role of Chair of the Conferences Standing Committee for AARE. This followed a very successful 2013 AARE Conference convened by Dr Julie White. The 2013 conference was held at the Hilton Adelaide Hotel which worked well as a conference venue and

received wonderful feedback in regards to ambience, hospitality and the range of food available. The conference, the theme of which was "Shaping Australian Educational Research", was attended by 715 people, with 689 papers and 14 posters presented to representatives from 24 countries. Think Business Events (TBE) were the Professional Conference Organisers and provided a professional and efficient service to ensure everything ran well. The SIG Convenors were instrumental in organising and undertaking reviews of abstracts and papers for the 22 Special Interest Groups. The SIG dinners were well attended and delegates were able to experience the local cuisine at renowned Adelaide restaurants.

The joint 2014 AARE-NZARE conference at the Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove campus in Brisbane has already attracted approximately 900 abstracts. It will closely follow the G-20 Summit which will be held in Brisbane in November. The conference theme is "Speaking back through research" and the gathering will enable educators from all sectors to discuss and reflect on the state of educational research and where it is currently positioned. TBE will again provide the professional and efficient service to ensure everything runs well. AARE's Office and Events Manager, Mrs Deb Cracknell, has also been instrumental in ensuring processes are running smoothly. Deb provides a significant role as the first contact many people have with AARE. The Conferences Standing Committee have also been working hard in relation to their various roles including the Pre-Conference Workshop Program, the Awards Committee, SIG activities and funding and the myriad other aspects that need to be considered when organising such a large event. In addition, the AARE Executive Management Team has been very supportive and has provided important feedback as we have progressed throughout the year.

AARE thanks all of these people and the many others who are working behind the scenes to make the 2014 AARE-NZARE conference an important forum for critical and constructive dialogue as we 'speak back through research'.

Planning is already underway for the 2015 AARE conference to be held at Notre Dame University in Fremantle, Western Australia and we look forward to seeing our colleagues in this beautiful part of Australia next year.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Report Sue Saltmarsh

The AARE Special Interest Groups (SIGs) remain one of the most important aspects of AARE's work. A SIG is a group of AARE members with shared research interests and these groups play a major role in organizing the streams for the annual Conference, undertaking reviews of papers submitted for presentation at the Conference and organising SIG meetings and dinners .

All AARE members are welcome to choose to join up to three SIGs, as part of their membership.

New SIGs

Two new SIGs were approved in 2014:

1. Global Contexts for K-12 Education. The Convenor is Bradley Shrimpton.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. The Convenor is Tracey Bunda.

Funding

Each SIG is entitled to \$800 Annual Funding available on application by the SIG Convenors. These funds may be used for a variety of purposes and are primarily intended as a means of supporting SIG member participation and contributing to the work of SIGs within the AARE community.

In addition to the Annual Funding, AARE offers grants of \$3,000 and \$5,000 that are available to SIGs on a competitive basis. They are primarily intended to support SIGs to contribute to the scholarly research capacity of their members.

In 2014 the following grant applications were successful:

- History and Education, \$5,000 – Workshop and Symposium in May-June 2015
- Language and Literacy, \$3,000 – Two Seminars held during late 2014 and early 2015
- Educational Leadership, \$5,000 – Speaker attending conference and pre-conference workshop
- Post Structural Theory and Social Justice (combined application), \$5,000 – Speaker attending conference
- Health and Physical Education, \$5,000 – Mini Conference in June 2015

AARE is looking forward to seeing the outcomes from these grants in the coming year.

Office Report Deborah Cracknell

AARE continues to focus on fostering educational research in Australia and its members are the cornerstone of the organisation. One of the key functions of the AARE office is to provide support to the membership. During the 2013-14 year this support was provided by Office and Events Manager, Deborah Cracknell, who works part time, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Deborah has been working throughout the year to answer all member queries in a timely manner and to make the member experience a better one. Work on making the membership year run from July to June each year has been implemented so that new members joining part-way through the year will pay a pro rata membership fee and members can now choose to pay their membership either by credit card or BPay services.

During the past year accounting services continued to be contracted to the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA).

Acknowledgements

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

Subeditors of the AARE Newsletter: Neil Tucker, Erica Spray and Lyn Alderman.

All researchers who presented at the 2014 annual Theory Workshop and the Australian Catholic University for providing a venue and assistance in organising this event.

All researchers who presented at the 2013 Pre-conference Workshops for Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers: Professor Barbara Comber, Professor Rob Hattam, Professor James Ladwig, Professor Jill Blackmore, Associate Professor Robyn Henderson, Professor Chris Halse, Professor Susan Groundwater Smith, Professor Jo-Anne Reid, Professor Jim Albright, Professor Nerida Blair, Associate Professor Mary Ryan, Professor Margaret Somerville, Dr Andrew Hickey, Dr Greg Martin, Dr Sandy Muspratt, Dr Lew Zipin and Professor Michele Simons

Members of the 2014 Doctoral Award Committee: Professor Bob Lingard (Chair), Professor Lyn Yates, Professor Jennifer Sumsion and Associate Professor Helen Watt

Members of the selection panel for the 2014 Early Career Researcher Award, Postgraduate Student Research Award and Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award: Professor Jo-Anne Reid, Dr Amanda Keddie, Graham Gower and Associate Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay

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

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

Professor Alan Reid, AARE's Public Officer

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

Our Office and Events Manager, Ms Deborah Cracknell

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

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AARE Executive 2014

MOSS, Julianne (Assoc Prof), President

SIMONS, Michele (Prof), Treasurer

CUNNINGHAM, Debra, Secretary

MILLS, Martin (Prof), President Elect

BAGULEY, Margaret (Assoc Prof), Chair, Conferences Standing Committee

BUNDA, Tracey (Prof), Indigenous Engagement Officer

GRAHAM, Linda (Assoc Prof), Editor AER

HENDERSON, Robyn (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member

KEDDIE, Amanda, (Dr), Ordinary Member

KLENOWSKI, Val (Prof), Research Development Co-ordinator (From August)

MOCKLER, Nicole (Dr), Communications Co-ordinator

PAPATRAIANOU, Lisa (Dr), ECR Member

PAPPALUCA, Kimberly (Ms), Postgraduate Student Member

SALTMARSH, Sue (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member

SLEE, Roger, Research Development Co-ordinator (Until June)

WOODS, Annette (Assoc Prof), Ordinary Member

CRACKNELL, Deborah, Office and Events Manager