

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2007 COACTEA aimed to build a strong professional learning community while advancing the work of the Australian Joint Council of Professional Associations (AJCPTA). Funding received through the AJCPTA for two Teaching Australia projects, the National Values Education Framework Project and Promoting Professional Learning Project, has provided a sound financial base for member association initiatives throughout 2007. Further information about the AJCPTA and the projects is available at www.ajcpta.edu.au

COACTEA is encouraged by the response to its small grants program which contributes funding of up to \$1,000 to support the professional learning programs of its members. In 2007, COACTEA supported:

The Canberra Mathematical Association's application to bring Anthony Harradine, from the Noel Baker Centre for School Mathematics in Adelaide, to Canberra.

CEGACT's Annual Conference on 10 and 11 August 2007 at the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling, Canberra.

SEA*ACT for a Professional Development session using Science and Maths Learning Objects with teachers.

An ACEL professional learning initiative.

In May 2007 COACTEA facilitated the second Canberra-based AJCPTA Board meeting. Speakers included:

Di Kerr, The Learning Federation; Nicole Panting, AGQTP; Bob McMullen, ALP education policy; Terry Hayes National Curriculum; Jenny Lewis as the ACEL

representative for the ASCD/ACEL/AJCPTA Conference *New Imagery for Schools and Schooling: Challenging, Creating and Connecting*; and Louise Watson who spoke to the National Professional Standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership Consultation Paper, published by Teaching Australia, March 2007. The purpose of the consultation paper was to seek feedback on proposals for: A model of National Professional Standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership; and, the way in which the standards should be developed, endorsed and reviewed. Professional associations were encouraged to discuss the paper and provide feedback to Teaching Australia by email to standards@teachingaustralia.edu.au

In July 2007 COACTEA member Jane Brown attended the Teaching Australia Forum on National Professional Standards for advanced teaching and school leadership held in Melbourne 29-30 July. Fran Hinton, Executive Director of Teaching Australia, argued that it was in everyone's interest, including education, the community and the nation, to build a strong autonomous profession to ensure coherence and a common base across the profession.

Professional Contributions

COACTEA members have assumed an active role on a variety of working parties, committees and projects related to the development of policy, curricular or professional learning activities; e.g. staff in Australia's Schools (SiAS) Project; ACT DET Curriculum Review Committee and the development of Essential Learning Achievements (ELAs); Key Issues and Advisory Groups to support the work of the Teacher Registration Reference Group, ACT

Government; and the AGQTP Cross-sectoral Committee.

COACTEA continues to be represented on the ACT Government Values Education Forums Project Committee. The Committee has been very active in developing many worthwhile projects for Government, Catholic, and Independent schools in the ACT.

Mapping Exercise

The Teaching Australia National Values Education Project requires COACTEA to conduct a Mapping Exercise to investigate the way in which the National Values education principles and concepts are embedded, at the local level, within the key curriculum and learning areas. To complete the task, COACTEA will focus on the newly introduced ACT curriculum framework *Every Chance to Learn*. Members are asked to provide information relevant to their learning area to carolyn.broadbent@acu.edu.au. Members are encouraged to promote Values Education at their association events and to assist with the planning of the 2008 COACTEA Values Education Forum.

Indigenous Education Forum

In September 2007 COACTEA convened a successful Indigenous Education Forum. The Forum was designed to enable the participants to deepen their understanding of Indigenous culture and learning and thereby enhance the learning outcomes for members of the Indigenous community. Foci included: Exploring Indigenous culture; Enhancing children's learning; Stimulating engagement

in learning; Raising awareness of cultural diversity, and Strengthening relationships between schools, families and the wider community. Another Forum is planned for June 2008.

Database and website

COACTEA member, Jennifer Phillips, assumed responsibility for the development of a new COACTEA website. Further work is now required to build links between COACTEA members and the site. Members are also encouraged to update their contact details to ensure the COACTEA database and website information remains current. Details to Jane Brown at bjbrown@bigpond.com

Looking forward

COACTEA has a strategic role to ensure the voices of its member professional associations are well-represented at the national level through the AJCPTA. Of importance also is the provision of support for the many initiatives conducted by professional associations at the local level to facilitate quality professional learning opportunities for their members. There is still much to be done to build strong links between the AJCPTA, COACTEA and the wider education community to promote and further enhance the teaching profession. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their ongoing commitment to COACTEA. We look forward to working together throughout 2008.

Carolyn Broadbent
COACTEA President

Do we have the correct contact details for your association?

Newsletters are sent by mail or through the courier to the President and the COACTEA Delegate for your association. Are you the President or COACTEA Delegate? If not, **please** ensure someone in your association advises COACTEA of the changes and new contact details.

Take a look at the address on the envelope. Is it the correct address for you or was the envelope redirected to you at a new address? If the address is incorrect please contact Jane Brown on phone 6288 1904, fax them to 6288 0230 or email to bjbrown@bigpond.com **Help us keep in touch with you !!**

Summary of *Learning from the future: new perspectives on leadership for the teaching profession* Conference

This conference, organized by **Teaching Australia**, brought together approximately 80 individuals from three groups:

1. two teams of principals who had participated in transformative workshops called *Open Book Scenarios* that required them to imagine the implications of possible future societies, the impacts of these futures on their schools, and to complete project work of a proactive nature within their schools.
2. the 2007 winners of the National Awards for Quality Schooling, and
3. representatives from many professional associations, national and local bodies.

It was an opportunity to learn about the programs offered and being developed by Teaching Australia, and its vision as a peak umbrella organization supporting teachers and leaders by providing national frameworks for professional organisations, building leadership capacity nationally, and developing a professional charter and standards frameworks.

Themes most evident to me were:

Supporting educational leaders through workshops, identifying strategies and issues
The impact of technologies on education, and managing this
The impact of generational change within the workforce
Globalisation and its impact on education

Detailed notes from the various presentations are available but be aware that transcripts of the conference will appear on the Teaching Australia website within weeks. (www.dest.gov.au/.../programme_categories/professional_skills_leadership/teaching_australia.htm)

Personally, this was also an opportunity for networking that will certainly benefit my organization, SEA*ACT and school in the future. I was delighted to have conversational time with Adele Pring of SASOSE (having participated in the Coorang Workshop in January 2006, and continuing to recommend these workshops to any teachers interested in Indigenous education), to exchange resources with Mandy Reynolds-Smith, Principal of Devonport High School (a school trialling the IB MYP, and a government school like Telopea Park School), and to be able to recommend presenters to Queensland colleagues organizing CONASTA57. I will certainly be following up on the readings recommended by Martin Westwell, on projects that helped schools deliver excellent outcomes in science and mathematics. These are the immediate and direct outcomes of how this conference engaged me, and how my attendance will support the interests of Telopea Park School, and SEA*ACT. There will certainly be other, less tangible outcomes in the future.

I remain grateful for the support COACTEA provided for my attendance and Telopea Park School for my classroom release for this professional learning opportunity.

Annie Termaat
President Elect
Science Educators of the ACT
(SEA*ACT)

Executive Teacher
Science and IB Middle Years
Program Coordinator
Telopea Park School

Report from the National forum on National Professional Standards for advanced teaching and school leadership July 29 and 30, 2007

Approximately 150 representatives from principal and professional teaching associations, discussed the details of a model for national professional standards proposed by Teaching Australia in a Consultation Paper, *National Professional Standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership* released in March 2007.

The context for the development of standards was set by the keynote speaker Vi McLean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Development at the Queensland University of Technology. Vi pointed out that professional standards would provide a foundation for public confidence and a tool teachers and principals could use for reflection and professional learning. If the teaching professional were involved in their development, standards would be developmental rather than regulatory.

There followed a detailed discussion on the proposed model for national professional standards set out in Teaching Australia's consultation paper *National professional standards for advanced teaching and school leadership* released in March 2007

The model, adapted in response to feedback during the consultation, proposed:

- A Charter for the teaching profession, as both a free-standing inspirational document and an overarching statement of values from which more detailed documents, such as professional standards and a code of ethics, would flow.
- Three organising categories, common to both advanced teaching and principal standards.
- One set of generic capability statements for advanced teaching standards, and one set of generic capability statements for principal standards.
- Separate sets of descriptors of accomplishment, to be drafted by relevant professional associations, to reflect the specific and unique requirements of different areas of professional specialization – whether this be a discipline area such as mathematics or geography or music, a stage of schooling such as early childhood or primary teaching, or a professional role such as the principalship.

Participants worked on the further development of these.

Where to from here

The work on developing national professional standards will continue, using information from both the consultation and the forum. Teaching Australia hopes to formalise the Charter by the end of 2007.

It is anticipated that Teaching Australia will continue to consult with professional associations and hopes to establish a network linking the profession and the work on standards.

More information is available at the Teaching Australia web site.

Jane Brown
Executive Officer
COACTEA



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Planning lessons using Science and Maths Learning Objects

Presenter: Dr. Olivia Clarke, Teaching Services,
The Learning Federation, Melbourne

This Professional Development Day was sponsored by COACTEA and organised by Sue Wilson from SEA*ACT in conjunction with the CRIMS (Context Rich Integrated Maths and Science) Project.

This was the initial presentation of this workshop, which was developed by Olivia and Sue for the PD day.

The program for the day included:

- A brief introduction to the latest information about Stage 3 Learning Objects
- Time to investigate Science and Maths Learning Objects
- Opportunity to work in small groups to collaboratively develop activities supported by Science and Maths Learning Objects

The day was well supported from a wide sector of educationalists from the Australian Catholic University, University of Canberra, the Academy of Science, Australian Science Innovations, ACT DET Literacy and Numeracy Team, ACT Schools – both primary and secondary from all jurisdictions, and teachers from rural schools.

Olivia's presentation was very well received. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to work in small groups after lunch and establish connections with other members of the education community.

Comments included:

*Well presented. Good pace. Would love to hear more from Olivia. Thanks.
Great venue – thanks everyone*

*Thank you. An excellent resource with many different applications possible.
What great food. Thank you for sharing your school. Good discussion with a wide range of people.*

Really valuable conversations and discussion!!!

Feel empowered to go and implement LOS – Myclasses.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend. Enjoyed the background information as well as the opportunity to explore and network.

**COACTEA
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FORM 2008**

Name of Association

Contact Details:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone: **Fax:** **Email:**

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Amount Requested:

Requirements:

Successful applicants are required to submit a short report, including expenditure of funding, to the COACTEA Committee within **three** months of the project activity. The report should be signed by an executive member of the association.

COACTEA sponsorship should be acknowledged in advertising material and reporting.

Applicants must have Public Liability Cover to be eligible for funding.

Please provide details of Public Liability cover:

Signature:

Position in Association:

For COACTEA office use only

Committee Approval **Signature**.....

The following letter will be sent to successful applicants



The Council of ACT Education Associations

*GPO Box 3055
CANBERRA ACT 2601*

Ph: 02 6288 1904

Fax: 02 6282 0230

Dear

I am pleased to advise that (add professional association) has been successful in securing a COACTEA grant to support the following professional learning activity:

(Add Project title of grant)...

A cheque for \$..... is included with this letter.

In accepting this grant, your association is required:

- to acknowledge COACTEA sponsorship when advertising the professional learning activity;
 - to submit a short written report to COACTEA within **three** months of the professional learning activity taking place. The report should provide information about the professional learning activity (for publication in the COACTEA newsletter);
- to provide an account of expenditure and a statement that the money has been spent in accordance with the application. The statement should be signed by an officer bearer of the association;
- and
- to complete the attached form regarding the collection of data on attendees, such as numbers attending, school sector, and metropolitan or rural area.

COACTEA would like to congratulate you and wish you well on your professional endeavour.

For further information please contactonor by email

Yours sincerely

Dr Carolyn Broadbent
President COACTEA

COACTEA Committee for 2008

			Phone	Fax
President	Carolyn Broadbent	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1134	6209 1185
Vice President	Sue Wilson	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1141	6209 1185
Treasurer	Jane Brown		6288 1904	6288 0230
Committee Member	Gareth Rowe	Turner School	6205 6622	6205 6620
Committee Member	Jennifer Phillips	Lake Tuggeranong College	6205 6222	6205 6202
Committee Member	Cathy Smith	Australian Education Union	6272 7900	6273 1828
Committee Member	Martian Fechner	Chapman Primary School	6205 7300	6205 7304
Committee Member	John Geasley	Copland College	6205 7622	6205 7629
Committee Member	Meri Dragicevic	Narrabundah College	6205 6990	6205 6969
Committee Member	Linda Knight	University of Canberra	6201 2491	6201 2263
Executive Officer	Jane Brown	bjbrown@bigpond.com	6288 1904	6288 0230

Forever After Art Exhibition

On March 19th, COACTEA Committee members attended the opening of a solo art exhibition Forever After by Jennifer Phillips. The exhibition was on display in the Cloister Gallery at ACU National.

Jennifer has recently had three other digitally created artworks published in an art book called 'Being Human' by Stuart Davey. She continues to exhibit her artwork to a global audience through many online galleries including her own at <http://citwings.com> Jennifer is a valued member of the COACTEA committee.



Blood red from pure white



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