

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the COACTEA Annual General Meeting, Carolyn Broadbent thanked members for their ongoing support of the association and reported that although 2010 had been a relatively quiet year locally, work had continued at the national level. Sue Wilson (Vice President) and Carolyn Broadbent had represented COACTEA on the Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA) Board through face to face meetings and teleconferences. This is important for COACTEA as APTA has a direct link to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and is able to negotiate on behalf of all professional associations. Being part of a national body ensures COACTEA members remain cognisant of national issues and debates. We were fortunate to have Susan Gazis, APTA national president, speaking to COACTEA members about the 'Promoting Professional Learning Project' at the Australian Catholic University on Tuesday 2nd August at 4.30-6.30pm. Susan's presentation was stimulating and informative and generated considerable discussion. Light refreshments were served.

In 2010, COACTEA supported two professional association conferences and an interactive workshop including:

The Canberra Mathematics Association (CMA) with their very successful Conference held at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Canberra. For more details, please read the Conference report included in this newsletter.

The Modern Language Teachers Association (MLTA) Conference titled *Destressing Assessment* in November. Thirty participants attended this stimulating Conference at ACU and another booking has been made for the 2011

MLTA Conference. See report and details in this newsletter.

A Web 2 Tools – An Introduction workshop was offered as a COACTEA Initiative, in partnership with ACU, to teachers and students on Saturday 27 November 2010. ACU staff member Frances Moore led the interactive workshop while Marie Fisher, Jill Burgess and Carolyn Broadbent assumed responsibility for the organisation and marketing of the workshop, which was well received by the participants.

Funding

Searching for sources of funding is always challenging and remains an essential part of the work of professional associations to ensure their sustainability. Although COACTEA did not receive any income in 2010 through Commonwealth grants from APTA, 2011 looks to be more promising – so stay tuned for notification of new initiatives.

Contacts

COACTEA needs your help in establishing and maintaining an up-to-date list of member associations, including correct contact details. This is essential if we are to continue to communicate effectively with our members and ensure that information reaches the appropriate person in your professional association. It is also important that the information provided is disseminated more widely to build the COACTEA network and provide further support for members.

Developing an accurate contact list throughout 2011 and 2012 is a priority for COACTEA. An internet search of professional associations and their contact details will be conducted. Please assist us by sending your current contact details to Jane Brown at bjbrown@bigpond.com

Other important tasks for 2011 include an updating of the COACTEA web site, the development of a calendar of COACTEA activities and the regular publication of the COACTEA newsletter.

To learn more about COACTEA and how you

can become involved, please contact either Jane Brown or myself.

Best wishes
A/Prof Carolyn Broadbent
COACTEA President

COACTEA

The Council of ACT Education Associations (COACTEA) represents teachers and educators and aims to develop a strong educational community.

The major objectives of COACTEA are:

- To represent member associations collectively in initiating and responding to communication with government, employers, tertiary institutions and other organizations where appropriate;
- To allow for an expression of a common voice on educational matters in the interests of member associations;
- To enhance the public profile of member associations and hence the contribution they make to education;
- To promote and support activities that assist and develop the members of affiliates in the practice of their profession;
- To facilitate networking, communication and sharing of resources between member associations;
- To liaise with other bodies on matters of mutual interest to its member associations;

COACTEA invites professional associations to join as member associations. Membership is open to all professional associations in the ACT.

To join COACTEA as a member association please complete the COACTEA membership form and return to the Executive Officer, COACTEA GPO Box 3055, CANBERRA CITY 2601.

COACTEA Committee for 2011

			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 02
Committee Member	Jill Burgess	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1122	
Committee Member	Marie Fisher	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1147	
Committee Member	Gai Britt	Melba/Copland secondary School	6205 6166	
Committee Member	Jennifer Macdonald	Hawker Primary School	6205 7729	
Committee member	Mary Gallagher	ACU (Signadou)	6258 5105	
Executive Officer	Jane Brown	bjbrown@bigpond.com	6288 1904	6288 0230

**COACTEA
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FORM 2011**

Name of Association

Contact Details:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....Fax:Email:.....

PROPOSAL DETAILS

.....

Amount Requested:

Requirements:

Successful applicants are required to submit a short report to the COACTEA Committee **and should include details of how COACTEA was promoted**

COACTEA sponsorship **including the COACTEA logo** 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 ApprovalSignature.....

Report to the COACTEA on the MLTA ACT Conference “De-stressing Assessment”

By Meri Dragicevic, President MLTA ACT Inc.

The Modern Language Teachers’ Association of the ACT Inc. (MLTA) held the Conference “De-stressing Assessment” on Saturday, 6 November 2010, from 8.30 – 12.30 at the Australian Catholic University, Signadou Building in Dickson.

The theme of the Conference was timely and welcomed by new and experienced language teachers and students from the University of Canberra, as we are all aware how important it is to be able to create a valuable task and marking rubrics which would allow us to mark students’ work confidently and professionally.

The Conference attracted 23 languages teachers from all sectors – primary and high schools, colleges and universities and 4 university students.

This was in many ways an experimental Conference for the MLTA ACT, as we:

organized it as a Saturday morning session only starting with a breakfast;

invited students from the University of Canberra to attend; and

for the first time used the beautiful Signadou Building and its serene gardens.

MLTA ACT President, Meri Dragicevic, opened the Conference thanking her Executive team for their effort in organizing the invitations, certificates, evaluation forms, registrations, web page, professional DET calendar and catering. She also thanked Dr Carolyn Broadbent, the President of COACTEA who helped greatly with organizing the venue and partially helping with funds towards the costs. She invited all participants to actively engage in this dialogue citing: “Classroom teachers may benefit professionally from their exposure to models of good assessment practice...and from conversations with colleagues about their judgements of student work...there are probably few professional development activities more powerful than the peer analysis and discussion of student work.” (the assessment We need, masters and Foster:2000)

Meri introduced the key note speaker, Anita Patel, who presented her paper: “The forms of things unknown: language and literature”. Anita demonstrated several activities to show how language can be taught through literature from very early stages in learning L2. We were all invigorated by her knowledge, wisdom and enthusiasm.

The second presenter was Margaret Bell, who spoke about Assessment and Rubrics a necessary link in improving quality of teaching and learning languages. Margaret talked about principles of assessment and the big 3s: Validity, Reliability and Authenticity. She reinforced the notion that everything we do in class is connected and gave us a list of words to use to describe four types of performance criteria (content, process, quality and result).

Margaret introduced the process for developing scoring rubrics and the next presenter Natalie Stewart took this a step further. Natalie presented teachers with several types of rubrics following the Quality learning criteria emphasising that in her teaching practice she now spends more time creating rubrics with students than talking about the elements of tasks. This proves a very successful approach as students have much more control of their learning and achievement and know exactly what should they do in an effort to achieve the grade they aspire to.

Teachers moved to various workshops according to the sector in which they teach and worked in groups under Natalie’s guidance on how to develop good marking rubrics for tasks to facilitate marking and moderation between teachers and enable students to take control of their learning.

Meri concluded the Conference inviting teachers to register for the AFMLTA Conference in Darwin 2011 and inviting them to take an active role in preparing for the AFMLTA Conference in Canberra 2013.

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and many offered suggestions for next years’ Conference and PD’s. The COACTEA as our sponsor and umbrella association can be more than proud in accepting the invitation to help MLTA to cover some of the costs of this Conference.

Celebrating National Science Week 2010

Report by Sue Wilson

A lecture by Professor Hugh Possingham, joint Professor in Zoology & Entomology and Mathematics at the University of Queensland was presented on Thursday 19th August, 2010 at the Catholic University, Canberra Campus to celebrate National Science Week

The lecture was titled:

How could mathematical thinking be of any use to conservation?

Hugh Possingham co-developed the MARXAN software for systematic conservation planning, which is used by over 2000 conservationists in more than 100 countries. He is the director of The Ecology Centre. The Possingham laboratory works on the applied population ecology of plants and animals. Their recent research includes marine reserve design, optimal landscape reconstruction for birds, metapopulation dynamics of plants and animals, population variability analysis, kangaroo and koala management and optimal weed control.

Hugh spoke about conservation biology as a huge and growing discipline within applied



ecology. He said that as a decision-making science, it requires people who can formulate problems, build mathematical models and then solve them. In many ways, the problems of air and water can be addressed more easily, as they involve simple molecules. In contrast, biodiversity involves the interrelationships between millions of species and biodiversity loss is far harder to

address. Ecological modelling groups in Australia are regarded as among the best in the world.

Hugh used a number of examples including the Great Barrier Reef marine reserve to show the complexity of the problem, and the contribution of mathematical modelling and software to developing a solution that is transparent, and able to demonstrate to stakeholders that their concerns have been included. He emphasised that the complexity is not in the level of the mathematics, but in the ability to pose a human problem as a series of mathematical equations. The software can then deal with number of species and variables involved. Therefore, future research thinking requires problem posers, rather than problem solvers, as the software relies on this kind of thinking to pose the problem in mathematical language for it to complete the analysis.

Hugh's visit was funded by grants from National Science Week and the Council of ACT Education Associations (COACTEA).

To celebrate National Science Week 2011 there will be a public lecture on Sunday 14th August presented by Dr. Fiona Wood 2pm – 4.30pm at The Catholic University, Canberra Campus sponsored by National Science week Committe, ACU, COACTEA and SEA*ACT

Dr Fiona Wood, will speak about her research and development of spray on skin, followed by small group discussions. These will be relevant for all members of the community and will link to the “Science as a human endeavour” focus of the Australian Curriculum.

Dr Fiona Wood - 2005 Australian of the Year!

Western Australia's only female plastic surgeon is a mother of six, Head of Royal Perth Hospital's Burns Unit and Director of the



Western Australia Burns Service. She is also co-founder of Clinical Cell Culture, a private company recognised in medical circles for its world-leading research and breakthroughs in the treatment of burns.

In addition, Dr Fiona Wood is also a Clinical Professor with the School of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Western Australia and Director of the McComb Research Foundation.

She has become world renowned for her patented invention of spray on skin for burns victims, a treatment which is continually developing. Where previous techniques of skin culturing required 21 days to produce enough cells to cover major burns, Fiona has reduced that period to five days.

Via her research, Fiona found that scarring is greatly reduced if replacement skin could be provided within 10 days. As a burns specialist the holy grail for Dr Fiona Wood is 'scarless woundless healing'. A graduate of St Thomas's Hospital Medical School in London, Fiona worked at a major British hospital before marrying Western Australian born surgeon Tony Keirath and migrating to Perth with their first two children in 1987. She completed her training in plastic surgery between having four more children.

In October 2002, Fiona was propelled into the media spotlight when the largest proportion of survivors from the Bali bombings arrived at Royal Perth Hospital. She led a courageous and committed team in the fight to save 28 patients suffering from between two and 92 per cent body burns, deadly infections and delayed shock.

Through her enthusiasm, innovation and vision, Fiona has saved and improved countless people's lives and inspired a nation.

COACTEA Membership Application

COACTEA Inc.

GPO Box 3055
 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
 02 62881904
 02 6288 0230
 Email: bjbrown@bigpond.com

TAX INVOICE

Invoice Number:

 Invoice Date: July 2011

ABN: 73 834 049 901

Customer Information:

Billing Address:		Shipping Address:	
Association:		COACTEA Inc:	COACTEA
Address:		Address:	GPO Box 3055
			CANBERRA CITY 2601

Fee Structure		
	Annual Subscription (based on the number of members in your association during the previous calendar year)	
Membership of Association	Annual Subscription (Inc GST)	
0 - 50	\$55.00	
50 - 100	\$110.00	
100 and above	\$165.00	
		GST:
		Total:

Remittance Slip:	
<p><i>(please complete for receipt)</i></p> <p>Association Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Email contact</p>	<p><i>Please make your cheque payable to:</i></p> <p>COACTEA</p> <p><i>and mail to:</i> GPO Box 3055 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>

Additional Information: