

**COACTEA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MARCH 2009**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008**

The Council of ACT Education Associations (COACTEA) has had both a busy and challenging year during 2008. COACTEA continues to actively represent its local member associations at the national level through the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA). This has brought benefits to COACTEA members in terms of funding that has supported professional learning and participation in current issues and debates impacting on the profession in regards to, for example, the development of a National Curriculum. Two major initiatives have been the Values Education project and the Professional Learning Project, both of which have brought funding to COACTEA in the ACT.

**Values Education Projects**

Throughout 2008, COACTEA continued to support the development of Values education and aimed to align the requirements of the national AJCPTA Values Education Project with local initiatives. The successful Values in Action: Linking People, Cultures, and Communities for a Sustainable Future Conference held on Friday 15 August, 2008, attracted over 60 participants and highlighted the value of working in partnership to achieve mutually reciprocal outcomes. The Conference held at the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling, Canberra was a joint initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and ACT Department of Education (DET), under the Values Education Forums program, and COACTEA in partnership with AJCPTA, Teaching Australia and ACU National. The Conference theme, Values in Action: Linking people, cultures and communities, was reflected in the stimulating keynote presentations and interactive and practical workshops offered throughout the day. The Honourable Terry Aulich, CEO, Australian Council

of State Schools Organisations, provided a thought-provoking address titled Values: The greatest need in our schools while Catherine Devine, Melbourne Interfaith and Intercultural Cluster Coordinator-VEGPS Stage 2, captured the interest of the audience with her excellent presentation titled Many Cultures, One Community: Developing interfaith and intercultural understanding through the curriculum. Attendees valued the opportunity to take a more active role during the workshop sessions including: Student Action Teams in Schools presented by Sue Cahill, Student Wellbeing Coordinator, St Charles Borromeo Primary School Victoria; Best practice applications of Socratic Circles methodology presented by Catherine Devine; School practical strategies for involving and strengthening community relationships presented by Charles Conder Primary School staff; and, Families Learning Together through the What's Up? Indigenous education program presented by ACU National staff Dr Carolyn Broadbent and Dr Maureen Boyle with Waradjuri artists, Duncan and Tom Smith.

The Conference challenged the participants to extend their thinking and develop a deeper understanding of the role of values education in building links between people, cultures and the wider community for sustainable outcomes. Due to the success of the 2008 Values Education conference, COACTEA has been invited to contribute to the presentation of a second conference focused on Positive Psychology. This conference will be held at the CTL, Stirling, in the second half of 2009.

**Website development**

The COACTEA website has been redeveloped during 2008 and further work will be completed during 2009. Jennifer Phillips has undertaken to maintain the overall development of the new website. A major challenge for COACTEA is ensuring the contact details of its member associations are accurate. COACTEA seeks the assistance of member associations in this process.

In past years, the COACTEA newsletter has been instrumental in providing member associations with an account of current information and major initiatives. While the current approach to distribution has been hard copy paper format, it is anticipated that in 2009 the website site will be used more extensively to communicate with member associations. Increased participation by member associations in the provision of material for the newsletter is also encouraged.

### Contributions to the Community

Members of the committee continue to represent COACTEA on numerous committees and functions, including:

- ACT Government Values Education Committee
- ACT Govt Quality Teacher Program Management Committee

Congratulations to Sue Wilson who was successful in her application for an International Study Tour grant funded by Teaching Australia through the AJCPTA. The grant enabled Sue to develop international perspectives on teaching and learning, specifically in the area of science education. Sue presented at the Ontario Science Teachers' Conference in November 2008.

COACTEA in collaboration with the ARTS Factory presented an exhibition of artworks by Jennifer Phillips. The exhibition was titled *Forever After*.

### Funding Opportunities

Through the small grants program, COACTEA has supported member associations to provide quality professional learning activities. Invitations to submit a brief proposal for funding on the appropriate proforma were distributed to members through the COACTEA newsletter. Supported projects include:

The Canberra Mathematics Association to engage keynote speakers, Ann and John Baker, in professional learning activities.

### The future

It is expected that in the coming year education will continue to experience significant change including new policy initiatives that will impact on teachers, pre-service teacher education and the wider educational community. It is therefore essential that COACTEA maintain its strong links to the AJCPTA to ensure the views of member associations are well represented at the national level.

The funding received through the AJCPTA has facilitated quality professional learning initiatives and collaboration across systems and sectors. While 2009 brings new challenges and changes to the funding model it is, nevertheless, expected that new opportunities will emerge for increased participation and initiatives across the profession.

Dr Carolyn Broadbent  
President COACTEA  
March 2009

## COACTEA Committee for 2009

			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	Martian Fechner	Chapman Primary School	6205 7300	6205 7304
Committee Member	Meri Dragicevic	Narrabundah College	6205 6990	6205 6969
Committee Member	Jill Burgess	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1122	
Committee Member	Marie Fisher	ACU (Signadou)	6209 1147	
Executive Officer	Jane Brown	bjbrown@bigpond.com	6288 1904	6288 0230

**COACTEA  
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FORM 2009**

**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:** .....

**For COACTEA office use only**

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

## COACTEA

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

What we do:

- Provide funding for registered member associations to support Professional Learning of their members,
- Lobby on behalf of all professional associations,
- Represent issues and concerns to the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations,
- Distribute a quarterly newsletter which advertises events of member associations,
- Organise professional development events and workshops in response to emerging educational issues

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

To register your association please complete the form below and return to the contact officer: Jane Brown.

Please complete the form and return via email to: [bjbrown@bigpond.com](mailto:bjbrown@bigpond.com) or fax to: 62880230

Name of Association:

Contact Postal Address:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Web site address:

Name of the President:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Name of the COACTEA Representative for your Association:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

<http://coactea.org/>

## **Teacher professional learning in science and mathematics in Ontario: strategies for teacher professional associations.**

International Study Tour Report to the Council of ACT Education Associations

Sue Wilson  
CMA & SEA\*ACT

The Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations (AJCPTA) funded two International Study Tours for 2007 and for 2008. Applications from four councilors from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory were selected.

The Ontario Study Tour aimed to investigate the strategies used by professional teaching associations to support teachers in disciplines where teacher shortages exist, such as Mathematics and Science.

The project also aimed to investigate ongoing research efforts particularly the use of professional standards in mathematics and science and how relationships might be developed between the professional associations.

The project aimed to provide the AJCPTA with the opportunity to access international professional knowledge relating to professional learning for teachers working in disciplines where teacher shortages exist.



The International Study Tour focused on teacher professional learning in Ontario. The education system in Ontario has undergone significant changes since 2003, based on the government's long term improvement strategy. Teacher professional learning embedded in practice was one of the foci of the new strategy.

Summary of similarities between Canada and Australia

- Large geographical area – similar order of magnitude
- Multicultural society - at least 1 in 5 of population are immigrants
- Unequal population distribution
- Significant indigenous population numbers in remote areas
- Federal and state/province political system
- Parliamentary democracy government
- State-based education system
- Natural resources important to economy

Visits and Discussions were held with:

- Science Teachers of Ontario Conference
- Science and Maths Professional Associations
- Teachers
- Principals
- Student
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- College of Teachers
- Teachers Federation
- Schools
- Universities

Ontario Science Centre  
Fields Institute  
UNESCO Professor of Sustainability

Issues in Maths and Science Education in Australia that were presented and discussed include:

Teacher attraction and retention  
Rural and regional education  
Student participation in senior courses  
Maths and science anxiety in pre-service primary teachers  
Financial literacy

Discussions raised some issues which are relevant to teachers in both Australia and Ontario:

Encouraging recruitment of outstanding people into the profession  
Retaining teachers in the profession  
Treating teachers as professionals and creating the professional sharing respectful culture that they need,  
The role of professional standards in the measurement of professional development growth  
The contributions teacher professional development can make to alleviate the disadvantages of rural areas.  
Budgets and funding for long term teacher Professional Development  
Community attitudes  
Professional communities  
Funding issues and time allocation  
Elementary teachers in professional associations  
Shortage of science and mathematics teachers  
Year 7 and 8 science and mathematics are taught by Junior and Intermediate teachers  
Senior School Students' studies of maths and science  
Teacher Education  
Gen X and gen Y  
Beginning teachers - New Teachers' Induction Program  
Leadership opportunities for teachers  
Department heads  
Retired teachers

The report included recommendations arising from the discussions with colleagues in Ontario. Three examples of the recommendations arising from the study tour are:

Teaching of Year 7 & 8

As a strategy to address the shortage of trained teachers, investigate recruiting primary/middle school teachers who have high results in their Bachelor of Education degree to teach year 7 and 8 science and mathematics, or high achieving degree students for graduate entry to a 2 year Bachelor of Education focusing on science and mathematics .

Taking into account the PISA results, design specific PD to address the needs of year 7 and 8 science and mathematics teachers and their background and needs.

Teacher education

Investigate the incentives/ strategies used in Ontario to attract large numbers of quality students into teaching primary and secondary science and mathematics  
Professional Associations examine ways to foster attitude that the Bachelor of Education is only the beginning of training.  
Teacher educators include pre-service teachers when they work with professional learning committees embedded in schools.

Retired teachers

Explore and plan strategies as they are nearing retirement, to encourage retiring teachers to

remain active in the profession, for example, roles in professional associations, conferences, mentoring new teachers, mentoring teachers as a part of professional learning communities. Professional Associations identify appropriate retired and experienced teachers and produce electronic teacher stories - 4 min DVD teacher stories to capture their experiences before their professional knowledge is lost.

### Photos from Canada



### School visits





**Strategies at a professional development day**



**School playground**

### **Report from the Modern Language Teachers' Association (MLTA)**

"The Modern Language Teachers' Association held a cocktail party on the 19th February to meet and welcome new language teachers to the ACT and to catch up with colleagues. About 50 attended the evening event at Regatta Point, with the lake and mountains providing a beautiful backdrop.

The President welcomed members from all three education systems, gave an update on current member numbers (about 65) and plans for the year, including the upcoming conference, and introduced the speaker for the evening. Jennifer Macdonald, a primary school teacher of French, had received an Endeavour Language Scholarship to visit France in January and strongly encouraged other language teachers to apply for the Scholarship this year. It is an unforgettable experience. The evening proved to be highly successful."

Nicola Barkley  
President  
MLTA of the ACT"

### **Report of the Canberra Mathematics Association representatives to the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Council.**

#### **Sue Wilson**

Canberra Mathematics Association representatives Evelyn Ashcroft (President) and Sue Wilson (Vice-President) attended the AAMT Council meeting in Adelaide 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Topics discussed included National Goals, Professional Standards and the National Curriculum. AAMT have developed position papers on Assessment, Consumer and Financial Literacy and National Curriculum and Mathematics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These are available on the AAMT website. Student activities in 2009 include National Mathematics Talent Quest, National mathematics Summer School, National Literacy and Numeracy Week and National Mathematics Day.

The meeting also recognised that there were issues raised in the latest TIMSS report, especially year 8 students' attitudes toward mathematics. The council also discussed issues arising from the National Numeracy review and how it might inform the new National Curriculum. There was substantial discussion around the idea that numeracy should be embedded across the curriculum, and how this might be achieved.

There were presentations on using ICT tools in teaching, the not-to-be-missed AAMT conference in Alice Springs in 2011, (this year's conference in Fremantle is already planned and will ready for your registration soon) and mathematics issues from the International Study Tour to Ontario. There are some exciting AAMT projects in the planning stage. More information will be released soon!

**Have you seen the new community service announcements? - TV advertisements for the AAMT? You can find them on YouTube if you haven't seen them on TV.**