

**COACTEA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8 MARCH 2007
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006**

Throughout 2006, COACTEA has worked collaboratively with its members to further the work of the profession and assist in achieving the strategic intent of its national body, the Australian Joint Council of Professional Associations (AJCPTA). The variety of professional activities presented by the state and territory member associations has resulted in a rich calendar of learning experiences throughout the year. For the first time, the AJCPTA met in Canberra on 23-24 September for two very successful days of formal meetings. COACTEA members were invited to meet with the AJCPTA committee. The AJCPTA will meet again in Canberra on 26-27 May 2007.

Overview of Projects

- **National Values Education Project**

COACTEA involvement in the AJCPTA National Values Education Project has provided a number of opportunities for stimulating professional experiences. For example:

- **Arts, Science and Values Education Forum**

On June 24, COACTEA facilitated a full-day Arts, Science and Values Education Forum for members at ACU National, Canberra. The interactive workshops successfully linked Values Education with the visual arts, science, the information and communication technologies, and Indigenous education. The speakers included: Amanda Day, ACT DET, Values and Drug Education Forums Officer, Jeanine Leane, ACU Lecturer Indigenous Education, Sue Wilson, ACU Lecturer in Science and Mathematics, Jennifer Phillips, ICT and Visual Arts, and Derek Synnott, Denise Jaram and Joan Barrington-Smith from Mawson Primary School.

- **Dinner Meetings**

COACTEA has coordinated several dinner meetings for members to collaborate and discuss future planning; e.g. December dinner meeting for members at which guest presenter Amanda Day, ACT DET, provided a stimulating presentation focused on current issues and debates surrounding Values Education in Australia.

Outcomes from the Teaching Australia Professional Learning Project

- **Association Liability Workshop**

COACTEA convened an Association Liability workshop for members, with follow-up discussions. Limited applications for assessment and the complexity of the subject have worked against the achievement of a final outcome. This matter requires further investigation in 2007.

- **Professional Contributions**

COACTEA members have assumed an active role on a variety of working parties, committees and projects related to the development of policy, curricula 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); ACT DET Values Education Committee; Key Issues and Advisory Groups to support the work of the Teacher Registration Reference Group, ACT Government; and, the ACT AGQTP Cross-sectoral Committee. COACTEA was represented at the Literacy and Numeracy Expo held Sept 2 at the CTL Stirling, ACT.

Dr Carolyn Broadbent (COACTEA president) presented the keynote address at the ACT AGQTP Forum held in Canberra in December.

Sue Wilson represented the AJCPTA at the Teaching Australia Strategic Planning Day at Mt Macedon, Victoria, 24th March.

- **Asia Education Foundation (AEF)**

During 2006, the Asia Education Foundation sought COACTEA support in alerting members to the new statement: *The National Statement for Engaging Young Australian with Asia in Australian Schools*, which has been endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). The Statement emphasises the importance of including studies of Asia and Australia across the curriculum and embedding Asian content within the range of subject areas. Further information can be downloaded from the AEF website at: www.asiaeducation.edu.au.

- **Financial assistance for member associations**

The funding received in 2006 through AJCPTA projects has greatly assisted the work of COACTEA and member professional associations. Through the allocation of small grants, COACTEA aims to support the specific events and activities of its member associations, rather than facilitate its own professional development programs. In 2006, AASE was awarded a small grant to support its National Conference. It is anticipated this approach to the distribution of funding will strengthen in 2007 and members are encouraged to submit brief proposals for funding to Carolyn Broadbent at c.broadbent@signadou.acu.edu.au for consideration by the COACTEA Committee.

- **Enhancing communication**

To ensure effective communication between the COACTEA committee and member associations it is essential that an updated data-base is maintained and a current website. Member associations are regularly encouraged to update contact details and website maintenance is under review.

Looking forward

The strength of COACTEA lies in the contributions of its members and many have offered their expertise to the organisation and administration of events and activities. In such busy times, these contributions are highly valued; without them the important work of the profession would not be revitalised nor carried forward for those young teachers entering schools of the 21st Century. As President, I would like to thank the committee for their significant contribution to the ongoing work of COACTEA. I would also like to thank member professional associations for their ongoing support through their participation in COACTEA activities. COACTEA has an important role to play in contributing to the development of a dynamic national and local professional learning community that supports and enhances the work of teachers. We look forward to working with you again in 2007.

Dr Carolyn Broadbent
March 2007