

## COACTEA REPORT

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT June 2007

Throughout 2006-07, 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 for teachers throughout the year. For more information, and contributions by COACTEA members to the National Values Education Project, please refer to the AJCPTA website at [www.ajcpta.edu.au](http://www.ajcpta.edu.au)

COACTEA was delighted to have facilitated the first Canberra-based AJCPTA meeting in September, 2006 and again in Canberra on 26-27 May this year. This very successful meeting brought together members of the Council, COACTEA committee members and guest presenters, for example:

- Jenny Lewis – ACEL representative for the ASCD/ACEL/AJCPTA Conference *New Imagery for Schools and Schooling: Challenging, Creating and Connecting*. Sydney Convention Centre, 10-12 October 2007. COACTEA members are eligible for a discount on registration fees. Please state professional association membership details when applying. More information is available at the ACEL website.
  
- Terry Hayes provided a stimulating presentation regarding the development of a National Curriculum. Recently the AJCPTA participated in a meeting hosted by the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA), to consider the establishment of a Standing Committee for National Professional Education Associations (NEPA). The meeting built on previous work undertaken by ACSA in February and August 2006 (Refer ACSA website at [www.acsa.edu.au](http://www.acsa.edu.au) for reports) The endorsed principles from the meeting include:
  - To identify and articulate the curriculum challenges for preparing young people for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - To contribute to the development of national approaches to curriculum
  - To provide considered and timely responses to policy proposals and directions in curriculum that are of significance for Australia
  - To contribute to and promote constructive and informed curriculum debate in Australia (Hayes, T. (2007) *Presentation to CPTAV Humanities Network April 2007. A National Curriculum: A work in progress*, pp.4-5).

(Refer also to Peter Cole's paper included on p.\* of this newsletter)

- Louise Watson – National Professional Standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership Consultation Paper, published by Teaching Australia, March 2007. As highlighted on p.1 of the paper, 'The purpose of the consultation paper is to seek feedback on proposals for:
  - A model of national professional standards for advanced teaching and school leadership; and
  - How the standards will be developed, endorsed and reviewed'.

Professional associations are encouraged to discuss the paper and provide feedback to Teaching Australia by email to [standards@teachingaustralia.edu.au](mailto:standards@teachingaustralia.edu.au) For more information please contact Michele Suen on (02) 6125 9026 or [michele.suen@teachingaustralia.edu.au](mailto:michele.suen@teachingaustralia.edu.au)

Other speakers included Di Kerr, The Le@rning Federation; Nicole Panting, AGQTP; and Bob McMullen, ALP education policy.

### **Financial assistance for member association**

The funding received 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 members, rather than facilitate its own professional development programs. In 2006, the Australian Association of Special Education was awarded a small grant to support its National Conference (Refer Report by Dr Gary Woolley on p.\* of this newsletter). The response to this approach is encouraging as evidenced in the following three applications for 2007:

- The Canberra Mathematical Association's application to bring Anthony Harradine from the Noel Baker Centre for School Mathematics in Adelaide to Canberra. He will run four workshops related to the use of technology (computer, graphics calculator, CAS calculator and data loggers) in the secondary classroom.

- To support CEGACT's Annual Conference on 10, 11 August 2007 at the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling, Canberra. The theme is Game Enough to Try ICT (GETT IT!)
- To support SEA\*ACT to present a four-hour Saturday professional learning session on the Science Learning Objects to teachers from rural and regional areas around Canberra. The session will take place in a rural centre.

### **Dinner Meetings**

Several successful dinner meetings have been held for members. At the December dinner meeting, guest presenter Amanda Day, ACT DET, provided a stimulating presentation focused on current issues and debates surrounding the National Values Education Project.

- **Association Liability Workshop**

COACTEA continues to consider ways in which it might arrange joint cover for its members. The limited number of applications for assessment worked against the achievement of a positive outcome in 2006.

- **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); ACT DET Values Education Committee; Key Issues and Advisory Groups to support the work of the Teacher Registration Reference Group, ACT Government; the AGQTP Cross-sectoral Committee; and the AGQTP Forum Keynote address in Canberra in December. COACTEA was also represented at the Literacy and Numeracy Expo held Sept 2 at the CTL Stirling, ACT.

- **Data-base and website**

COACTEA members are encouraged to regularly update their contact details to ensure the data-base and website is correct. Details to Jane Brown at [bjbrown@bigpond.com](mailto:bjbrown@bigpond.com)

### **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 profession associations would not be realised. As President, I would like to thank the committee for their significant contribution to the ongoing work of COACTEA. Through the AJCPTA, COACTEA has an important role to play in the development of an effective national and local professional learning community that supports and enhances the work of teachers. We look forward to working with you throughout the second half of 2007.

Dr Carolyn Broadbent  
June 2007