

COACTEA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 29, 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COACTEA has continued to achieve throughout 2011. At the national level, COACTEA was represented on the Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA) Board by Sue Wilson (Vice President) and Carolyn Broadbent (President). Access to adequate funding by APTA continues to create challenges and has placed limitations on the number of face-to-face meetings held during 2011. The APTA/COACTEA connection is important as it creates opportunities for advocacy and input related to issues impacting on the profession. APTA was not involved in the ACEL 2011 Annual conference.

In 2011, COACTEA supported two Professional Association Conferences including:

The **ACT Modern Language Teachers Association (MLTA)** 2011 Conference titled *Breakfast and Takeaways* was held on 20 August at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Guest speakers were:

- *Myriam Davies* who has been teaching French for 10 years across Victoria, South Australia, NSW and in the ACT in various settings and organizations (primary and high schools, afterschool programs, TAFE, universities, Alliance Francaise). She is currently teaching at Aranda Primary School and is also a French Network Leader for the Department of Education and Training.
- *Heike Craig*, a native speaker of German, has a Master of Arts degree in German and English linguistics and literature and a teaching diploma from Friedrich Schiller University, Germany. She has been teaching German in schools and colleges in Germany and Australia since 1996. Heike currently teaches German at Daramalan College.
- *Melanie Consola* is currently the Spanish teacher at Telopea Park School, a bi-national French-Australian school with a strong focus on multilingualism, where she has worked since the beginning of 2010.

The **Canberra Mathematics Association (CMA)** which ran a very successful Conference at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Canberra. The theme for conference was '**Maths – the latest model**'. Keynote speakers were: Gloria Stillman, Associate Professor, Mathematics Education, ACU Ballarat Campus, *Mathematical modelling as a vehicle to develop students' mathematical dispositions*; Ross Turner, Principal Research Fellow ACER, *PISA and 'the latest model' – Can an international survey have anything useful to say to Canberra's mathematics teachers?*

National Science Week 2011

To celebrate National Science Week 2011, Dr. Fiona Wood presented a public lecture on the 14th August, at the Australian Catholic University in Canberra. Dr Fiona Wood spoke about her research and development of spray on skin, which was of relevance to members of the wider educational community. Dr Fiona Wood was the 2005 Australian of the Year and Head of Royal Perth Hospital's Burns Unit. She is also a Director of the Western Australia Burns Service. She is a 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. Through her research, Fiona found that scarring is greatly reduced if replacement skin can be provided within 10 days. As a burns specialist the holy grail for Dr Fiona Wood is 'scarless woundless healing'.

AITSL/APTA Promoting Professional Learning Project

On August 2, 2011, Susan Gazis AM, President of the Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA), presented a stimulating Information Session about the AITSL/APTA *Promoting Professional Learning Project*. APTA contracted with COACTEA to assist with the ACT Information session by providing the venue, catering, computer, data screen and distribution of invitations to member associations, other professional teaching associations in the ACT who are not members of COACTEA, and other interested teachers/educators.

Global Education Project

In 2011, COACTEA was invited to submit a Global Education Project application to AusAid for consideration in a competitive process. A small COACTEA working party contributed to the development of the initial application and, after further refinement and development of a COACTEA Child Protection Policy, the application was accepted. A formal AusAid/COACTEA contract is now being developed. The GEP will provide substantial funding for projects. It is expected that access to funding by professional associations for GEP projects will be similar to that used for the COACTEA small grants. More details will be provided in the next COACTEA newsletter.

Focus of the GEP:

As Australian educators in the twenty-first century, we are striving to enable young people to participate in shaping a better shared future for the world, which is at the heart of global education. There are five learning emphases that reflect reoccurring themes in global education, *the unity and interdependence of human society, developing a sense of self and appreciation of cultural diversity, affirmation of social justice and human rights, building peace and actions for a sustainable future in different times and places* (Rae, Baker & McNicol, 2008, p. 2).

The aim of the COACTEA GEP is to assist pre-service and in-service teachers to successfully embed these five learning emphases within the curriculum, reflecting national thinking in this rapidly developing field.

Project Components - There are two components to the GEP:

Phase A: Pre-service teacher education

1. Mapping Global Education perspectives across Pre-service Teacher Education Courses
2. Development of a national eLearning unit of study
3. Community Engagement Program
4. Linking Action Research, Global Education and Professional Experience

Phase B: Global Education projects in schools

1. Documenting and Sharing of Global Education Projects (Government, Catholic and Independent Schools)

2. Global Education Forum for Teachers

COACTEA will organise a professional development Global Education Forum that will bring together teachers and pre-service teachers from across ACT schools (Government, Catholic and Independent). The Forum will acknowledge and build on the work already conducted in many schools across the ACT. A keynote speaker will be invited to address the Forum.

3. Global Education Seminars/workshops will take place throughout the year to support and extend the work being developed through the various Global Education projects.

Building Community

Opportunities to visit schools in international settings will be explored and linked where possible to other international events such as conferences or professional development programs.

COACTEA Website Development

The COACTEA website will provide links to the AusAid Global Education website and information about GEP resources. An aim will be to showcase the work of schools in the ACT, including innovative school-based projects. This will involve the services of the COACTEA website facilitator.

Keys to Canberra 2011

Thank you once again to those members who gave their time and effort to represent COACTEA at the Keys to Canberra 2011 annual event. It is important that COACTEA is represented at the event to promote the work of professional associations to others.

Contacts

COACTEA continues to need your assistance in establishing and maintaining a current list of member associations, including correct contact details. This is essential if COACTEA is to continue to communicate effectively and to ensure information is received by 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 in 2012 is a priority for COACTEA. Please assist us by sending your current contact details to Jane Brown at bjbrown@bigpond.com

Newsletter

The regular publication of the COACTEA newsletter is essential and professional associations are asked to send any reports, news and events to Jane Brown at bjbrown@bigpond.com

To learn more about COACTEA and how you can become involved, please contact either Jane Brown or myself.

I would like to thank all professional association members for their contributions throughout 2011.

A/Prof Carolyn Broadbent
COACTEA President