

COACTEA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
April 30, 2014
REPORT FROM
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT

COACTEA has continued to progress steadily throughout 2013. The success in securing continuing AusAID (now DFAT) funding for the Global Education Project has provided opportunities for the development of new professional links and initiatives.

APTA

Carolyn Broadbent (President) and Sue Wilson (Vice President) continue to represent member professional associations on the Board of the Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA). Funding continues to present ongoing challenges for APTA and this has placed some limitations on face-to-face meetings and other professional initiatives. Teleconference meetings are held as required through the year. COACTEA remains committed to the value of a national presence given the benefits for advocacy, partnerships and professional initiatives.

COACTEA representatives Carolyn Broadbent and Sue Wilson travelled to Sydney on the 30/11 and 1/12, 2013 for the APTA AGM and APTA Awards presentation. The Awards presentation was a significant occasion for professional associations in Australia. It is important that ACT COACTEA members are represented in this process and, in the coming months, COACTEA will invite members to submit nominations for the 2014 APTA awards.

The Council of ACT Education Associations (COACTEA) has worked collaboratively during 2013, to create appropriate structures and links to member professional associations and members of the wider educational community to implement the Global Education Project in the Canberra region. A major focus has been to assist pre-service and in-service teachers to successfully embed the five learning emphases outlined within the curriculum.

Through the Global Education Project, COACTEA has encouraged and supported the excellent professional learning networks already in place across the community; in schools, professional associations, universities and other educational institutions. Of importance also is the development

of new knowledge and deeper understanding of Global Education in the educational community. The links that teachers and pre-service teachers develop in their professional associations and practice encourages ongoing sharing across the profession.

The events held throughout 2013 received very positive feedback from the participants with requests received for more professional events and workshops in the future.

Developing a national and international perspective

- ***GEP National Conference 2013***

Sue Wilson, Carolyn Broadbent and Siobhan Lambert attended the Global Education Project National Conference in Perth in June, 2013. The Conference was informative and stimulating and provided an opportunity to actively engage in learning about national projects.

In September, 2013, Sue Wilson attended WorldSTE (the World Conference on Science and Technology Education), the conference of the International Council of Associations for Science Education (ICASE) in Kuching, Sarawak. The foci of the conference were Science and Sustainability Education, and the attendees developed a declaration on these issues for UNESCO. (This conference was not funded by the GEP).

Pre-service Teachers and Global Education

This section provides information and examples of the Global Education emphases being embedded by COACTEA members in academic units.

- ***Literacy Education***

Mary Gallagher outlined the **Global Words** program developed by World Vision and The Primary Teaching Association of Australia (PETAA) to demonstrate the integration of literacy learning and global education. Refer: (<http://www.globalwords.edu.au/>). Mary focused particularly on lower primary and upper primary levels within the program.

- ***Science and Technology Education***

Sue Wilson covered *Education for Sustainability* and distributed the following GE resources to twenty-three Early Childhood and Primary Education pre-service teachers: Global Perspectives framework; Water on Earth – Primary; Looking at Forests; Thinking Globally – Global perspectives in the Early Years classroom. Tutorial time was used for independent study to review the resources and make connections with the Australian Curriculum – Science.

In the Secondary Education Science Curriculum and Teaching 2 unit, Sue Wilson presented a 1-hour lecture on sustainability and introduction to Global Education website. A 2-hour Global Education lecture/workshop was presented with a focus on equity and social justice.

- ***Connecting Society and the Environment***

Lecturers in the units: *EDSS428/468 Connecting Society and the Environment*, for Primary and Early Childhood pre-service teachers, have emphasised many areas related to global education. Inclusion of a special focus on *Living in a Global Environment* has provided a solid framework for discussion and investigation.

Dr Jann Carroll conducted lectures and tutorials during the first semester 2013 to mainly 4th year Primary with some 3rd year students and in the second semester to 2nd year Early Childhood students. The Lecture and Tutorial entitled *Cross curricula Priorities* covered Indigenous issues, Australia's engagement with Asia and Sustainability together with dealing with controversial issues in history and geography. As part of this lecture students referred to the knowledge of Asia as well as Australia's relationship with Asia over this century.

- ***UNCC100 Our World: Our Community and Vulnerability***

Number of students on Canberra campus: 250

This unit is taught across all campuses at ACU and is a compulsory unit for all first year students regardless of the course in which they are enrolled. Attendance is compulsory and constitutes 10 x1 hour tutorials in which a range of topics are discussed. There are extensive online resources with which the students are expected to engage prior to attending the tutorial. The key theme of this course is promotion of the common good and social justice based on Catholic Social Teaching.

What is relevant for Global education is the topic of climate change. During this hot topic many perspectives are covered for example: the Australian Government's perspective; the perspective of Developing countries and the international scientific organisation non-aligned to governments, as well as others. The students could choose to write a 50% essay on climate change and how it can be addressed as an issue of social justice or the common good.

This course aims to expand student's horizons, explain the concept of the common good and social justice and help students understand the interdependency of the world in which they live and will work. By exploring the social structures, processes and systems that contribute to human survival

and thriving, students begin to understand a range of global perspectives and how their profession can contribute in a positive way. Issues of human rights and obligations, wealth, poverty, politics, social structures, security and freedom are discussed with an overlay of ecology, sustainability and globalisation.

- **Semester 1 and 2: Professional Experience unit EDFX207/267 Community Engagement**

Mary Gallagher ensured the Community Engagement Program (a compulsory unit within the Early Childhood/Primary and Primary teaching degrees) reflects an international as well as national focus. Students are expected to engage in voluntary community service and this can take place in an Australian organisation or within an international volunteer program. During 2013, there was a particular emphasis on placements that challenged and developed pre-service teachers' global perspectives; for example:

- Placement in schools and orphanages in Cambodia and Vietnam through Volunteers Abroad
- Working with newly arrived refugees in developing English and sporting skills
- Working in homework club with children whose first language is other than English

Public Lecture by Dr Anne Gallagher AO

A very successful public lecture titled *Teaching for the future: the classroom as a pathway to global citizenship* was held on 13th November 2013 at the National Press Club, Canberra. Dr Anne Gallagher is a well-respected lawyer, practitioner, teacher and scholar with a significant international reputation in human rights and the administration of criminal justice.

The event generated significant interest and approximately 80-90 participants comprising teachers, pre-service teachers and members of the wider educational community attended the Public Lecture.

Cross-sectoral workshop titled: *An Interactive workshop: Linking Global Education, ICT and Thinking Skills.*

Building on the success of her previous workshop, Frances Moore, ACU Equity and Pathways Officer, developed a second interactive workshop that linked Global Education to the development of students' critical thinking skills. Workshop activities undertaken in the computer lab provided further opportunities to learn about Global Education resources. Feedback from the 24 participants was positive with teachers stating the workshop was very relevant to their work. Teachers were again hopeful that more similar workshops would be offered in 2014.

COACTEA aims to build on the work commenced in 2013 in order to strengthen the Global Education network across professional associations, universities and throughout the educational community.

Administration

In 2013, Janine Wunsch was appointed as Executive Officer to assist with the administration of the COACTEA Global Education Project events and related activities, including updating the COACTEA website.

Chief Minister's Gold Awards presentation

On Tuesday 12th March, 2013 representatives of the Canberra Mathematical Association Heather Wardrop, Jurek Paradowski, Theresa Shellshear and Sue Wilson (Vice President COACTEA) attended the Chief Minister's Gold Awards presentation. The Canberra Mathematical Association celebrated 50 years as a professional association supporting mathematics education in the ACT. A cocktail party to mark this historic contribution was held on the 10th May.

ACT Education Information Market Day, HBCTL, Thursday 16 March 2014.

The purpose of the Information Market was to enable access for groups to connect with teachers and showcase the rich array of teaching and learning opportunities available to staff across the ACT. The Information Market was promoted to teachers across the ACT particularly new educators.

Sue Wilson set up the COACTEA stand at the Education Market and it attracted quite a few visitors. There were some professional association stands nearby as well, so our education associations in the ACT were well-represented. Sue chatted to representatives from the pre-school, history and home economics associations about COACTEA and the Global Ed project, and obtained their up-to-date contact details. Thank you to Mary Gallagher for packing up the COACTEA stand.

Mini expo of Professional Associations, ACU

Mary Gallagher organised a mini expo at the Australian Catholic University on Thursday 17th April. The aim was to broaden the students' knowledge of professional associations and other sources to enhance their knowledge and skills. It was specifically for 4th year Primary and Early Childhood pre-service teachers. The Expo was a success with many organisations represented.

Contacts

Increasing membership of COACTEA remains a priority and it is pleasing that some new members have joined in 2013.

COACTEA continues to need assistance from members 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. Please send your current contact details to janinewunsch29@gmail.com

COACTEA always welcomes news items from member associations for circulation. To learn more about COACTEA and how you can become involved, please contact either Carolyn Broadbent carolyn.broadbent@acu.edu.au or Sue Wilson sue.wilson@acu.edu.au

The committee would like to thank all professional association members for their ongoing support and contributions to COACTEA throughout 2013.

A/Prof Carolyn Broadbent

Sue Wilson

COACTEA President

COACTEA Vice