



From the President

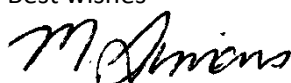
Greetings to all AVETRA members!

At our conference in April we spoke about our plans to 'grow' the organisation particularly in the light of a decline in our membership renewals. Like many membership-based organisations, AVETRA needs to find ways to become more relevant to current and potential members in order to encourage people to affiliate with us. To that end a Working Party has been convened and will be meeting shortly to consider the outcomes from the membership survey which was completed earlier this year and to look at a range of strategies that we might adopt to in order to grow our membership and the services that we offer. This group comprises Ros Brennan Kemmis, Annette Foley Steven Hodge, Linda Simon and Michele Simons. A new initiative that will commence shortly is the 'Consult a VET Research Expert' listing which will be part of the AVETRA website. This has been developed under the leadership of Erica Smith together with colleagues from the Experienced Researchers Group that Erica convenes for AVETRA. The purpose of the register is to provide a 'gateway' for policy makers and other government officers to be able to access the expertise of AVETRA members through a process that ensures that the best quality expertise is made available when it is needed.

I would like to draw your attention to two significant developments from the Federal Government. Firstly, the Australian Government announced the release of the Strategic Research Priorities (SRPs). These priorities will replace the existing National Research Priorities which will be phased out by June 2014. It is expected that these Priorities will be used to shape future funding for research. I would encourage all members to learn more about these important priorities. Full details of their development and implementation can be found at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/Pages/StrategicResearchPriorities.aspx>.

Finally the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE), in consultation with the Australian Research Council (ARC), has prepared a discussion paper entitled ***Assessing the wider benefits arising from university-based research***. Again I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with this paper. AVETRA will be lodging its own submission in response to the paper and also collaborating with the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) and the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) to put forward views on the matters raised in the document. If you would like to make a contribution to the AVETRA submission, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (michele.simons@unisa.edu.au).

Best wishes



Michele Simons

President of AVETRA, University of South Australia, June, 2013

OctoberVET 2013: Call for Conveners

Dear AVETRA members,

This year's national OctoberVET coordinators, Linda Simon and Steven Hodge, would like to invite you consider convening an OctoberVET event in your area.

OctoberVET is the name of a season of local events to share information and ideas about VET. OctoberVET complements AVETRA's annual conference, and as the name suggests, it runs through October (with a few events usually spilling into November as well). OctoberVET events range in size and scope, depending on local needs and interests, and range from convivial, small-scale gatherings to larger formal events with speakers. Events can be brief (a couple of hours) or can span a whole day. In 2012, OctoberVET events ran in all Australian states as well as New Zealand!

The success of OctoberVET always depends on the good-will and inventiveness of a local Convener (or group of Conveners) who are connected with local VET networks and identities and can find a focus and a space for their event. AVETRA offers a small seed-grant for all OctoberVET events (which can be used for catering for example), and a national coordinator is on hand to discuss your ideas, and to provide advice and support. AVETRA also advertises OctoberVET events nationally to help draw attention to local events. Last year's themes will give you an idea of variety of interests gathered together under the OctoberVET banner:

- VET: the workforce of the future (Convenor: Tracey Singh)
- New Options for Professional Development & Skill Building (Convenor: Alicia Boyle)
- Quality Teaching and Learning in a New Era (Convenors: Helen Smith and David McLean)
- Industry Currency and Competencies or Capabilities - Two Stories (Convenor: Anita Wesney)
- Increasing educational participation and outcomes for people who are geographically and/or socially disadvantaged (Convenor: Annette Green and Wendy De Luca)
- The Value of VET (Convenor: Steven Hodge)
- Australia's Productivity Challenge: Why productivity matters, and when it doesn't (Convenor: Jill Downing)
- Joining the dots: Exploring independent validation of assessment and quality (Convenors: Michele Simons and Sinan Gemici)
- Industry and VET - the Ultimate Partnership (Convenor: Kathy Piccardi)
- Remodelling VET: Scholarship and Competition (Convenors: Linda Simon, Keiko Yasukawa, Kevin Heys, Annette Bonnici, Camilla Couch and Susan Roy)
- Developing Skills for Sustainability through VET (Convenor: Mike Brown)
- The Secondary-Tertiary Interface (Convenor: Colleen Young)
- VET Research in WA (Convenors: Sue Thompson and Llandis Barratt-Pugh)

With yet another momentous year unfolding for VET – including impacts of Government reforms and pressures on funding, proposed changes to quality standards, further calls for professional teaching qualifications and industry currency, continuing issues around social inclusion, and the value of VET in relation to other educational sectors – it's time to start thinking about how to bring your local VET community together to share ideas and inspiration. Get in touch with Linda Simon (national OctoberVET co-coordinator) to discuss your ideas and find out how to get the OctoberVET ball rolling. Call her on 0411550439 or email her at lindasimon2@bigpond.com

AVETRA Mentors 2013

AVETRA works with NCVET and Victoria University on the NCVET Community of Practice new researchers project. AVETRA provides the mentors, who are experienced researchers, to support the new researchers complete their workbased research projects. We have recently undertaken the process of matching the eight mentors and researchers for this year. The new researchers participated in a two-day workshop at Victoria University in May to refine their projects and questions. They will provide a brief overview of work to-date at the NCVET Conference in June.

AVETRA needs to keep its Research Mentoring Register up-to-date with interested members. We called for Expressions of Interest in April, but if you would still like to be placed on the Register, contact AVETRA with details of your workplace, areas of expertise and contact details.

To be placed on the Register, members need to have experience in supervising Higher Degree research students and/or have a track record of managing VET research projects for NCVET. The location of the mentor and the needs of the new researcher will be the primary criteria for mentor selection each year. The details of the program can be found on the AVETRA website under AVETRA Initiatives - <http://avetra.org.au/avetra-initiatives/mentoring-project>.

Linda Simon

Executive member



New Journals

There is a new refereed journal available focusing on VET and VET teacher-education in East and South East Asia

TVET[®]Asia is an open content online journal for scientists and practitioners in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Vocational Teacher Education (VTE) in the East and Southeast-Asian region. Its main purpose is to provide access to peer reviewed papers and thus to enhance the dissemination of relevant content and the initiation of open discussions within the TVET community.

For more information, visit <http://www.tvet-online.asia/>

Rangsit Journal Of Arts And Sciences, Rangsit University Research Institute, Rangsit University, Muang-Ake, Paholyotin Rd., Patumthani 12000, Thailand

We would like to ask for your kind contribution of a manuscript of a research or review article in the area of Science and/or Technology for our Volume 3, Number 2 of RJAS. The submission deadline for this issue is extended to July 31, 2013.

Manuscripts submitted later than July 31, 2013 will be considered for publication in the subsequent issue of RJAS.

For more information, visit www.rsu.ac.th/rjas or contact Chief Editor Chatchai Trakulrungsri, Ph.D., at chatchai_tr@rsu.ac.th

Conferences & Events

Journal of Vocational Education and Training, 10th International Conference.

The Tenth JVET Conference will be held at Worcester College, Oxford from the 5th to the 7th July 2013. The formal call for papers is at: <http://www.jvetconferences.co.uk/>

22nd National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills', 10-12 July 2013, Sunshine Coast TAFE

Sponsored jointly by NCVER and Sunshine Coast TAFE, this annual conference is considered one of the best value events on the VET research calendar. It aims to bring together those involved or interested in education and training research and with its informal and collegiate atmosphere, it encourages lively exchanges about VET and provides a great opportunity to network.

For more information, visit <http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/trconf/trconf22.html>.

Directors Australia 2013 National Conference: TAFE REDEFINED, 2-3 September, Sofitel Brisbane Central, Queensland

With over 40 national and international speakers from China, India, the UK and across Australia, the conference is a 'must attend' for all Institute chief executives and their senior managers, as well as many federal and state government officials and others involved in vocational education and training. The Conference usually attracts over 280 delegates and has many informal opportunities to make contact with education and government leaders, in addition to the impressive structured program of addresses and workshops. The TAFE Redefined conference will explore a range of topics including the economics of skills; Australia in the Asian Century; redefining learning approaches: MOOCs, NBN; the 'quality proposition' – what is it?; tertiary connectedness; Indigenous workers and learners.

For more information, visit <http://www.tda.edu.au>

New Zealand's Third National Conference on Multiple Pathways and Transitions, 2-3 July, University of Auckland, Epsom Campus, New Zealand

This conference will bring together educators, policy makers, industry representatives and others who work in the secondary -tertiary education sectors as well as those whose focus is on employment. International perspectives will be brought to the discussions by distinguished authorities from Australia and the United States. The programme will have a balance of presentation, discussion and networking opportunities.

For more information, visit <http://csmp.manukau.ac.nz/conf2013>

Executive Team Contacts

President

Assoc. Prof. Michele Simons
University of South Australia
Mawson Lakes Boulevard
MAWSON LAKES SA 5095
Ph: +61 8 8302 6427
michele.simons@unisa.edu.au

Vice President

Assoc. Prof. Ruth Wallace
Faculty of Education Health & Science
Charles Darwin University10
Ellengowan Drive
DARWIN NT 0909
Ph: +61 8 8946 6390
ruth.wallace@cdu.edu.au

Immediate Past President:

Dr Llandis Barratt-Pugh
Edith Cowan University
Pearson Street
CHURCHLANDS WA 6018
Ph: 0415 233 023
l.barratt_pugh@ecu.edu.au

Treasurer

Mr Kevin Heys
TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney
Institute
Cnr Hoxton Park & Banks Roads
MILLER NSW 2168
Ph: +61 2 9825 7322
kevin.heys@tafensw.edu.au

Editor Research Today

Assoc Professor Roslin Brennan-Kemmis
Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588
Boorooma Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2678
Ph: +61 2 6933 2441
rbrennan@csu.edu.au

Co-Editor AVETRA News & Research Today

Dr Sinan Gemici
NCVER
PO Box 8288
Station Arcade SA 5000
Ph: +61 8 8280 8665
sinan.gemici@ncver.edu.au

AVETRA Secretariat

Mr Doug Wiles
PO Box 576

Secretary

Dr Alicia Boyle
Social Partnerships in Learning
Research Consortium
School of Education
Charles Darwin University
DARWIN NT 0909
Ph: +61 8 8946 7267
alicia.boyle@cdu.edu.au

Awards & Scholarships

Ms. Linda Simon
VET Consultant
Sydney, NSW
lindasimon2@bigpond.com

OctoberVET Coordinator

Dr Steven Hodge
Deakin University
School of Education
Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus
Ph: +61 3 522 71489
steven.hodge@deakin.edu.au

Membership Secretary

Dr Annette Foley
University of Ballarat
Mt Helen Campus
PO Box 663
BALLARAT VIC 3353
Ph: +61 3 5327 9764
a.foley@ballarat.edu.au

Co-Editor AVETRA News

Dr Sarojni Choy
School of Education and
Professional Studies
Griffith University
Mt Gravatt Campus
176 Messines Ridge Road
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122
Ph: +61 7 3735 1108
s.choy@griffith.edu.au



About AVETRA

AVETRA is the peak professional association for VET researchers. Its ability to be a sustainable and viable association depends on its membership. Members are urged to continue their membership and to encourage their colleagues to join AVETRA.

AVETRA services include:

- An annual VET international research conference
- Two editions of *International Journal of Training Research per annum*
- The quarterly AVETRA e-newsletter with the latest news in the VET sector as well as VET research.
- The new *Research Today* publication twice a year.
- OctoberVET workshops organised by AVETRA members in centres as widely spread as Perth, Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.
- The AVETRA website with VET research links and information
- Awards for VET researchers including the joint award with TAFE Directors Australia, the Berwyn Clayton Award, The Ray Barker Award, and the AVETRA Best paper Award.

HELP AVETRA help VET research and join now if you are not a member. Full **\$160** (GST inclusive) and Student memberships **\$80.00** including GST are available.

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter please contact either Sarojni Choy or Sinan Gemici.