

A-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association
September 2010

AVETRA News

From the President

Greetings to all AVETRA members!



The past months have been busy and productive for AVETRA. Perhaps the most satisfying outcome was watching and listening to the *ten new researchers* who presented at the NCVET 'No Frills' conference in Perth. Mentored by experienced AVETRA members, these new researchers told the tales of their first VET research project and those who had completed their scholarship were able to discuss the findings from their project. Our thanks go out to all those researchers who have given their time to develop the mentoring scheme over the past three years.

You will find our AVETRA response to the Productivity Commission's investigation into the VET workforce on our website. Our submission was specifically helped by contributions from Erica Smith and Terry Seddon. In summary, it is always difficult to speak with one voice for a diverse and vibrant body of researchers, but three key issues have been made on behalf of AVETRA.

First, that AVETRA itself has made a specific contribution to the development of the VET workforce by being a leading light in terms of engaging the VET community in debate and knowledge construction.

Second, that the substantial changes of the VET sector over the past two decades have been shaped by considerable research production, and that the re-shaping for the future skilling of Australia will need even more research. This means that supporting, maintaining and developing the VET research infrastructure is critical for economic development. In this context AVETRA offers a well established base for both VET workforce development and the provision of evidence through research. Our research is generated from a unique combination of reflective practitioners and VET researchers, which keeps our activity and association both grounded in direction, and enables us to discuss the results of research with practitioners, who then put their learning back into practice.

Third, many AVETRA members are associated with the provision of training and development for VET professionals. Currently, the profession is squeezed between the degree based teaching and Higher Education sectors. In our submission we argued that it is now time to move towards a degree-based profession for VET delivery to increase the knowledge base of what will be a critical area for future economic and social development.

You will also find that AVETRA has a new voice on the telephone, Doug Wiles, please make him welcome. Kevin Hayes, Aurelie Favennec and I have been inducting Doug in the ways and history of our sector and he has already started improving our website. We are exploring the introduction of online membership and electronic banking for the association.

Berwyn Clayton has been bringing together the Melbourne conference committee for our 2011 and 14th annual conference and will be announcing the theme and venue shortly. You should have received your copies of the International Journal of Training Research and Research Today in the past month thanks to Peter, Stephen and Ros.

We have been reviewing the draft of the AVETRA conference journal and in the next month we will have a very comprehensive manual that consolidates all our learning from the past to guide our major annual event for the security of the association. It will make life easier for members who want to bring the AVETRA conference to their locality – who would like to make a bid for the 2012 conference? I await your calls!

Finally, if you want to get a few local members together for a networking session in a few months, why not put on an OctoberVET event – contact Erica.

I wish you all good researching!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llandis Barratt-Pugh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Llandis Barratt-Pugh
President of AVETRA, Edith Cowan University, September, 2010.*

AVETRA News

AVETRA 2011 Conference announcement

The AVETRA 14th National Conference entitled: "VET research: reflecting back, projecting forward" will be held in Melbourne from 27 – 29 April 2011 at the Rendezvous Hotel, Flinders Street, Melbourne. Further details including a call for abstracts will be made shortly via the AVETRA website. Mark this down in your diaries!

AVETRA makes submission to the Productivity Commission

Papers and presentations from our 2010 annual conference are now available on the AVETRA website at: www.aveutra.org.au/publications/conference-archives/conference-archives-2010/2010-papers

Llandis Barratt-Pugh

Research and VET News

OctoberVET 2010

AVETRA's OctoberVET program has been increasing in strength each year and so far, ten events have been announced for 2010. These include:

Friday 8 October: Charles Darwin University in conjunction with the Northern Territory Flexible Learning Team; Blue Building, Casuarina Campus, Charles Darwin University, 8.00am-1.00pm.

Friday 8 October: Charles Sturt University; Wine and Cheese Conference Room, Wagga Wagga Campus, 10.00am – 3.00pm.

Thursday 14 October: Hunter TAFE; Fine Arts Gallery, Hunter Street, Newcastle City. There is no charge. Presentations on "How interactive distance e-learning (IDL) improved access to, and performance in, VET courses across the western region of NSW for indigenous communities and isolated farm households"; "VET as an agent of change in Nursing Education"; and "Developing an effective Model for Delivery and Assessment for VET in Community Services." 4.00pm – 6.30pm followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 20 October: West Coast Institute of Training; Joondalup, Western Australia, 1pm – 4 pm.

Thursday 21 October: University of Ballarat; SMB Campus, Lydiard Street. Guest Speaker, Associate Professor Leesa Wheelahan from the University of Melbourne, 9.00am – 1.00pm.

Thursday 21 October: Kangan Institute of TAFE; Docklands Campus, A Victorian TAFE International event, 11.30am-1.30pm.

Monday 25 October: Swinburne University; Hawthorn Campus (room to be confirmed), Melbourne, 1.30pm – 4.00pm.

Monday 25 October: Canberra Institute of Technology; A108 Southside Campus, Ainsworth St, Phillip, 1.00pm – 6.00pm. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday 27 October: University of Technology, Sydney. Building 10, 235 Jones Street, Broadway, Topic: "You wouldn't expect a plumbing teacher to teach reading!: exploring learner support in VET", 4.00pm -7.00pm.

Friday 5 November: Edith Cowan University; Mt Lawley Campus, Perth, "Researching VET: Dilemmas and Tactics". Keynote speaker: Dr Jane Figgis, AAAJ Consulting 12.30pm- 4.30pm. Lunch at 12.30 - Free event.

Please feel free to contact the national convenor, Erica Smith if you need more information (03)5327 9665 or e.smith@ballarat.edu.au. OctoberVET web pages start at <http://avetra.org.au/octobervet/current-year>

Erica Smith

Nominate now for top VET researcher award

If you've thought a fellow vocational education and training (VET) researcher deserved an award for their work, now is your chance to nominate them for a top VET researcher award.

Nominations are now open for the 2011 VET Researcher of the Year Award.

Sponsored by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), the award recognises a researcher's valuable contribution and outstanding research on VET issues.

The award also intends to promote the importance of research in providing the evidence base needed for informing policy and practice in the sector.

Nominations close Friday, 5 November 2010.

The award winner will be announced in March 2011 and presented with a cash prize of \$5000 to support their career. The prize will be presented at the annual National VET Research Conference 'No Frills' in July 2011.

A copy of the award guidelines and nomination form are available from [www.ncver.edu.au/research/opportunities.html#VET Researcher of the Year Award](http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/opportunities.html#VET_Researcher_of_the_Year_Award)

Phil Loveder

Conferences and other Events

ACEN 2010 National Conference, Perth, Curtin Institute of Technology, 29 September – 1 October, 2010

The Australian Collaborative Education Network 2010 conference is titled 'Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges'. The theme of the conference is focusing on assessing and researching WIL, evaluating learning outcomes, partnerships and social inclusion. For further information go to www.acen.edu.au

Tertiary Education Management Conference, Crown Convention Centre, Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne, 3 – 6 October, 2010

The theme for the 2010 Conference is Future Directions and promises to be an exciting and unique opportunity to see what the future might bring. Registrations are now open. To register, go to www.secureregistrations.com/temc2010
More information about the Conference can be found on www.temc.org.au/2010/index.html

AUSTAFE Conference, Leadership, Innovation and Workplace Culture, Sydney, 2010 CITIGATE Central, Ultimo, 13 – 15 October, 2010

This conference organised by the TAFE NSW Managers' Association will investigate themes such as innovation, leadership and workplace culture.

Details are available at: www.austafe.edu.au/events or for more information, email 2010austafe@conferenceaction.com.au

CEET 14th Annual Conference 'Education and Training for a more productive Australia', Friday 30 October, 2010 at Ascot House, Ascot Vale

The Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET) at Monash University will hold its 14th annual conference in Victoria on the 30th October, 2010. Speakers include Professor Gerald Burke, Ben Jensen of Grattan Institute, Tom Karmel of NCVER, Peter Noonan, of the Allen Consulting Group, Virginia Simmons, AO and Sheldon Rothman and Phillip McKenzie of ACER. More information can be found at <http://www.education.monash.edu.au/centres/ceet/conferences/2010.html>

IVETA – CPSC International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in TVET, Isla Ballroom 2&3, EDSA Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines, November 3 - 5, 2010

The theme of the conference is the role that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Vocational Education and Training is playing in setting new directions for Education for All (EFA). More information on the conference, including paper themes and registration details can be found at iveta2010.cpsctech.org

NCVER Research Forum – Fostering enterprise: The innovation and skills nexus To be held on Tuesday, 9 November 2010 at Australian Technology Park, Sydney

This forum will explore the relationship between innovation, the training system and industry.

The forum will bring together leading thinkers in the area of innovation and skills to help refine thinking about what kind of vocational skills are relevant to innovation within industry, and debate the respective roles of government and enterprises in fostering innovation.

Hear from leading researchers in the field including Dr Ludger Deitmer, University of Bremen, Germany, Professor Roy Green, University of Technology Sydney and Dr Phil Toner, University of Western Sydney.

To bring a broader perspective, astronomer Professor Fred Watson, Anglo-Australian Observatory will give the lunch-time address.

To register and for further information, please visit <http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/innovation/forum.html>

The World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) and Association of Colleges (AOC) 2010 World Congress, Birmingham, UK, November 14-15, 2010

World Congress is the leading international conference for providers of vocational education and skills training, drawing participants from over 36 countries with over 300 delegates from Colleges, Polytechnics or higher education organisations with a primary vocational focus.

The Congress provides a major platform to discuss key issues of the day such as how vocational education through skills and training can support the world economy, the role of Colleges and Polytechnics in providing skills for employability, as well as innovation,

new pedagogy, work based learning and apprenticeships, internationalising the curriculum, and more.

This year the focus will be on the role of education in driving global recovery. For more information on the conference can be found at:

www.aocmsevents.co.uk/aoc/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=89512&eventID=261&mode=preview&version=future&eventID=261

2nd Annual Vocational Education Summit, 2 - 3 December 2010, Hilton on the Park Melbourne

The 2nd Annual Vocational Education Summit will deal with issues as diverse as establishing the new VET regulator, new initiatives in tertiary education, regional and remote workforce development, meeting the equity and diversity targets in the Bradley review and VET governance. Further details of the program can be found at

http://iir.msgfocus.com/files/amf_iirpty/workspace_1/A1040_WEB.pdf

ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference 2010, The University of Sydney December 1-4 December, 2010

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research, Inc. (ACSPRI) is hosting a conference to provide a national forum focusing on current and fundamental issues in social science methodology. This conference provides an opportunity to reflect on contemporary methods, as applied in a range of settings and disciplinary contexts, to get a sense of emerging methods, tools, techniques and technologies, and to discover what resources are available to social science researchers and users of research.

Further details can be found at:

<http://conference.acspri.org.au/index.php/conf/2010>

Advance Notice of the 4th International INAP Conference (International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship), Beijing, 26-27, May, 2011.

The conference theme is 'Ensuring Acquisition of Expertise: Apprenticeship in the modern economy'. Abstracts will be due by November 1st 2010 and 2000-word summaries of papers by January 15th 2011. Full details will be available shortly on www.innovative-apprenticeship.net, or contact Erica Smith the Australian INAP network co-ordinator on e.smith@ballarat.edu.au or (03) 5327 9665.

Human agency and biographical transformations - adult learning and education and life paths, ESREA, 3-6 March, 2011 University of Geneva

Recent evolutions in contemporary societies have provoked a number of profound transformations in adults' life paths. The traditional biographical standard based on a three-stage model seems to have become obsolete: (i) learning during childhood and youth, (ii) working and becoming parents during adult life, (iii) withdrawing from active life at retirement age : this simple structural model, containing only a small number of biographical transitions and life cycles, would appear to belong to the past.

New forms of contemporary biographies are characterised by numerous transformations, which are the result of the many tests and trials that the adult subject is likely to encounter in the course of his/her life. Transitions and bifurcations, linked to the many changes currently taking place in contemporary societies, may intervene at any moment. In place of any available models of the stable life path, there appear to be a number of hypotheses about transformations that are difficult to predict in terms of education, professional and personal life as well as a number of other existential considerations.

These biographical transformations require adults to develop new forms of human agency: in the contemporary social context, the subject's capacity to act and react is potentially decisive but unevenly distributed.

The 2011 conference in Geneva will attempt to explore contemporary transformations in life paths and the new forms of human agency that they demand of adults disposing of very unequal resources. It will also aim to deepen our understanding of how education and training, as a means of supporting potential agency, can accompany and provide support for the contemporary adult faced with multiple transformations.

Further information can be found at: http://www.esrea.org/life_history_network?!=en

2011 Call for Proposals, Toronto, Ontario Canada June 10 -12, 2011 Pre-Conferences on June 9th 2011

The 52nd Annual Adult Education Research Conference and the 30th National Conference of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (Association Canadienne pour l'Études De l'Éducation des Adultes) will be a joint conference sponsored by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Deadline for receipt of proposals is the 3rd October, 2010.

Further details will be found on the AERC website at <http://www.adulterc.org/>, and on the CASAE/ACÉÉA website at <http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/CASAE/>

Recent Publications

Regional participation: the role of socioeconomic status and access / Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Canberra: DEEWR, 2010. [81pp].

http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/Equity/Documents/RegionalParticipation_report.pdf

This report provides information on the factors affecting participation of regional students in Australian universities. In particular, it examines the relative importance of socioeconomic status and access to university in influencing higher education participation across regions. The report shows that regional participation in university among 19-21 year-old students increased from 18 per cent in 1996 to 21 per cent in 2006. However, university participation among metropolitan students increased faster from 28 per cent to 35 per cent, so that the gap between regional and metropolitan participation increased from 10 percentage points to 12 percentage points. The report finds that lower socioeconomic status, as measured by education and occupation levels, explains most of the gap in participation between regional, outer metropolitan and inner metropolitan areas. While proximity to campus matters, the report finds that access to university appears to have less influence on university participation than socioeconomic status.

Teacher training in vocational education / Skills Commission. London: Policy Connect, 2010. 58 p. http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/fckimages/skills_report.PDF

This inquiry set out to examine whether teachers are being trained with the skills and capabilities to deliver the emerging vocational curricula that is now at the heart of 14-19 education. The fundamental issue driving the inquiry has been the inequities between teachers of academic and vocational education and the effects of this division on the learning experience. The key conclusion is the need to converge the two separate teacher training regimes that currently exist for teachers of academic subjects in schools and those of vocational subjects in further education and the post-compulsory sector. The two regimes should be replaced by a unified training system and a 'universal teaching status'. The report includes both short-term and long-term recommendations.

Rediscovering apprenticeship: research findings of the International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) / edited by Felix Rauner and Erica Smith.

Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer, 2010. 175 p.

The rediscovery of the value of apprenticeships has been one of the most significant trends in vocational education in recent years. In this volume, the renewed interest in the apprenticeship tradition and the various steps towards the implementation of innovative apprenticeship programs are analysed and discussed from different perspectives. The beginning chapters describe recent developments in apprenticeship training in different national contexts. The remainder of the book analyses the way in which both the quality and profitability of apprenticeship act in concert as the most influential drivers of innovation in this field.

Equitable and inclusive VET / Sue North, Fran Ferrier and Michael Long.

Melbourne, Vic.: Centre for the Economics of Education and Training, 2010. 63 p.
http://www.nveac.tvetaustralia.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/53659/Equitable_and_Inclusive_VET.pdf

This paper aims to contribute to the development of a new equity blueprint for VET by examining some of the major issues that need to be addressed to achieve an equitable and inclusive VET system. It both looks to the past - to what has already been achieved and learned - and to the future - where further efforts are required.

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.

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