

AVETRA News

From the President

Dear all

The biggest news for this newsletter is that we now have a date and a location for the 2009 conference. The conference will be on **Thursday and Friday April 16th and 17th** (with a welcome event on the Wednesday evening) in Sydney. The exact location is yet to be determined but we are looking at a number of locations in the centre and on the beaches.

A strong committee of 10 NSW AVETRA members has been formed to plan the conference, and we have the able support of the conference organisers, Conference Action, who have managed the last two AVETRA conferences for us. We will post further information on the web site (www.avetra.org.au) as it becomes available. We hope to see many papers from AVETRA members and others, and we ask you to disseminate the date, place and web site address to as many people as possible to ensure a big attendance including lots of international people.

Before the conference we have an excellent OctoberVET program - which has already started and will conclude towards the end of November. October is pretty elastic as a concept! Most AVETRA members should find something not too far away. Full details are in this newsletter and will be updated on the web site.

I would like to thank Ruth Wallace, the AVETRA Vice President, who ably managed AVETRA while I was away on two months' leave during June and July, and all the committee members and others who have been pushing forward with various initiatives. Many of these are outlined in this newsletter. Special thanks to Francesca Beddie and Sarah Sutcliffe for their work on editing the newsletter

Best wishes

Erica Smith
President of AVETRA
University of Ballarat



September 2008

The 2009 AVETRA Conference

The 12th Annual Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association Conference will take place in Sydney on Thursday and Friday April 16th and 17th 2009, with a welcome event on Wednesday evening April 15th. More details will be posted progressively over the next few weeks on the AVETRA web site www.avetra.org.au

A call for abstracts will be issued soon and the closing date for abstracts will be Friday November 28th. Closing date for full papers for refereeing will be Friday 6 February, and for non-refereed papers Friday 6 March.

Conference Committee

OctoberVET 2008

Each year AVETRA members around Australia organise community research events to showcase VET research. These activities complement and extend the AVETRA annual conference. These locally convened events are often, but not always, held in October – hence 'OctoberVET'! They aim to engage local VET researchers and practitioners in discussions about recent and topical research. The events are generally half or full day duration.

AVETRA OctoberVET aims to:

- broaden the activity of AVETRA beyond one annual event in one Australian location
- provide State or Territory-based forums for discussion and presentation of national research approximately six months either side of the major annual conference
- provide a forum for presentation of State/Territory -based research and discussion of emerging local and national research and research issues
- provide opportunities for State and Territory-based VET research stakeholders and AVETRA members to network, including the possible development of special and local interest groups.

In 2008, events are planned for Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Perth, Darwin, Mackay, Melbourne (2 events) and Ballarat. In Canberra while there is no specific AVETRA event, discounted rates have been negotiated for the ALARA conference (see below).

The AVETRA executive provides advice to enable members to host events. If you are interested in hosting an AVETRA event in your location, either in 2008 or in the future, you should contact Bobby Harreveld, the AVETRA Executive member with responsibility for OctoberVET. email: b.harreveld@cqu.edu.au at Central Queensland University, Rockhampton or phone: 07 4930 6836.

OctoberVET events for 2008 (in date order)

See <http://www.aveutra.org.au/calendar/index.shtml> for updates

Location	Date	Details	Registration
Canberra Canberra Institute of Technology	ALARA Australian Conference 2008 11-12 September (2 day event)	<u>The Whole Person: Sustainable futures in living, learning and working</u>	OctoberVET 08 in the ACT will be via the ALARA (Action learning & Action Research) conference, where AVETRA members will have the opportunity to engage with the Action Learning & Action Research community. To take advantage of the discounted rates for AVETRA members please contact Sarah at sarah.sutcliffe@cit.act.edu.au or visit the website at www.alara.net.au
Sydney 'The Muse', Sydney Inst. of TAFE Cnr Mary Ann & Harris Streets, Ultimo	Tuesday 30 September	Young adults and VET Research: Connections, Capacity & Collaborations	\$40.00 (inc GST) for members of AVETRA and \$50.00 (inc GST) for non-members (non-refundable) Registration: AVETRA Secretariat, Moira Brown P.O. Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585 Fax: (02) 9431 8677 Email: aveutra@apcaust.com.au Program enquiries to: Bobby Harreveld, b.harreveld@cqu.edu.au , Tel: 07 49306836 Download information flyer / registration form (pdf file)
Melbourne (Event 1) City centre (to be advised)	Friday 10 October 3:00-6.00pm	Research in action: Building VET research capacity	Ian Robertson, ian.robertson@rmit.edu.au Flyer available via the AVETRA OctoberVET web page.
Wagga Wagga	Friday 24 October	What is happening in VET & impact on research	No charge Cathy Down, cadown@csu.edu.au , Tel: (02) 6933 2437 Or see: http://www.csu.edu.au/research/ripple/rivet/colloquia/index.htm

Darwin Casuarina Campus, CDU & via videoconference to other sites	Monday 20 October 1.00-4.30pm	Effective learning partnerships through VET	Ruth Wallace, ruth.wallace@cdu.edu.au, Tel: 08 8946 6390 For information flyer please click here
Mackay CQU campus	Thursday 30 October	Negotiating a research agenda for learning & earning	No charge. Bobby Harreveld, b.harreveld@cqu.edu.au, Tel: 07 49306836
Ballarat* School of Mines, University of Ballarat	Thursday 20 November 2.00-5.00pm	Refocusing on learning & teaching Keynote speakers: Terri Seddon, Peter Smith, Peter Waterhouse	No charge Information flyer will be available shortly. Registration will be via Michelle Trethowan m.trethowan@ballarat.edu.au or 03 5327 9748
Melbourne (Event 2)* Victoria University: Conference Centre, EJ Whitten Building, 460 Ballarat Road, Sunshine.	Friday 21 November 2.00-5.00pm	Refocusing on learning & teaching * Keynote speakers: Terri Seddon, Peter Smith, Peter Waterhouse	No charge Information flyer will be available shortly. Registration will be via Leonie Beaton leonie.beaton@vu.edu.au or 03 9919 7157
Perth	To be confirmed	Building research capacity	Llandis Barratt-Pugh, l.barratt_pugh@ecu.edu.au, Tel: 08 9273 8775
* The Ballarat and Melbourne (Event 2) events are identical – they are repeated on successive days to maximise access for potential participants.			

Bobby Harreveld, Executive Committee

AVETRA Research project: Aligning VET research, policy and practice

Invitation to contribute

As advised in the previous newsletter, AVETRA has awarded Dr Darryl Dymock and Professor Stephen Billett at Griffith University a Dr Ray Barker Research Fellowship to document the nature of Vocational Education and Training (VET) research in Australia and its links with the development of practice and policy. In addition to a wide-ranging review of literature, and identifying sources of VET research funding and avenues for dissemination, they will be conducting interviews with VET policy-makers, researchers, managers and teachers about their perceptions of the impact of VET research. The Reference Group for the project comprises: Erica Smith, Daniela Jaron, Research Leader, Service Skills Australia, Helen Foley, Principal Policy Officer, DETA, Queensland, and Pauline deVries, Principal Lecturer, TAFE, SA.

As part of the project, Darryl and Stephen are inviting AVETRA members who have developed any sort of impact statements for their VET research to send them those statements so they can build a national picture of the extent of the impact of that research. They would particularly welcome copies of the case studies generated in 2007 for the (defunct) Research Quality Exercise, as a means to understand the ways in which researchers went about demonstrating the impact of their VET-related research. However they would also like to hear from other VET researchers with evidence of what they regard as *impact*. All information collected from individuals and organizations will be confidential, and can be sent to Darryl: d.dymock@griffith.edu.au

Research and VET News

News from abroad

Executive member, Francesca Beddie, recently attended a conference in Bali, hosted by the Voctech regional centre of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO)

<http://www.voctech.org.bn> . Through this involvement, she became aware of the Southeast Asian Vocational Education Researchers (SEAVERN) network <http://www.voctech.org.bn/cms>

SEAVERN has come about thanks to a USD 500,000 grant from the Netherlands, which is supporting a research networking and capacity-building program for higher education institutions in vocational and technical education in Southeast Asia. The project aims to stimulate research-related activities in the area of vocational and technical education and training (VTET) in the 11 SEAMEO member countries. The research group represents researchers from universities, colleges and polytechnics offering VTET-related programs, who get a very modest scholarship from SEAMEO to pursue a research project. This initiative is also striving to make information easily accessible to policymakers, educational practitioners, and other researchers, as well as to generate ideas for further research. These were the themes of the Bali conference.

Australian connections

There are 22 SEAVERN Research Coordinators (two from each SEAMEO member country). At least six of the participants and two of the coordinators are graduates from Australian educational institutions, primarily universities. While they are grappling with familiar issues (e.g. how to link research to policy, the image of VET, soft skills), these researchers exist under quite different circumstances from those they experienced while in Australia. Most have only the most meagre financial and institutional support, and very limited access to research materials and even to the Internet. Here is a network AVETRA may wish to link into and even to help ensure that after the Dutch funds run out, SEAVERN survives.

NVETRE program

NCVER has recently funded five new projects through its NVETRE program. The successful applicants will be researching a range of areas: Box Hill Institute of TAFE will be looking at crediting vocational education and training for learner mobility; Griffith University will be investigating higher education in TAFE; Group Training Victoria will be looking at employers' perspectives on hiring people from equity groups; the University of Canberra will be conducting a regional analysis of employment of tradespersons; and Victoria University will be looking at practitioners' expectations and experiences with the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAA04). Further detail on all of these projects can be viewed on the NCVER website: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/workinprogress/projects2008.html>

New IBSA CEO appointed

Patricia Neden has commenced her role as Chief Executive Officer of Innovation and Business Skills Australia ([IBSA](#)). Patricia is a former Deputy Secretary of Skills Victoria (formerly known as the Office of Training and Tertiary Education) in the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, and a current member of the National Quality Council. Patricia's vast experience, extensive knowledge and strong commitment to innovation, filling the skills gaps and enhancing the VET sector to benefit the Australian economy will be invaluable to the continuing work of IBSA.

Calls for Papers/Submissions

LSAY

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research, on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, is managing a new Research Innovation and Expansion Fund (RIEF) designed to encourage greater use of the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth (LSAY). They are inviting interested researchers to submit proposals under the Analysis Grants Program component of the RIEF for funding in an open category. This open category offers researchers the opportunity to put forward proposals for research that will draw primarily on LSAY data, using its longitudinal nature, to inform policy on youth transitions. For information about LSAY, including technical papers, go to <http://www.lsay.edu.au> For more information and to obtain an information kit and proposal template please visit the NCVER website <http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/tenders.html> Proposals must be submitted by close of business 8 October 2008.

AARE 2008 Awards applications: Betty Watts & ECR

Applications are invited for the AARE 2008 "Betty Watts Indigenous Researcher Award" and the "Early Career Researcher Award", closing 30 October (details at <http://www.aare.edu.au/bwatts/> & <http://www.aare.edu.au/early/>). If you are eligible to apply, enquiries may be directed to helen.watt@education.monash.edu.au

For both awards, evaluation criteria require a covering application letter, and a full paper to be submitted to AARE Office by COB Thursday 30 October. As the intent of each award is to honour and facilitate outstanding scholarship, applications are judged on the basis of the following academic merit criteria:

- originality
- contemporary significance and /or scholarly relevance
- conceptual, methodological and theoretical soundness
- disciplined, focused and persuasive argument
- coherent organisation and clarity of written expression
- comprehensive reference to appropriate literature.

Only one paper per researcher should be submitted for each Award in any year. Papers previously submitted may not be re-submitted.

Conferences and other Events

2008 AUSTAFE Conference, Regency International Centre, TAFE SA Regency Campus, Days Road, Regency Park, SA, 1-3 October 2008

<http://www.austafeconference.org.au>

Members of the TAFE and wider VET community are invited to attend this annual conference. The key theme will be 'Forging Dynamic Futures' explored through the sub-themes of leadership, business sustainability, innovation in teaching and learning and social inclusion.

Greening VET - Skills for Sustainability, Auditorium 1, 80 George Street, Brisbane, QLD, 10 October 2008

<http://www.vetconnect.net.au>

Skills for employment - Skills for the economy - Skills for the environment. Are we modelling sustainable practices in our training? How do we help industry move towards more sustainable practices? What are the business opportunities for green and sustainable job training?

2008 Group Training National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, QLD, 15-17 October 2008

<http://www.gtalt.com.au/>

Convened by Troup Training Australia

5th Biennial Australian Learning Communities Network Conference, Hyatt Regency Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, 25-28 October 2008

<http://www.alcnconference.com/>

Connecting Faces, Places and Spaces is the theme for the 2008 conference and will aim to create increased awareness, interest and engagement in the growth and development of sustainable learning communities across Australasia.

ALA 48th Annual National Conference, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA, 30 October – 1 November 2008

<http://www.ala.asn.au>

Adult informal learning is the key tool that benefits the whole community is the major theme of Adult Learning Australia's 2008 conference. The two related panel discussions are:

- Where to for Indigenous learning after the Apology?
- How does Social Inclusion benefit the Australian economy?

2008 Desert Knowledge Symposium and Business Showcase, Alice Springs Convention Centre, Alice Springs, NT, 03-Nov-08 to 06-Nov-08

<http://www.desertknowledge2008.com>

The symposium is about how business innovators, researchers and educators from Australia and overseas are working in partnership with communities, industry and governments to develop a body of desert knowledge that will help sustain desert communities around the world.

New Ways of Working in VET Forum 5, Crown Promenade, Melbourne, 17-18 November 2008

<http://www.reframingthefuture.net>

This interactive forum showcases innovative vocational education and training (VET) strategies and practices and the emerging outcomes of the 2008 Reframing the Future projects. The forum provides an opportunity for VET practitioners from around Australia to network, share and promote good practice in implementing the national training system.

ILDP Global Forum, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney, 17-18 November 2008

<http://www.ildp2008.com/>

Educating for Excellence & Excellence for All

The Institute of Learning and Development Professionals Inc. (ILDPA) invite learning and development practitioners and professionals to engage in a strategic conversation with Government, Industry and Community representatives in Australia and experts from around the world to identify and validate the excellence criteria required to provide best practice. The Global Forum will initiate debate on the development of the intellectual capital of the learning and development professional and the value of national and international standards that allow Learning Services Providers (educators and trainers) to move and work around the globe in response to Free Trade Agreements and the shrinking of international barriers.

AARE 2008 International Education Conference, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, 30 November – 4 December 2008

<http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2008/index.htm>

Changing Climates: Education for Sustainable Futures

We encourage presenters to engage with the conference theme of 'changing climates' and how this current social concern applies equally well to education and the various policy, funding, institutional and social domains that shape the work of teachers and educational researchers.

2009 BIG Skills Conference, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney, 2-5 March 2009

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/programmes_funding/programme_categories/conferences

Addressing the best way to meet our future skills needs in a globally competitive world

Skills are a hot topic in Australia and internationally with many countries trying to determine the best ways to meet their future skills needs in an internationally competitive environment. The Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations would like you to share your thoughts at its conference.

JVET 8th International Conference, Worcester College Oxford, UK, 3-5 July 2009

www.informaworld.com/jvet

The Journal of Vocational Education and Training conference committee invites the submission of contributions on research into aspects of vocational and professional education and training. These might include, but are not restricted to: policy studies, curriculum development and design, changes in management and institutional strategies, students' experiences of VET, globalization and skill, and work-based learning. Inquiries about the conference can be sent to Bill Bailey B.Bailey@gre.ac.uk Abstracts can be sent to Jocelyn Robson at J.Robson@londonmet.ac.uk

Recent Publications

Adult literacy research overviews, NCVER, 2008. This suite of overviews provides a summary of two of NCVER's managed adult literacy and numeracy research projects funded in 2006. The first investigates ways of assessing the wider benefits adults gain from participating in non-accredited community language, literacy and numeracy programs, while the other examines the success of implementing the 'Reading-to-Learn' intensive teaching methodology in the classroom. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1485.html>

Davies, J and Ecclestone, K, 'Straitjacket' or 'springboard for sustainable learning'? The implications of formative assessment practices in vocational learning cultures, *Curriculum journal*, v. 19, no. 2, June 2008. pp.71-86, London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2008. In contrast to theoretical and empirical insights from research into formative assessment in compulsory schooling, understanding the relationship between formative assessment, motivation and learning in vocational education has been a topic neglected by researchers. This article explores the influence of learning cultures in vocational education on the practice of formative assessment and evaluates critically two closely related questions. Why do some learning cultures foster formative assessment that leads to instrumental learning while others develop deeper forms of learning? When is formative assessment a springboard for sustainable learning, and when does it remain an instrumental straitjacket? <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09585176.a...>

Dymock, D and Billett, S, Assessing and acknowledging learning through non-accredited community adult language, literacy and numeracy program, NCVER, 2008. Ways of assessing and acknowledging the range of outcomes in non-accredited community adult language, literacy and numeracy programs are explored in this study. The instruments it tested take account of the diversity of learner needs and motivations. The study highlights that these assessment methods can bring benefits both to the learner and the tutor, especially when they are completed jointly in ways that inform learning plans and aim at building self-confidence. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2021.html>

Halliday-Wynes, S, Beddie, F, Saunders, F, Career development and VET: At a glance, NCVER, 2008. Over the past ten years the changing landscape of society, work and education has led to significant changes in career development services in Australia. This 'At a glance' gives an overview of recent research exploring how these services respond to the different client groups. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2020.html>

Harris, R, Clayton, B, Chappell, C, Supporting vocational education and training providers in building capability for the future: Research activity overviews, NCVER, 2008. The two-year consortium program, 'Supporting vocational education and training providers in building capability for the future' focused on approaches to help VET providers build their capability. These eight papers include a program overview, key contextual issues of concern to VET stakeholders, as well as the overall findings and key messages of each specific research activity. An MP3 audio interview with Berwyn Clayton and Roger Harris can also be streamed or downloaded from the NCVER website. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2014.html>

Karmel, T, Nguyen, N, Disability and learning outcomes: How much does the disability really matter? NCVER, 2008. Students with a disability tend to have poorer educational outcomes in VET than the average over all students. This paper sought to isolate the direct effect of being a member of a particular disability group. It found that the direct effect of the disability differs between groups, and is highest for those with a mental illness, a medical condition or a physical disability. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2017.html>

Smith, A, Burke, G, Dumbrell, T, Long, M, Approaches to measuring and understanding employer training expenditure, NCVER, 2008. Through an analysis of major surveys, as well as interviews and case studies with firms in four industries - construction, retail trade, manufacturing and health and community services, this research brings us closer to an understanding of the factors that influence training expenditure. The research shows that survey data needs to be complemented

with a program of research in a number of industries to provide a richer understanding of the drivers of employer expenditure and practices. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2016.html>

Wang, Q and Miao, J, *Rural-urban migration and the role of adult education in China's social integration*, Adult education and development, no. 70, 2008. pp.63-82, Bonn, Germany: DVV International, 2008. For almost six decades, the gap between rural and urban communities, and the need for integration, have drawn much attention from government and civil society in China. The issues of social exclusion and integration have become crucial to the building of a harmonious society. Education, especially adult education, can act as a major cross-cutting intervention for social integration. voiced@ncver.edu.au

Jobs and Other Opportunities

Hong Kong Institute of Education

Associate Professors

Professional and Vocational Education

Ref: AssoProf/PVE/0908

The Institute is seeking an Associate Professor for further developing its research and scholarship in professional and vocational education.

Elderly Education

Ref: AssoProf/EE/0908

As part of its development of lifelong learning as a field of research and professional practice, the Institute is seeking an Associate Professor in elderly learning and education.

For enquiries, please contact Prof Richard G. Bagnall bagnall@ied.edu.hk

Applications available at <http://www.ied.edu.hk/hro/applyfor.htm> and close on 30 September 2008

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 bi-monthly 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 organized 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 – or encourage your colleagues to join.

Full **\$145** (GST inclusive) and Student memberships **\$71.50** including GST are available to join AVETRA. See the AVETRA web site for details of how to join:

<http://www.avetra.org.au/membership/join.shtml>

Members of the AVETRA Executive 2008-10

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