



News from the NAEEA

Edition 4, 2017

NAEEA Chairperson's Message

Colleagues,

Welcome to what we hope will be another rewarding year for the enabling educator community.

Those members fortunate enough to have attended the highly successful FABENZ Auckland conference in December, were clearly inspired by the keynote and concurrent sessions and the extremely valuable opportunity to network with other colleagues. A brief summary of the event is provided later in this newsletter. Congratulations to Rae Trewartha and her team on organising a great conference.

NAEEA's 'big' event for 2017 will be the biennial Australian conference. Read on to access full details of this event and the opportunity to save on your registration.

The Association has recently held elections to replace two retiring members of the Executive. Our thanks go to Professor Janet Taylor and Dr Robert Whannell for their valuable contribution to the Association Executive over the past two years. We were very buoyed by seven nominations for election to replace these two retiring Executive. Across the sector this showed the widespread commitment of the enabling educator community to further the aims of the Association and contribute to enhancing enabling education. The result of the election will be announced shortly.

As this is the year of the Australian conference, Executive has decided that a symposium will not be staged this year. These have been highly valued events, not least of which was the Southern Symposium staged at UniSA College last September. However, the general principle of holding a symposium, in those years in which a conference is not held, remains strong and will be revisited for 2018. Read on for a detailed summary of the Southern Symposium gathering of practitioners.

In 2017 we aim to assist our SIG facilitators with suggestions for the processes they might apply for harnessing the wider participation of enabling educators who have an interest in their particular topics. Consider joining one of these groups.

All the best with your enabling endeavours in 2017,

David Bull, 2016 NAEEA Chairperson.

www.enablingeducators.org

Special Interest Groups

Note that we have two, new, recently established special interest groups.

Research Development and Collaboration

Anna Bennett and Penny Jane Burke will co-facilitate the Research Development and Collaboration Special Interest Group, which aims to bring together colleagues who are interested in research about enabling programs, the transition of students into and through higher education and lifelong learning, and as related to other related fields of research, such as widening participation, equity and social justice in education. The SIG aims to:

- Provide a supportive framework, including some events and activities offered across the country, to bring together diverse perspectives to the field of enabling and related fields of research;
- Foster a research community where members feed into and develop the direction of the SIG in collaboration;
- Provide information about research approaches, skills, development, publishing and projects;
- Promote activities that enhance the NAEEA research capacity and influence across national and international contexts; and
- Contribute to other NAEEA activities and events.

Please email Anna.Bennett@newcastle.edu.au or Pennyjane.Burke@newcastle.edu.au if you are interested.

Enabling Assessment

Assessments play an important role in promoting learning while enabling educators to make informed decisions about student progression and attainment of skills and knowledge. Although significant research has, and continues to be undertaken within the higher education space around developing more relevant, engaging and reliable assessment instruments, there is a need to generate a constructive discussion about how and what other types of assessments can be used within the enabling education space. Given the increasing diversity of students within the enabling education programs in Australia, it is even more important to develop understanding about relevant enabling assessments through sharing ideas about existing practices, as well as seeking opportunities to develop innovative assessment practices, reflecting the increasing diversity of students. Contact Dr Pranit Anand pranit@uow.edu.au UOW College, University of Wollongong.

Please note that we also seeking a new facilitator for the Culturally & Linguistically Diverse students SIG. If you are interested in taking on this role please contact Charmaine Davis Charmaine.Davis@usq.edu.au or David Bull David.Bull@usq.edu.au



NAEEA Southern Symposium

The inaugural NAEAA Southern Symposium, hosted at the University of South Australia, City West campus in the heart of the city of Adelaide, was a joint venture of the University of South Australia and the Australian Catholic University, and the first NAEAA gathering of its kind in a southern Australian state. The importance of the work of NAEAA, and enabling educators, was highlighted by Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia in his opening address.

The symposium focussed on *Open Access - Balancing equity, excellence and ethical practice in enabling programs: existing and emerging challenges*. This proved to be a stimulus for an engaging and invigorating exploration of the important issues being addressed in the enabling education space, including:

- Definitions of open access
- Ethical implications regarding setting entry requirements for enabling programs
- The appropriateness of implementing diagnostic testing
- The challenges of preparing CALD (Culturally and linguistically diverse) students for university
- Assessment criteria and benchmarking
- Establishing models of best practice in enabling programs issues.

The Southern Symposium was a practice-based event. It provided a forum for practitioners to share current research, equity strategies and innovations into the various ways enabling education encourages universities to play a broader social inclusion function; supporting access, engagement and success for all students regardless of prior educational attainment or socio-economic background.

The high level of engagement of participants, and the consistent willingness to share ideas and approaches to enabling education, ensured the symposium deepened

contacts and collaboration across universities supporting us to benefit from each other's scholarship, ideas and experiences.

The reality is the breadth of involvement from across Australia testified to the commitment of the participants and to their university's support of equity in practice. The vigorous discussion and genuine engagement with challenges of enabling education also proved the growing influence of NAEAA which is fostering the importance of;

- Taking an outward looking stance to ensure we understand the national and international context for enabling education and inclusive practice
- Linking with others to initiate and maintain relationships across universities and with local communities to ensure we learn with and from each other
- Balancing individual and group needs: supporting individuals to meet challenging goals while acknowledging that growth and cultural change will result from group achievement
- Understanding the need to engage with communities within and beyond the university
- Encouraging, supporting and enabling students to achieve beyond their expectations.



2017 Membership now due!

Individual and Institutional Membership is \$80 per person and provides members access to a nationwide community of practice which is focused on the continued development of enabling education. NAEAA members are entitled to a discount of \$80 when registering early for NAEAA Conferences.

Individual Membership rate: \$80. Payment may be made by cheque, direct debit, or through PayPal.

- **Cheques** are payable to NAEAA and forwarded to the NAEAA Treasurer (Charmaine Davis), Open Access College, University of Southern Queensland, West Street, Toowoomba, 4350.
- **Direct debit** payment are made to Heritage Bank, BSB 638-070, Account No. 13046179, using your name as reference. After the transaction, email secretary@enablingeducators.org to advise you have paid this way.

- **Credit card** payments can be made via PayPal. Please email the [secretary](#) who will create a PayPal invoice. The invoice will provide directions on how to make the payment.

2016 FABENZ Conference Wrap Up

Under the themes of Accessibility, Flexibility and Equity the 2016 FABENZ Conference, hosted by Unitec Institute of Technology in Auckland, provided a great opportunity for enabling educator from both New Zealand and Australia to gather together to share their practice and learn from their colleagues.

A fine array of keynote addresses, workshops and presentations kept attendees actively networking and discussing their shared goals of enabling education. Proceedings of the conference can be accessed here <http://fabenz.org.nz/proceeding-from-fabenz-conference-2016/> Conference delegates clearly came away from the conference inspired with new and developing ideas to further enhance their practice. The whole event was a great success and a huge credit to the Conference Convenor, Rae Trewartha.

2017 NAEAA Conference

2017 NAEAA Biennial Conference

Start planning now to attend and present at the 2017 Association conference. Check out the conference website for full details and make sure you have paid your 2017 Association membership to take advantage of the membership discount on registration.

The conference will be held at Southern Coast University's beautiful Gold Coast campus which is only 400 metres from the beach and adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport. It brings together people who teach, design, work in, research and support tertiary enabling programs across Australia and New Zealand. Sub themes this year are:

- Advancing learning in enabling programs
- Success in and of enabling programs
- Academic literacy and academic numeracy
- Teaching practice
- Curriculum design for enabling programs
- Technology and Online learning

Conference speakers will share their wealth of experience and expertise in the field of enabling education. Professor Adam Shoemaker, Vice Chancellor of Southern Cross University, is one of Australia's leading researchers in the area of Indigenous literature and culture.

Professor Mike Osborne is Director of Research and Chair of Adult and Lifelong Learning at the University of Glasgow. He is experienced in adult and continuing education, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education

research, development and evaluation.

Professor Karen Nelson is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) at University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia. Her research areas include student learning engagement, retention, first year study in higher education and information and knowledge systems in universities.

Professor Norm Sheehan is a Wiradjuri man. He is currently Director of Gnibi College SCU. In this role he has led the development of two new degrees the Bachelor of Indigenous Knowledge and the Bachelor of Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing.

Associate Professor Nick Zepke is a mostly retired New Zealand Associate Professor of adult education who previously worked with undergraduate and postgraduate teachers of adults and now supervises students working on doctoral theses dealing mostly with student engagement in higher education. His latest works focus on his work on student engagement.

The conference program also offers the opportunity to participate in pre-conference workshops including "Researching our practice" and "Publishing your practice", which will be held on Wednesday, 29th November.

Venue: **Southern Cross University, Gold Coast Campus at Coolangatta**

Dates: **29 November – 1 December 2017**

Theme: **Enabling learning, Enabling teaching**

Website: <http://scu.edu.au/naeeaconference2017/>



NAEEA Annual General Meeting

The NAEAA Annual General Meeting for 2016 will be held via a Zoom meeting on Friday 10th February at 12.00 noon AEST. All members are invited to attend. The meeting will provide information about the activities of the NAEAA throughout 2016. Members have received an email invitation which contains details about how to connect to this meeting. If you would like further information please contact secretary@enablingeducators.org.au