

National Director's Message – Judie Kay



ACEN continues to provide valuable forums for information exchange around important WIL topics with recent State forums on risk management, assessment, researching and publishing about WIL. Planning is also well underway for the next national conference in Perth (29 Sept – 1 Oct). A confirmed keynote speaker is Prof Mantze Yorke from Liverpool John Moores University who has researched and written widely on a range of subjects including employability, assessment, student success and retention. Abstracts are currently being accepted and I would encourage you to share your research and practice at this important bi-annual conference. More news in coming months on pre conference workshops and other associated activities. Put the dates in your calendar! (www.acen.edu.au – link to conference)

ACEN is currently undertaking a membership drive with institutional and individual membership available. On top of the benefits from ACEN membership; ACEN has negotiated an arrangement with the World Association of Cooperative Education (WACE) whereby membership of ACEN includes automatic concurrent World Association of Cooperative Education (WACE) membership. Benefits include access to international networks, journals, and conference at member's rates. I strongly urge you to encourage your institution to become a member. Individual memberships are also available (www.acen.edu.au – link to membership)

ACEN continues to forge strong links to key industry, professional and community peak bodies representing key stakeholders and partners in work integrated learning with recent productive meetings with Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Professions Australia and Universities Australia. The Australian Industry Group, Australian Association of Graduate Employers, TAFE Directors Australia and Australian Computer Association Foundation are also on the National WIL Portal Advisory Group.

At the recent national executive meeting we welcomed three new co-opted members Linda Cuttriss (Charles Darwin University) Rick Cummings (Murdoch University) and Jill Kelton (University of Sydney). The Executive also regretfully accepted the resignation of Carol-joy Patrick (Griffith University) a co founder of ACEN. Carol-joy will continue to be involved as an ACEN member but is relinquishing her executive role due to work commitments. Carol-joy has made an enormous contribution to WIL nationally and to the establishment and growth of ACEN and she will be sorely missed.



National Executive Committee members in attendance, Brisbane meeting 5 Nov 2009

ALTC WIL Awards 2009

Congratulations to:
Dr Julia Harrison, Monash University
Glen Hutchings, Curtin University of Technology
See <http://www.altc.edu.au/> (link to award recipients)

Up Coming Events

3 - 5 February 2010

International Conference on Work Integrated Learning
Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
<http://www.waceinc.org/hongkong/index.htm>

- ACEN (Judie Kay) will arrange a time / location for networking drinks for the Australian contingent

28 – 31 March 2010

South African Conference
<http://www.sasceconference.co.za/>

13-14 April 2010

"Enabling a More Complete Education: Encouraging, Recognising and Valuing Life-Wide Learning in Higher Education"
University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, England
Details available:
<http://lifewidelearningconference.pbworks.com/>

14-16 April 2010

NZACE Conference
"Providing a Competitive Advantage"
Palmerston North, New Zealand
http://www.nzace.ac.nz/2010_conference.shtml

29 September – 1 October 2010

ACEN National Conference
"Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges"
Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

- Registrations open in early December

Griffith University's 3rd Annual WIL Symposium and Showcase – 4 Nov 2009



A/Professor Richard Coll delivering opening keynote address on "The Integration of Knowledge in Work-Integrated Learning programs".

The Third Annual WIL Symposium featured prominent international and national speakers on WIL, including Professor Joe Raelin (Northeastern University), A/Professor

Richard Coll (University of Waikato), Dr Merrelyn Bates (Griffith University), Ms Lenore Cooper (IRU), Mary Hicks, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and A/Professor Greg Baxter (Victoria University). The event was very well received and received comments such as "Congratulations to the organisers for securing such high calibre speakers"; "I thoroughly enjoyed the WIL symposium. I liked the format and the timing of the keynotes and workshops"; "There are certainly some great things happening in WIL at Griffith" and "I loved the Symposium and learned lots". The WIL Symposium is becoming an annual tradition at Griffith but 2009 represents the first time it was opened up to delegates around Australia. The presentations will be available shortly at www.griffith.edu.au/employers. It is anticipated that the Fourth Annual WIL Symposium will be held on 4 November 2010, again with a national focus.



Law and Journalism students at Griffith discuss the "Innocence Project", their law clinic and international media internship experiences. (photo has been altered)

'WIL Showcase: A Griffith Signature', the companion event to the Symposium, was vibrant and generated considerable interest in industry, community and academic circles. It comprised over sixty displays and live presentations of excellent Griffith student WIL work from a diverse range of disciplines. This event also secured very positive feedback "I was delighted to have been at the Showcase. The diversity of student work on display during presentations, in booths and in practical demonstrations was most impressive and the applied learning that is clearly taking place across the university is exciting indeed".

Contact L.ruinard@griffith.edu.au for further details

Deakin University – School of Health and Social Development WIL Partnership Forum Oct 2009

Deakin University's Public Health and Health Promotion (PHHP) courses held a Partnership Forum in October to celebrate the importance of partner relationships. The forum attracted over 80 participants from health promotion and public health organisations, university staff and the Deakin PHHP student network.

Building and sustaining relationships with WIL partners is documented as key to student learning, professional development and student placement opportunities. Hence, the intent of the day was not only to showcase WIL activities employed across the PHHP courses, but also to highlight how partners may become involved in future WIL opportunities. Importantly, workshop sessions provided an opportunity for partner agencies to share skill and competency areas that the sector considers pertinent to graduate readiness and transition to the workforce.

The forum highlighted the current ways in which WIL is operational at all levels of study. Different WIL approaches (e.g. field work, authentic assessment, reflective practice) that form part of the PHHP curriculum were illustrated through a poster display of practicum and research projects undertaken by students in partnership with community, non-government, and government agencies.

Presentations were delivered by key note speakers to highlight the importance of WIL through a university perspective, agency perspective and student perspective. Following on from the presentations a speaker panel addressed questions from the floor and generated discussion about the opportunities and challenges inherent to WIL partnerships and PHHP practice.

Terrific feedback has been received from agency representatives, university staff and PHHP students regarding the innovation and success of the day, with a comprehensive event evaluation currently being undertaken. At this stage, responses to the forum has been extremely encouraging with comments such as "I feel I understand the context of the student placements better as a result of today and motivated to engage further with Deakin" (PHHP industry partner); "I saw in practice today the value of partnership development and why work placements and volunteering can really make the difference when you go for jobs" (Student partner); "Today was an acknowledgement of the good-will that exists and that WIL multiplies the benefits of our curriculum" (Academic partner).



Deakin University undergraduate and postgraduate students, staff and industry partners

Contact jan.moore@deakin.edu.au for further details

Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates

(full details available at www.acen.edu.au)



Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

ACENQ members now connect using access grid network (AGN) video conferencing facilities for state meetings. All members can participate and share documents. This technology is “a way to build a stronger community of practice by providing more equitable access to the meetings”, Dr Deborah Peach explained. The first to host an ACENQ meeting with AGN was CQ University, back in July, followed by University of Southern Queensland in September with USQ Springfield inviting several key note speakers. Now meetings are attended by up to 30 members from across 7 different universities. Glitches aside all members feel the benefits far outweigh any technical difficulties they experienced. The final meeting for the year was held on 13 November on the theme 'Risk and WIL'. The meeting hosted by James Cook University included 25 participants from QUT, University of Queensland, Griffith, Central Queensland and James Cook (Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane campuses). The first meeting for 2010 will be hosted by the University of the Sunshine Coast.



VicTas - Dineli Mather

The 3rd Vic/Tas chapter meeting of 2009 was held on 12 November at Deakin Prime in the Melbourne CBD. National Chair Judie Kay gave members an update of latest news from the National and international level. Friederika Kaider from VU presented the 'WIL Showcase', the sandwich year program in the Business Faculty of RMIT, comparing and contrasting it to the Business Systems IBL Program from Monash (the WIL Showcase from meeting 1). Associate Professor Dale Holt from Deakin gave an inspiring talk on developing scholarly work in WIL - watch out for a Vic/Tas takeover at the National Conference!



Western Australia – Jennie Walsh

On Thursday 26 November we held a forum at Edith Cowan University – Joondallup campus, Professor Mark Stoney provided valuable up to date information to attendees on the legal requirements/challenges of setting up WIL opportunities. This was an excellent opportunity to meet new practitioners and to promote ACEN. Further details about the forum will be available shortly on the ACEN website.

On the more business side of things my colleague Dawn Oliver and I are working hard on the organisation of the 2010 National Conference. Sponsorship opportunities exist for universities and industry, and they are keen to hear of any members willing to assist nearer to the conference date.



SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

The first combined SA/NT ACEN meeting will be held early in 2010, taking the lead from Queensland, and utilising technology in joining these regions together. This is an exciting opportunity for both regions as we look at better meeting the needs of our ACEN membership. The plan for a Symposium toward the end of 2009 has been postponed until 2010.



NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

Forum on Assessment in WIL, held on November 10 at the University of Sydney, attracted around 50 attendees from around NSW and ACT. The forum paired a theoretical look at critical reflection from Macquarie University's PACE project (Participation and Community Engagement) team with a presentation by Jan Orrell on issues around standards when assessing WIL.

Presentation 1 - “Developing learning and teaching resources to support Macquarie University's participation and community engagement initiative”, by Debra Coulson, Jacqueline Mackaway, and Theresa Winchester-Seeto.

The Learning and Teaching Centre at Macquarie University has been funded to develop learning and teaching resources to support the university's Participation and Community Engagement initiative. The presenters discussed research in the fields of reflection and assessment; principles for scaffolding critical reflection; challenges to developing reflective teaching capacity across disciplines; and principles for authentic learning, feedback and assessment in the context of participation-type learning experiences.

Presentation 2 “Using standards to assess diverse student performance in work-integrated learning” by Associate Professor Janice Orrell.

Assoc Prof Jan Orrell, a national leader in this field, discussed how assessment of student achievement in Work Integrated Learning is often reduced to pass/fail criteria which ignores the diversity of experiences and fails to acknowledge the range of achievement of students. Such a position ignores the diversity of experiences and fails to acknowledge the range of achievement of students. This presentation unpacked ideas around assessment tools used within work-integrated-learning experiences with a view to understanding how these can be considered against professional and university standards. Participants were able to consider how these ideas can be applied to their settings and experiences.

Interested members can access the presentations and notes from: <http://www.acen.edu.au/>

Proposed topic for our next forum in early 2010 is: “Risk management and work integrated learning programs”.

ACEN National Conference – “Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges”



Work is well underway in the organisation of the 2010 National Conference to be held at Curtin University in Perth. We have secured **Prof Mantz Yorke** from the UK as our Keynote Speaker. Prof Mantz has worked on various projects related to graduate employability, the most significant of which involved membership of the Enhancing Student Employability Co-ordination Team [ESECT] whose activities spanned higher education in England (and spread further afield). This work led to his general editorship of the *Learning and Employability* series of publications by the Higher Education Academy.

In addition to working on employability, he has researched, presented and published on various aspects of higher education, including the first year experience, retention and assessment.

The first Call for Abstracts is open and registrations for the conference will be opened in early December.

We hope you will join us in Perth as “*We guarantee your impressions will be everlasting*”.

ACEN Official Membership

Since ACEN's inception in 2005, membership has been freely available. Upon incorporation it was passed by the membership to introduce a member fee paying structure to help support the aims of the association. The first stage of offering membership started in October with Judie Kay, writing to all Australian University Vice Chancellor's inviting them to join ACEN as a Foundation Institutional Member. This membership option allows universities to pay a yearly membership of \$2200, with unlimited university staff becoming eligible members as a result. To date ACEN has received a very positive response with many universities registering their intention to join

For university staff interested in the benefits of ACEN, but whose university does not offer an institutional membership, the opportunity will exist in 2010 for you to join as individual members.

As universities register their intent to join ACEN, details will be made available on www.acen.edu.au as well as information on how individuals can join.

ACEN WIL Scholarship

ACEN received 63 applications to our first National WIL Scholarship opportunity. Applications were received from a broad range of study areas, including, engineering, education, social work, health sciences, business and law.

With applications closed as of 30 November the ACEN Scholarship working group will start reviewing all applications during December. An announcement of the successful recipient will be made in January.

National WIL Portal

Following on from the initial scoping and planning earlier this year, the National WIL Portal Project has been immersed in its consultation phase. A vital part of the consultation with Industry and Community has been the confidential online survey which has been distributed nationally via the Project's 34 university contacts and its two tier advisory structure (including national professional associations). The survey is still open and we would welcome further responses from employers involved in WIL; please contact Project Officer Melinda Bufton at Melinda.bufton@vu.edu.au or 03 9919 4805 if you're able to assist in distributing it via email. Thank you to those who have already assisted in publicising the survey, early data is providing a valuable snapshot into potential portal users' requirements.

Recent Resources

- “Opportunities for Conference and Journal Papers in WIL”, Dr Dale Holt www.acen.edu.au
- RMIT / Monash WIL Program Comparison, Dr Friederika Kaider www.acen.edu.au
- “The value of digital story telling in learning to be professional”, Jane Leng, University of Surrey <http://learningtobeprofessional.pbworks.com/Jane-Leng>
- “Medical students in no-pay offer as intern crisis bites”, The Australian, 4 Nov 2009 (available via Factiva)
- UK BIS The National Skills Strategy: “Skills For Growth” <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/skills-for-growth>
- Australian Industry Group and Deloitte National CEO Survey - Skilling Business in Tough Times, 29 Oct 2009 <http://www.aigroup.com.au/policy/reports>
- Asia Pacific Journal for Co-operative Education. Special Issue, of selected papers from the 2008 WACE-ACEN Asia Pacific Conference. Guest Editors David Jorgensen, Liz Ruinard and Deborah Peach. http://www.apjce.org/volume_10/volume10.html

Opportunities

Call for Abstracts Open - ACEN Conference

15 Dec 2009 – 15 March 2010

ACEN Conference, Curtin University, Perth
Focus - how best to respond to the Challenges of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) through:

- Assessing WIL
- Evaluating Learning Outcomes
- Partnerships
- Social Inclusion
- International: needs and opportunities

See www.acen.edu.au – conference page for details

Careers Education Consultant position

University of Western Sydney

3 days a week on a 2 year fixed term contract

<https://uws.nga.net.au/cp/> or <http://www.uws.edu.au/>

Closing 8 Dec 2009

WIL Officers x 3 positions (various campuses)

La Trobe University, Faculty of Law and Management
Contact: Professor David Spencer, Associate Dean (Academic), (03) 9479 3449