



### National Director's Message – Judie Kay



Happy New Year to everyone!

A couple of quick updates and reminders as another busy year kicks off...

- Make sure you put in your abstract by 31 March for ACEN National Conference. This will be a great chance to meet colleagues and explore ideas re WIL in Australia. Remember this is a Bi-annual conference so the next one will be in 2012! Don't miss out. Registrations are now open. [www.acen.edu.au/](http://www.acen.edu.au/)
- Congratulations to Simone Rowe of James Cook University who was selected as the inaugural ACEN WIL Scholarship. The scholarship applications highlight the financial burden many students face in completing WIL placements. The executive will be following up on this issue during the year.
- The ACEN membership drive has been very successful. The institutional members are listed in this newsletter. Check that your institution is a member and then register yourself on the ACEN website.
- ACEN state chapters are very active so make sure you come along to your states' events. The NSW Forum on 20 April on "Risk management and legal issues related to WIL" is of particular interest.

### ACEN National Executive Activities

The ACEN national executive has held its first meeting for the year with the major focus on the selection of the ACEN Scholarship winner, Conference arrangements, membership drive and AGM and governance arrangements for 2010. The next meeting will be in Sydney in April with a focus on our strategic planning. The executive is keen to hear any ideas from ACEN members so please contact any of us directly or through your state chapter.

### Up Coming Events

#### 28 – 31 March 2010

Southern African Society for Co-Operative Education Conference, South Africa  
"Human Capital Investment and Partnerships in Work Integrated Learning"

<http://www.sasceconference.co.za/>

#### 7-9 April 2010

CDAA National Career Conference, Adelaide  
"Greening Career Development"

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

### Up Coming Events (continued)

#### 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  
<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](http://www.nzace.ac.nz/2010_conference.shtml)

#### 20 April 2010

ACEN NSW/ACT Forum

"Risk management and legal issues related to Work Integrated Learning"

University of Technology Sydney, Ultimo

#### 1st Week of May 2010 (day TBC)

ACEN Western Australia

Workshop by Steven Billett

- Professor of Adult and Vocational Education
- Editor-in-Chief: Vocations and Learning: Studies in vocational and professional education
- ALTC National Teaching Fellow 2009

#### 23 - 25 June 2010

WACE Symposium, Graz, Austria

"Best and next practices: Bridging the gap between Higher Education & Employers through Work integrated learning, Cooperative and Experiential education"

<http://www.waceinc.org/graz/index.html>

#### 1st Week of July 2010 (day TBC)

ACEN Western Australia

Workshop on Professional Education

Dr Anne Edwards, Dean of Education, Oxford

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#### 29 September – 1 October 2010

ACEN National Conference

"Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges"

Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

- Registrations now open
- Abstracts closing 31 March 2010

<http://www.acen.edu.au/>

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#### 3-4 November 2010

ePortfolios Australia Conference 2010, Melbourne

- To receive updates register at:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FN8K9VJ>

## WACE Conference, Hong Kong

Australia was well represented with 29 Australian delegates attending this conference in the first week of February at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and presenting over 20 papers. Ian Goulter VC of Charles Sturt University was a respondent to the keynote address and Judie Kay was on an educational panel with speakers from South Africa, USA, Canada and Thailand. The conference had 248 delegates from 22 countries and featured 75 Parallel Sessions, with a contingent of 45 from Thailand. Comments from some of the Australian contingent with their highlights:

*"The WACE conference was an affirmative experience. It reinforced my confidence in the high quality of our current thinking and planning about our approaches to, and implementation of learning in the workplace and community. The emphasis on the importance of building relationships; the ongoing process of getting to know students and industry partners well in order to meet their needs supported by time and resources, including the sharing and acknowledgment of success, was of particular relevance."* **Sue Dodd Victoria University**



*"It was pleasing to glean from the recent conference in Hong Kong the exciting development opportunities that exist in the area. I was particularly pleased to note that there appears to be little if any work being carried out in the Indigenous area of study, which presents great opportunity for development in this field at the University of Newcastle and particularly in planning for the revision of the Bachelor of Aboriginal Studies to cater for this emerging professional work exposure."* **Professor John Lester & Gina Caddies University of Newcastle**



*"The student panel .... the students were articulate and interesting in what they had to say and I was particularly impressed as many of the students had undertaken their internships away from their home city."* **Beverly Jackling, Victoria University**

*"I found the conference an excellent opportunity to learn from those institutions with long standing programs, giving me a chance to understand some of the pitfalls. I was particularly impressed by the overseas participants being willing to share their experiences in a language not their own."* **Andrea McCall, Monash University**

*"It was a great relief to find out that other WIL practitioners are struggling with the exact same issues that I am, of the many things I took from the conference, this one realisation would've made it worthwhile."* **Joyce Mc Kenzie Victoria University**

*"What I enjoyed was meeting colleagues from both our local and global surrounds, sharing practice - and problem solving on common challenges, such as the need for more evidence based practice and preparing students from diverse backgrounds for the WIL experience."*



**Louise Dunn Swinburne University**



**ACEN network dinner in Hong Kong**



**Touring the sites of Hong Kong New Year!**

## Australian WIL Research Meeting, Hong Kong

A meeting of Australian delegates prior to the conference discussed the development of the Australian WIL research and scholarship agenda. This ACEN meeting was co-chaired by David Jorgensen (CQU) and Stephen Crump (University of Newcastle). Issues discussed included avenues for publishing WIL research and the establishment of a database of WIL researchers in Australia. ACEN is intending to hold a research forum associated with the upcoming ACEN Conference in Perth in September this year. It is envisaged a 'WIL Research Symposium' inviting acknowledged Australian WIL educational leaders and researchers will provide a kick-start to greater activity, co-ordination and collaboration on the national Australian WIL research and scholarship.

### **ALTC Fellowship: Benchmarking partnerships for Graduate Employability**

Professor Beverley Oliver, from Curtin University of Technology, is currently engaged in this Fellowship which seeks to engage colleagues in benchmarking course/program quality with a focus on graduate achievement of key attributes and capabilities. She is currently visiting universities to meet with interested staff. Related areas are:

- Graduate attributes, mapping curricula
- Graduate/employer feedback (including the Graduate Employability Indicators, new surveys capturing perceptions of graduates, employers and teaching teams on graduate achievement)
- E-portfolios
- Benchmarking on all of the above using common resources and evidence.

By surveying graduates, employers and the course teaching team about their perceptions on the importance and demonstration of fourteen employment capabilities and triangulating the responses, course teams can gain important information about the strengths and areas for improvement in their courses/programs. The Graduate Employability Indicators (GEI) highlight areas in which employers feel more focus is needed, allowing course teams to review their curricula to better address graduate capabilities for professional placements or other forms of work-integrated learning, as well as the wider world of post-graduation employability. The data can also provide a starting point for conversations between academic staff and employers about employment capabilities and how readily these can be taught in an academic or employment context. Similarly, curriculum maps which capture where capabilities are contextualised, embedded and assessed, as levels of authentic assessment, can be very helpful benchmarking tools.

See: <http://graduateemployability.curtin.edu.au>

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



**A reminder that the Call for Abstracts for the upcoming ACEN 2010 National Conference in Perth 29 Sept – 1 Oct closes 31 March ([www.acen.edu.au](http://www.acen.edu.au))**

This conference promises to be really informative with early indications that a large number of Australian

and International experienced WIL practitioners and researchers will be attending. Pre-conference workshops will be run on Tuesday 28 September with further details available shortly. So make sure you get your abstract in and don't miss this conference. Next ACEN conference not until 2012!

### **ACEN WIL Scholarship**

Congratulations to Simone Rowe, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor of Social Work student at James Cook University, on becoming the inaugural awardee of the ACEN WIL Scholarship.

Simone submitted an excellent application and was unanimously selected by the Scholarship Panel from amongst 70 applicants from across Australia.

In April she will commence her 13 week placement with Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns, to assist the organisation to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes.

Simone is passionate about working with Indigenous Australians and has a great desire “to assist others to live to their potential.” This led her to seek out the health service in order to make a contribution towards reducing the disproportionate poor health affects which occur within the Cairns Indigenous community.

We wish Simone all the best for her placement and look forward to hearing of her progress throughout the semester and at the National Conference.

### **ACEN Membership**

This drive has been an outstanding success resulting in 27 universities to date becoming foundation members of ACEN. If you have not already done so ensure that you register yourself as a member if you are a staff member of any of the universities listed below. Individual memberships are also available.

- Australian Catholic University
- Bond University
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Notre Dame Australia
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- University of South Australia
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Victoria University

## Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates

(full details available at [www.acen.edu.au](http://www.acen.edu.au))



### Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

Please see website for future meetings, events and updates



### VicTas - Dineli Mather

A very belated happy new year to you!

Trust you all had a good break and you are energised and ready for the challenges 2010 will bring your way!

We haven't set a date for our first ACEN meeting yet but I am hoping it will be just before Easter. Please let me know if you have any items you would like included in the agenda. [dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au](mailto:dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au)



### NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

ACEN NSW/ACT will hold its first forum of the year on 20 April. Following the success of our half-day forums last year we have extended this one to a whole day. The aim of the forum is to provide an opportunity for ACEN members from city and regional universities in NSW and ACT to focus on *Risk Management and Legal issues related to Work Integrated Learning*. We would like to extend a welcome to any ACEN members nationally to attend.

The program is currently being finalised and there are some spots for presenting. Possible topics for consideration are:

- managing OHS risk in students on placement with a focus on the division of responsibilities between the University and workplace
- issues of confidentiality and privacy, with focus on corporate 'secrets' and working in high risk environments, such as policing, teaching, social work, etc
- managing psychological risks such as consequences of workplace bullying or unpleasant outcomes of experiences, eg. dealing with death as a nurse

If possible it would be great to have both a person with specialist knowledge in the area, eg OHS person, and a person involved in placements to share their anecdotal experience. ACEN NSW/ACT welcomes any suggestions for speakers or topics. Contact Jill Kelton, Careers Service Manager (Education) with the Faculty of Economics & Business at the University of Sydney [jill.kelton@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jill.kelton@sydney.edu.au)

To register for the forum go to the ACEN website and click on the NSW/ACT network link.



### SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

Please see website for future meetings, events and updates



### Western Australia – Jennie Walsh

The start of the year has seen extensive work being undertaken on the upcoming 2010 National Conference. WA State members who would like to volunteer their time to assist either prior to the conference or at the conference are asked to contact Jennie Walsh on [j.e.walsh@curtin.edu.au](mailto:j.e.walsh@curtin.edu.au)

## Recent Resources

- Issues in Educational Research  
Volume 20, Number 1, 15 February 2010  
Special issue on Service Learning, compiled by guest editor Dr Anne Power  
<http://www.iier.org.au/iier.html>

## Opportunities

### Call for Abstracts Open - ACEN Conference

15 Dec 2009 – 31 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](http://www.acen.edu.au) – conference page for details

### PhD Scholarships – Closes 3 March 2010

Charles Sturt University (North Parramatta Campus)  
Research areas for practice-based education and workplace learning include:

- Work place learning experiences of students, academics and fieldwork educators/supervisors;
- Sustainable partnerships with industry;
- Practice-based education: teaching, assessment and curricula, readiness for work and employability;
- Understanding professional practice;
- Practice-based education: pedagogy, discourse in disciplines;
- Transitions: from student to graduate, from practitioner to academic;
- Practice-based education: standards and quality;
- Indigenous strategy for CSU

Contact Dr Donna Bridges [dbridges@csu.edu.au](mailto:dbridges@csu.edu.au)