

### National Director's Message – Judie Kay



ACEN National Conference preparation is progressing well with over 140 abstracts received to date. The Research and Scholarship Roundtable to be held on 27 September has also received a lot of interest. We already have presenters from all over Australia as well as a number from New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom. A conference not to be missed.

Stay tuned for a service / community learning interest group of ACEN which will be launched at the National Conference, to be chaired by Prof Barbara Holland and Carol-joy Patrick.

OHS and issues in relation to Fair Work Australia have been discussed extensively in recent months. The implications for WIL programs in Australia were the focus at recent Vic/Tas and NSW meetings. To determine if your not-for-credit programs can continue, universities are encouraged to seek legal advice to ensure programs comply with the Act. Read on for more information on The Fair Work Act and WIL Placements.

For more State events see the Around the Grounds Chapter Chair updates section of the newsletter.

The National Executive has decided to expand the ACEN WIL scholarship scheme. Funds permitting scholarships will be awarded each year and ACEN will actively advocate for sustainable support systems to assist students with economic and related hardships to undertake WIL. Read about Simone Rowe our inaugural ACEN Scholarship recipient later in this newsletter.

The WIL Portal project is progressing well with specifications currently being developed in the lead up to a call for expressions of interest.

And last but not least the National Executive bids farewell and a sincere thank you to Jennie Walsh and Linda Cuttris. Jennie, who recently retired from Curtin, has been involved in ACEN from its inception as Chair for WA. She worked tirelessly to establish ACEN's governance arrangements and until recently was the 2010 conference convenor. Linda has resigned from Charles Darwin University to move back to Victoria. Many thanks for all your support Linda. We welcome Sonia Ferns as the elected Chair WA and Dr Jim Elliot who has been co-opted as 2010 conference convenor.

### Special Announcement



#### Call for Papers - Special Edition of the Asia-Pacific Journal for Cooperative Education

Presenters of the ACEN 2010 National Conference "*Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Responding to Challenges*" are invited to submit a full version of their conference paper for the Special Edition of the Asia-Pacific Journal for Cooperative Education.

#### Important dates:

Full paper submission: 29 Oct, 2010

Reviewers' feedback: 22 Nov, 2010

Final paper submission: 17 Dec, 2010

Papers to be submitted as a MS Word document directly to the Editor-in-Chief ([editor@apjce.org](mailto:editor@apjce.org)).

Papers should not have been submitted or published elsewhere but can be extended or refined versions of conference papers.

### Up Coming Events

#### 17 June 2010, 11.30am-3.00pm

Charles Sturt University, North Parramatta Campus  
"Deconstructing the Nature of Work-Integrated Learning: Seeking a working definition of Cooperative Education and Work-Integrated Learning"

- Assoc Prof Richard Coll (keynote speaker)

RSVP – Deborah – [dwoodhouse@csu.edu.au](mailto:dwoodhouse@csu.edu.au)

#### 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>

#### 26 - 30 July 2010

ICT Careers Week, is being held to raise awareness of events throughout the year that profiles careers in ICT in a positive way. See [www.ictcareersweek.info](http://www.ictcareersweek.info) for more information

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#### 29 September – 1 October 2010

ACEN National Conference

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

Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

- Early bird registration now open

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

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#### 3-4 November 2010

ePortfolios Australia Conference 2010, Melbourne  
Details: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FN8K9VJ>

## Congratulations

In May, Associate Professor Dineli Mather, was appointed to the new position of Director of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) within the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at Deakin University. It is believed that this is a first within Australian higher education. The creation of the position represents a timely and strategic response to current debate about the need for a National Internship Scheme, initiated by Universities Australia. Let's hope other universities follow suit.

## NZACE Conference



The New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education (NZACE) recently hosted their annual conference at the Sport and Rugby Institute located within Massey

University, Palmerston North. The theme of the conference this year was "Providing a Competitive Advantage" which was quite apt given the location. Again the conference proved to be a useful and enlightening experience with contributions made from a wide variety of fields including education, business, sports management, tourism and science and engineering.

Beginning the conference was a thought provoking keynote address by Dr Calvin Smith, Griffith University, which explored the measures of quality in WIL experiences, but also extended to consideration of how we, as a body of researchers, can promote the value and importance of WIL with good quality data and research. This presentation positioned the conference well to engage with an invitation by Ako Aotearoa (the NZ equivalent of the ALTC) to continue to advance the investigation and enhancement of WIL across NZ. Members may be interested in visiting Ako's cooperative education community website at <http://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/communities/cooperative-education-work-integrated-learning> and contributing to this discussion.

The conclusion of the conference presented jointly by Dr Chris Eames and Dr Dave Hodges challenged those present to consider where cooperative education research is currently positioned and the future directions of research in this area. Such a theme will begin the conversation at the upcoming ACEN Conference. As cooperative education and work integrated learning begin to emerge from the shadow of broader teaching and learning research in higher education we are challenged to develop definitional and theoretical groundings for the development of this field as its own body of research. Congratulations should be extended to Murray Cullen, Southern Cross University, who was awarded the Allister McLay Award for Best Paper. Conference proceedings are available at <http://www.nzace.ac.nz/conferences/2010.shtml>

ACEN also continues to maintain direct links to NZACE through the re-election of Mr Matthew Campbell, Australian Catholic University, to the National Council of NZACE.

## The Fair Work Act and WIL Placements



During recent months it has become clear that some of the practices undertaken by universities and employers with respect to the provision of vocational placements and other forms of work experience for students may be in contravention of the Fair Work Act 2009. Through the provisions of the Act, the Government has put in place measures to protect workers and especially young workers from exploitation and ensure a safety net of fair, relevant and enforceable minimum conditions for employees. However an unexpected result of these measures is to call into question unpaid work experience style programs for university students. The Fair Work Ombudsman has clarified the interpretation of the Act and the following are some principles that both employers and university staff should consider when offering unpaid placements to university students.

1. It is only lawful for a student to undertake an unpaid work placement that is part of a vocational placement or where the student is undertaking work for a volunteer organisation.
2. Section 12 of the Fair Work Act 2009 defines vocational placement as a placement that is:
  - a. Undertaken with an employer for which a person is not entitled to be paid any remuneration; and
  - b. Undertaken as a requirement of an education or training course; and
  - c. Authorised under a law or an administrative arrangement of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory
3. Unpaid work experience will be a "requirement of an education or training course" where it is necessary for the completion of the student's qualification or enables them to receive credit towards the completion of their qualification.
4. The legality of unpaid "work observation" should be considered on a case by case basis depending on what it is actually likely to entail.
5. It is not lawful for an employer to accept work and not pay remuneration in other circumstances.
6. It is possible for parties to enter into less formal work experience arrangements other than vocational placements but only if no employment relationship (formal or informal) is entered into. Parties who are considering this should seek legal advice first.

Currently discussions are taking place between the Careers Industry Council of Australia and the Federal Government regarding the impact of the Act on Work Integrated Learning with a view to reviewing the impact of current legislation. Employers who are responsible for vocational placements in universities and who have concerns should consult the Fair Work Act website at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).

## WIL Scholarship Update – Simone Rowe



Now mid-way through my placement I am pleased to report upon an experience that is proving deeply rewarding, challenging and inspiring; both personally and professionally. As this year's ACEN

WIL scholarship recipient, I feel truly fortunate to be relieved of the financial costs inherent for so many students undertaking field education in the current socioeconomic climate. It is without this financial strain that I recognise I have been far better placed to embrace the full richness of this learning experience. How fortunate I have felt to be able to suspend my employment for this period with the knowledge that I can continue to pay the rent! Being able to purchase appropriate clothing and meet all necessary travel and related expenses has enabled me to focus more explicitly upon embracing the full depth of this truly significant learning experience.

As my first real opportunity to translate my passion for human rights and social justice through the integration of social work theory to practice, this experience has already proven invaluable. Working with particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, I have frequently felt inspired by the potential social work's broad knowledge base provides in helping to make a real difference to people's lives. Equally, I have repeatedly been confronted by the significant challenge to help realise social justice in a society so driven by neo-liberal and economic rationalist agendas; a society that continues to give primacy to material concerns over social justice and welfare imperatives. Learning to temper my desire to fight against systemic and institutional injustices whilst working on an individual scale has perhaps been my greatest challenge thus far. Applying a critical lens to many of the individual and social issues I observe, I continue to question where it is that I will be best placed to help realise the radical social change I most wish to achieve.

Prior to commencing my placement at Wuchopperen (an Indigenous Health Service located in Cairns), I have long felt driven to work in some capacity with Offenders and/or Indigenous Australians. To date, much of my studies and research has been focussed specifically upon the significant over-representation of Indigenous Australians in the Criminal Justice System. Seeking to locate myself at Wuchopperen's Social Health Unit was in part motivated by a desire to develop my understanding of the specific forms of systemic and institutional injustices contributing to this concerning social issue.

Choosing to be placed at an exclusively Indigenous organisation was motivated also by my desire to develop an interpersonal and theoretical understanding of culturally appropriate frameworks for practice. With an Indigenous social worker as my supervisor, as well as numerous opportunities to work alongside other Indigenous workers, I have felt fortunate to be provided ample opportunity to learn to work more effectively across cultural differences. Admittedly at times I have felt confronted and

challenged by the power and privilege associated with my status as a white Western woman working in this context. And yet equally I have been surprised by the ease with which one can transcend race, colour and culture by consciously connecting first and foremost with one's basic humanity.

Thus far this placement experience continues to fuel my desire to work toward achieving greater social justice for Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders. Given my passion also for research, I remain alert to many of the potential opportunities in this field. At this particular point in time however, I feel confident that I am exactly where I am supposed to be. Indeed as I reflect upon the intensity of my learning over the past seven weeks, I am conscious most that this is a form of learning simply unattainable through the university environment. In closing, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to ACEN's Scholarship Panel for the significant contribution it has made to my personal and professional desire to help realise a more just, equal and humane society.

## ACEN Membership

The membership drive has been an outstanding success resulting in 25 universities to date becoming foundation members of ACEN. A further 5 have indicated their intention to join (\*). If you are a staff member of any of the universities listed below and you have not already done so please ensure that you register yourself as a member. Individual memberships are also available.

- *Australian Catholic University\**
- Bond University
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Deakin University
- *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
- University of Canberra
- *University of Melbourne\**
- University of New England
- *University of New South Wales\**
- *University of Newcastle\**
- University of Notre Dame Australia
- University of South Australia
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- Victoria University

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



### 3rd Keynote Speaker Confirmed

In addition to Professor Mantz Yorke and Ms Mary Hicks, we are pleased to announce that we have a third keynote speaker in **Mr Peter Tyree** President, Business/Higher Education Round Table.

Peter is the former Chairperson of the Tyree Group of Companies, one of the largest non public companies in Australia. As an electrical engineer he has a diverse knowledge in the areas of energy, waste water treatment facilities, and electrical conductors. Peter's 'give to society' attitude has seen him work in charitable and industry bodies as well as keeping long term relationships with several universities. His relationship with these universities has been as a member of a number of committees, School and Faculty Advisory Boards and Foundations, particularly at the University of Wollongong, University of Sydney and the University of NSW. These relationships have given Peter deep insights into the importance of Business/Higher Education relationships.

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### Key dates

#### Papers:

- 7 June 2010 - Full paper submission
- 15 July 2010 - Papers reviewed and revision comments to authors
- 31 July 2010 - Final date for submission of revised full papers

#### Registrations:

- 30 June 2010 - Early bird registration

#### Conference program:

- Draft version available at [www.acen.edu.au](http://www.acen.edu.au)

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### Reviewers Needed

Reviewers are still required to review full papers starting in June.

If you're interested in reviewing papers please contact Matthew - [matthew.campbell@acu.edu.au](mailto:matthew.campbell@acu.edu.au) with:

- Contact details (including title/position)
- Areas in which you research and publish
- Conference themes you are interested in reviewing (refer website)
- Previous reviewing experience
- Number of papers you are able to review

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### Pre Conference WIL Research and Scholarship Roundtable

Interested in research or scholarship in Work Integrated Learning? Then here is an opportunity for you to get involved in an exciting national event to explore WIL research and create research/scholarship partnerships and initiatives. This event is a precursor to the main conference at Curtin

University and will bring together renowned international researchers with experienced Australian WIL scholars. As an attendee you have an opportunity to be an active participant. The Roundtable will identify research priorities for WIL in Australia, forge research partnerships and develop collaborative, cross-institutional research initiatives.

Date: Monday 27 September 2010

Time: 1.00-5.00pm, followed by a social gathering

Venue: Murdoch University

Cost: Nil

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### Pre Conference Workshops

Attend two workshops and receive a 30% discount off the second (Research and Scholarship Roundtable not included)

#### Workshop 1 “The WIL Process: Setting up effective WIL programs”

Presenter: A/Prof Jan Orrell

Date: Tuesday 28 September 2010

Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Venue: Curtin University of Technology

Cost: \$99.00 incl GST

#### Workshop 2 “The Work of WIL: The fine balance of managing WIL workload: employer relations; and student expectations”

Presenters: Carol-joy Patrick and Dr Merrelyn Bates

Date: Tuesday 28 September 2010

Time: 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Venue: Curtin University of Technology

Cost: \$99.00 incl GST

#### Workshop 3 “Understanding and researching WIL: a workshop for new WIL researchers”

- For those interested in learning about how to research WIL

Presenters: Dr Franziska Trede and A/Prof Maree Simpson

Date: Tuesday 28 September 2010

Time: 1.00 pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Curtin University of Technology

Cost: \$99.00 incl GST

### The National WIL Portal Project



Late 2009 saw a great response to the Industry and Community Consultation, which was conducted via online survey. Over three-hundred responses were gathered, which was due to the support of

the many ACEN members involved in the project as well as partner Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce and other Partner Institution contacts. Thank you to everyone who assisted with dissemination of the survey link and encouraging their industry and community contacts to respond. The resulting data is now being analysed and forms the basis of the functional specifications which will inform the portal's design and features. Early results show much interest in and support of the portal, with many host organisations indicating a wish to work more with tertiary institutions and to utilise more streamlined systems for communication.

## Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates



### Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

A new Queensland state executive has been elected. Chair Dr Deborah Peach (QUT), is joined by Ian Devenish (CQ University), Paul Kidd (JCU), Lyris Snowden (USC), Liz Ruinard (Griffith) and Melissa Mehonoshen (USC) who was recently coopted to replace Julie Hobbins. This enthusiastic new committee met for the first time on 15 April to discuss plans for the year and to be briefed about national ACEN matters. The new group has great plans for forums and workshops on WIL that promote interaction between ACEN-Q urban and regional members. The Executive have organised activities into the portfolios of: communication, partnerships, events, research and secretariat/governance, with each member of the executive takes responsibility for one or more of these priority areas.

#### Up-coming calendar event:

Professor Stephen Billett, an ALTC national teaching Fellow in 2009-2010, will debrief on findings from his project entitled "Curriculum and pedagogic bases for effectively integrating practice-based experiences within higher education". Session is on 23 June, 10.00am-1.00pm, the Roundhouse, Griffith University, Mt Gravatt campus. RSVP required to Lainie Groundwater via email [l.groundwater@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.groundwater@griffith.edu.au)



### NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

The NSW Chapter of ACEN held a very successful forum on "Risk Management and Legal Issues related to Work Integrated Learning" on 20 April 2010. Eminent speakers included: Joe Murphy, Senior Legal Counsel, Sparke Helmore; Ian Galvin, NSW Department of Industrial Relations and Larry Drewsen, WorkCover. From the university sector speakers included Shane Griffen Director Student Recruitment and Scholarships UNSW, Malcolm McKenzie Director Student Services Unit UTS, Caroljoy Patrick School of Engineering Griffith University and Associate Professor Dineli Mather Deputy Dean Science & Technology Deakin University. Over 60 delegates attended with representation from 20 universities (including Curtin and UWA).

#### Up-coming calendar event:

Forum topic: "Evaluation & research of work-integrated-learning for academics and practitioners" Tuesday 10 August, 10.00am-4.00pm, University of Western Sydney, Parramatta campus.

Confirmed speakers: Prof Stephen Crump, Pro Vice Chancellor University of Newcastle and Prof Joy Higgs, Director Education for Practice Institute, Charles Sturt University



### VicTas - Dineli Mather

See ACEN website for updates



### SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

The SA/NT Chapter has set up project/interest groups, providing avenues for outcome based activities, and encourage active membership engagement. The three groups were established at the May meeting and met for the first time. These groups cover the following areas:

- *Research* ([helena.ward@flinders.edu.au](mailto:helena.ward@flinders.edu.au))
- *Innovation* ([verity.kingsmill@flinders.edu.au](mailto:verity.kingsmill@flinders.edu.au))
- *Symposiums* ([julia.stott@flinders.edu.au](mailto:julia.stott@flinders.edu.au))

Designed to further enhance the opportunity for collaboration and output, there is intentional crossovers between the Groups. We encourage members from the SA/NT region to join any of the groups, and/or be kept up to date with activities of each group. Please contact the applicable acting Facilitators



### Western Australia – Sonia Ferns

We would like to acknowledge Jennie Walsh's valuable contribution to ACEN WA. Jennie's drive was instrumental in the formation and success of this committee.

ACEN WA recently held elections for office bearers. Sonia Ferns was elected president and Megan Le Clus elected as secretary. Sonia and Megan look forward to working collaboratively to promote and grow ACEN WA and the WIL agenda.

#### ALTC/ACEN WIL Forum

A combined ALTC/ACEN forum was held at Murdoch University on 5 May focussing on the work being done at Murdoch University under Prof Stephen Billett's ALTC National Teaching Fellowship. In addition, work being done by Sue Jones and Helen Flavell in an ALTC project on developing leadership in workplace supervisors was showcased. Finally, Janice Dudley spoke on the Parliamentary Internship she coordinates at Murdoch, which was the basis for an ALTC Citation in 2009.

#### Recent Resources

##### Journal of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Employability

Now on line as a free e-journal. The journal was launched with an article by Professor Mantz Yorke, keynote speaker for this year's ACEN Conference Register to read articles and receive alerts when a paper is published.

<http://jtlge.curtin.edu.au/index.php/jtlge/user/registerUser>

**"Desperately seeking new set of skills"** The Age [www.theage.com.au/national/education/desperately-seeking--new-set-of-skills-20100423-ti12.html](http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/desperately-seeking--new-set-of-skills-20100423-ti12.html)

Highlighted Universities Australia's intention to put forward elements of the National Internship Scheme for consideration for this year's budget.

#### Newsletter Contributions

Send to Cait – [cait.ryan@monash.edu](mailto:cait.ryan@monash.edu) by 19/8/2010