



### National Director's Message – Judie Kay

Welcome to the first ACEN Newsletter in 2011. Already the year is well underway with loads happening across Australia and beyond. This newsletter provides information about a range of upcoming state, national and international WIL events. ACEN has organised for discounts for ACEN members at a number of these events. More details can be also found on the conference page of the ACEN website.

The ACEN National Executive is very active and held a 2 day face to face meeting in late January hosted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW). This meeting commenced our strategic planning process and a review of our vision, mission and objectives. Further information will be provided to ACEN members when this process is more progressed.

While at UNSW the National Executive was very pleased to be invited to participate in the well-attended launch of UNSW Community of Practice (WILed) by Professor Richard Henry, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic. In February another community of practice event was also held the University of Tasmania. At the half day WIL Symposium "Partnerships for the Future" a range of industry and university staff discussed key issues in relation to WIL in Tasmania. Dineli Mather, State Chair VIC/Tas presented on "AUQA – Implications for WIL" and I made a presentation on the National WIL Portal, which will be launched in May. It is great to see such active WIL communities of practice in many institutions and ACEN would be keen to highlight news of what is occurring in others.

The ACEN WIL scholarships for 2011 is now open with applications closing on 15 April 2011. I would encourage you to ensure that your students are made aware of this scholarship. This year we will be awarding 3 scholarships of \$1,000 each to support students to undertake WIL opportunities. Details opposite and at [www.acen.edu.au/news/scholarship/](http://www.acen.edu.au/news/scholarship/)

The Federal Government is currently undertaking a review of Base Funding for Higher Education with one of the questions seeking feedback on what additional costs are involved in the provision of WIL (question 3.4

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Policy/Pages/BaseFundingReview.aspx>). This is a great opportunity to make comments regarding a long standing, burning issue for the sector that was highlighted in the WIL Report. ACEN is currently

developing a submission which will be published on our website after it is submitted on the 30 March. I would welcome suggestions that can assist in developing this submission. Please email me at [judie.kay@vu.edu.au](mailto:judie.kay@vu.edu.au) as soon as possible.

Finally I would encourage you to become active in your state based ACEN chapter. There is plenty planned in each state in 2011 and plans to utilize technology to give greater access to what is happening between states. A current full list of the National Executive members is on our website including all State Chairs. Do not hesitate to contact us with ideas or suggestions.

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### Student WIL Scholarship

ACEN is once again running our WIL Scholarship program in 2011/12. Three scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students undertaking either compulsory or elective units of WIL. This scholarship aims to support students who will face economic hardship in undertaking a work integrated learning (WIL) / internship placement in Australia in 2011/12.

To be eligible, students must meet the following criteria:

- Have Australian or New Zealand citizenship, or hold an Australian permanent resident visa or permanent humanitarian visa.
- Expect to be studying at least second year level at an Australian University or TAFE College in 2011, and plan to undertake an industry or community placement as part of the program in 2011.
- Experience economic hardship in order to complete the WIL experience in 2011.

Applications close on **15 April 2011**

Go to [www.acen.edu.au/news/scholarship](http://www.acen.edu.au/news/scholarship) to view the application guidelines and online application form.

**Please circulate to colleagues and encourage students to apply**

## Upcoming Events



### International

#### 18 - 20 May 2011

Association for Co-operative Education (ACE) 2011 Conference, Victoria, BC, Canada

“Quality @ Work”

[www.co-op.bc.ca/ace2011](http://www.co-op.bc.ca/ace2011)

#### 14-17 June 2011

17<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education, Drexel University, PA, USA  
“Historic Challenges. Global Solutions”

- Early bird registration closes 1 May 2011

[www.waceinc.org/philly2011/](http://www.waceinc.org/philly2011/)



### National

Summit conducted in 2 parts

**7 April 2011** colloquium CSU Sydney Olympic Park

**13-14 April 2011** - 2 day residential at CSU Bathurst  
Summit on Practice-Based Education

- keynote presenters from among the leaders in this field in Australia and opportunities for participants to present papers and posters to share innovative practices.

[csusap.csu.edu.au/~jhiggs/altc/pages/pbe\\_summit.html](http://csusap.csu.edu.au/~jhiggs/altc/pages/pbe_summit.html)

#### 9 May 2011, 10.00am – 4.00 pm

“Community Service Learning (CSL) Summit”

Griffith University, Mt Gravatt Campus, QLD

This summit will provide an opportunity to develop a common understanding of the ranges of approaches to service learning being enacted in Australia and the relationship of service learning to work integrated learning, and then provide annual opportunities to further the policy and scholarship work in relation to SL curriculum.

**Cost:** early bird - \$145 per person; ACEN member - \$125.00; \$165 after 8 April 2011

**RSVP:** [cslsummit@griffith.edu.au](mailto:cslsummit@griffith.edu.au)

#### 17-18 May 2011

“The Inform Work Integrated Learning Forum”

Novotel Melbourne on Collins

This focused two day forum will consider the function and practice of work integrated learning. Experts on

work integrated learning (WIL) from tertiary institutions across Australia will lead the discussion on evidence-based approaches for the design and delivery of work-integrated learning. The forum will also feature two pre conference workshops exploring key characteristics of WIL practice and the needs and appropriate strategic responses for professional development of WIL academics.

- 10% discount for ACEN members

[www.informa.com.au/worklearning/ACEN](http://www.informa.com.au/worklearning/ACEN)

#### 28 June - 1 July 2011

The Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education (FYHE) Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia  
‘Design for Student Success’

- Explores WIL for 1<sup>st</sup> year students

[www.fyhe.com.au](http://www.fyhe.com.au)

#### 6-7 July 2011

Measuring and Enabling University Research and Innovation Capacity conference, Sydney

- 10% discount for ACEN members

#### 17-18 October 2011

ePortfolio Conference in WA

Curtin University, WA

The conference represents one of the first cross sectoral e-portfolio events in Australia, bringing together national and international educators and researchers from vocational education and training, higher education and adult and community education.

<http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/content/e-portfolios-australia>

### UNSW Network of Work Integrated Learning Educators (WILEd)

The UNSW Network of WILEd is for academic and professional staff members who are involved in professional placements or practicum's, fieldwork, industrial training, cooperative education, field education, service learning, international or local, internships, volunteering, mentoring and other work integrated learning opportunities for students. Learning & Teaching @ UNSW and Careers and Employment have collaborated on this project to develop a University wide network of educators who work within a professional placement context. The Network will meet 4 times per semester to share best practice and participate in focussed discussions on topics such as:

- Preparation of students
- Teaching / Supervision
- Career Development Learning
- Assessment
- Evaluation
- Systems
- Legal & Risk

**Further information contact:** Keri Moore  
[keri.moore@unsw.edu.au](mailto:keri.moore@unsw.edu.au)

## **IRU and ACCI partnership launch case studies encouraging business to engage with universities**

On 28 February, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Innovative Research Universities (IRU) launched a partnership in which they have agreed to increase opportunities for Business to work with university students. The suite of case studies and an information pack were launched by Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations at Parliament House.

Working together, ACCI and IRU have developed the suite of seven case studies, which are intended to inform and encourage business to engage with universities, providing industry relevant experience for students, across Australia:

- Worley Parsons, in conjunction with Murdoch University and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia
- VDM Consulting, EcoOz, in conjunction with Charles Darwin University and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Territory
- Yorkey's Knob Boating Club, in conjunction with James Cook University and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland
- DHI, in conjunction with Griffith University and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland
- Allandale Winery, in conjunction with the University of Newcastle, Hunter Business Chamber and the NSW Business Chamber
- Greater Shepparton City Council, in conjunction with La Trobe University and the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Comunet, in conjunction with Flinders University and Business SA

Senator Evans congratulated the two parties for undertaking a national project to boost graduate employability and encourage universities and employers to work together to offer more student work-readiness placements. This partnership will help students better understand workforce requirements and provide employers with industry skilled graduates.

Professor Ian O'Connor, Vice-Chancellor at Griffith University and Chair of the IRU, commented that the business leaders represented by ACCI, joined together with the IRU in this project because they value a university education that is enhanced by practical experience that contributes to workplace productivity and positive outcomes for students and industry.

Mary Hicks, Director of Employment, Education and Training with ACCI, noted that the partnership improves the responsiveness of universities to the diverse and shifting needs of industry and the professions. As well, work integrated learning is the way of the future for smart employers. She emphasised that WIL students provide a valuable source of work ready graduates for employers. As a result of WIL placements, students have well developed employability skills and practical workplace experience, both of which are valued by employers.

The case studies provide a compelling argument for employers to provide WIL opportunities to students.

Information and case studies: [www.acci.asn.au](http://www.acci.asn.au) (link to Graduate Skills) or <http://www.iru.edu.au/our-activities/projects.aspx>

## **ACEN 2011 Institutional Members**

Below is the list of ACEN member universities – with several more in the pipeline. An unlimited number of staff from these universities can register as individual members. If your university is a member, encourage your colleagues to register at: [www.acen.edu.au/join/](http://www.acen.edu.au/join/)

- 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
- Monash University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- University of Adelaide
- University of Canberra
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- Victoria University

## **The National WIL Portal Project**

2011 is an important year for the National WIL Portal Project; it brings us into the final project phase, including the completion of the portal from prototype to final product, the official launch once the site is live, and continued profile-building and publicity as the portal is rolled out. Current activities are centred around the populating of the site, in two ways: firstly, with data to the back end of the system via input from all universities. This data will provide the 'engine' of the site with information to carry out the automated matching process between WIL opportunities entered onto the site and the corresponding universities each time. Secondly, as the final functionality and design of the site is completed, resources for employers and host organisations will be added to support their use of the portal and participation in WIL generally. The official launch is scheduled for 19 May, at Victoria University (CBD campus). Further information available shortly, or contact Project Officer Melinda Bufton at [melinda.bufton@vu.edu.au](mailto:melinda.bufton@vu.edu.au) or (03)9919 4805



## Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates



### Western Australia – Sonia Ferns

**7-8 April and 10 May 2011**

“Academic Leadership for Fieldwork Coordinators”

An ALTC funded project lead by Curtin University, a pilot leadership program designed to assist fieldwork coordinators to manage their role, students, collegial relationships and processes more effectively, will be run in April and May this year. An important element of fieldwork coordination is fostering productive and reciprocal partnerships between fieldwork learning partners, the University and students. The Pilot’s design is based on a survey of fieldwork coordinators at Curtin and Charles Sturt Universities and builds on the work undertaken to develop and refine the Academic Leadership for Course Coordinators Program. This is a unique chance to be involved in a leadership program tailored to the needs of fieldwork coordinators and to access professional development that will not only support building academic leadership capability but also strengthen the teaching and learning of work-integrated-learning.

**RSVP:** [oa1reception@curtin.edu.au](mailto:oa1reception@curtin.edu.au)

For more information on the program or if you have any questions contact Dr Helen Flavell [h.flavell@curtin.edu.au](mailto:h.flavell@curtin.edu.au)



### VicTas - Dineli Mather

**Thursday 24 March 2011, 2:30 - 5:30pm**

**Venue:** Monash University City Campus, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne

**RSVP:** Dineli Mather [dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au](mailto:dineli.mather@deakin.edu.au)

**Cost:** Free for staff from ACEN member institutions; \$25 for non-ACEN member institutions

2:35 - 3:20pm - Vic/Tas Chapter Meeting

3:30 - 5:30pm - WIL Seminar - **“Reflection: Transforming work experience into Work Integrated Learning”**, Donna M. Qualters, Ph.D., Chair, Education and Human Services and Director, Centre for Teaching Excellence at Suffolk University

5:45 - 7:00pm - Networking drinks: Bridie O'Reilly's, 62 Little Collins Street Melbourne (first drink free)



### Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

Dr Deborah Peach, ACENQ Chair and Associate Professor David Jorgensen, ACEN Secretary have been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships (JCEI). JCEI is a leading international forum for the discussion of issues pertinent to work-integrated learning through cooperative education, internships, and other experiential programs. In 2011 the Journal will move to an open access format – giving authors a larger potential audience thereby increasing impact. The Editor of JCEI is Dr Cheryl Cates, Director, Center for Cooperative Education Research and Innovation Professor, Professional Practice University

of Cincinnati. To join an international pool of reviewers contact Deborah [d.peach@qut.edu.au](mailto:d.peach@qut.edu.au) or David [d.jorgensen@cqu.edu.au](mailto:d.jorgensen@cqu.edu.au)

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The book *Developing Learning Professionals Integrating Experiences in University and Practice Settings* (Billett, S & Henderson, A., 2011) has been published and includes a chapter from ACENQ members Dr Deborah Peach, QUT and Natalie Gamble, ACU: Scoping work integrated learning purposes, practices and outcomes [www.springer.com/education+%26+language/book/978-90-481-3936-1?changeHeader](http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/book/978-90-481-3936-1?changeHeader)

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**Wednesday 23 March 2011, 9.00am – 12.00pm**

**Venue:** Central Queensland University

- a video link will be available between CQU Rockhampton and Mackay campuses, Griffith Southbank QCA campus and JCU’s Townsville campus

**RSVP:** Ian Devenish [i.devenish@cqu.edu.au](mailto:i.devenish@cqu.edu.au)

The program will include:

- national and international WIL news
- overview of CQU’s Work Related Learning Initiative
- update on the National WIL Portal

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See also the Events section for a Griffith University Forum on Service Learning



### SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

SA/NT Chapter is planning two events in 2011.

The first forum will be a Symposium on “Challenging Paradigms in WIL” to be held during July in Adelaide (date to be confirmed). This event will be recorded and anticipated to be available to ACEN Members via the web site.

Secondly a Forum on Community Collaboration in WIL, to be held towards the end of the year. This Forum will look at Service Learning & community sector initiatives.

Both events will be free for ACEN members to attend, with a small fee for non-members to attend.



### NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

NSW/ACT Chapter will hold two events in 2011.

The first forum “Work Integrated Learning and Graduate Attributes” will be held 2 May at UTS. A/Prof Simon Barrie, Director Institute for Teaching and Learning, The University of Sydney is the keynote speaker. Contact Theresa Winchester-Seeto [theresa.winchesterseeto@mq.edu.au](mailto:theresa.winchesterseeto@mq.edu.au)

Secondly a symposium on “Work Integrated Learning and the curriculum” will be held in September.

## E-portfolios, employability and WIL: special interest group

### Call for expressions of interest

**Introduction:** There is a natural link between WIL and employability - and e-portfolios might be one of the ways of connecting them. ACEN members who are interested in exploring this nexus are welcome to join this special interest group. The group activities will be decided by its members in due course, but at a minimum, they are expected to include an email list to share information and connect members, a brief update in the ACEN newsletter, and perhaps occasional meetings as part of larger events (such as the ACEN conference). Regular reports of developments and activities will be reported to the ACEN Executive.

**Background:** Reflective learning, particularly in relation to WIL, is a key facet of employability and e-portfolios are often helpful vehicles for the creation and management of reflections and evidence of learning. Employability can be a strong driver for learners to engage with e-portfolios as in many systems, students can personalise the view that they present to different prospective employers (although the assumption that employers will or want to access student portfolios is questionable) (JISC InfoNet, 2009). E-portfolios are a way of demonstrating evidence of "softer skills" to employers, such as teamwork and communication and similar capabilities highlighted in this fellowship (Stefani, Mason, & Pegler, 2007). In some industries, such as medicine and related subjects, professional bodies require evidence of continuous professional development for maintaining registration (Halstead & Wheeler, 2009). This has obvious links to e-portfolio use by undergraduates who intend working in such industries, and their continued use beyond graduation is encouraged.

**Who's invited?** Anyone with an interest in this topic - from the highly experienced to the interested observer. To register interest, email Beverley Oliver ([b.oliver@curtin.edu.au](mailto:b.oliver@curtin.edu.au))

## ALTC Petition

Recently the Federal Government announced it would abolish the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). This has been almost universally denounced by Universities and their staff as it will detract significantly from the national Learning and Teaching Scholarship and Research activity and progression, including WIL Scholarship and Research.

ACEN will be sending a formal submission to the government indicating our disappointment and displeasure at the announced closure. However as individual ACEN members, we strongly encourage you to voice your displeasure and to sign a petition (unless you agree with the move?) to reverse this decision. To do so please go to:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/43767.html>

## Job Opportunities

### Internships Support Officer

Faculty of the Professions  
The University of Adelaide

▪ Closes 21 March 2011

[www.adelaide.edu.au/jobs](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/jobs)

## ACEN Newsletter Contributions

Member contributions welcomed.

- articles
- upcoming events
- news
- photos
- member profile
- program profile
- job or voluntary opportunities
- new resources

Send to [enquiries@acen.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@acen.edu.au)