



### National Director's Message – Judie Kay

Over the last months since our last newsletter the expansion of interest in WIL in Australia continues to be evident with a range of extremely well attended events including NSW Chapter Symposium on WIL and Graduate Attributes in Sydney, the inaugural Service Learning Summit in Brisbane, launch of the National WIL Portal and the WIL conference run by Informa in Melbourne. More details on several of these later in the bulletin and some resources from the NSW forum will be shortly available on the ACEN website.

An outcome of the ACEN Research Symposium held in Perth in October 2010 was identification of key areas for further national research. The ACEN Executive documented the outcomes and met with the ALTC late in 2010 to progress this further. ACEN is pleased that one of the key research areas has now progressed to an ALTC commissioned project with a current call for submissions. The project, "Assessing the Impact of Work Integrated Learning on student work readiness", will provide insights into the impact of WIL. ACEN, as indicated in the project brief, has agreed to consult with the successful applicants and assist in disseminating project findings. Another ALTC project to look out for is the Good Practice Report currently underway and due for completion soon. This project aims to pull together the key findings from all previous ALTC projects that are often discipline specific to give us an overview of major findings for WIL nationally.

The National Executive is busy with a range of projects. The Executive has decided in the light of ACEN's recent growth and as a due diligence measure to undertake an external review of the ACEN governance arrangements. Quotes are being received from a number of firms and any changes will be put to an AGM. The ACEN WIL Scholarship round has now closed. A large number of applications were received and a selection process is underway. An announcement will be made on the ACEN website by the end of June.

The ACEN AGM will be held on 15 June 3pm (EST) by teleconference and I would encourage as many as possible to participate. The details are on the website and will be emailed to all members. At this AGM a number of national executive members will be elected. One member of the executive who has decided not to stand for re election to the executive is Cait Ryan however she will remain an ACEN member. On behalf of all ACEN members I want to thank Cait for her tremendous contribution in many

ways but the most visible is this newsletter, which has been invaluable in keeping all of us informed about WIL nationally and internationally.

This week I travel to the USA and Canada primarily to attend the WACE World conference in Philadelphia. The conference is being held at Drexel University with attendees from many countries including Australia with 38 attending. As is our custom ACEN is organising a networking event for those Australians. There are several other events preceding the conference including an International Research Symposium which Heather Smeigel and I will attend to represent Australia and a meeting of National Associations which I am co-chairing. This meeting will be seeking to establish greater collaboration between the associations across the world.

Finally State Chapters have lots planned in Semester 2 so keep an eye out for that information. The 'Call for Abstracts' for the 2012 National Conference to be held in Geelong in late October will soon be announced so start planning your abstracts!

### The National WIL Portal Project

The National WIL Portal was launched on 19 May and is now operational. The launch event was well attended, with 120 guests from 20 universities, all major industry groups, local and state government representative and a number of key employers and members from the ACEN National Executive present. Glen Withers from Universities Australia and Megan Lilley from Australian Industry Group officially launched the portal, emphasising their delight with the initiative and the key communication and collaboration needs it will begin to address for all stakeholders. The press release is on the ACEN website along with links to media coverage from The Australian and Campus Review.



L-R – **Dr Glenn Withers**, Chief Executive Officer, Universities Australia; **Professor David Lamond**, Dean Business and Law Victoria University; **Ms Judie Kay**, National Director, ACEN; **Professor Peter Dawkins**, Vice-Chancellor and President, Victoria University; **Mr Malcolm Farrow**, Professions Australia

## Upcoming Events



### International

#### 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

#### 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

#### 30-31 August 2011

Partnerships between Employers & Tertiary Education Conference, Sydney.

This conference will share insights and practical case studies on the development of sustainable partnerships between Industry, community and tertiary education providers. It will focus on how to strengthen collaboration to build capacity in employers and the tertiary sector to drive productivity and successful participation in the workforce.

- 10% discount for ACEN members  
[www.tertiaryindustry.com](http://www.tertiaryindustry.com)

#### 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>

#### 20-21 October 2011

ATN Assessment Conference 2011  
Curtin University, Perth  
"Meeting the Challenges"  
<http://otl.curtin.edu.au/atna2011/>



#### 29 October 2012

ACEN Conference – Research Symposium  
Hosted by Victoria University, Melbourne

and

#### 30 October – 2 November 2012

ACEN Conference – "Collaborative Education: Investing in the Future"  
Hosted by Deakin University, Geelong

- [www.acen.edu.au/conference2011](http://www.acen.edu.au/conference2011)

### ACEN 2011 Institutional Members

Below is the list of ACEN member universities. 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
- Australian National 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
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of Adelaide
- University of Canberra
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of Newcastle
- University of Notre Dame
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- Victoria University

Queries please contact [admin@acen.edu.au](mailto:admin@acen.edu.au)

## Around the Grounds: Chapter Chair Updates



### Western Australia – Sonia Ferns

The WA Chapter of ACEN offer congratulations to Professor Beverley Oliver from Curtin University on winning an ALTC National Fellowship. Professor Oliver's research will explore graduate employability further; promote the WIL agenda across the higher education sector; and establish networks and collaborative opportunities. Further details about the Fellowship and an invitation to participate in the community of practice are below.

Assuring Graduate Capabilities: evidencing levels of achievement for graduate employability. Graduate employability is the achievement of 'skills, understandings and personal attributes that make graduates more likely to secure employment and be successful in their chosen occupations to the benefit of themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy' (Yorke, 2006 p.8). It is well established that work integrated learning enhances employability. Through this Australian Learning and Teaching Council National Teaching Fellowship, Beverley Oliver is hoping to engage curriculum leaders of undergraduate courses from any discipline to work with their colleagues, industry partners, students and graduates to:

- define course-wide levels of achievement in key capabilities, articulated through standards rubrics
- implement strategies to evidence student achievement of those standards (through student portfolios and course review portfolios)
- share the challenges and opportunities of such approaches through research and scholarly publications.

Colleagues are encouraged to join the Assuring Graduate Capabilities website (<http://tiny.cc/boliver>) to access an introduction to these concepts and a community of practice and scholarship.

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Last call: Be part of a new ACEN ePortfolios interest group, starting soon. Contact Beverley Oliver ([b.oliver@curtin.edu.au](mailto:b.oliver@curtin.edu.au))

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The start of 2011 has seen ACEN WA focus on establishing a closer working relationship with the WA division of NAGCAS. Linking the WIL and career agendas obviously has strong benefits for students, employers and universities. Curtin University's Annual Career Fair and the Big Meet Career Fair (where all other WA universities are represented) provided a good platform for over 200 employers to engage with students attending WA tertiary institutions to explore their career planning as relevant to a variety of WIL opportunities including vacation employment, internships and work experience positions. Curtin's Career Fair was held on 23 March and the Big Meet Career Fair was on 24 March. Approximately 4000 students attended Curtin's Career Fair and 2 700 attended the Big Meet Career Fair. Both days were very successful events.



### VicTas - Dineli Mather

Meeting 2 and WIL seminar: Thursday 15 September 3:00pm hosted by Melbourne University in Parkville

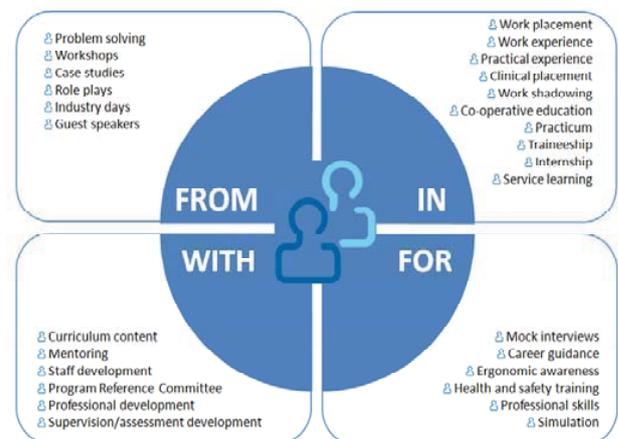


### Queensland - Dr Deborah Peach

The first ACENQ event for 2011 was held in March. The event was hosted by CQUniversity and linked CQUniversity's Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone campuses with Griffith's Southbank campus and JCU Townsville campus. Over 30 people attended, with staff from QUT, Sunshine Coast University and JCU joining from Southbank.

After a welcome and ACEN overview, presentations were delivered on CQUniversity's Work Related Learning Initiative, the National WIL Portal, CQUniversity Bachelor of Multimedia Studies, WIL in the Careers and Employment Services and Bachelor of Professional Communication.

The presentation by CQUniversity's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Professor Robert Reed on CQUniversity's Work Related Learning Initiative was of particular interest as it highlighted how CQUniversity delineates between WIL and the other work related activities that are undertaken. A copy of one of Rob's slides is provided below that defines the work related learning activities under From, In, With and For categories, with WIL being in the "In" category.



It was pleasing to see the continued growth in attendance at these events, and the increasing variety of programs that attendees represent.

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Australia's First Service Learning Summit: Monday May 9 2011

One hundred people from 22 different Australian Universities, and several community organisations met for Australia's first service learning summit on Monday May 9 at Griffith University. The event was co-hosted by ACEN, and also by AUCEA and

Volunteering Queensland. At ACEN's most recent conference in Perth, 2010, a Service Learning chapter of ACEN was launched with membership from 17 different Australian universities.

As WIL has grown in Australia, there has been a slow but definite interest growing in service learning (SL) as a form of WIL delivery - with the added benefits of universities being more responsive to their broader community, not just meeting employer demands for better prepared graduates through WIL experiences. This is not the only reason for the growth of SL. SL has taken place in many Australian universities for a very long time - but has not seen widespread use. The growing interest is also related to a re-emergence of the University considering its responsibility to support the development of the "good citizen", and to fulfil those types of goals through their stated graduate attribute statements. SL and WIL staff are similar (and very often the same) - in that they often work from within a discipline - and may be the only person using SL curriculum within that discipline/school etc. Hence - holding an event such as the Summit - gives them an opportunity to come together to discuss commonalities across disciplines, and to meet other people from similar disciplines but in other institutions.

As this was the first ever gathering of Service Learning staff, we used the event to collect information about the state of SL in Australia, and participants spent much of the day in Round Table discussions. Those discussions are being compiled and sent to all participants. However, we did a quick collation on the day with the facilitators giving a brief report on what they experienced on their tables during the day and I have attached that quick and raw compilation here for you in case it is of any use. (I think I have picked up the typos - I was typing this as it was being presented to the group and haven't had time to read it to ensure it all makes total sense.)

Participants were asked to identify whether they were Beginners, Intermediate, Competent or Expert in Service Learning and interestingly, almost 60% identified as being beginner or intermediate - acknowledging the need to learn more about SL, and the remaining 40% considered themselves competent or expert. This is indicative that many universities are in the early stages of implementing more service learning, or taking a more centralised approach to encouraging service learning. Interestingly, many of those who attended the summit, (around 50%) were experienced in WIL.

According to the participants, the highlights were:

- Being able to be together and network
- Barbara Holland and Carol Nicoll's keynote presentations
- Having a community voice and student voice at each of the discussion tables (we had a student representative and community person at each of the 9 discussion tables)
- Focus on small group discussions with immediate report-back mechanisms

We were very fortunate to have Professor Barbara

Holland give the morning keynote because she has been in Australia for the last four years and is returning to the US next week. She is one of the most eminent academics and speakers on SL in the U.S. Barbara is the chair of the ACEN Service Learning chapter.

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The next ACENQ event is 25 July (10-12noon) hosted by JCU. The theme will be Service Learning - opportunities and challenges with guest speaker Professor Barbara Holland. Further information contact JCU staff Paul Kidd, Lisa Westcott or Leon Vecchio.



### SA / NT – Verity Kingsmill

Planning is underway for the SA/NT Innovations in WIL Symposium later this year. The Symposium will provide the opportunity to review innovative collaborations and varying levels of WIL engagement. More details to come.



### NSW / ACT - Freny Tayebjee

The ACEN NSW/ACT Chapter held a very successful Forum on "Work Integrated Learning and Graduate Attributes" on 2 May 2011 at the University of Technology, Sydney. Over 80 people attended from 17 universities – including 5 interstate and one international university.

It was an excellent forum which provided delegates with the opportunity to hear eminent and engaging speakers as well as to network with other staff involved and interested in Work Integrated Learning.

The keynote speaker Prof Simon Barrie presented on *Educating students in a worthwhile way: Graduate attributes, curriculum renewal and community engaged learning and teaching*; Prof Beverley Oliver explained her model "Learning for Graduate Employability"; Pauline O'Laughlin and Lisa Anderson described some of their multi disciplinary, very inspiring projects which had a social justice focus; Prof Ieva Stupans focused on learning in clinical placements and Martin Smith linked graduate attributes with Work Integrated Learning and lifelong learning.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and indicated that:

- 100% found the forum interesting and relevant
- 100% were satisfied with the quality of the forum
- 95% considered the forum promoted the exchange and development of new ideas and practice

Recordings of presentations and powerpoints will be on the web shortly.

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The next forum of the NSW Chapter of ACEN will be held in September 2011. Details will be on the web by end June.

## Articles / Resources

### Quality in Higher Education Journal

“Academic freedom and grading: the role of placement providers”, Ian Martin, Monash University  
Online publication date: 08 April 2011  
Article available via [Informaworld](#)

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“For recent grads the real world proves tough, but not impossible”

Posted: 20 May 2011

Article available via – [The Work Buzz](#)

## Job Opportunities

### Director: Careers Service

Centre for Higher Education Development  
University of Cape Town

- Closing date – 17 June 2011

<http://www.uct.ac.za/about/intro/vacancies/external/>

### Professor in Work Integrated Learning

The University of Sydney

- Position to be advertised in the near future

<http://sydney.edu.au/positions/>



ACTS invites you to participate in the 2011 Green Gown Awards Australasia. All education institutes are encouraged to participate including: Universities, TAFEs, Registered Training Organisations etc.

Applications open on Tuesday 14 June, and closes midday Friday 5 August 2011

[www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

## 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)