



Early Childhood Teachers' Association Inc

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Annual Presidents Report ECTA 2009

2009 has proven to be an exceptional year for early childhood in Queensland and across Australia.

ECTA has been active in informing members of federal and state initiatives throughout the year and advocating on their behalf. The coordinating committee allocated substantial funds for advocacy work this year so that ECTA representatives could attend meetings on behalf of members at a state and national level. This included participation at key stakeholder forums in Melbourne on the reform of early childhood education and care through the National Quality Agenda. These reforms comprise national standards, a ratings framework and enhanced regulatory arrangements to develop a unified national system and will affect all members working in prior to school settings. Other representations included the QSA Early Years Syllabus Advisory Committee and the QLD Children's Services Alliance. We continue to monitor the progress of the Continued Professional Development (CPD) Framework and teacher registration for teachers working outside of school settings.

ECTA made submissions on behalf of members to the Reform Impact Statement, Early Childhood Teachers' Award Modernisation and the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings all of which will affect education and care staff in Pre-Prep and childcare settings. ECTA also facilitated a regional workshop on behalf of ECA who are drafting Teaching Australia's standards for early childhood advanced teaching and leadership.

This year ECTA nominee for the National Awards for Quality Schooling, Libby Gaedtke, won a Highly Commended Excellence in Teaching Award. Libby was nominated by ECTA because of her work coordinating our state regional groups, her own regional group in Hervey Bay and mentoring teachers in her local area in using ICTs. She does all this along with her continued advocacy for early childhood and her passion for teaching.

As ECTA Regional Groups Coordinator Libby keeps Bayside, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Fitzroy, Mackay and Cairns regional groups informed of professional development opportunities, passes on information from the committee and maintains a webpage for each of the regional groups. During 2009 the Cairns regional Group held a conference in conjunction with C&K. Fitzroy, Gladstone, Gympie and Hervey Bay regional groups organised music workshops by Sue Southey and the Gympie and Gladstone groups organised science workshops by Jill Kearney. Regional groups also came together for Videolinq presentations and those who were unable to access Videolinqs due to site unavailability took advantage of the new video streaming option to hold PD sessions around the presentations. We have had interest in forming additional groups and look forward to finalising these next year. Contact Libby at herveybayrg@ecta.org.au if you are interested in having a regional group established in your area.

I would like to thank QUT and OLI for their ongoing partnership with ECTA to provide Videolinq workshops of high quality to our members, students and others throughout the year. Videolinqs are now streamed so that members may continue to access the recording via the Members Only section of our website. This year the streaming of three of the videolinqs was also made available to the public via a link posted on our website for one month after each videolinq.

ECTA membership is now at an all time high with 736 members. This year we introduced concessional membership for those who wish to become members but due to retirement or part-time study may be on a low income. Full-Time students qualify for student membership.

ECTA welcomes graduates into the profession each year through Grad Packs which are distributed through participating universities and TAFE institutions to all graduating early childhood students throughout Queensland. I would like to thank ECTA life member Noeleen Christensen who once again volunteered her time to compile and distribute well over a 1000 ECTA Grad Packs this year.

Thank you also to another of our life members Von Davis who packaged and posted nearly 2000 journals and DVDs to members. As our membership expands so does Von's commitment of time.

Thank you to the website committee coordinated by Gail Halliwell. Gail is a life member and founder of ECTA and also a member of our state coordinating committee. Gail gives gentle guidance and training to support new members of the website committee. They now meet regularly via Skype to discuss the website with each member taking on a particular area. The site is continuously updated with PD opportunities, advocacy and information about national and state initiatives and issues. Our Members Only area is full of downloadable presentations, articles, past journals and information. If you haven't visited the secure area I recommend it to all. To enter you will need your username and password which is always included in your eNEWS. This year eNEWS has been sent on a monthly basis to keep members up to date with issues and information. If you would like to join the web weaver team contact Gail at gail@ecta.org.au.

Thank you to the dedicated conference committee who once again did an outstanding job with new life member Toni Michael co-coordinating the event with Robbie Leikvold. It is wonderful to see life member Carole Wild rejoin the conference committee this year. Life member Pam Fulmer once again provided amazing floral arrangements for the conference and along with fellow life member Noeleen Christensen manned the administration stand.

This year our conference went online for registrations. This allowed ECTA to provide delegates with updated information and for the first time confirmation of workshop selections. We received five applications for conference support this year from members in remote areas. The committee decided to distribute the allocated funds between all applicants. The success of the conference is totally due to the major commitment that Toni and her committee puts into the organisation of the event. Conference profits are a major source of income for ECTA and enable us to continue to keep membership fees at a low level. Organisation for next year's conference is well under way with the announcement of Toni Attwood as our keynote speaker. If you would like to help out please contact Toni at toni@ecta.org.au as spreading the load reduces the workload for all.

Thanks also to Lynne Moore for her continued coordination of the journal committee. Educating Young Children Journal is a professionally produced publication and Lynne has worked with her committee to streamline the editorial and production process. They strive to make our journal practical and relevant. The submission of articles from colleagues in the early childhood field is a vital component to the journal's success. Her team always welcomes helpers so please contact Lynne at lynne@ecta.org.au if you are interested in helping to source articles etc. If you would like to submit an article the website has style guides and further information.

7 of our 10 life members are still involved in ECTA. I believe this is a clear sign of their passion for early childhood and in particular their commitment to ECTA. I would like to thank them and all the other members of our state coordinating, journal, web and conference committees for their time and dedication to ECTA during 2009. Without their support ECTA would not be the strong professional organisation that it is. I wish you all well for the 2010 year. Please contact me at kim@ecta.org.au anytime if you wish to discuss ECTA or your involvement in one of the committees.

Kim Walters

President Early Childhood Teachers' Association