

TasTESOL
2017 Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

1.00 – 1.45pm, Saturday 1st April 2017
Sacred Heart College, New Town

Present: Marlene Chesney (*Chair & 2016 President*), Bill McCann (*Minutes & 2016 Secretary*)

Mardi Adair (C'tee), Irena Allen, Ruth Bailey (C'tee), Louise Billett, Dennis Blachford, Mary Blake, Rosemary Collins, Kim Cooper, Denise Coyne, Daniela Dadswell (C'tee), Tom Daly, Jennifer Davey, Ryna Dwyer (C'tee), Margie Headlam, Robyn Hextall, Tracey Higgs, Gina Hurn, Leanne Jordan (*Treasurer*), Samantha Kerr-Smiley, Anne Killalea, Lisa King, Anna Kingston, Alison Knight, Barbara Marshall, Meagan Newton, Keisha Pallathil, Debbie Pallister, Veronica McShane, Kandy Parker, Hilary Reader, Suzanne Reszke, David Rochester, Leah Rosebrock, Anne Rothwell, Sonia Simonetto, Tania Strong, Karen Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Cristy Walker, Angela Wilson

42 attended in total.

Apologies: Robyn Arvier, Jill Heslop, Ian Hewitt, Giovanna MacFarlane, Zoe Smith, Jenny Vanderaa, Ans van Heijster

1. Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted as accurate (- moved Irena Allen, seconded Ryna Dwyer)

2. Matters arising from the previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2016 Minutes.

3. Reports

There were three reports attached to the Agenda and distributed before the meeting. They are also attached to these Minutes:

- (i) President's Report, Marlene Chesney
- (ii) ACTA Councillor's Report, Ryna Dwyer
- (iii) Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement, Leanne Jordan

Marlene briefly highlighted some points in her report: the success of the three forums held in Hobart and one in Launceston; the updating of the website by David Rochester and the start of a TasTESOL Facebook discussion group by Barbara Marshall.

Ryna spoke to her report and reiterated two changes to AMEP by the government: the introduction of a 'pre-employment stream' and a 'social English stream' for students; and the lowering of required qualifications for the social English stream teachers. She also mentioned the invitation by SA TESOL to TasTESOL to assist in the organising of a pre-conference day (of workshops, discussions, etc) for the ACTA International Conference in Adelaide 2nd - 5th Oct 2018. For this day, TasTESOL could suggest themes and speakers. One initial idea Ryna mentioned was a possible theme of 'Rural youth', as it could incorporate/combine both vocational and language training.

Leanne briefly mentioned the main expenses and income for 2016 and the bank balance at the end of the year. The report was accepted by the meeting (- moved Tom Daly, seconded Tracey Higgs)

4. Election of committee & office bearers

Marlene mentioned the work the various office bearers and committee do, and called for nominations or volunteers. The existing committee members volunteered to continue, but:

1) Mardi Adair (Queenstown committee member) thought that the technology for the committee meetings needed to be more reliable and better organised. People suggested 'Skype for groups' or 'Go to a meeting' but Marlene said there was the option of using ACTA's teleconferencing facilities.

2) Leanne Jordan (2016 Treasurer) thought it'd be better if the Treasurer was based in Hobart as this is where most cheques are written and cash is handled (e.g. at the forums); but that she's happy to continue to organise or help with the annual financial statement.

There was no objection to the current committee members continuing in 2017 i.e.

President: Marlene Chesney

Secretary: Bill McCann

Treasurer: to be appointed from the committee

Committee members: Mardi Adair, Ruth Baily, Daniela Dadswell, Ryna Dwyer, Leanne Jordan.

Website manager: David Rochester

ACTA representative/councillor: Ryna Dwyer (and back-up, Bill McCann)

5. Other business

Conference fee increase

Marlene raised the issue of increasing the conference fee from \$20 as this barely covers the cost of the conference (- catering, Sacred Heart's kitchen-hand, flight contributions for speakers, gifts etc). There was some discussion of why the fee is kept low – mainly to attract teachers who don't have regular work, and to make use of the available TasTESOL savings. The arguments for a fee increase are that most self-funded organisations ensure events pay for themselves, that we should avoid having to rely on TasTESOL's savings, and that the fee is tax deductible.

Marlene asked for an informal show of hands and an overwhelming majority agreed with an increase in the conference fee to a minimum of \$40; one person didn't want the increase.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the TasTESOL AGM 1st April 2017

This past year has been very successful. 66 people attended last year's conference including 60 members, and by the end of 2017 our membership increased to 74. This was mainly due to newcomers joining at our very informative Thursday forums. These forums continued to be held at the Derwent Sailing Squadron and attracted good attendance: between 21 and 31. Also last year, we introduced an 'institution rate' membership, which TasTAFE North has taken advantage of for the last 2 years.

FORUMS-HOBART

The high quality of our 3 guest speakers contributed to the success of the forums and I'd like to say a big thank-you to Karen Lucas, Rosie Martin and Dr Giovanna MacFarlane.

The forums were:

- In June, Karen Lucas, Ed Dept Speech Pathologist: *Spoken & Written Language: the whole kit and caboodle.*
- In August, Rosie Martin, Speech Pathologist and Tasmania's candidate for 'Australian of the Year': *Dyslexia: a troubled past but brighter future.*
- In October, Dr Giovanna MacFarlane, UTAS ELC: *English spelling with a focus on helping Arabic Speakers.*

The handouts or powerpoint slides from the forums are posted on our website.

The participants at our forums included volunteer tutors from TasTAFE, representatives from LINC and ACAL, teachers from all sectors and Postgraduate TESOL students. These forums were great opportunities for people to meet others working in similar areas and to network. Several participants regularly stayed on for a meal at the venue afterwards where conversations could continue.

FORUM – LAUNCESTON

In 2016, for the first time in many years, our northern members presented a full-day Winter Forum, *Inspire and Aspire*, organised by Iryna Dwyer from TasTAFE North. The day was actually more like a mini-conference with a keynote address and 4 excellent workshops. Thank you very much to Iryna and to all these presenters:

- Dr Paul Keble from UTAS (*Resilience and Second-hand Trauma*)
- Carmel Davies and Sharon Duff (*Language Through Song*)
- Dr Suzanne Rezske (*The Tree of Life in the English Language Classroom*)
- Mary Brooke (*O RLY? Using GIFS and Memes in the Classroom*)
- Samantha Kerr-Smilely (*Say Hello to Harmony*)

It should be noted that these last 3 workshops were all presented by a very talented team of TasTAFE North teachers. Mention also needs to be made of Greg Corfield, the Education Manager of TasTAFE North, who supported the Winter Forum financially and with the venue. As the venue was free and as participants brought their own lunch, there was no attendance fee and 35 attended, including a contingent from Hobart.

2017 FORUM DATES

We already have the dates for three 2017 forums in Hobart: 18th May, 10th August and 2nd November – all Thursdays. All will be held at the Derwent Sailing Squadron,

Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay from 5 to 7pm. Our first presenter has yet to be organized. Please talk to your colleagues about TasTESOL and suggest ideas and/or presenters for workshops.

2016/2017 COMMITTEE

Your hardworking committee met 7 times during the past year. It's terrific that the committee members live all over the state (Queenstown, Hobart, Launceston, Shearwater) but meetings by skype/phone have been challenging. We are currently looking at other meeting options. The 2016 committee was Marlene Chesney (President), Bill McCann (Secretary), **Leanne Jordan** ([Treasurer](#)), **Iryna Dwyer** (ACTA representative), [Mardi Adair](#), [Daniela Dadswell](#) and **Ruth Baily**.

Thanks go to David Rochester, from Mission Australia, who has spent many hours upgrading our website. It's looking more current and we plan to add more pictures and maybe reduce the number of pages to be more manageable. We've also added a trial logo – a glowing map of Tasmania. This is just a trial at this stage, and needs to be finalised by the committee and feedback from others.

Also, thanks go to Barbara Marshall, who has taken us forward by setting up a FACEBOOK page accessible from the website. Of course the benefits of this as a platform for discussions will increase as more people join the closed group. Barbara and Leanne Jordan are administrators of this group.

Iryna Dwyer has been our ACTA representative for the past year, and she will update us with a separate report on more national issues.

We'll call for nominations for the 2017 committee in a few minutes. It would be great to maintain a committee with people from different parts of the state and different sectors, but I'd encourage new people with fresh input to join too.

TasTESOL's motto is 'Sharing teaching knowledge, ideas and skills' and I think we all lived up to this well in 2016. Thank you very much for your support over the past year, and with your continued participation there should be another successful year for TasTESOL ahead.

Marlene Chesney – President

ACTA REPORT for TasTESOL's 2017 AGM
(Australian Council of TESOL Associations)

TasTESOL is a member of ACTA, the Australian Council of TESOL Associations. Each statewide association has 1 or 2 representatives on the ACTA committee or 'council' which meets regularly to discuss national issues. ACTA seeks to advocate for and enhance the profile of the TESOL profession in Australia. \$20 of your TasTESOL membership fee goes towards supporting ACTA. Among other things, it entitles you to receive the ACTA journal *TESOL in Context*.

There were 6 teleconferences this past year with other ACTA councillors from all over Australia, and TasTESOL has been actively co-operating with ACTA in the following areas:

1. Contributing feedback on migrant youth settlement issues for the development of the 'National Youth Settlement Framework' in collaboration with the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia);
2. Discussion of the proposal for the development of an ACTA 'National Framework for EAL/D in Schools' and an 'EAL/D Capability Framework';
3. Providing data on migrant youth settlement in Tasmania for the 'ACTA Inquiry into Migration Settlement Outcomes Submission' in response to the policy of deportation of immigrant youth with criminal records;
4. Providing input for ACTA's response to the Draft Request for Tender for the AMEP, the government's largest English-language program. The recent Draft Request for Tender proposed the following changes:
 - a) to refocus AMEP towards tailored training, in particular, two streams of training (within a client's 510-hour entitlement). Firstly, there is a pre-employment English stream; and secondly, a social English stream for some of the parents and older members of the community, particularly many women, who are isolated.
 - b) to change qualification requirements for AMEP teachers. The new contract requires that social English stream teachers be (at least) enrolled in TESOL teacher training courses instead of the previous requirement to have a post-graduate TESOL qualification delivered by a university regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

ACTA participated in discussion on the following points: AMEP English language tuition, different class sizes and teacher qualifications, and the work of the social English stream teachers.

5. Continued support for *TESOL in Context* and its transition to an on-line publication at the end of 2017; the final print version will be the mid-2017 issue.
6. On-going support for South Australia TESOL in preparing for the ACTA International Conference in 2018 in Adelaide (2nd - 5th Oct). TasTESOL has accepted an invitation from SATESOL to help organise a pre-Conference day of talks and/or workshops at the conference. For information on this conference, google 'ACTA International Conference 2018'.

Ryna Dwyer
TasTESOL ACTA Councillor

TasTESOL Financial Report for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

Income

Interest received	21.38
Membership fees	3,810.00
Conference & Non-members	3,210.00
Raffle Proceeds	101.50
	<u>\$ 7,142.88</u>

Expenditure

Conference, catering & speaker fees	2,325.38
Insurance	306.00
ACTA capitation	1,540.00
Administration	309.44
Refund	70.00
	<u>\$ 4,550.82</u>

Notes

1. Memberships for the 2016 year totalled 64, including 2 student memberships
2. Conference, catering & speaker fees expense includes catering for annual conference and forums, gifts, venue hire and flight contributions for guest speakers
3. Administration expenses include Website, stationery, PO Bos hire & Bank fees
4. Insurance cost is for public liability (cover is for \$10,000,000)
5. This report is for the financial year 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016

Bank Reconciliation for the financial year

Opening Balance 01/01/2016	\$ 3,950.33
Income	\$ 7,142.88
Expenditure	\$ 4,550.82
Closing Balance 31/12/2016	\$ 6,542.39

Balance as per Bank Statement 31/12/2016 **\$ 6,542.39**

There were no unrepresented Cheques at balance date

TasTESOL Account CBA Murray St, Hobart:
BSB 067 002 Account 28006086

Leanne Jordan
Treasurer
20/03/2017