

## ***TasTESOL 2019 Annual General Meeting***

### **MINUTES**

**Saturday, 1.00pm – 1.35pm 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019,**

**Sacred Heart College, New Town**

#### Present

Ruth Baily, Dennis Blachford, Mary Blake, Marlene Chesney (*President & Chair*), Daniela Dadswell, Roni Davoren, Ryna Dwyer, Tracey Higgs, Maree-rose Jones, Anna Kingston, Alison Knight-Leighton, Barbara Marshall, Bill McCann (*Secretary & Minutes*), Hayley McLeod, Stephanie Morris, Caroline Norman, Elizabeth O'Meagher, Helen Parry, Lisa Risby, Lucy Slevin, Alwyne Smith, Heather Thompson, Jenny Vanderaa, Ans van Heijster, Cristy Walker, Vicki Walker & Liz Webster.

*Total attendance of members: 27*

#### Apologies

Belinda Brown, Tom Daly, Kylie Engisch, Katy Lester, Kylie Nelson, Kandy Parker, Kelly Webster.

#### **1. Minutes of 2018 AGM**

The previous AGM Minutes were emailed to members eight days earlier (3<sup>rd</sup> May). They were accepted as accurate.

#### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

Addressing 3 matters arising from last year's Treasurer's report, Marlene noted:

- i) Three people can now sign cheques (the President, Treasurer & Secretary; each cheque requires two signatures).
- ii) The audits for 2015, 2016, 2017 were completed successfully last year.
- iii) TasTESOL's contact person and registration address haven't been updated with the Australian Taxation Office yet.
- iv) And from last year's Website Update, it was noted that the new TasTESOL website went 'live' at the end of 2018. It was created by Riverflow Designs (previously named AJAY Designs). It's hosted by Siteground (\$196.02 for the first 3 yrs), and the domain name is still registered with Netregistry (\$66.25 per 2 yrs).

#### **3. Reports**

Reports from the President, the Treasurer and the ACTA Councillors were emailed to members on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Hardcopies of the Treasurer's Report were available at the meeting.

##### (i) President's Report (*See separate accompanying doc*)

Marlene Chesney presented her report and spoke briefly about membership numbers, the forums held during the year. She also thanked Ryna Dwyer for organising speakers for a forum in Launceston in late 2018 that was postponed but then unfortunately cancelled. Marlene also invited members to suggest topics or speakers for our three forums this year.

##### (ii) Treasurer's Report (*See separate accompanying doc*)

Daniela Dadswell presented her Treasurer's Report to the meeting. She noted that the balance at the end of 2018 was healthy (\$7,801.46). She also mentioned that the most recent audit for 2018 had been completed pro bono by Gary Quinn (at Bartholemew's Chartered Accountants, Launceston). John Dwyer, a colleague of Gary's, had organised this and the meeting thanked him and Gary very much. The audits are held by Daniela and are available for members to see on request.

(iii) ACTA Councillors' Report (*See separate accompanying doc*)

TasTESOL had two ACTA Councillors for 2018, Maree-rose Jones and Ryna Dwyer. Maree-rose presented the report and briefly mentioned the importance of ACTA in lobbying the gov't on behalf of the EAL/D community. *Also, see next item.*

**4. Confirmation of TasTESOL's ACTA Councillors for ACTA's AGM**

Maree-rose mentioned that ACTA has asked that TasTESOL confirms who its ACTA Councillors are in time for their AGM in April each year. This is to ensure TasTESOL's representatives can vote, and nominate someone or be nominated for the executive positions. Hence:

*It is proposed that TasTESOL's ACTA representatives be confirmed at the first TasTESOL Committee meeting of the year, held before April, and that ACTA be informed in time for the ACTA AGM.* (Proposed Bill McCann, seconded Ryna Dwyer). The motion was carried unanimously.

**5. Election of committee & office bearers**

The current committee positions were declared vacant and Marlene asked for nominations or volunteers for the committee.

Two current members had decided to retire from the committee (but remain as TasTESOL members): Ryna Dwyer (a former Treasurer and ACTA Councillor) and Ruth Baily. Marlene thanked them very much for their years of work on the committee and their contributions to the organisation.

There was some discussion of what the various office bearer roles involved, and there was a brief written description of these at the meeting.

There were no formal nominations but a number of people volunteered to remain on the committee in their current roles, and two others volunteered to join the committee. These were all accepted without any challenges.

Remaining committee members: Marlene Chesney (retired) as President, Daniela Dadswell (Elizabeth College) as Treasurer, Maree-rose Jones (Hobart College) as ACTA Councillor, Bill McCann (retired) as Secretary, and Helen Parry (Elizabeth College). Kylie Engisch (Catholic Education Office) couldn't attend the meeting but had also asked to continue on the committee.

New volunteer committee members: Hayley McLeod (Scotch Oakburn College) and Lucy Slevin (UTAS student). Lucy volunteered to assist Bill with managing the website.

**6. Other business**

Vicki Walker (TasTAFE Launceston) said she'd consider helping to organise a forum in Launceston this year.

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the TasTESOL AGM 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

This past year has been very successful. 71 people attended last year's conference, and by the end of 2018 our membership was 70. This was helped by some newcomers joining at our Thursday forums.

### **FORUMS – HOBART**

Our Hobart forums continued to be held at the Derwent Sailing Squadron and attracted good attendances. The variety and high quality of our guest speakers contributed to the success of the forums. The topics and speakers were all suggested by members, and I'd like to say a big thank-you to all of the presenters.

The three forums were:

- In May, Mary Blake & Sarah Brown (Department of Education) presented 'Hot stories: putting a spark into reading aloud'. Mary focused on resources and the benefits of reading aloud to children; Sarah spoke about a trial program at Glenorchy PS – getting migrant parents of pupils in to read aloud stories for the whole class in their 1<sup>st</sup> language.
- In September, Rosie Martin ('Chatter Matters') presented 'Decimating THAT literacy statistic...48% to 0.48%'. Rosie recommended some long-term strategies for addressing the poor literacy rates in Tasmania.
- In November, Louise Oxley (UTAS English Assist) spoke about programs she and her colleagues had created to improve the oral communication skills of UTAS Pharmacy students, including embedding the programs into the degree course.

The audience 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, and this is good for everyone's motivation. Some stayed on for a meal at the venue afterwards where conversations could continue.

### **FORUMS – LAUNCESTON**

Ryna Dwyer organised a day of workshops for Launceston teachers, but due to organisational issues, the day had to be cancelled. Thank you for all that work, and maybe the workshops can be run this year.

### **2019 FORUM DATES**

The dates for the three 2019 forums in Hobart are 1<sup>st</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November – all Thursdays. All will be held at the Derwent Sailing Squadron from 5pm to 7pm. We've had one suggestion for a possible topic so far (the involvement of LINC with TESOL work) but the speakers are yet to be organised. Please talk to your colleagues about the forums, and suggest ideas and/or presenters. The format can vary. They can be primarily a workshop, talk or discussion.

### **2018 COMMITTEE**

Your hardworking committee met formally 5 times during the past year. The committee members live all over the state (Hobart, Launceston, Shearwater). However, the meetings by phone and Zoom have been challenging. The 2018 committee was Marlene Chesney (President), Bill McCann (Secretary), Daniela Dadswell (Treasurer), Helen Parry, Kylie Engisch and Ruth Baily. Iryna Dwyer and Maree-rose Jones have been our ACTA representatives for the past year. Thank you very much to them for attending evening teleconference meetings 6 times a year and contributing on TasTESOL's behalf. See their separate report. Thank you also to Bill McCann for the many hours he spent organising the implementation of our new website.

For 2019, it would be great to maintain a committee with people from different parts of the state and different sectors, and 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 2018. 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**

**TasTESOL Financial Report for the 2019 AGM  
for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

TasTESOL Account:      BSB 067002, Account No. 28006086, CBA, 109 Collins Street, Hobart

<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Membership fees (\$60 x 53, \$50 x 11, \$45 x 1)	3'775.00
Membership fees paid in 2018 for 2019	405.00
Conference fees (mem \$2'100, non-mem \$675)	2'775.00
Conference raffle proceeds	169.00
Forum fees	640.00
Interest received from bank account	37.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7'801.46</b>

<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Conference	2646.58
Forums x 3	585.00
ACTA capitation for 2017 (70 members)	1'400.00
NEAT membership fee	120.00
Insurance	330.00
Stationery (nametag holders, etc)	33.55
PO Box account	127.00
Website design and set up	1483.47
Refunds (overpayment of conf fees & m'ship)	260.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6985.60</b>

**Notes:**

In 2018, there were 70 members incl. 2 student m'ships and 11 institution m'ships (TasTAFE N/NW and EC). Only 65 m'ship payments are shown, as 7 were paid in 2017 for 2018 and 2 were paid twice by mistake.

ACTA capitation is paid early in the year for the previous year's membership.

In 2018 we paid website fees to Netregistry: \$87.45 for cPanel hosting (or 'tech support') and also \$1'396.02 to Riverflow design for a new website design and webhosting. This also included training sessions for members.

Conference costs: speakers (flights, dinner, gifts \$1,295.81), catering (\$1003.77), kitchen-hand (\$347)

Forums (x 3): costs were catering and room hire (\$530), speaker gifts (\$55.00)

Insurance relates to public liability cover.

<b>Bank reconciliation for the calendar year</b>	Opening balance on bank statement 1/1/2018	\$7'784.35
	Income	\$7'801.46
	Expenditure	\$6'985.60
	<i>Expected</i> closing balance 31/12/18	\$8'600.21
	<i>Actual</i> closing balance on bank statement 31/12/18	\$8'600.21

**NB:**

1. Audits for 2015-2017 have been completed; documents for this year's audit have been sent.
2. There was one unrepresented cheque at 31/12/2018 (\$1400 for ACTA), which was presented in February 2019.

**Daniela Dadswell**  
**Treasurer**

## ACTA Report for the TasTESOL 2019 AGM

- ACTA is the Australian Council of TESOL Associations, a national organization representing all the TESOL Associations in Australian States.
- The TasTESOL ACTA representatives for 2018-19 were Dr Maree-rose Jones & Iryna Dwyer and they attended 6 teleconference meetings throughout the year.
- ACTA's website is at <http://www.tesol.org.au/>

**ACTA HOMEPAGE:** The ACTA Councillors strongly encourage you to visit their website and send it freely to colleagues teaching EAL anywhere, to inform others about what is on the website (e.g. it contains resources and reports). The website link tells you what your councillors are doing to support EAL education in Australia.

An ACTA **International TESOL conference** is held every 2 years and in 2020 it will be hosted by QATESOL in Brisbane, 30 September - 2 October.

**ACTA DEVELOPMENTS:** In 2019, at national level there are several recent developments in relation to the Australian Frameworks for EALD assessment and curriculums, involving ACARA and other bodies who have been conducting surveys, reviews and evaluations nationally. Members are directed to these reports on the ACTA website. The reports concern all levels of learning, and schools as well as AMEP TAFE teachers (- esp see the RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY tabs).

**MYAN:** The ACTA Councillors would also like to bring to your attention to the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network at <https://myan.org.au/policy/myan-2019-federal-election-platform/> MYAN has released a 2019 Federal Election Policy Platform identifying eight priority areas for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

**Other matters** discussed by ACTA Councillors in 2019 included

1. The ACTA *Language in Education and Training Strategy* which has been used to encourage political parties to include EAL in their Education policies
2. The EAL/D National Assessment Framework
3. Indigenous content for teaching EAL
4. Future plans of several ACTA working groups looking into research about EAL in Australian schools
5. Feedback on a recent review of AMEP
6. Editorial and subject matters were discussed relating to forthcoming editions of *Tesol in Context*.

I would like to bring the following to everyone's attention, and flag some items discussed on the **ACTA Media Room Page** at <http://www.tesol.org.au/Advocacy/Media-Room>:

### **ACTA 2019 Federal Election News page**

ACTA have established a *2019 Federal Election page* where members of the public and media can find recent information about ACTA's pre-election policy platform, related correspondence and media releases.

### **Greens' national plan for English language learners welcomed**

ACTA welcomed the Greens' announcement of their national plan to ensure that migrants and refugees throughout Australia have access to effective English language support in the school, post-school and adult education sectors.

### **ACTA submission to the AMEP Evaluation April 2019**

Following a nationwide survey of managers, teachers and volunteers in the AMEP in late 2018 and early 2019, and three forums held over March and April, ACTA made a submission to the Evaluation

of the Adult Migrant English Program “new business model”. You can download the ACTA submission from <http://www.tesol.org.au/Advocacy/ADULT-EAL-NEWS-AND-ISSUES>

#### **ACTA Forums Regarding the AMEP ‘New Business Model’**

ACTA held forums in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The forum presentation slides and notes are now available on the ACTA website [Adult EAL Issues page](#)

#### **ACTA Strategy for Language in Education and Training - November 2018**

An ACTA *Strategy for Language in Education and Training* report has raised 15 actions all aimed at addressing long-standing national policy/program gaps and neglect in the area of language in education and training including (EAL/D, Indigenous language education, and AMEP). ACTA has been advocating for change, in submissions over the last few years. The document has been and will continue to be used as the focus for discussions with Government and other parties about their education and training policy commitments prior to the federal election. You can download the strategy from the ACTA website [Media Room page](#)

#### **ACTA submission to the Aust. Gov’t Review of Vocational Education & Training (VET) - Jan 2019**

ACTA made a submission to the *Expert review of Australia’s vocational education and training system*. The submission drew on a comprehensive survey ACTA conducted on provision of English to adult migrants in the AMEP and the SEE Program. See the ACTA submission on the [Adult EAL Issues page - VET Review](#).

#### **ACTA Survey for AMEP and SEE Program teachers, managers & volunteers - Still open!**

In December 2018-January 2019, ACTA conducted a comprehensive survey of AMEP and SEE Program teachers, managers and volunteers seeking their perspectives on the operation of these Programs. Because the survey data will be used in an on-going way, it has been left open for a little longer. To complete the survey, please check our [Adult EAL Issues page - AMEP Survey](#).

#### **TESOL in Context, Vol 27 No 2, December 2018 Ethics in TESOL**

The latest issue of ACTA's journal, *TESOL in Context* has been published. This special issue focuses on the topic of “Ethics in TESOL”. You can access this journal online from our [TESOL in Context page](#)

Also, **ACTA’s AGM** is held every April, when a new Executive Committee is elected. To ensure Tasmanian representatives can participate in this process, TasTESOL needs to confirm who their nominated representatives are to ACTA before this meeting. TasTESOL could inform ACTA immediately after our AGM who the representatives are, and reconfirm them at their first committee meeting of the new year. (*See the motion about this on the Agenda*).

In closing, I would also be pleased to remain a Tasmanian State ACTA Councillor for a further year if nominated and seconded from the floor. We have had two Councillors this year, and a second nomination for the rest of the year would be good too.

With thanks for enabling me to be one of TasTESOL’s ACTA Councillors during 2018-2019,

**Dr. Maree-rose Jones**, PhD USYD,

Practitioner in Education- Music -Research

At: <https://www.trinitycollege.com.au/2014/05/new-tasmanian-representative/>