

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the 2020 TasTESOL AGM 27th May

Until the Coronavirus pandemic disruptions started earlier this year, the past year had been very successful. Last May, 50 guests and 10 presenters attended TasTESOL's main event, the conference '*Working in Multilingual Communities & Classrooms*', at Sacred Heart College, and by the end of 2019 our membership was 55.

The conference featured a great selection of both local and interstate speakers from a number of sectors – High-schools (State and Independent), TAFE/AMEP, Universities, ELICOS, and even the NSW Dept of Health. Most notably, the keynote speaker was researcher, teacher and author, Assoc Prof Kathleen Heugh from the University of South Australia, extending the previous year's plurilingual theme with a talk on multilingualism and translanguaging.

The workshop presenters were:

- Jacqi Bottger (Yeronga High-school, Brisbane) '*I have something to say! Using drama in the EAL/D classroom*'
- Lesley Cioccarelli (Canberra Institute of Technology) '*Making screencast videos for teaching, learning and feedback*'
- Vicki Walker (TasTAFE, Launceston) '*Beating plagiarism with paraphrasing*'
- Louise Fitzgerald (UNSW Global, Sydney) '*AI & automated scoring in language tests*'
- Xu (Suzie) Han (St Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart) '*From China to Australia – how did I get through? Methods, tools & materials that worked*'
- Mary Johnston (Multicultural Health Unit, Sydney) '*Providing Health Information to Migrants in EAL/D classes*'
- Melania Pantelich (School of Education, Federation University, Ballarat) '*A Student-centred Approach: EL Support Services for International Students in Higher Education*'
- Julia Lippold & Annette Ambesi (Lauriston Girl's School, Melbourne) '*Grassroots EAL Program Development at Lauriston Girl's School*'

Sacred Heart College deserves a lot of praise and thanks for providing an excellent venue free of charge for the conference. Also, thanks to those of you who offered to billet a guest speaker during the conference as this makes our invitations to speakers more attractive.

This year's conference was cancelled because of the travel and meeting restrictions, but the organised speakers all agreed to present their talks in 2021 if possible.

2019 FORUMS

In 2019, we were able to hold our forums at Elizabeth College, thanks to Daniella Dadswell and Helen Parry who worked there and organised the venue and facilities. 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:

'Show & tell: activity swap' (1st August)

'EAL/D Providers & services in Tasmania: an overview' (12th September)

The presenters were Ian Hewitt (TasTAFE/AMEP), Lisa Sherrin (DoE), Morag Porteous (UTAS), Tim Steel (Libraries Tasmania) and Zelinda Sherlock (MRC & Multicultural Youth Tasmania).

‘What’s going on in EAL/D?’ (28th November)

Four PhD candidates/students from the Faculty of Education, UTAS spoke about their research & study. Thanks to Dr Megan Short, UTAS Program Director for Post-Graduate Studies, for organising her PhD candidates and driving them from Launceston for the forum.

The students were:

- Nita Novianti *‘From the Land of Fairy Tales to the Classroom Practices of Critical Literacy: Working with Pre-Service English Teachers in Indonesia and Australia’*
- Emily Morgan *‘Genre-based teaching re students’ reading and writing abilities, and student and teacher perceptions’*
- Marie-Christina Edwards *‘Combating stress within regional, low socio-economic status teaching contexts’*
- Humaira Akhter *‘Challenges faced by ESL teachers in the implementation of the National Professional Standards in Pakistani primary schools’*

The audiences at our forums included volunteer tutors, 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.

2020 FORUMS

The dates for the three 2020 forums and 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. At this stage, we expect all the forums to be online via Zoom, which is an advantage for teachers outside the usual Hobart venues.

2019 COMMITTEE

Your hardworking committee met formally 5 times during the past year. The committee members live all over the state (Hobart, Launceston, Baker’s Beach) and met via Zoom. The 2019 committee was Marlene Chesney (President), Bill McCann (Secretary), Daniela Dadswell (Treasurer), Helen Parry, Kylie Engisch, Lucy Selvin-Jones, Hayley McLeod and Maree-rose Jones, who has been our ACTA representative for the past year.

For 2020, 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.

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