

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD

Welcome to 2016! I hope your year has started well. In my case, it is the second week of the academic year and as many of you will know my main focus is the preparation of teachers for the teaching of English literacy in the Primary school. Some of these students are at undergraduate level and many are at postgraduate level in the Masters of Teaching program. I enjoy my teaching very much and find that a highlight of these early weeks is introducing those new to the profession to the benefits of a PETAA membership. I also try to share some of the joy and excitement that I get in the current contribution that I am making to the leadership of PETAA.

Might you guess what has taken up much of my focus in the weeks leading up to this teaching and in the weeks since we have started teaching? Well, the answer is assessment. In teacher education we need to develop learning outcomes that engage very explicitly with the ATISL Graduate Standards, and in some courses, the ACECQA standards. These learning outcomes and assessment processes must be approved through a range of university and external processes.

However, as an experienced, dedicated and committed teacher I can't help but dwell on

questions about assessment. In any form of teaching and at any level, assessment is the way we fine tune our teaching and check that our learners are moving forward, whether it might be in small increments, or, speedily towards the learning goals. We all know that one of the greatest joys of teaching is when we see a learner make that step and begin to demonstrate the knowledge or skills that we have all been working towards. The celebration of that learning by the learner and the affirmation that we receive of our work and guidance is indeed heart-felt, in my case.

Yet, in these times of system-wide and national accountability, together with the desire to rank our literacy outcomes in the international contexts, much classroom assessment feels distanced from our individual classroom context. Understandably, systems need to ensure that the learning required of students is indeed taking place, schools need to manage outcomes and politicians need to know how Australian learning is ranked in relation to major other OECD nations.

In early 2016 PETAA is running a series of conferences on the broad topic of Assessment to be held in Brisbane,

Sydney, Parramatta and Melbourne. These conferences intend to provide a very broad platform for our reflection on the place of assessment in our teaching and learning contexts with a particular focus on literacy. We have been able to secure some of the leading scholars in the field of assessment in Australia, together with some practitioners who will provide practical workshops, at the conferences, exploring the assessment cycle in our classrooms. I invite you to join us and read some of the early information available in this newsletter and perhaps register your interest in attending these conferences.\*

I wish you a fulfilling 2016 with your learners! In addition that we, as Primary English teachers, move forward in the best informed way through the publications, conferences and professional learning PETAA offer.

**Robyn Cox**  
President  
PETAA

\* To learn more about these conferences and to register see reverse of this page.



## BECOMING A PETAA DIRECTOR

There exists two vacancies on the PETAA Board and PETAA is seeking nominations from members who are interested in standing for a position to fill these vacancies. To find out more about becoming a PETAA Director, the roles and responsibilities of the position and other features of the PETAA Board, visit [www.petaa.edu.au](http://www.petaa.edu.au) and under the tab 'About' look in 'AGM'. Nominations for Election to the PETAA Board are now open and the nomination form can be found in the same section of the PETAA website. Please submit your completed form no later than Friday 15 April 2016.

National voting. For the first time, PETAA members around Australia will be invited to vote for their preferred candidates to become PETAA Board Directors. Further details will be supplied to all PETAA members closer to the date of the AGM or else visit the PETAA website (AGM) for updates.

Deb Fisher, who was elected to the PETAA Board in May 2015, reflects upon making the decision to nominate.

*Last year, I joined the PETAA Board. My hope was that – after a career in education that's now more easily counted in decades than years – I might have something to offer to this wonderful organisation that has contributed*

*so much to my professional development and pedagogical effectiveness over many years. I simply hadn't considered joining the PETAA Board before now and, in the earlier stages of my career, I would have worried (more than I do now) that I did not enough to offer, that there were people with more experience and so forth.*

*Now I know that there will always be people more knowledgeable than I but that different perspectives are essential on any board. The people who know most about what teachers need in the Northern Territory are teachers from the Territory. The people who know most about what early career teachers need on entry to the profession are early career teachers (and their mentors). The composition of the Board needs to be diverse and dynamic if PETAA is to continue its legacy as a professional organisation responsive to members' needs, cognisant of the education reform agendas at play across Australia, and closely connected to research.*

*So if you haven't considered joining the board of PETAA, I would encourage you to be bold and act now.*

**Deb Fisher:** PETAA Director

## AGM 2016

Members are invited to attend PETAA's 2016 AGM immediately following the conclusion of the Assessment into Practice Sydney Conference. PETAA President, Robyn Cox, will reflect on 2015, while also sharing with attendees some of PETAA's plans. At the AGM, members will have an opportunity to participate, including casting of votes for new Directors to the PETAA Board. Visit the PETAA website ('About' look in 'AGM') for further details.

**Date:** Friday 6 May 2016.

**Time:** 4.15 – 5.15pm

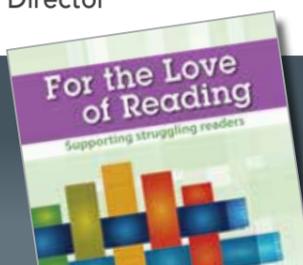
Mercure Hotel, Central Station, Sydney

Refreshments will be supplied.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS ENCLOSED

- *For the Love of Reading*
- PETAA Paper 202: *Engaging and supporting our students to read and learn from reading.* David Rose

All members can access digital versions online



\*16 Memberships \*16 Publications  
and \*16 Day Conferences  
**TURN OVER**

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

### DON'T MISS OUT ON PETAA'S 2016 DAY CONFERENCES!

#### Assessment into Practice Conferences



These full-day conferences will engage attendees in rich conversation on **assessment** in English through plenary addresses, interactive workshops and opportunities to share ideas and connect with teachers and other Education professionals. To register for any of the following conferences, please visit the PETAA website and look under 'Professional Learning'. [www.petaa.edu.au](http://www.petaa.edu.au) > professional learning

#### QLD

**Saturday 16 April Novotel, Brisbane.**

Plenary addresses by Dr Lenore Adie and Dr Janelle Wills.

Workshops with Professor Joy Cumming and Dr Fabienne van der Kleij, Dr Eileen Honan, Dr Rod Campbell and Caroline Hollis.



#### VIC

**Tuesday 19 April Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne.**

Plenary addresses: Professor Geoff Masters and Professor Marie Brennan

Workshops: Dr Elizabeth Hartnell-Young, Dr Prue Anderson, Dr Hilary Hollingsworth and Dr Kaye Lowe



#### NSW

**Friday 6 May Mercure Hotel, Central Station, Sydney**

**Monday 6 June Novotel Parramatta**

Plenary addresses: Dr Phil Lambert, Professor Peter Freebody (Syd) and Professor Jennifer Gore (P'matta)

Workshops: Professor Jennifer Gore, Dr Jane Mitchell, Dr Jon Callow & Joanne Rossbridge



[WA and SA Conferences currently under consideration]

## 2016 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

PETAA's professional learning courses, presented by leading academics, educational consultants and exemplary classroom teachers, have strong links to research and classroom practice while being grounded in the *Australian Curriculum: English*.

PETAA presenters can attend your school for half-day, full day or multiple day sessions, working with groups of teachers and executives, whole staff or clusters of schools to target specific areas and tailor Professional Learning to address your specific needs. Look at the Author and Presenter Profiles on our website to choose the person who can assist your school in achieving your Professional Learning goals.

## PETAA INTRODUCES AUTHOR WORKSHOPS

PETAA is looking to introduce a new series of workshops connecting PETAA members with some of Australia's leading authors.

**Libby Hathorn and Gary Crew!**

Which authors would you like to workshop with? Email any suggestions to: [pl@petaa.edu.au](mailto:pl@petaa.edu.au)

See website for details of upcoming workshops: [www.petaa.edu.au](http://www.petaa.edu.au)



## MAKING YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORK FOR YOU!

Many PETAA members equate their membership benefits with the books and PETAA Papers they receive each year. These, however, are only a part of an ever growing range of professional benefits members receive. For example the growth of professional learning opportunities offered by PETAA is now quite vast and members can participate at special rates.

The range of Teaching Resources to be found on the PETAA website provides members with a treasure chest of resources to help with their professional and practical planning. Using your member access codes, log in and explore what is available to you. Here are just two examples of what you will find a few clicks away!



### Share with your casual teachers.

*Are you a casual teacher called into a school for the day or do you have casual teachers working with you? The units of work, including the CBCA Guides, provide sound resources to assist teaching and learning activities in all classrooms. PETAA has introduced a special new membership category specifically for newly graduated or casual teachers. Visit the Membership section of the PETAA website.*

## VALE SUE BREMNER

Former PETAA Director and friend, Sue Bremner, sadly and unexpectedly passed away in early February following a short illness.



Sue was a valued PETAA Board Director from 2001 - 2006, working tirelessly alongside other PETAA Directors in helping to guide and strategically direct PETAA's work. Sue, was also an energetic member of PETAA's Publishing Committee, helping to develop the ideas, proposals and subsequent PETAA publications that have been a flagship of PETAA's success since its inception in 1972. Although Sue stepped away from the PETAA Board in 2006, she continued to be a valued PETAA friend, an author/contributor and advisor on many issues pertinent to PETAA's educational community, especially with her expertise in the TESOL and EAL/D areas. PETAA acknowledges, honours and respects Sue Bremner's many contributions made to the education community in order, as she once wrote, to *help better inform our teachers enabling them to 'do better'*.

## WINTER PUBLICATION 2016

### *Beyond the Script Take 3: Using Drama to enhance English and literacy in the classroom*

By Robyn Ewing & Jennifer Simons with Margery Herzberg & Victoria Campbell  
ISBN: 978-1-925132-31-1 (Printed edn) ISBN: 978-1-925132-32-8 (ePub edn)

It is timely given the expectations of the *Australian Curriculum* in both English and the Arts that a revised edition of *Beyond the Script* be created. The updated edition will include new content, references including relevant online resources, revised literary texts and examples, and annotations where appropriate, that relate to the *Australian Curriculum: English* and the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts*.

### PETAA Papers 202 and 203

