



NAFEA
National Association of Field
Experience Administrators inc



NEWS

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NAFEA
NEWSLETTER

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F O L L O W U S

If you would like to keep up to date with the latest developments or get more involved with the Association you can do so by following us on Facebook and now also on LinkedIn.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR RICKY TUNNY

Another year has passed by, along with another fantastic NAFEA conference! I'd like to thank all of the conference delegates and presenters for their participation and support of the 2019 NAFEA Conference. Without the generous contributions of our presenters and the involvement of our members, the conference would not have been a success. Thanks also to Renae Cherry and her helpers at the University of Southern Queensland for hosting the event. It was great to see a record NAFEA crowd in Toowoomba, networking and discussing burning issues and challenges, as well as sharing strategies, resources and their expertise. Thanks also to those who donated to the NAFEA raffle to raise money for those affected by the bushfires. NAFEA matched dollar for dollar that was raised, and \$762 will be donated to the Rural Fire Brigades Association QLD.

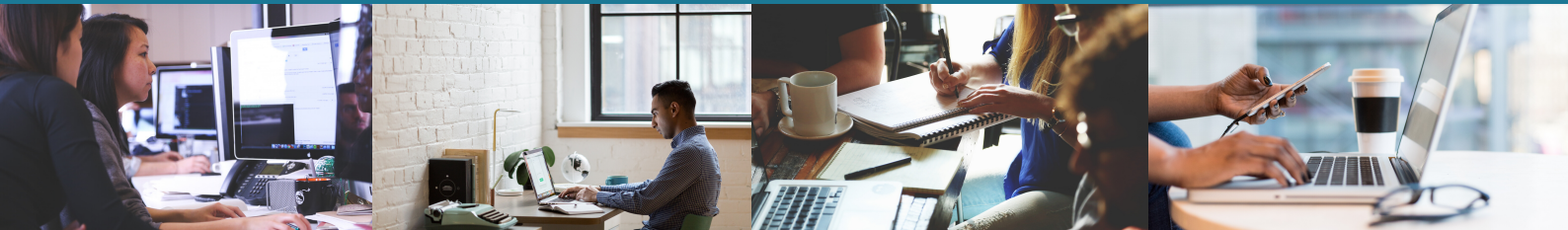
Congratulations to Debbie Phillips from Griffith University who received the 2019 NAFEA Outstanding Award for her long-standing contribution to work-integrated learning and NAFEA. Debbie has demonstrated a commitment to NAFEA over many years and has made a significant contribution to work integrated learning at the University of Griffith. Well done, Debbie! Don't spend all of your award money too soon.

I'd also like to thank the Executive Management Committee for all of their efforts in 2019, and especially for their assistance with the organisation of the conference and the many programs that are offered by NAFEA. The Association continues to grow bigger and better each year with the assistance of the Executive! The team welcomes Melissa Minchinton, from La Trobe University, as the new State Chapter Chair for Victoria and Tasmania. We look forward to working with Melissa in her new role as Chapter Chair in the New Year.

The 2019-2020 NAFEA Executive are:

- President: Ricky Tunny
- Vice-President: Rob Cherry
- Secretary: Ina Kotze
- Treasurer: Imogen White, Yvonne Thursby (Assistant Treasurer)
- Web Administrator: Laura Zubair
- Conference Convenor: Renae Cherry
- Sponsorship and Marketing Manager / Social Media Administrator: Katie Theobald, Jacob Whittingham
- Scholarships Manager: Danielle Waid
- Professional Development Manager: Wendy Harris
- Research and Project Manager: Ondine Bradbury
- QLD Chapter: Ricky Tunny
- SA/NT State Chapter Chair: Sandra Walsh
- VIC/TAS State Chapter Chair: Melissa Minchinton

On behalf of the Executive Management Committee, we hope that you enjoy the festive season with your family and friends, and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

In October 2019 I drove 9 ½ hours to Broken Hill in rural New South Wales. I stayed in Broken Hill for 8 weeks to complete my final placement for my Masters of Speech Pathology. This placement was the highlight of my whole degree and taught me invaluable skills that I can't wait to bring into the workforce next year. I worked as a Speech Pathologist in a rural school as part of a student-led program, where I was able to deliver therapy independently and liaise with parents and teachers, an opportunity I had not had before. Working at a rural school gave me the chance to work with children from a range of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, in particular children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

I am so thankful for the experience of working with this particular population, as I was able to learn first-hand how to adapt my sessions appropriately to best support children who use Aboriginal Australian English versus Standard Australian English. I was also lucky enough to attend several interdisciplinary professional development sessions as part of the placement. Here I developed my skills working within a multidisciplinary team, including with Occupational Therapists and Social Workers.

Since being home after the placement, I am continually discovering how unique and beneficial these skills are. When I have attended job interviews employers were impressed by my experience working with a diverse population as well as working within a multidisciplinary team. I am so thankful for the assistance I received from the NAFEA scholarship, as whilst the placement was incredibly supportive, there were food, travel and general living costs associated with living in Broken Hill for 8 weeks. I was nervous commencing the placement knowing I would have no income for the 2 months, in particular as I'd never lived out of home before. The NAFEA scholarship enabled me to live comfortably for the placement, and also take up extra opportunities that I may not have taken for fear of associated costs (such as weekend trips to national parks and heritage sites).

I am so excited to bring my knowledge from this placement into the workforce next year, and I am definitely considering moving back to Broken Hill to work in the future because of the fantastic experiences I had.

Katherine Ashbolt (Student from La Trobe University)

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