



News from the NAEEA

Edition 8, 2019

NAEEA Chairperson's Message

Dear Enabling Colleagues,

As we commence the 2019 academic year, it is time to reflect on a busy and productive year for NAEEA in 2018.

A heartfelt thank you to Dr Anna Bennett, Dr Jo Hanley and Associate Professor Seamus Fagan for organising the 2018 NAEEA Symposium, 'Enabling Voices: Policy, Practice, Research and Evaluation', a most successful event which provided our members with a valuable opportunity to collaborate on matters of importance to us as Enabling educators.

After yet another successful FABENZ conference, we look forward to another opportunity to gather in November 2019 for the combined NAEEA and EPHEA Conference to be held at the University of Wollongong. We wish NAEEA Executive member Dr Pranit Annand and the organising committee all the best as they plan for the first ever combined conference, 'Enabling Excellence through Equity' which will bring together practitioners from both organisations.

Through discussions with Professor John Storan, Director, Continuum, Centre for Widening Participation Policy Studies, University of East London, 2018 also culminated in NAEEA signing an agreement with the Forum for Access and Continuing Education (FACE) and we anticipate valuable collaboration to come.

It is time also to reflect on the contribution a number of our 'retiring' colleagues have made to the 'world of Enabling' over a substantial period of time. 2018 saw three long-standing and highly respected educators retire. We wish Associate Professor Seamus Fagan (University of Newcastle), David Bull (University of Southern Queensland) and Professor Janet Taylor (Southern Cross University) all the very best in their future endeavours. We acknowledge their commitment over a sustained period of time to the provision of pathways for those traditionally underrepresented in the tertiary sector. On their retirement, we recognise the substantial body of knowledge they acquired over time, knowledge which they willingly shared with those of us in other institutions.

The Executive also acknowledges the substantial contribution Rae Trewartha made to NAEEA in her role as Chair of FABENZ. On her retirement, Rae hands the reins to Maria Meredith and Sonia Tonua, both from the University of Auckland. Maria and Sonia will be most welcomed members of the NAEEA Executive in 2019.

We thank outgoing NAEEA executive members Jennifer Stokes (UniSA) and Liz Smith (Curtin University) and welcome our newest member, Sarah Hattam (UniSA) to join the

committee in 2019. Sarah will join a team committed to advocating for Enabling Education at a time when promoting access to higher education presents both challenges and opportunities and the call for organisations such as NAEEA to provide policy makers and educational leaders with an informed practitioner voice is crucial. The NAEEA Executive team will continue to advocate strongly for Enabling education.

On behalf of the Executive team, I wish you an enjoyable and productive year.

Karen Seary, 2019 NAEEA Chairperson.



The FACE – NAEEA Memorandum of Understanding is signed, signalling ongoing collaboration between the two organisations.

2018 NAEEA Symposium

Enabling Voices: Policy, Practice, Research and Evaluation

On behalf of the organising committee at the University of Newcastle (UON), Dr Anna Bennett, Dr Jo Hanley and A/Professor Seamus Fagan, we are pleased to report that the September 2018 NAEEA Symposium was a well-attended and, by all accounts, successful event that will help to shape the future of the enabling sector in the coming years. The event, hosted by the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre, was held at UON's flagship city campus, NeW Space, on 27th and 28th September. UON's DVCA Professor Darrell Evans opened the Symposium with an address acknowledging the proud history of enabling programs at UON and other institutions and how important they are to the people whose lives they change. He emphasised that thinking beyond the personal and the local to develop an inclusive and cohesive national presence and agenda for moving forward is important, especially following recent threats to the enabling. Over the course of the two days, participants heard from former UON enabling students, including Gold Walkley Award recipient and

Newcastle Herald journalist Joanne McCarthy, and opinion leaders from across the country: including representatives from the NAEAA executive, the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE), Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA), La Trobe's Centre for Higher Education Equity and Development Research (CHEEDR) and UON's Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education (CEEHE). Delegates and panellists came from all over Australia, representing 16 universities. Panels, themed around policy, practice and research and evaluation, focused discussion on what matters to enabling educators and students. The final session, aimed at representing the diversity of voices and opinions in the room, produced a set of principles to guide the NAEAA Executive going forward in their efforts to support the enabling sector and to inform higher education policy.



EPHEA & NAEAA Conference 2019

Enabling Excellence through Equity

In 2019, Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA) and National Association of Enabling Educators in Australia (NAEEA) will join forces to host the 2019 EPHEA/NAEEA Biennial Conference themed "Enabling Excellence through Equity" from Sunday 24 to Wednesday 27 November 2019 at the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus.

This exciting partnership will enable equity practitioners from both organisations to come together and share their wealth of knowledge and experiences. Held over three days, this

professional development forum aims to position equity in a strength based model, whereby institutions recognise the rich knowledge, experiences and skills that diversity can enable. More details, including information about keynote speakers and conference submissions can be found at <http://enablingequity.com/>.

2018 FABENZ Conference



Inspiring success – transforming the student experience

The CQ Hotel in bustling Cuba Street, Wellington, provided a wonderful venue for The Foundation and Bridging Educators New Zealand conference in November. An inspiring keynote address by Welby Ings focused on the powerful impact of education and importance of nurturing and making space for creativity in learning. A broad array of high quality presentations and the opportunity to share practices and ideas contributed to an atmosphere of collegiality and excitement about the future directions of enabling education. Proceedings are available on the FABENZ website at <http://fabenz.org.nz/proceedings-of-the-fabenz-conference-2018/>

Special recognition must go to conference convenor Rae Trewartha who has been a driving force behind FABENZ. Rae's contribution to foundation and bridging education in New Zealand has been unwavering over many years and under her guidance, FABENZ has provided a valuable platform for sharing and promoting the work of tertiary educators in the sector. Rae is retiring from her position as FABENZ Chairperson but will continue her very valuable support of this organisation.

Retirements

In 2018, several prominent NAEAA members retired from their positions after decades of service to enabling education.

One of these was Associate Professor Seamus Fagan who for many years has been Head of the largest Australian enabling program, which is based at the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre at the University of Newcastle. Seamus has been a long serving enabling practitioner and stalwart advocate for higher education access and equity; he was front and centre in the establishment of NAEAA, serving on the Executive and contributing in a multitude of ways related to policy and practice. Whenever an issue arose, Seamus was a person to consult. His knowledge of the sector, his willingness to contribute to debate and his passion for ensuring government policy remained focussed on the needs of enabling students cannot be understated. As well as hosting several prominent NAEAA forums and events, on numerous occasions Seamus would lobby both internal and external policy makers to ensure a strong voice for the enabling sector. His contribution to enabling has

been highly appreciated and we wish him well as he moves on to a new chapter in his life.

Professor Janet Taylor has also retired. Janet was Head of SCU College at Southern Cross University. Janet has also been a long serving enabling practitioner and advocate. For many years prior to her appointment to her academic position at SCU, Janet led the Mathematics team in the Tertiary Preparation Program at the University of Southern Queensland. Subsequently, Janet established a prominent reputation for her support of access and equity with a particular focus on the importance of all aspiring students acquiring an appropriate and essential level of academic numeracy. Janet instigated and led a number of enabling education research projects and fully supported the academic activities and goals of the NAEAA, serving on the Executive for a number of years and working across institutions to encourage staff to further the scholarship and academic standing of enabling. Janet's well informed and positive contribution to wide ranging matters of concern to NAEAA will be greatly missed. We wish her well for the future and thank her for her significant professional contribution.

NAEEA founding Chairperson David Bull also retired in 2018 after 35 years of service at the University of Southern Queensland, including ten years as Director of the Open Access College. David oversaw the phenomenal growth of the College and the expansion of its programs. He has been a stalwart advocate of widening participation programs both at USQ and on a national level. David played a significant role in the formation of NAEAA and served as Chairperson since its inception in 2012 until 2017. During this time, David worked tirelessly to build NAEAA membership and help form the fruitful and enduring networks which now exist amongst enabling educators across Australia and beyond. Under David's guidance, NAEAA was established as an important voice in the higher education sector, and the organisation's contributions to the national debate around the future of enabling education has been significant. We wish David all the best in his future endeavours and thank him his unwavering support of enabling educators and the important work they do.



Publishing Opportunity

New Springer volume on Widening Participation for Under-represented Groups in Higher Education (Eds. Jonathan H. Green, Fernando F. Padró, & David Bull).

Arriving at a time when the Widening Participation sector in Australia is coming of age, this volume, part of the Springer Reference series in *University Development and Administration* (Series Editor Fernando F. Padró) is an opportunity for NAEAA members to contribute to program development and policy directions that increase the participation of social equity groups in Higher Education. The volume, which will be published in 2020, targets readers who have an interest in establishing programs at their institutions that foster widening participation and aims to draw from current best practice and innovations in the sector. Expressions of interest are invited from those who wish to contribute by submitting a chapter that fits into this scope. Please contact Jonathan Green (Jonathan.Green@usq.edu.au).

NAEEA Annual General Meeting

An invitation to all members for 22nd March 2019.

All NAEAA members are invited to attend the 2018 AGM on 22 March, 2019. This is an important meeting which will provide members with an overview of the Associations activities and budget for 2018. The meeting will be held online, and an invitation and link has been sent to members.

2019 FACE Annual Conference

Delivering the public good of higher education – widening participation, place and lifelong learning.

The 26th Annual FACE Conference will be held at Sheffield Hallam University, UK from 3rd to 5th July 2019. Key themes include: Public good of Higher Education: Exploring and understanding the wider benefits of an inclusive Higher Education system; Widening Participation: Challenging and innovative approaches to access and success in HE and beyond; Place: Examining the impact of place and context on HE access and participation; Lifelong Learning: The role of HE institutionally, regionally, nationally and internationally in creating and delivering lifelong learning opportunities. More information is available at the conference website at <http://conference.face.ac.uk/>

2019 Membership now due!

Membership provides access to a nationwide community of practice which is focused on the continued development of enabling education. NAEAA members are entitled to a discount of \$100 when registering early for NAEAA EPHEA Conference.

Membership rate: \$80. Payment may be made by cheque, direct debit, or through PayPal.

See <http://enablingeducators.org/> for details, or email the secretary@enablingeducators.org to organise your membership.



National Association of
Enabling Educators of
Australia



EQUITY PRACTITIONERS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION
AUSTRALASIA

NOVEMBER
24-27, 2019



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG

Enabling Excellence through Equity

EPHEA & NAEAA CONFERENCE 2019

Registrations now open:
www.enablingequity.com



Enabling Excellence through Equity

Date: 24-27th November, 2019

Location: University of Wollongong, NSW Australia

EPHEA is proud to be partnering with NAEAA to deliver their biennial conference in 2019. This is a key professional development forum for equity and enabling practitioners in a wide range of fields to highlight best student and staff practices in higher education. Practitioners and researchers specialising in enabling and equity across the higher education sectors in Australia, New Zealand/ Pacific and internationally are invited to participate.

The theme for the 2019 conference is 'Enabling Excellence through Equity' with workshops and presentations exploring these sub-themes:

- Diverse genders, sexes and sexualities
- Intersectionality
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Maori, Pacific Islander, First Nations and First Peoples
- Disability, ability, accessibility and mental health
- First in family
- Refugee and CALD

The conference will focus on these sub-themes through the following streams:

- Pre-Access and Widening Participation
- Leadership, organisational development and workplace diversity
- Access and Enabling: Exploring Teaching, Learning (including TEL) and Co-Curricular experiences
- Transition and Engagement
- Employability
- Collaboration and Partnership: Between staff and students, across the organisation, with community organisations etc.

about EPHEA & NAEAA



EQUITY PRACTITIONERS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION
AUSTRALASIA

EPHEA (Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia) is the professional incorporated association for equity practitioners who work in tertiary education throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region.

www.ephea.org



National Association of
Enabling Educators of
Australia

NAEAA (National Association of Enabling Educators of Australia) is an association of enabling educators and practitioners established as a collective of like-minded professionals and institutions for the purpose of collaborating on issues of common interest and relevance to enabling education.

www.enablingeducators.org

This event is co-hosted by the University of Wollongong and the University of Wollongong College Australia.