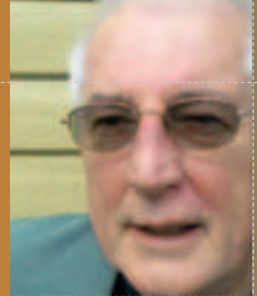


Editorial



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Quest. Due to a number of internal changes within your organisation towards the end of 2008, I have returned as the acting Executive Director. This is an interim appointment until the end of June when your Board will make a decision about either extending my tenure or making a new appointment to this position.

Over the first quarter of 2009 we have been busy finalising some outstanding reporting and forward planning requirements with DEEWR. These processes are now all but complete.

In relation to governance matters, completion of the AGM that commenced at the 48th Annual Conference in Fremantle will conclude in Melbourne on Friday 1 May 2009. Details will be published on the ALA website.

One of ALA's forward planning tools is our Strategic Plan. This document outlines a range of valuable services ALA will provide for members and the broader ACE/CET sector. This document will be accessible via ALA's website shortly.

Amongst these services will be a series of information sessions presented as workshops, both face-to-face and online, about the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (\$100M) initiative during late April and early May. Dr John McIntyre's paper in this edition provides a context for this initiative.

The Better TAFE Facilities (\$200M) and the Training Infrastructure Investment for Tomorrow (\$200M) are currently being dealt with by DEEWR. If you are a member with a close working relationship with your local TAFE College you may wish to have a look at the second of these two initiatives. However be aware that you can only make a bid from one of the funding pools.

Because our resources only allow for a limited number of face-to-face sessions to walk you through the guidelines about making a bid for funds from the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund, ALA will also be conducting a series of on-line information sessions through Elluminate.

Both types of sessions will be open to all in the sector. Any further assistance in the formulation of proposals will only be available to members of ALA.

If you feel uncertain about engaging with Elluminate Live ALA has arranged for a number of introductory training sessions throughout April at no cost.

Please avail yourself of this learning opportunity because an increasing amount of ALA activities in 2009 will use this platform.

Many of you will be aware by now of the results of the recent Board elections. Greg Peart (current President) was re-elected to serve another term on the Board. We also welcome Dr Barry Golding and Dorothy Lucardie onto the ALA Board in 2009.

Both are well known to the membership for their different contributions to the sector over many years. Barry for his contribution to our knowledge of Men's Sheds and as a regular speaker at ALA conferences. Dorothy returns after a break away from ALA as a past President and active, long serving Board member.

We also take this opportunity to extend our heart-felt thanks to two former Board members who were not re-elected, Dr Roger Morris and Vanessa Little for their extensive contribution to the organisation over many years.

Our thanks also go to those who nominated to represent the organisation but did not achieve the quota required.

In the Summer Edition of Quest the President asked for member input around the issue of ALA's vision, role and direction. Thank you to those who contributed. Some of those aspirations and thoughts have already been included in the Strategic Plan.

There are two final matters.

We wish to advise that due to budget constraints we are giving serious consideration to moving from a paper-based Quest to an on-line version. We feel the contribution Quest makes to informing the sector is important, and rather than face the possibility of losing it altogether, because of financial constraints, it may be prudent to move to an on-line version for the next 12-18 months.

Lastly, we are considering a 'Letters to the Editor' section. Any thoughts you may have about this, as an added feature, would be most welcome.

I look forward to both a challenging and exciting year with you as we work together for the ACE/CET sector.

Ron Anderson

Executive Director (Acting)