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News In Brief – February 2017

APTA aims to provide leadership that supports and advances professional teaching associations, by being a voice for, and raising the profile of, the profession by building an informed and supportive network for collaborative activities, projects and research.

President's Message:

Welcome to the 2017 school year! Professional associations across the country have commenced their activities for the year. The APTA Board wishes all associations and their executive a wonderful and fruitful year.

Susan Gazis AM
President

Adobe Connect workshop

APTA is offering an Adobe Connect workshop on Thursday 23 March 2017 (7.30pm – 8.30pm EST) to support professional teaching associations in the use of Adobe Connect for meetings and as a professional learning platform. Information about registering for the course will be forwarded to associations shortly.

Professional learning events

<http://www.apta.edu.au/whats-on/weekly-view>

Check out the professional learning offered by Australian professional teaching associations. Have a look at the APTA professional learning calendar

Professional associations who would like to advertise their courses on the APTA calendar and website need to demonstrate that they are members of one of the 8 state or territory joint councils. Please email your request to contactus@apta.edu.au.

The following are a set of opportunities and resources that associations may find useful.

Resources from national agencies

Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA)

ACARA has released an online resource to support the teaching of consumer and financial literacy through the Australian Curriculum.

Developed in partnership with the Australian Securities

and Investments Commission and the Australian Tax Office, the resource allows teachers to filter information and develop educational programs on issues such as budgeting, navigating the ever-changing consumer and financial landscape, consumer rights and responsibilities, and where to go to for assistance.

The resource has been developed with the aim of equipping young Australians to:

- be informed in consumer and financial matters
- have the skills to apply to real-world consumer and financial situations
- make effective decisions that have a positive impact on themselves, their families, the broader community and the environment develop enterprising behaviours.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

<http://www.aitsl.edu.au/induction/case-studies>

AITSL's free My Induction mobile app for beginning teachers is now available. Beginning teachers are able to access advice and engage in activities to help their development at the start of their teaching career.

Explore AITSL's resources on teacher induction, including video case studies showcasing six schools from a variety of contexts across Australia. You can find out how schools are implementing the induction principles and strategies outlined in the induction guidelines. Use the resources and guidelines with your teachers and association in 2017.

Teacher Self-Assessment Tool

<http://tsat.aitsl.edu.au/unauthorised;returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Ftsat.aitsl.edu.au%2F>

AITSL has recently launched the new Teacher Self-Assessment Tool (Teacher SAT). The Teacher SAT is a free to access, online questionnaire that will help teachers reflect on their practice with reference to the Australian

Professional Standards for Teachers.

Use the Teacher SAT to:

- discover your strengths and areas for development
- guide professional learning choices
- stimulate professional conversations with colleagues and mentors
- set goals to improve your teaching practice
- see your progress by comparing reports over time
- contribute to a group report to discover expertise across a whole department, year level or school.

All you need is your AITSL account to log-in and start the questionnaire.

School Leader Self-Assessment Tool

<http://www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leader-self-assessment-tool>

The newly released School Leader Self-Assessment Tool (School Leader SAT) by AITSL will assist current and aspiring school leaders to reflect on and locate their leadership practice within the Australian Professional Standard for Principals and the Leadership Profiles.

Completing the free online questionnaire provides leaders with a report that identifies specific strengths and areas for development, and a personalised developmental pathway. Using the tool, leaders can also create a plan for learning and growth, gain access to leadership resources linked to learning needs, and track and compare results over time.

In addition to individual self-reflection, the School Leader SAT is a resource for leadership groups to gain an overview of their strengths and needs.

Education Services Australia

<http://www.learningpotential.edu.au>

The Learning Potential website is a new resource for parents and families to help bring school lessons to life at home. The website was launched by Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham on 20 February 2017. The new website, Learning Potential Resources is filled with hundreds of ideas, activities, games and videos to assist parents of primary school children get involved in their child's learning.

Learning Potential Resources supports the Australian Curriculum for primary school and contains three main sections, which include:

- 41 'every day ideas' to show parents how to practice literacy and numeracy skills with their child.
- 80 'practice together' articles to guide parents on how they can reinforce literacy and numeracy skills their child is learning at school.

- 80 'practice online' activities, including internet games and videos that parents and children can do together.

The Student Wellbeing Hub

<https://studentwellbeinghub.edu.au>

The Student Wellbeing Hub provides resources assisting to create learning communities that promote student wellbeing and the development of respectful relationships. The Hub has been developed around the principles of the National Safe Schools Framework, which highlight the importance of educators, parents and students working together.

The Asia Education Foundation

The Asia Education Foundation (AEF) Pathways and Toolkits at <http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/professional-learning/pathways-and-toolkits>

Explore a range of pathways and toolkits that the AEF has designed to support teachers and school leaders to implement a curriculum that supports Asia capability. You are able to use the following AEF resources to work with your teachers:

- Asia in the secondary History curriculum toolkit History (Years 7–10) provides a number of opportunities to teach about Asia. This toolkit includes information and resources to support you in implementing an Asia-focused History curriculum.
- Global collaboration across the curriculum toolkit ICT provides a range of opportunities to connect Australian student with peers in Asia. Through use of synchronous and asynchronous technologies students have the opportunity to connect and collaborate on a range of topics that takes learning beyond the four walls of the classroom.

The Global Collaboration Across the Curriculum toolkit supports teachers to design, implement and manage collaborations that provide Australian students with the opportunity to connect with peers in Asia.

- Asian Languages toolkit This toolkit includes information and resources to support you in implementing Asian Languages programs.
- School Partnerships Toolkit International school partnerships provide unique learning opportunities to connect students, teachers and school communities internationally. These people-to-people connections support the development of the global competencies students need to thrive in our increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

This toolkit, developed by the Asia Education Foundation, is based on extensive research and a

robust evidence base of international school partnerships led by Australian schools. It outlines the key factors that help to establish and sustain successful school partnerships and provides practical examples of activities that support collaboration.

- Intercultural understanding toolkit
Intercultural understanding has become fundamental to education in a diverse and interconnected world. This toolkit includes information and resources to support you to address the Intercultural understanding general capability in the classroom.

I hope you find this edition of the APTA New In Brief useful. Please do not hesitate to let me know if wish to have items included in the next edition (Term 2, 2017).

Susan Gazis AM
President

Around the States and Territories Presidents' Dinner (JCQTA)

There was a new venue heralding a fresh and exciting start to the year for JCQTA member associations at the annual Presidents' Dinner. The exciting component was the offer of support and sponsorship from the Teachers Mutual Bank (TMB). TMB were awarded 'Best Bank in Socially Responsible Performance' by the Asia-Pacific Banking Finance awards in 2013, 2015 and 2016. Mr Rob Buchanan, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for TMB, presented at the dinner and gave a brief history of the bank, its philosophy and the possible opportunities it could provide to support professional teacher associations.

Being approached by a financial institution looking to assist associations, rather than having to search for sponsors, was a welcome change. The offer of support was warmly received by member associations and how this is put into practice will be included in future newsletters.

Ms Kathryn Tully, Assistant Director, K-12 Resources Branch, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) presented on the topic of professional development for the new senior curriculum. Queensland, like New South Wales, is undergoing significant change with a move to external assessment and new subjects and syllabuses in the senior school years. The QCAA is very keen to work with professional teacher associations to develop and present professional development in this area. This could take the form of QCAA personnel presenting at association conferences, seminars or workshops or could involve associations providing feedback to the QCAA.

Dinner attendees were asked to complete a SWOT analysis on their association and these were compiled to identify common areas of concern. The Strengths acknowledged by associations were their diversity of membership, the expertise, commitment and enthusiasm of members and the use of technology to communicate with members. Membership was also identified as a weakness with membership numbers, location and age being seen as areas requiring action. Networking with other associations, pre-service teachers, beginning teachers and corporate and government bodies and implementation of the Australian Curriculum and new senior syllabuses were seen as Opportunities. Threats included lack of recognition of the role and work of professional teacher associations, not attracting new members and problems with renewal and succession planning. These SWOT factors may be evident in other state and territory teacher associations.

The evening concluded on a very positive note with Mr Norm Hunter, Vice President of the Queensland chapter of ACEL updating member associations on the Statement of Commitment to the Values and Practice of the Australian Teaching Profession. The Statement is a very powerful piece of writing which associations supported and indicated they would use it in their association work.

From the President (PTCNSW)

NSW schools are about to finish the first month of our 2017 school year. As of January 1st a new look BOSTES now known as New South Wales Standards Authority, under the direction of Chief Executive Officer David de Carvalho began. We look forward to hearing from David at the upcoming PTCNSW Welcome Cocktail Party. The inaugural NESA board of 14 members will be chaired by Tom Alegounarias, the former President of BOSTES.



NSW Education Minister Rob Stokes

We have also gained a new NSW Education Minister, Rob Stokes. PTCNSW has written to the Minister welcoming him to his new portfolio and have requested a meeting to outline the role of PTCNSW in the delivery of the ministers programs and to

discuss the work of all professional teacher association across NSW.

A farewell was held for Minister Piccoli, hosted by the Department of Education earlier this term,

where PTCNSW thanked the Minister for his defence of the NSW curriculum and for his continued support of the PTCNSW Ministerial grant.

PTCplus Development

PTCplus, our in school, individualised professional learning product has registered our first Independent School, providing professional learning experiences directly based on their staff's individual, faculty and whole school development plans. Additional compliant PL events attracting NESAC accreditation have been added for 2017, including a number of Leadership sessions. We look forward to a successful 2017. Should your school executive be interested in finding out about PTCplus, contact the PTCNSW office.



PTCNSW Website Development

Over the past few months a new contemporary looking PTCNSW website has been taking shape. Our new site will be streamlined with member associations prominently displayed including new functionality and a PTCplus portal for all PTCplus schools. In addition, we are combining our news section with a teacher blog for teachers to post comments, ideas and reflections on various articles. The initial blog invites teachers affected by the new HSC Stage 6 syllabus announced this week for Science, English, Mathematics and History. The new website will be launched at the Welcome Cocktail party in March. As part of the new web design we have also tweaked our PTCNSW logo!



PTConnect – not just any Conference App!

PTCNSW in conjunction with ShowGizmo have created a highly functional and cost effective solution for member associations. Not only can the App support larger conferences it allows associations to run the app for 12 months continually promoting upcoming PL events. PTConnect is also available for APTA joint councils and member associations. To find out more please contact the PTCNSW office for details and to explore the opportunities on this very exciting innovation!



From the West (PTCWA)

Some of the hardworking Committee of Professional Teachers Council of Western Australia.



L-R Gary Adamson (Art Ed) Val Baird (WASLA) Sonja Kuzich (ALEA) Alda Costa (WAATI), Barb Lippiatt (WAATA)

Membership

To become a member of APTA, join one of our member associations in your state or territory:

Communication

APTA provides timely information to members via:

- Website <http://www.apta.edu.au/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/apta.edu.au>
- Email list Subscribe to the national email list [here](#)

For further information, please contact:

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