

ESLE President's Report

June 2003

Rosie Antenucci

Thank you for the opportunity to give this report. Over the last year we have as usual been quite busy. We have been involved in delivering professional development, in developing partnerships and in publishing our journal.

Professional Development

The Professional Development we have run has included:

- a very successful dinner at the end of last year
- a talk by Lexie Mincham, about priorities in DETE
- two sessions on the links between ESL and indigenous learners, delivered in partnership with ACTA, our national body and the Aboriginal Education Unit

We have another three events planned for this year:

- the language of Maths and Science to be held in week 3 term 3
- a forum on the Sudanese community in Adelaide to be held later in term 3
- the end of year dinner

We have also had some of our professional development sessions videoed including the Indigenous focus session and this evening's forum on ESL testing. We hope to be able to advertise these videos for loan some time in the future.

Partnerships

There continues to be a strong link between ESLE and our peak national body, ACTA. This year we have seen ACTA, largely through the efforts of the president Andrea Harms, initiate the important project on Indigenous Education. The ACTA website at tesol.org.au has an excellent collation of resources and readings that relate to this issue.

We also continue to be represented on CEASA, the Council of Educational Associations in South Australia. CEASA has provided funding to enable ESLE to deliver professional development on the ESL Scope and Scales to other associations. ESLE will also apply for additional CEASA funding for further professional development. We will also accept offers to present at CEASA-organised conferences, alongside other associations.

Lobbying

Our political lobbying has probably been less than in other years. However we are engaged in the development of teacher standards. You may recall that we distributed a survey on ESL teacher standards late last year. Those results were collated. Jenny Barnett, at the request of ACTA, facilitated an ACTA councilors session on teacher standards and both Jenny and I attended a national meeting on teacher standards recently. We need to further our engagement with the issue of teacher standards and I hope to do more work on this issue in term 3.

Communication

This past year ESLE has experimented with a new committee structure. The committee meets only once a term, on the morning of the first Saturday of term, while other groups meet at other times for specific purposes. This year the PD group, the journal group and the teacher awards group met separately. It has meant the greater use of email between meetings but it seems to have worked quite well and will probably be continued.

Also this year we have completed our website, by engaging a web developer, Carl Nilsson-Polias and we will soon have an internet home. Our web address will be: esleducators.org.au and we will advertise this when it is ready. Carl will maintain our website.

We have also started using email distribution for our fliers. We hope in time that the email distribution and website will make it easier for people to find out about us and keep in touch with our activities.

Further changes are planned for the committee structure. The committee has approved payment to Tony Whillas for his services. He will no longer be our Treasurer but will continue to maintain our financial records and be reimbursed for his services. This means that a new Treasurer will not need to carry out the arduous task of maintaining our financial records but simply keep track of our expenditure.

Awards

This year we had an evening presentation to Year 12 merit award winners and today we have given our tertiary award. Later this year we will introduce another award: the ESL Teachers award. We are very excited about this. I thank Teresa, Giuliana, Richard and Stella for working on this and Giuliana will speak about this later.

Review

Over the last year, our restructuring and the completion of goals such as email distribution of fliers, has proven to be very successful. I think we have succeeded well in understanding our cross- sector role as we have had great attendance at every professional development session we have delivered. We have a strong relationship with key groups such as ACTA and CEASA.

I believe we have the basis of moving forward in a very positive way and I encourage you to strongly consider joining the committee as it is a very rewarding experience.

To Gene, I congratulate you for your achievements and also say that the past two winners of the tertiary award have gone on to join the committee!

Finally I would like to give some acknowledgements:

To the current committee members:

Andrea Harms, Stella Emberson, Giuliana Otmarich, Richard Kirkman, Teresa Howie, Kate Cadman, Alison Cheetham, Erica Smith, Sue Tagg, Maggie Gordon and Anna Polias– I thank them for their contribution, collaboration and support.

I would like to thank Helen Benzie, Cate Burt, Chris Braham and Helen Flavel for their work on the ESLE journal. Helen's report follows.

I would also like to thank Tony Whillas for his work as Treasurer. He has maintained very tight records for us for which we are very grateful, having recently heard of another association which has to go through all their records to repay the Tax Department for the GST they neglected to declare. Tony's report follows also.

Finally I would like to say how enjoyable it has been to be ESLE President. I have learned a great deal and had many opportunities that I would not have had otherwise. Thank you again for everyone's support and contribution.