

President's Report to the AAEGT Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019 - Lesley Henderson

It is my honour and pleasure to present the Report on the activities of the AAEGT (September 2018-September 2019).

1. Meetings:

- The 2018 AGM was held in Adelaide on September 24th at the Research Colloquium hosted by Flinders University. At that AGM, the new Constitution was accepted by a member vote.
- The AAEGT Board has met once face-to-face following the 2018 AGM, and via Zoom (online video platform) ten times between October 2018 and August 2019.
- The Executive has met via Zoom on four occasions throughout the previous year.

2. Affiliation:

- Current gifted associations affiliated with the AAEGT (in alphabetical order):
 - ACT Gifted Families' Support Group Inc. (ACT GFSG)
 - Association for Gifted and Talented Education Victoria (AGATEVic)
 - Gifted & Talented Children's Association of SA (GTCASA)
 - Gifted Western Australia (Gifted WA)
 - NSW Gifted Families' Support Group Inc. (GFSG NSW)
 - NT Association for the Education of the Gifted & Talented (NTAEGT)
 - Tasmanian Association for the Gifted Inc. (TAG)
 - Victorian Association for Gifted & Talented Children (VAGTC)

Other gifted associations with whom we are linked:

- Memorandum of Agreement with giftEDNZ in New Zealand (signed in 2016)
- Affiliated organisation status with the WCGTC

3. Current Directors:

- I would like to acknowledge the work of the Directors on the AAEGT Board over the last year. All work is completed voluntarily, and their commitment to working towards the purpose of the AAEGT is commendable.
- Melinda Gindy resigned from the Board in June, 2019. As Vice President, communications secretary and GAW co-ordinator (and colleague), Melinda was missed, but she has re-nominated as a Director for the coming term.
- The following Directors comprise the current AAEGT Board. Their qualifications and relevant details are included:
 - Lesley Henderson (MGiftedEd, BEd, DipT), President 2017-2019, Vice President 2011-2015, AAEGT representative on AAAE/NEF 2011-2019, GTCASA member since 2003 and previous GTCASA President 2011-2013. Lecturer and Gifted Education course coordinator at Flinders University since 2006. *Retiring from the AAEGT Board after 8 years' service*
 - Jodi Brown (Dip LM, Cert IV Ed Support, Cert III Engineering Mechanical), Vice-President from June 2019, AAEGT website manager since 2016, member of NTAEGT since 2012, previous President NTAEGT.
 - Lynne Maher (BSc, DipEd, TTC, Dip PM, Cert IV TAE), AAEGT Treasurer 2017-2019, Director since 2015, President TAG Inc. for 8 years, committee member for 18 years.
 - Elizabeth Singer (BScHons), AAEGT Secretary 2017-2019, served 4 years on the Board, current President of ACTGFSG.
 - Jae Jung (PhD, BA/BEd, BComm, CA), AAEGT Director and Editor *AJGE* since 2015, AAEGT Secretary 2015-2017. Lecturer at UNSW since 2007 and Director of GERRIC since 2019.
 - Kate Mitchell (MEd Gifted Ed, Grad Dip Ed, B Comm, FACEL), Co-editor AAEGT Newsletter 2018-2019, Victorian Director since 2017, Retired Principal Box Hill (SEAL) High School. *Retiring from the AAEGT Board after 2 years' service*

- Robert Perkins (BSc, DipEd, GradCert Physics Ed, GradCert Gifted Ed), Co-editor AAEGT Newsletter 2018-2019, South Australian Director since 2017. Assistant Director School Operations in the SA Department for Education, Chair of the SA Gifted Advisory Board. *Retiring from the AAEGT Board after 2 years' service*
- Kylie Bice (MEd, GradCert (LD), DipEd, BA), AAEGT Director 2017-2019, founding member of GiftedWA. Owner of and Education Consultant with *Growing Up Greatness*.

4. Elections for Directors 2019-2021:

- As noted above, three current Directors retire from the AAEGT Board at the 2019 AGM.
- Nominations were called in July from Members who wished to be considered for their state or territory's Director on the AAEGT Board. As there were two states with more than one nomination, elections were held in Queensland and NSW. There was no nomination from SA. As there was only one nomination from each of the other States and Territories, the nominee was appointed to the Board.
- The Directors listed below (in alphabetical order) will serve on the Board from 2019 until 2021:
 - Julia Bailey (Qld)
 - Kylie Bice (WA)
 - Jodi Brown (NT)
 - Melinda Gindy (NSW)
 - Jae Jung (Journal Editor – ongoing position)
 - Lynne Maher (Tas)
 - Susan Nikakis (Vic)
 - Elizabeth Singer (ACT)
- Elections for Office-Bearers will be held during the first Board meeting following the AGM. Office-Bearers will be determined by the Board from existing Directors, although the Board has the power to appoint additional Directors should additional skills be found to be required. Hopefully when the Board elects their Office-Bearers, all Directors will support the majority choices and be prepared to work constructively with them.

5. Governance:

- Several communications were sent to our Affiliates and Members to explain changes to our governance processes and provide information about the work of the Board during the year.
- With the development of a new Constitution, the Board has drafted a set of By-Laws which set out the details of the governance processes designed to implement the Constitution. Further discussions will take place before the drafted By-Laws are agreed and adopted by the Board.
- The draft By-Laws have adapted previously written policies and protocols into the one document for easier reference and consistency of presentation. The document also indicates how the By-laws relate to and elaborate on the relevant clauses within the Constitution.

6. Giftedness Awareness Week (GAW):

- GAW was held during March 17-23, with this year's theme of *Belonging*. Events and activities were held around Australia, organised by the local associations and overseen by Melinda Gindy and her committee. On behalf of the AAEGT, I wish to thank Melinda for her dedicated leadership.
- There is now a GAW website at <http://gaw.aaegt.net.au/>
- GAW 2020 dates have been announced, so we look forward to 15-22nd March GAW events based on the theme of *Wellbeing*.
- The theme is being jointly promoted by both the AAEGT and the combined New Zealand gifted organisations and was announced in July at the World Council for Gifted and talented Children conference in Nashville. It is great to see the alliance with our NZ neighbours strengthened by collaborative endeavours like this.

7. Australasian Journal of Gifted Education (AJGE):

- Two issues of the *AJGE* have been published and distributed to subscribers this year – Volume 27, Issue 2 in December, 2018 and Volume 28, Issue 1 in March, 2019.
- Discounted subscriptions to the *AJGE* are available to AAEGT members.
- On behalf of the AAEGT, I wish to sincerely thank Jae for his editorship and promotion of our journal. This year, the CiteScore of the *AJGE* has increased, so it now sits just below the *Roeper Review*. This gives our journal greater visibility within the research community. With an impressive team of reviewers and assistant editors, and Jae's advocacy on our behalf with the New Zealand and Asia Pacific gifted associations, we are optimistic that the *AJGE* will achieve even higher ratings.

8. Gifted Voices Newsletter:

- Sincere thanks to Kate Mitchell and Rob Perkins for re-establishing the AAEGT Newsletter after a seven or eight-year hiatus and doing such a stellar job of Co-editorship. *Gifted Voices* is intended to be sent electronically to all AAEGT Members twice each year. Our third newsletter was sent in September, 2019. Affiliate reports from around Australia are now back to being included in the Newsletter instead of in the research journal. Hopefully one of the continuing Directors will take on the editorship of the Newsletter, now that both Kate and Rob are retiring. Thank you both for your vision and leadership as Editors.

9. Website and Social Media

- Updating the AAEGT website remains a priority, but has not progressed beyond receiving a couple of quotes. This is a major undertaking but an essential public presence and source of information.
- The use of social media is increasing in importance, and it is interesting to note that the AAEGT Facebook page has about 2000 followers.
- Thank you to Jodi Brown and other Directors who manage our media presence and keep updating our sites with current information.

10. Conference Report

- Margaret Plunkett, Melinda Gindy and myself were elected as the Australian delegates to the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) this year, and attended the WCGTC conference in Nashville in July. In the recent AAEGT Newsletter (*Gifted Voices*, 2(2)) I failed to acknowledge in the Conference Report the role of Leonie Kronborg as Vice President of the WCGTC, as Editor of their journal (*Gifted and Talented International*) and her tireless support for the AAEGT and our members in the international arena and at home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leonie, and apologise for not acknowledging in our newsletter's report her important contributions. It is interesting to note that Australians comprise the second most number of members from any country in the WCGTC, and Leonie is to be congratulated for all the work she does in promoting our interests internationally and in Australia.
- On behalf of the AAEGT I would also like to thank the Tasmanian Association for hosting this year's AAEGT AGM at their conference in Hobart. The location for next year's AGM is yet to be determined.
- In my 2018 President's Report, I announced that South Australia would be hosting the 2020 AAEGT Conference. Due to a range of circumstances, this is now not possible.
- Affiliates are encouraged to consider whether they are in a position to host a national conference next year, at which the AGM could be held.

The Board welcomes any feedback from our Affiliates and Members with regards to how we might better meet their needs and progress our purpose into the future. Communication can be sent to info@aaegt.net.au.

On a personal note, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have whole-heartedly supported me as President. When I took up the presidency in 2017, the priority was to write our new Constitution, which we achieved in 2018. We have also been working on a By-Laws document with 12 of 18 By-Laws already drafted.

The Research Colloquium hosted by Flinders University in September 2018 worked towards bringing together our research community in a positive and constructive way. Several research proposals were discussed and ideas generated about raising the profile of gifted education in the national education research agenda. It was also a great opportunity for the research community to meet together. Part of the purpose of the AAEGT in promoting research and scholarship within the field of gifted and talented education, in addition to our research journal, is to provide professional leadership for research and education in our field. The AAEGT is unique amongst professional education associations in that parents also have strong representation. Finding ways to meet the needs of all members within the AAEGT requires careful strategic planning and the requisite skill sets for Directors. As the new Constitution enables all members to nominate for the position of state/territory director on the AAEGT Board, and to vote for their local nominee, I hope the members with the necessary knowledge and experience consider ways in which they might contribute to the purpose of the AAEGT: *to promote and protect the educational entitlement and well-being of the gifted and talented.*

It has been an honour to have served the national gifted community and gifted education profession as the national president. I wish the new and continuing Directors all the best as they carry on our important work.

Thank you
Lesley Henderson, AAEGT President