



SPERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MEETING 2015

Location:	Deakin University Geelong, Waterfront Campus Room D2.105	Meeting Date:	Thursday 5th November 2015 8:00am AEST
Attendees:	Brian O'Neill – Chair Louisa Bowman Sue Trinidad Jodie Kline Paula Jervis-Tracey Sue Ledger Laura Domingo John Borserio Philip Roberts Don Boyd Louise Martin Dot Donovan Rebecca McKenzie Chris Reading		
Apologies from:	Charles Bradley Audrey Brown		
Minutes taken by:	Rebecca McKenzie		

Welcome and Apologies

Brian opened the meeting at 8:13am AEST with a welcome to those in attendance, and noted apologies.

Acceptance of Previous: Previous minutes, dated 2 October 2014, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the previous 2014 AGM.

Motioned: Sue Trinidad

Seconded: Louisa Bowman

Rebecca McKenzie joined the meeting at 8:21am

Agenda Items

4. Presidents Report (Brian O'Neill)

- SPERA President Brian O'Neill read out aloud his presidents report (see supported documentation).
- Special acknowledgments were made to the contribution of SPERA Executive, Members and Supporters. Special acknowledged was made to the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Educations (NCSEHE) contribution to SPERA in giving extra time for Rebecca and Louisa's to devote to SPERA projects. Brian thanked sponsors for their support of Pre-Service Teachers particularly Toowoomba Diocese for its extensive support over many years.
- Principal's Association and Australian Rural Health Network, and ICPA northern Territory & Queensland are all interested in connecting with SPERA.

Presidents report: *Motioned:* Brian O'Neill

Seconded: Louisa Bowman



5. Business Arising from Presidents Report

- Follow up Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) partnership with Simone/Joss.
- Louisa Bowman tabled a discussion around the positions currently held by Di Gardiner and Rebecca McKenzie .The need to fundraise in order to retain these positions and to develop partnerships with corporate sponsorships. Both positions are currently budgeted until the end of 2015 under the current arrangements.
- Sue Trinidad moved that a business case/ plan be formed to how these sponsorships can be involved.
Motioned: Sue Trinidad
Seconded: Don Boyd
- Sue Trinidad raised the issue of the online journal and that the whole business case of the Journal needs to be reviewed and made easy access. If sponsorship is being looked at then it needs to be looked at what members are getting for their membership in the future as in the past that is what paid for the journal.

6. Treasurers Report (Louisa Bowman)

- SPERA Treasurer Louisa Bowman prepared documentation including a detailed report, profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (see supporting documents).
- In addition particular thanks were given to Don Boyd & Emmy Terry for all their generous support during the transition period.
- Treasuring has moved from Excel based reporting to MYOB

Treasurers report: *Motioned:* Sue Trinidad
Seconded: Don Boyd

7. Election of 2016 Executive (Brian O'Neill)

- SPERA president asked the SPERA Executive Officer Rebecca McKenzie to read the nominations for the 2015/2016 Executive. Nominations were received from the following people:

Brian O'Neill
Louisa Bowman
Sue Trinidad
Jodie Kline
Paula Jervis-Tracey
Sue Ledger
John Borserio
Philip Roberts
Don Boyd
Louise Martin
Dot Donovan

Nominations moved to be accepted: *Motioned:* Sue Trinidad
Seconded: Louise Martin

8. Appointment of Public Officer (Brian O'Neill)

- SPERA president moved that Charles Bradley continue as the Public Officer of SPERA.

Motioned: Don Boyd
Seconded: Sue Trinidad



SPERA

Society for the Provision of
Education in Rural Australia

9. 32nd SPERA Conference (Brian O'Neill)

- In 2016 there will be a joint ISFIRE SPERA conference to be held at CQUniversity Australia's Mackay campus, Queensland. ISFIRE's Michael Corbett will handle the International speakers and Chris reading will assist.
- A venue for 2017 will need to be found. University of Canberra may be an option.
- Dates 28th to 30th September will be during the school holidays to get a greater reach and have blended streams so they are not separated instead a truly integrated conference.
- SPERA and ISFIRE to look at sponsorships and discounts to make attendance as low cost as possible.

10. General Business

- First meeting of 2016 executive and the nomination for portfolios will be held at 7:45am tomorrow (6th November 2015) at Custom's House, 57-59 Brougham Street, Geelong.

Meeting closed at 8:53am AEST.

SPERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 5 November 2015, Commencing 8:00am
Deakin University: Geelong Waterfront Campus, Room D2.105

President's Report

Presented by Brian O'Neill

It is my pleasure to present SPERA's Annual Report for 2014 – 2015. This has been an exciting year as we have made changes and established foundations for the future. This report will highlight these changes, acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our members and discuss the activities in which we have been involved.

AIJRE – Australian and International Journal of Rural Education

One of the major initiatives undertaken by SPERA this year, and one that has paved the pathway for the further development of our society into the future, was the launch of our online journal. This move will improve the accessibility of our articles by researchers and accordingly increase SPERA's footprint. The transition from hard copy to soft copy has been a massive task and I thank and commend everyone who has been involved in this transition: our editors Tania Broadley, Aaron Drummond, Paula Jervis-Tracey, Jodie Kline, Sue Ledger and Elaine Sharplin; AIJRE business operations manager Di Gardner, to whom nothing is a problem; and our Treasurer and Web Manager Louisa Bowman.

An effective and cutting edge journal like the AIJRE would not exist without the contributions of respected researchers and authors and those people who volunteer to be peer reviewers. The role of the peer reviewer is a difficult one as the credibility of the journal rests on their shoulders; they have to be analytical and provide constructive feedback to authors. I am particularly delighted that the editorial team has instituted an award for the peer reviewer who has made the most outstanding contribution to this role. The award for excellence in reviewing will be presented at the conference.

AREA – Australian Rural Education Award

The Australian Rural Education Awards acknowledge the innovative practices that occur in our educational institutions and clearly acknowledge that despite the tyranny of distance, rural, regional and remote schools are not deficit models as so many cutting edge projects develop in these sites. I am excited that we have received 16 nominations for awards this year as it is demonstrative of two things: 1) the word is spreading, and 2) innovation is occurring and people are proud of their work.

I would particularly like to thank AREA portfolio director, SPERA Vice President Sue Ledger for her work in promoting and organising the awards this year. Well done Sue, a fantastic job. I also thank our selection panel of Sue Ledger and John Borserio for what must have been a very difficult job. In addition to the two category awards, four citations acknowledging the excellence of the projects have been made. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to enter the awards for what you are doing to enhance the opportunities for rural, regional and remote students and special congratulations to the winners.

Conference

Congratulations to Jodie Kline for leading an effective conference team and for delivering a stimulating program. Everyone who has seen the program has acknowledged the diverse range of excellent presentation which fit together so beautifully. Although she has always had the support of the conference team of Louisa Bowman, Don Boyd, Sue Ledger, Rebecca McKenzie, Sue Trinidad and me, there were no doubt many road bumps which caused Jodie headaches and sleepless nights. Thank you, Jodie, and thank you to your family.

Thank you to our presenters and a big thank you to all delegates for your support of our organisation. I know that you will find the experience, the learnings and the networks invaluable. Thank you to Deakin University and CREFI, SPERA's hosts, and to our generous sponsors for their contributions; thank you to Ryan Taggart from AdCapital for the graphic design work; thank you to our two roving photographers, Donna Squire and Beate Behrendt; thank you to the students from Geelong High School for their participation; and thank you to our conference ambassadors for their assistance and support. We could not do this without you all.

Logo

One of the exciting changes that took place this year is the rebranding of our organisation with a new logo. Although blue is the colour of SPERA, and the blue logo appears on all documentation pertaining to SPERA's administrative matters, the logo comes in a palette range relating to the colours of the outback. The logo, for example, appears in an ochre colour regarding the AREAs and green with regards to the AIJRE. Thank you to Louisa Bowman and her husband Ken, for their work with the design of our new logo. Thank you to the Executive members for their input in the consultation and voting process.

Website

Following a considered selection process, Perth-based technology company Lodestone was selected to develop a new SPERA website. The new site is a significant part of the new SPERA brand and involved a significant amount of work to develop. The site will be launched at this year's conference, and we invite our members to contribute news, events and resources to be shared online. Thank you for your efforts, Ken. It has been a pleasure working with you and I look forward to continuing to do so. Thank you also for the graphic design and IT support you donate to SPERA. We are grateful for your help.

Networks

No organisation is an island, and it is important to network with other organisations that have a similar focus or related interest. For this reason, I am excited to welcome Sabina Knight, chair of the Australian Rural Health Education Network as a keynote speaker at this year's conference.

We are supported by the Isolated Children's Parents' Associations in Queensland and Northern Territory, and I would like to see us expand our partnerships with the ICPA branches in other states. ICPA Queensland state executive member, Louise Martin is a member of SPERA's National Executive, and she continues to advocate for us with ICPA. Louise was also instrumental in getting me to be a keynote speaker at the ICPA Qld state conference that provided an excellent forum to promote SPERA. Thank you, Louise.

An important partnership is the one that we have with the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) at Curtin University. The NCSEHE is a significant supporter of SPERA's activities and this year has made it possible for Josh Arnold and Small Town Culture to present at the conference. NCSEHE Director Sue Trinidad is a SPERA Executive member, and it is difficult to quantify the value that Sue and the NCSEHE have contributed to SPERA. Thank you, Sue. A sincere thanks also to NCSEHE Media and Communications Officer Louisa Bowman (also SPERA's Treasurer), who has been instrumental in promoting SPERA via the NCSEHE's newsletters, website and through her connection with Nathan Watts, Director of Faculty Magazine (<http://www.facultymagazine.com.au>).

Other organisations with which we have commenced discussions regarding mutual support and partnerships include the Queensland State P-10/P-12 School Administrators' Association and the Australian Regional Network.

Newsletter

Thank you to all members for your contributions to the newsletter. This is a great way to celebrate what is happening in and for rural, remote and regional communities. I'd like to thank especially Bronwyn Ellis for her excellent updates from the University of South Australia, Whyalla.

Pre-service Teachers

This year we were overwhelmed by the response to our advertisements offering sponsorships to attend our conference. We received 14 very high-quality submissions that made the task of our selection panel quite hard. In the end, the panel, which includes Paula Jervis-Tracey, Louise Martin and Andi Bracey, selected six pre-service delegates from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. In addition, the Department of Education and Training Queensland selected an additional two delegates from their pool of rural scholarship holders. Thank you, Paula, Andi and Louise for what was obviously an enjoyable but difficult job.

Thank you also to the Department of Education and Training Queensland, ICPA (Qld), ICPA (NT), Regional Express (REX), Teachers' Mutual Bank, the Toowoomba Diocese of Catholic Education for your sponsorship that allows us to partner with you to provide these opportunities.

AAAE - Australian Alliance of Associations of Education

SPERA was a founding member of the Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE); a constituted representative body with the purpose of representing and speaking on behalf of Australian national professional teachers associations. Established in 2013, the Association meets three times a year and this year met in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The SPERA representative is Jodie Kline, who has replaced Emmy Terry, the previous AAAE Treasurer.

AAAE members are national professional teacher associations that are largely funded by membership fees, the production of teaching resources and the provision of professional learning for teachers. They are not dependent on, or in receipt of, government or jurisdictional support at the state or national level and are therefore apolitical and independent.

For more information go to the AAAE website at <http://aaae.edu.au>

Thank You

I thank my National Executive of Sue Ledger (Vice President), Louisa Bowman (Treasurer), John Borserio, Don Boyd, Aaron Drummond, Paula Jervis-Tracey, Jodie Kline, Louise Martin, Sue Trinidad and Charles Bradley; and support personnel Diane Gardner and Rebecca McKenzie for their support of me and their tireless work for our organisation. Thank you to you, the members of SPERA, for your support and dedication to our cause.

Yours faithfully

Brian O'Neill
President

Profit & Loss Statement
Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia
Cash Basis
For the 12 months ending 30th June 2015

	Total \$
Income	
Conference Registrations	26,636
Conference Sponsorships	4,590
Journal Subscriptions	732
Membership Fees	4,210
PayPal Fee Revenue	75
Trust Copyright Receipts	<u>5,264</u>
Gross Profit	<u>41,507</u>
Less Expenses	
Accounting / Bookkeeping fees	36
Annual Return - NSW Fair Trading	53
AREA Award - Certificates, Frames, 1	558
AREA Award - Grants	4,000
Bank charges	1
Conference - Catering	10,584
Conference - Miscellaneous	2,345
Conference - Travel and Accommoda	1,057
Design	1,538
Discounts given	23
Executive Officer Duties	3,865
Internet	353
Membership Fees	355
Office supplies	4
Postage & courier	1,115
Printing & stationery	10,419
Superannuation expense	112
Telephone	338
Travel & accommodation	304
Wages & salaries	<u>1,181</u>
	<u>38,241</u>
Operating Profit	<u>3,266</u>
Plus Other Income	
Discount received	1
Interest income	<u>1,428</u>
	<u>1,429</u>
Net Profit	<u><u>4,695</u></u>

Balance sheet

Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia

As at 30 June 2015

Asset

Current Assets

Operating Account	477
Conference Account	7,523
Cash Reserve Account	22,438
Term Deposit 2	11,958
Term Deposit 1	5,763
Term Deposit 3	15,555
PayPal	730
Accounts receivable	905
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	65,350

Total Assets

65,350

Liability

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	3,727
PAYG withholdings payable	268
Superannuation payable	112
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	4,107

Total Liabilities

4,107

Net Assets

61,242

Equity

Current year earnings	1,873
Historical balancing	59,369
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Total Equity

61,242
