

ANZELA PRESIDENTS REPORT 2021

Welcome to the 2021 ANZELA AGM. We had hoped that we could 'Recover' in time this year for a face to face AGM in Hobart at the planned Hobart conference. Sadly, Delta had other ideas and we are yet again meeting online.

The last 2 years have been challenging for all of us, particularly those in Victoria and New South Wales and more recently, New Zealand. Most Chapters have struggled to come together much at all, let alone in person. I don't think the Victorian Chapter have met in person since Christmas drinks 2019, despite many valiant attempts!

NZ also looked set to hold a mini conference but again Delta scuttled this attempt as well. NZ have however held regular events on-line throughout the last two years, and in person where they have been able to.

Queensland have probably fared the best, being able to hold some events and NSW have made the most of online capability to keep in touch. For all of us its just been a matter getting through this period, trying to stay sane and keep in touch when we can.

The National Board has also held meetings via zoom in an attempt to stay in touch and plan for the future of ANZELA.

For those States that have spent significant periods of time in lock down, communicating on line has well and truly lost its lustre and many are suffering from zoom burn out – especially those having to teach or work entirely online and also manage their own children's learning.

For this reason, we will continue to plan for a conference next year – most likely in Hobart. I encourage Chapters to start to plan events as the borders open up – even if at first its just getting together and reconnecting and the ultimately considering what our member's further learning needs and interests are in this changed world.

We did not have any applications for the Dr Ann Shorten award this year, I confirm that Dr John Orr was the recipient last year and will hopefully be able to present his paper at the next conference.

The National Board has continued to work behind the scenes shoring up the financial future of the organisation and putting in place structures and processes to ensure that our financial record keeping, and reporting is streamlined and most importantly correct. I extend my sincere thanks to Andrew Knott for his very hard work leading this as Treasurer. We have also been working on the ongoing upgrade to the web page and online payment processes and I thank Jo Spencer for undertaking this work with our web consultants. Jo has also once again acted as our Secretariat this year.

I also extend my thanks to Carol Howard for her ongoing work as Secretary and to John O'Brien who has worked to prepare and edit Journal articles and worked with Jo to prepare release of the Journal. I hope that you have enjoyed the opportunity to see Journal articles as they become available this year rather than waiting for the final Journal.

A huge thank you to all of the other members this year's Board – Jason Newman, Virginia Goldblatt, John Orr, Alan Knowsley and Kevin Moloney.

I would like to take this opportunity acknowledge the commitment and support given to ANZELA by Tony Houey from SA. Tony has retired for the second time this year and is stepping away from ANZELA to undertake some other ventures – including spending time with precious grandchildren.

Tony has not only been a driving force in SA he has also been a member of the National Board and along with his wonderful wife Jeanette has given a huge amount of time and effort to advancing ANZELA both in SA and across the country. Thank you Tony, you have always been a calming and wise counsel and we will miss both of you when we ultimately re group together again.

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to join us today, I truly hope to be able to speak with each and every one of you face to face again very soon and to welcome you to Hobart next year for a Conference. Thank you for staying connected and committed to ANZELA. My sincere hope and intent is that we emerge from this 2 years with a renewed vigour and hunger to learn and share ideas and stories again, and that we can see ANZELA prosper and grow as we reshape our world.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead this organisation and I hope at some stage soon to be able to hand it over to the next generation of ANZELA leaders to evolve and grow into the future.

Stay safe, have a wonderful Christmas – enjoy time with loved ones and I hope to see you all soon

Katharine O'Donnell

National President