AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION LAW ASSOCIATION LTD (ANZELA) – QUEENSLAND CHAPTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 16 March 2015

McElligott Theatre, St Laurence’s College, 82 Stephens Rd, South Brisbane.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF ANZELA QLD CHAPTER

Chapter Committee for 2014

President: Mike Wilkinson
Deputy President: Elizabeth Dickson
Secretary: Andrew Knott
Treasurer: Kathy Sawtell
Committee Members: Joy Cumming, Lisa Walker, Elle Ackland, Paulina Skerman and John O’Brien

It gives me great pleasure to present this report of the activities of the ANZELA Queensland Chapter for 2014.

A key factor for our very successful year in 2014 has been the very active involvement of members of the Queensland Chapter committee in the planning and delivery of a number of our activities.

At the Queensland Chapter AGM held Thursday 17 March at St Joseph’s College Gregory Terrace the above members were elected to the Chapter Committee for 2014. We were disappointed that one of our long serving members, Nadia Taylor, was unable to continue but we were very pleased to welcome Paulina Skerman as a new member of the committee.

As in past years, the AGM was the occasion of our first professional development activity for the year and this year it took the form of a presentation by The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC, Chair of the National Centre Against Bullying (NCAB) on the topic The Current Landscape on Bullying, Young People and the Law with particular reference to Schools; Challenges for the Future.

Given that Alastair was a close friend and colleague of recently deceased Family Court Justice Neil Buckley, a former student of St Joseph’s College Gregory Terrace, Alastair dedicated his presentation to Justice Neil Buckley and we were honoured by the presence of Justice Buckley’s wife and daughter for the occasion.

During 2014 the Queensland Chapter continued to address the key objectives of ANZELA in various ways including:

- Participation as a partner in an ARC funded research project: A legally informed intervention for schools to prevent and intervene in cases of cyberbullying conducted by Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

- Sponsoring the Legal Studies Teachers Conference held 9 May in the Undumbi Room of the State Parliamentary Annexe Brisbane with keynote speaker Judge Kerry O’Brien, Senior Judge Administrator of the District Court of Queensland who addressed the topic: The Rule of Law.
Other topics and speakers included:

- **The Employment Relationship**
  Elle Ackland, Assistant Director (Strategic Employee Relations), Independent Schools Queensland

- **Digital Forensics: The Intersection of Criminal Law and Information Technology**
  Ashley Stevens-Hoare, Senior Analyst, Queensland Police: Electronic Evidence Examination Unit

- **Human Rights**
  Dr Fiona A Kumari Campbell, Associate Professor of Law, Griffith University Law School, Gold Coast Campus

- **Sentencing, Punishment and Indigenous People**
  Professor Chris Cunneen Senior Fellow and Professor of Criminology, The Cairns Institute.

- **Closing address**
  Hon Fiona Simpson, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

Once again we are deeply indebted to our Treasurer Kathy Sawtell who initiated and managed this event.

On Friday 16 May a twilight seminar at St Peter’s Lutheran College, Indooroopilly on the topic of Responding to student sexualized inappropriate behaviour in schools, lawfully, ethically and successfully: The challenge for leaders in education was presented by David Eljiz, Head of Safety, Wellbeing & Professional Services, Catholic Education Office, Sydney NSW. We were grateful to David who was a late replacement for his Catholic Education Office colleague Claire Pirola.

We are grateful to Queensland Chapter committee member Lisa Walker for arranging this event.

- Organising the annual one-day conference titled Updating Current Education Law Issues held at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Gardens point Campus on Friday 8 August. Presentations included:

  - **Child Protection and Duty of Care: Recent developments**
    Andrew Knott – Special Counsel, TressCox Lawyers

  - **Recent Developments in Child Protection Law – Consequences and practical compliance issues arising from the intent of the different pieces of legislation.**
    Peter Simpson, Student Protection Officer, Toowoomba Catholic Education & Mike Wilkinson, President, ANZELA Queensland Chapter

  - **Teacher issues before the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) – teacher registration, discrimination and serious parent misconduct.**
    Drew Braben, General Counsel, Queensland College of Teachers.
Difficult Parents – Legal practice issues and the value of mediation and similar processes.
Ross McSwan, Barrister and Principal, Paxis Dispute Resolutions

Restorative practices involving adults in school communities.
Graeme George, Villanova College, Brisbane

On this occasion we were pleased to acknowledge and welcome our Queensland based ANZELA Life Member, Brian Flaherty.

- Providing awards for the participants in the Queensland Youth Parliament.

**ANZELA Annual Conference 2015 in Brisbane**

Our long-term plan for the Queensland Chapter included a bid to conduct the Annual Conference in Queensland in 2016/2017. When the venue for 2015 became uncertain, the Queensland Chapter was only too happy to bring those plans forward. While we are working with a shorter than usual timeline for planning an annual conference, we are confident that the 2015 conference in Brisbane will be a memorable event. Details of the conference to be held at the Stamford plaza Brisbane 28 September to 1 October are available on the ANZELA website.

Once again the Queensland Chapter has been ably supported by Office Logistics in communicating our professional development activities via email and the website to our members and other stakeholders and they are already involved in our planning for the 2015 annual conference. We thank Donna, Janelle and Robyn for the excellent service in 2014.

Once again each of our professional development activities have paid their way or generated a small surplus and our financial position is sound and well managed by our treasurer Kathy Sawtell.

We continues to achieve our goal to provide regular high quality professional development to our members and other participants at minimal cost.

We thank retiring committee members Paulina Skerman and Elle Ackland for their support in 2014. Paulina has been appointed to the position of Principal of St Patrick’s College Townsville and Elle has moved outside the education sector to a position with WorkCover Queensland.

Once again I am very grateful to all members of the Chapter Committee who have given wonderful support for our activities in 2014 and I wish to particularly acknowledge the work of our Secretary Andrew Knott and our Treasurer Kathy Sawtell.

We look forward to another successful year in 2015 culminating with the national conference here in Brisbane.

Mike Wilkinson
President
Qld Chapter
Australia & New Zealand Education Law Association (ANZELA)