

# ANZELA

1. Australia New Zealand Education Law Association Ltd

## ANZELA QLD CHAPTER REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SYDNEY, 3 OCTOBER 2017

### Chapter Committee for 2017

<i>Chair</i>	Mike Wilkinson
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	Lisa Walker
<i>Secretary</i>	Andrew Knott
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kathy Sawtell
<i>Committee Members</i>	Elizabeth Dickson, Kerrie Anglin, John O'Brien, John Kennedy, Alison Jeffries and Ross McSwan

It gives me great pleasure to present this report of the activities of the ANZELA Queensland Chapter for the period ending 30 September 2017.

Over the last twelve months, the Queensland Chapter of ANZELA has carefully reassessed the way it has been seeking to address the objectives of ANZELA in the light of current issues and developments.

This year the Chapter has noted the emergence of many new players which are commercial enterprises delivering professional development around education law with costs that are often beyond the reach of educators unless they can source funding from their employers.

Traditionally, ANZELA has delivered high quality services such as these at a vastly reduced cost relying on ANZELA member volunteers to develop and deliver in-service programs in a face-to-face mode. While we intend to maintain a presence in this mode, the reality now is that time pressure and competitors makes it more difficult for our volunteers to provide these events.

Therefore, the Queensland Chapter is repositioning its service to members by looking at the many opportunities to deliver professional development in an online mode. We are looking forward to the enhancement of the ANZELA website to facilitate this and, aside from that, we are taking steps in October – November this year to better engage with social media platforms.

The exception to the downturn in face-to-face ANZELA Qld professional development activities is the highly successful annual Legal Studies Teachers Conference held at Parliament House which the Queensland Chapter has convened since 2012.

The conference helps teachers to maintain their currency of knowledge of the law and benefit from networking with teachers from around the state. This year there were 148 registrations ranging from Cairns in the North to the Gold Coast in the South and as far west as Stanthorpe and we acknowledge that these teachers are now key clients of ANZELA Qld. This year the conference on 5 May was opened by Honourable Di Farmer MP standing in for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Chief Justice Catherine Holmes provided the keynote address which highlighted the legal processes to ensure a fair trial.

The remaining program consisted of:

*Street Law in South East Queensland - Bringing Law Students and High School Students Together -*  
Zoe Rathus AM Senior Lecturer, Director of Clinical Legal Education Program Griffith Law School

*Australian Human Rights in the Global Context* - Dr Melanie O'Brien, Post-doctoral Research Fellow,  
TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland

*Tort Tales: Negligence in 21st Century Australia* - Dr Kylie Burns, Senior Lecturer, Griffith Law School

*Legal Studies Syllabus* - Christine Dowd, Principal Education Officer, Queensland Curriculum and  
Assessment Authority

*Governance*, - Professor John Kane, School of Government and International Relations, Griffith  
University

This program was aimed to assist teachers to prepare for the new Queensland syllabus which will be introduced in 2019.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the judiciary and universities. The speakers' preparedness to give up their time and present on the day ensures the success of the conference. Of course, none of this would happen without the expertise and dedication of our Chapter Treasurer, Kathy Sawtell who is the conference convenor.

The very attractive revised Queensland newsletter is ably produced by Editor Ross McSwan. You are invited to view the latest edition at <http://anzela.schoolzineplus.com//r/RMz/Qk7>

We have continued our support for the Queensland Parliament's Annual Secondary School *Youth Parliament* Program and the *Indigenous Parliament Program*. Financially we are in a sound position and we are indebted to our Chapter Treasurer, Kathy Sawtell, for her very efficient and effective management of our finances. Looking further ahead into 2018, will continue the Legal Studies Teachers' Conference at Parliament House on Friday 11 May, develop our footprint in social media and plan for a regional one-day seminar.

While reassessing the way it has been seeking to address the objectives of ANZELA at state level, the Queensland Chapter has also considered the way in which these objectives are being met at national level in the light of current issues and developments.

Noting that that educators in schools and universities are frustrated at the outcomes of legislation which has great impact on their day-to-day work, it is suggested that perhaps it is time ANZELA repositioned itself to serve, not only those who are required to observe education law, but also to influence those who are in positions of authority to make laws which better resonate with the needs of students and create truly authentic and productive learning communities. We offer this for the consideration of the National Board.

It is also a matter of concern to the Qld Chapter that there has been a struggle to publish regular editions of the ANZELA *International Journal of Law and Education* (IJLE) over recent years. The Chapter understands that reasons for this include the difficulty of sourcing articles, either because there are reduced number of contributors or because text submitted does not meet the standards required, and the changing criteria of all journal standards which have impacted on the status of the IJLE.

It is incongruous that the ANZELA annual national conference attracts many academics but an academic journal such as the IJLE is struggling. Once again, the Queensland Chapter urges the ANZELA National Board to examine this disconnect and take steps to strengthen the IJLE to better serve ANZELA members.

For ANZELA Qld, 2017 was a relatively quiet year in terms of activity but full of reflection and discussion on the future of ANZELA. We look forward optimistically to a more productive year in 2018.

Mike Wilkinson  
Chair