



President's Report

Reports are often skipped over by the reader, received with partial mistrust of the rhetoric or at best read with a cursory glance. Reports on a whole are like the shrink-wrap on the latest issue of *Idn* magazine, important but quickly discarded or like the opening speaker at an art exhibition where the bar won't open until the speaker had declared the show a brilliant success. In this respect reports, in my mind, are doomed discourses; this report therefore promises to be brief, genuine and to hopefully of some interest to our members.

From the ashes of AES came the Visual Arts and Design Educators Association of NSW (VADEA). In terms of pedagogical evolution VADEA is in its infant stage. Hopefully this will explain both its tumultuous first months and also serve to highlight our sustained focus on providing service, representation and a voice to Visual Arts teachers in NSW. The achievement of this epic task is what I as President and the VADEA Executive have pledged to do and will achieve on behalf of Visual Arts teachers. With the announcement by the Minister of the Arts, Peter Garrett, that the Arts will be included in Phase 2 of the National Curriculum it is paramount that VADEA works towards understanding the repercussions of the National Curriculum as to what the future holds for the sustainability of our current status in the NSW curriculum and how that will translate to the broader framework of the National Curriculum.

To date we have initiated a regional outreach program with good results in Gympie, Newcastle and Penrith. The next regional workshops will be held in Wagga Wagga and Dubbo. The regional outreach program is designed to ensure teachers outside the metropolitan area are given opportunities and support through professional development that attempts to overcome the tyranny of distance and address a perception of the 'metro-centric' focus inherent in many teacher's professional associations. An Executive position has been created to assist, advise and support Visual Arts Educators in regional areas. In addition to this a library of DVD and program resource containers are also being developed to assist teachers in regional areas.

Providing a pragmatic focus on professional development for teacher across K-12, VADEA is running media workshops in digital media, photography, sculpture and drawing. These will run across the academic year to support teachers in their classroom practice and provide resources that assist in the development of quality teaching and learning programs within the Visual Arts. The needs of New Scheme Teachers has also been identified. VADEA is running Teacher Accreditation forums for New Scheme Teachers to assist new teachers address the requirements for teacher accreditation

The establishment of the **VADEA website** (www.vadea.org.au) is another device designed to support visual arts educators. Members are now able to log in using their membership number to access the programs and resources available in the members' only area. Samples of what resources are available can be viewed by using the resource button. The **VADEA blogspot** provides up to date information and the provision to respond quickly with feedback to any requests or queries. Both the web site and blogspot provide easy access for teachers in regional areas and open up opportunities to communicate with members of the VADEA Executive on future plans or current issues.

The most significant event in the VADEA calendar for 2009 is the inaugural **VADEA Conference** which will be held on the **3rd and 4th July**. This promises to be one of the most exciting and vital art education conferences held in NSW for a long time. The theme of the conference is '**Encounters with the Real – Contemporary art and art education.**' An outstanding program of key note speakers such as Fiona Hall, Ben Quilty, Andrew Frost, Garry Sangster, Kerry Thomas, Lisa Slade and Elizabeth Ann McGregor will offer a lively and broad account of contemporary art and education. A **Conference Dinner on 3rd July** will provide opportunities for conference participants to meet on a more informal basis, build professional networks and review the days events in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. I extend a warm invitation to you all to attend the Conference. I can guarantee a highly stimulating and inspiring 2 days of events. Conference application form and program can be found on this website.

This is only the beginning for VADEA. As the professional body representing Visual Arts educators in NSW across all sectors it is important to remind ourselves that the focus of



VADEA is on both the individual and collective. If there are issues you would like addressed please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Executive or myself. The Minutes of the Executive Meetings are posted on the web site and I invite you to read them and provide feedback.

Finally I must thank the Executive of VADEA for their generosity, professionalism and collective spirit in committing to build a professional association that seeks to support and encourage excellence in Visual Arts Education. The worth of VADEA will be evidenced in the support you show us. Please pass on this information to others in your professional network.

Thank you

Craig Malyon

President of Visual Arts and Design Educators Association of NSW Inc.