



VADEA Life Membership

2017 Recipients

We are delighted to announce the first three members to be awarded Life Membership with VADEA NSW.

Dr Karen Maras

Dr Karen Maras served VADEA as Vice-President Professional Learning (2009). She was then elected Co-President – Professional Learning (2010-2012). She contributed to advocacy initiatives in resisting the imposition of the Australian Curriculum on the NSW Visual Arts curriculum. Dr Maras was also Co-convenor of VADEA Annual Conferences: Encounters with the real: Contemporary art and art education, (2009); Back to the future: Australian Curriculum Visions, ACU (2010); Critical junctures, Tensions, extensions & confluences, UNSW (2011), and Irresistible, MCA, Sydney (2013). Dr Maras maintained a role as Executive member (2013). She regularly contributes to VADEA Annual Conferences and joint UNSW/VADEA professional learning initiatives.

Dr Kerry Thomas

Kerry played a key role in establishing VADEA, in particular, as evidenced in her contribution to guiding the direction of the structure and purpose of the association including the focus of annual conferences. She was initially inaugural Vice President (2008) and then inaugural Co-President, State and National issues and Special Projects (2009-2013). She continued to serve on the executive in 2013. Kerry's ongoing leadership in art education has also been recognised in local and international keynote addresses and publications (eg iJADE, Liverpool UK, 2013), visiting professor/scholar positions at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign 2008, 2010), a collaborative project with Finnish art educators (2016-17), and awards that include an Australian Learning and Teaching Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Students Achievement (2011), and Professional Teacher's Council NSW Professional Service Award (2011).

Karen Profilio

Karen was part of a team that was responsible for the birth of VADEA and served as one of the two Vice Presidents in 2008. Karen was the founding Co President – Advocacy, Support and Membership of VADEA and continued in this role for five years (2009 -2013) and after this as an Executive Member responsible for the Mentoring & Leadership portfolio for one year (2014). In these roles she represented classroom teacher interests and was also part of the organising committee for the annual VADEA Conferences 2009 – 2015, presenting papers and workshops at these events. In 2013 Karen was awarded an Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teachers Association for her work within VADEA.

Karen has a keen interest in all things digital and has developed websites to support Visual Arts projects. During her time as Co President she developed and then managed the VADEA online presence, via blogs, the website, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter. She has a particular interest in collaborative, trans global projects and in providing rich opportunities for students and teachers.