President’s Message

In term four, NT will be hosting the second of our AADES webinars to share our learning with each other. This is the second in our webinar series, which are planned to continue through 2017. For more information about the NT webinar, refer to the item in this e-news.

We are keen to continue with webinars that have meaning for our members, to keep in touch with what is happening across our organisation. If you have topics you would like to share or you would like to hear more about, send your thoughts to the secretary, using this link.

If you miss a webinar, they will be available on our new look website. Currently in development, the aim of the revamp is to have a platform where members are able to share current practice, ideas and network with others on topics of interest. In essence, we want this to be a dynamic, useful tool for all teachers and leaders of online learning. For input into the content of the website contact Daniel Rattigan at daniel.rattigan@det.nsw.edu.au.

The 2017 AADES conference is planned for August 2017 and will be held in Adelaide. The conference will have the three strands of Leadership, Teaching and Languages. Members will be invited to present workshops that align with one of the strands and the themes of conference, including Pedagogical Shift and Flipping the Learning. Start putting your ideas together for interactive, thought provoking and challenging workshops.

Each region is currently responding to a survey aimed to provide all members with information about how we operate that will inform sharing and networking opportunities.

This e-news keeps us all in the know. Please consider the e-news your forum and provide articles, news stories and ideas at any time.

Jeane Schocroft
AADES President

Term 4 AADES Webinar

The next AADES Webinar will be hosted by the Northern Territory School of Distance Education Webinar Presentation (NTSDE) on Wednesday 23 November at 1.00pm Darwin Time (via Webex)

This presentation will focus on the development of NTSDE’s Online Learning Program for Senior Secondary Students. The webinar will cover current processes being undertaken by staff to develop a coherent learning program for students that utilises integrated learning technologies, a whole school LMS template and Visible Learning pedagogy.

The session will also provide an overview of the Professional Development Program that is being developed to support staff as the learning programs are being developed.

If you would like to participate in this presentation, please email Jean Schocroft at Open Access College in South Australia jeane.schocroft@openaccess.edu.au to organise a log in for this event.
Dr Richard Walley’s visit to SIDE WA Learning Support

During week two, Learning Support hosted guest speaker Dr Richard Walley, OAM, who enlightened and entertained the students and teachers by sharing aspects of his life, culture and art. Dr Richard Walley is a Nyoongar man and is one of Australia’s leading Aboriginal performers, musicians and writers, who has been a campaigner for a number of Indigenous causes. From the questions he was asked by the students, he was clearly well liked.

A number of teachers had the opportunity to talk to Dr Richard Walley after his presentation and learn a little more about him. Dr Walley was born in Meekatharra and had visited many of the communities in WA which delighted the students. Dr Richard Walley enjoyed his time at SIDE so much he offered to come back again and perform for us, so I look forward to planning this for early next year.

Save the Date

The AADES Biennial National Conference will be held in Adelaide South Australia on 17-18th August 2017.

Student Excursion

Indigenous Literacy Day (WA)

Gary and Tiniel travelled to Sydney with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to launch a collection of stories written by students that have been published in a book titled “The Goanna Was Hungry”. Students from Menzies, Mt Margaret, Tjuntjuntjara and Melbourne wrote stories for the book while on a camp in the Great Victorian Desert with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

“On Tuesday, we went to the Sydney Opera House to rehearse reading our stories. Wednesday was the day we read our stories to school students and adults. News reporters were interviewing us and we were on TV. After lunch I was signing books for people to buy – it was fun.”

Excerpt from a recount written by Gary.
“On Wednesday, we went to the Opera House and we read ‘The Goanna Was Hungry’ in front of schools and some people and we were on NITV. After we read, people were asking us to sign their books.

Later that day we went shopping at the markets, then we went to Redfern and we were playing chasey on the oval.”

Excerpt from a recount written by Tiniel.

In-country study tour: a Spanish experience

SOURCE: OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE, 2016

During the Easter holidays, a group of seven senior students from OAC travelled to Spain to take part in a three week study tour that took place in Salamanca, Madrid, Seville and Granada.

Students were engaged in four hours of intensive Spanish language study every weekday morning and 2 hours of programmed cultural activities every afternoon (with a Siesta in the middle!). The students stayed with homestay families which provided them with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the daily life of Spain.

This tour was an initiative of the School of Languages that invited secondary students of Spanish studying throughout the state.

Beth, Merlene and Kayla share their experience:

Beth, Stage 2 Beginners Spanish:

“The 3 week study tour to Spain was an amazing adventure. I am so grateful that I was given this incredible opportunity to improve my Spanish with in-country experience! Everything was unbelievably amazing and I learnt so much, not only about the language, but about the culture as well. Every place we visited was so different yet so beautiful, but Seville was without a doubt, my favourite city, the colours and the weather were so lovely. I can’t wait to go back, hopefully!”

Merlene, Stage 2 Beginners Spanish:

“¡Hola! Last year Beth, Kaitlyn and I were offered the amazing opportunity to travel with the School of Languages to Spain for a 3 week study tour... and we couldn’t say “no”! Over the 3 weeks we visited Salamanca, Seville and Granada (we also spent one night in Madrid). Each place was very beautiful and it was

Kayla, Year 10 Spanish:

“In the afternoons, we attended cultural activities for up to three hours, doing things like traditional dancing, tours of the city, visiting museums and famous places such as ‘La Alhambra’, boat rides, movie nights and more. We travelled to Madrid for a night, visiting the Museum ‘Reina Sofia’, and spent a week in both Seville and Granada. Travelling through both the north and south of the country, the differences in both accents and culture were easy to notice and added another element to the cultural and linguistic experience.

“At the beginning I was struggling to tell my homestay mother what I wanted for dinner. By the end of only the first week, my Spanish conversational skills had already improved hugely and by the end of the trip I had a long debate with my homestay mother on religion and philosophy.

“Not only did the trip provide a massive leap in my language ability and passion for Spanish, it changed me as a person. Having the incredible experience I did with the people I had it with, was a priceless endeavour that changed not only my feelings toward studying Spanish, but my world view and the things I find important. I would highly recommend studying abroad to anyone who has the opportunity.”

This has been undoubtedly a hugely valuable experience for the students. We congratulate them for being fantastic ambassadors for their schools and Australia!
amazing to see all of the old buildings that just aren’t found in Australia.

“We all definitely improved our Spanish as we were constantly immersed in the language. The accommodation was with a local host family (most who couldn’t speak English) so our skills were put to the test communicating on a day-to-day basis. Overall, the whole experience was one that we definitely won’t forget. It was also really nice to finally meet the people that I’ve been listening to in class for the past year and a bit.”

MERLENE, KAITLYN AND BETH ON THE BALCONY OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE IN THE PLAZA MAYOR IN SALAMANCA.

Valerie Mangini and Laura Masson
OAC Spanish Teachers

COMOSA Connect

COMOSA Connect aims to facilitate the development of a community of practice based around the sharing of ideas on ‘Open Innovative Schooling’, as well as ideas on ‘learning for sustainable development’.

We actively seek to highlight real stories of good ideas being implemented across the Commonwealth and around the globe, which result in greater access to education for more people.

Explore COMOSA connect today, you may find you want to join the community: www.comosaconnect.org

Call for Articles

What’s going on in your school? We’d love to have a regular spot in the newsletter featuring innovative approaches that are being used in online teaching and learning. It’s a great opportunity to share what you’re doing and gain recognition for your work. Articles should be between 300-500 words in length. If you’d like to contribute, email your article to fwebster@distance.vic.edu.au

AADES Links

AADES Website: www.aades.edu.au
AADES Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/AADES/155644757788562?fref=ts

Newsletter Contributions

Marcia Harvey
Email: marcia.harvey@ntschools.net

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## 2016 AADES National Council Members

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**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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