

2022 WAIER AGM: President's Report

Dear WAIER Colleagues,

This has been a busy, but fabulous year for WAIER. Thanks to each and every one of you for the commitment and dedication you have shown to WAIER and the part you have played in helping us grow in importance and impact.

Over the last year, we have forged a stronger partnership with ACER, resulting in full sponsorship, for the first time ever, of the \$2000 Research Grant. Along with ACER, WAIER is now part of a regular series of methodology webinars with our sister organisations – the NSWIER and SAIER. The audience of these is growing with more planned for 2023.

Our Research Forum was a fabulous event this year again thanks to the coordination provided by Sian, Saul and Sally. But events like these cannot happen without a team effort and once again you all pitched in with all the tasks prior to, during and at the end of the Forum.

Greg managed the registration payments with his usual aplomb and both he and Patrick manned the front desk. Patrick was everywhere actually- from catering to carpet sweeping, to checking IT, and the ever important, in this COVID era, room hygiene. He made sure the guests had their parking bays, we all had our Wi-Fi and was trouble shooter extraordinaire all day long.

I really appreciate how – without a formal catering roster – Rebecca, Cindy, Wendy, Michelle, Jette, Sian, Patrick and Paul all just intuitively managed the constant ebb and flow of the catering and clearing up. They were seamless. And again, at the end of the day this same group with the help of Roger and Clare, swiftly packed the 2022 Forum away.

For the second time, we ran a HDR and an Undergraduate Workshop. Thank you to Cindy and Janene (who came in from her sickbed), with wonderful help from Wendy, coordinated another successful HDR Workshop. Two excellent presenters, Judy MacCallum and Jeff Brooks, provided relevant and sound advice for HDR students.

The Undergraduate Workshop was an innovative immersion in the world of a researcher, via the streets of Fremantle. Thank you to Sally and Saul for expertly facilitating the thinking and discussion- I am sure it has left a lasting impact on these students.

Our humorous, and engaging panel presenters were coordinated by Saul and Paul. Libby Jackson- Barrett, Glenn Savage, Jeff Brooks and Gabby Stroud were guided by Paul the panel chair, to set the scene for our theme of disruption in education. The discussion that ensued created that friendly, collegial tone that WAIER prides itself on. Thanks to all that helped manage the IT glitches with beaming Gabby in via Zoom – especially Sian who made a quick dash to Officeworks to get the right cable.

Thank you to Clare and Roger for the preparation of the programs, session chair roster, the name badges, liaising with presenters, and once again for the generous donation of wine for the sundowner. They not only do a lion's share of the work for the Forum but are pivotal to the success of the IIER journal. WAIER is incredibly lucky to have these two wonderfully dedicated human beings supporting all that we do. In recognition of their contribution to WAIER Clare was awarded the PTCWA Outstanding Professional Contribution award in 2021. Roger received his well-deserved, and long overdue, award in 2022 which also recognised his work as our web master, historian, and archivist!

Thanks to all of you who chaired sessions, as well as preparing and presenting your own research workshops. I really appreciated how everyone just rallied around to make sure guests and presenters were welcomed, their IT problems sorted, and made sure they all knew where they had to be.

Thank you to Bob Smith, Cindy's husband for taking the photographs this year. Thanks also to Scott Mills, our Curtin student, who helped with promoting the Forum via social media and who made a great little video of the Forum.

The raffle prizes were once again magnificent – thanks to all who donated to the hampers and to Sian who organised us with the packing and wrapping. The raffle draw always brings in a good amount and I am sure with Michelle's and Sian's ticket spruiking skills we have made a tidy sum this year.

2022 saw our sponsorship funds increase dramatically. As well as the \$2000 from ACER, we received sponsorship in cash and goods from Taylor & Francis, Fremantle Press, FACES School, SSTUWA, the Level 3 Classroom Teachers' Association, Cengage and Teacher's Mutual Bank. With joint winners for the Postgraduate Student Prize, the Fogarty Foundation increased the prize money from \$5000 to \$6000. I am hoping that someone on the committee will take on the challenge to further increase the sponsorship funds in 2023.

Felicity McClure couldn't be with us on the day but was an incredible help after the Forum sending out letters of congratulations to prize/award winners and letters of thanks to sponsors. Sadly, she has resigned as she will be in the Northern Territory for the foreseeable future. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank her for all her contributions over her time on the WAIER Committee.

Over 2022, we have been more active in promoting WAIER with our social media, thanks to Rebecca and our Curtin student, Scott Mills. Thank you to Jette who has managed the critical communication to members and beyond with the WAIER Digest. And special thanks to Sian and Zina Cordery (ECU academic) who managed the updates on the WAIER website.

We sincerely appreciate the work that our university representatives do in disseminating information to their respective institutions: Paul (Curtin), Trish (ECU), Patrick (Notre Dame), Sian (Murdoch) and Angela (UWA). Angela is no longer a WAIER Committee member but is willing to be our liaison with UWA until we can appoint another representative.

A special thanks to those in formal, elected roles:

- Paul Gardner – Vice President – manages the membership along with Patrick
- Rebecca Mola – secretary and social media
- Greg – treasurer- forum registration and membership payments

This year we are losing valuable committee members. Sadly, Felicity McLure has resigned as she will be in the Northern Territory for the foreseeable future. Janene Sproul, always happy to help out with her brilliant smile, has taken on more responsibilities at Murdoch and will no longer be able to continue with WAIER. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank both of them for their contributions over their time on the WAIER Committee.

I would like to give special thanks to Rebecca Mola, who is stepping down from her role as WAIER secretary. She has not only been the secretary, but has also managed the web page and social media - all that on top of her job and completing her PhD. We admire the gracious way you approach all that you do for WAIER, Rebecca. Many, many thanks.

Thank you to each of you that has taken all the committee roles that have contributed to a successful 2022. I so sincerely appreciate and am grateful that I have the privilege and pleasure of working with you all.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your commitment and contribution to WAIER. I look forward to working with you all in 2023.

Thank you
Dr Sonja Kuzich
17 November 2022