

## 2023 WAIER AGM: President's Report

Dear WAIER Colleagues,

Congratulations on another successful 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. This year has been a very busy one for us all but we have managed to promote the work of WAIER by holding the Research Forum, the HDR and UG Workshops, joint research webinars, and the ensuring researchers are supported to disseminate their work through the IIER Journal. Additionally, we have begun our education advocacy with a submission to the SSTUWA review of public education - which culminated in the *Facing the Facts Report* (Nov 2023).

Our Research Forum was a fabulous event this year again thanks to the coordination provided by Sian with assistance from Cleo and Xuyen. I am very grateful to all of you that chipped in to make this event a highlight of the WAIER calendar. We are growing our impact with a newly developed HDR SIG - led by Fleur McLennan and Simon Daniele and the Neurodiversity in Research SIG - led by Siobhan Unwin - we welcome those SIG leaders on to the WAIER Committee.

With the input from the HDR SIG leaders we look forward to the innovations in the HDR workshops and the UG workshops. They ran for the third time this year, and we have expanded our Forum as they were offered the afternoon before the actual Forum. Thanks to Cindy, Saul and Paul who ran these respectively. The feedback from the HDR students was that WAIER offers something to these students that other universities do not - we should be very proud of our achievements in this space. Students really value what we do.

The IIER Journal is still going strong under the capable leadership of Roger and Clare. We are extraordinarily lucky to have you two at the helm - the journal is a real feather in our cap. Thank you both for everything that you do for WAIER.

We sincerely appreciate the work that our university representatives do in disseminating information to their respective institutions: Paul (Curtin), Greg (Notre Dame), Sian (Murdoch) and Xuyen (UWA). A special thanks to those in formal, elected roles:

- Paul Gardner – Vice President – manages the membership along with Jette
- Xuyen and Jette -secretary - they stepped in to keep WAIER running and I so appreciate their support.
- Greg – treasurer- forum registration and membership payments

Thank you to each of you that has taken all the committee roles that have contributed to a successful 2023 - sponsorship, awards coordination, membership, communications, etc.

This year we are losing valuable committee members. Sadly, Saul Karnovsky and Sally Lamping have resigned from the committee. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank both of them for their contributions over their time on the WAIER Committee in numerous roles (Forum coordination, HDR and UG workshops and awards coordination).

Looking forward to next year these are some of the things we are aiming for:

- promoting our work through more active social media posts
- reviewing our website to ensure currency and recency (freshness)
- seeing new sponsorships (Fogarty is a year by year prospect and Pina Tarricone has left ACER - sponsorship needs renegotiating and strategising)
- building our HDR and UG networks and activities
- working more closely with the five universities in an integrated way and seeking sponsorship (in kind or monetary)
- building our advocacy for educational research and educators

For all those that have renominated for the committee I am grateful for your ongoing commitment and support. For those that are new to the committee, welcome and special thanks for joining us.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with you.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your commitment and contribution to WAIER. I look forward to working with you all in 2024.

Thank you  
Dr Sonja Kuzich  
24 November 2023