President’s Report

Annual General Meeting Nov 17th 2015

I am very pleased to provide this overview of the key activities and achievements for the period October 2014 to October 2015. It has been an extremely busy and successful year for ACEN as it continues to grow and provide additional services to ACEN members. Key achievements during this period include:

- Further development of the Statement of Intent into a National WIL Strategy that has had significant impact nationally and internationally
- Continued strong membership by 34 Australian universities with 1400 registered members
- Enhanced activity with State Chapters providing increase opportunities for networking and professional development for members
- Expansion of International links and joint projects
- Further strengthening of ACEN governance arrangements and practices
- Increased support for research and scholarship activities for WIL in Australia.
- Expansion of the student scholarship scheme

The following gives brief overviews of main achievements during the period.

Advocacy

ACEN has been very proactive in advocating for WIL nationally over the last 12 months. Working in close collaboration with other key signatories to the Statement of Intent, the Australian Industry Group, Business Council of Australia, Universities Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we have developed and promoted the National WIL Strategy. ACEN Board members have been extremely active in a range of forums and committees providing expert advice and assisting in shaping the approaches and actions in the National WIL Strategy to ensure it addresses key challenges to WIL in Australia.

The National WIL Strategy was launched at the Universities Australia conference in February 2015. A day long workshop was held in June with representatives of 50 organisations including university groups, peak bodies and companies to refine the strategy and determine priorities. At the workshop all signatory bodies reiterated their organisations total commitment to furthering the Strategy. The National WIL strategy is now being referenced in a range of Federal Government documents including the Draft International Education strategy and guidelines for Office of Learning and Teaching proposals for 2016. It is hoped that some of the successful projects in 2016 will progress the strategies outlined in the plan.

The Strategy has precipitated significant interest and impact including a range of flow on requests and activities to ACEN including:

- Presentation to the Board of the World Association, WACE
- Enquiries from the Canadian Government
- Membership of the Advisory group to the Office of the Chief Scientist recent WIL project
- Presentations to the Deans of ICT, Federation University, Charles Darwin University. Victorian Government. Digital Careers Curriculum and Resources Sub-Committee, IEAA Employability Symposium

The ACEN Board decided to align key strategies for 2015 with the National WIL Strategy in order to progress as quickly as possible some of the elements of the strategy. As a result, a number of projects have been resourced and are currently in development including:

- Development of a guide Third Party providers in collaboration with IEAA and NAGCAS
- Provision of a suite of National webinars
- Development of a WIL agreement template.
The next steps will involve the development of an agreed work plan based on the priorities identified for 2016 by the signatories in December.

**Governance**

Ensuring good corporate governance is a key concern and responsibility of ACEN’s Board. To that end Mills Oakley Lawyers has been retained to assist with redrafting the Constitution and to draft appropriate bylaws to simplify and clarify the management of state chapters. In addition, the Board recently adopted a Code of Conduct for Directors and is currently drafting a Charter of Good Governance that will be considered early in 2016. A review of terms of reference of subcommittees and enhanced membership of sub committees has also been undertaken in 2015.

**WIL Research and scholarship**

Over the period the ACEN Board made the decision to expand support for scholarship and research into WIL in Australia by increasing the number of ACEN Research Scholarship scheme awards to three $10,000 scholarships for 2015. Additional activities include:

- Endorsement of a range of WIL related OLT applications for 2015 and 2016 grants
- Ongoing support for successful National OLT projects through ACEN website
- Financial support to the Asia Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education.

**Student Scholarship Scheme**

The ACEN Board decided to increase the number of $1,500 scholarships to WIL students to 8 and retain the regional and remote focus of the scholarships but broaden the scope to Post graduate as well as under graduate students for 2015. Outcomes of the scholarships continue to be analysed and evaluated and the always inspiring stories and reflective pieces from scholarship recipients shared with the ACEN community through the ACEN newsletter A review of the processes for awarding the scholarships was also undertaken this year and refinements implemented.

**National WIL Projects**

ACEN supported a number of national WIL projects over this period with regular reports to both the National Executive and ACEN members as well as distributing project outcomes and promoting webinars for the projects. ACEN Board members also provided advice through membership of project Advisory committees to projects including the following successful OLT projects:

- Assessing the Impact of WIL
- Building Institutional Capacity to enhance access, participation and progression in Work Integrated Learning
- Enhancing Workplace learning through Mobile technology.

**Global Engagement**

ACEN’s profile and role in WIL internationally has continued to grow over the period through:  

- ACEN organised and co-chaired meetings of all national associations at WACE conferences in Kyoto which saw an increased attendance from ASEAN countries experiencing a growth in WIL
- Attendance at the WACE Board in Kyoto in June 2015
- Active involvement of ACEN Board members on the WACE International research committee.
- Joint projects and presentations with colleagues from the following associations: CAFCE (Canada) VILNAR (Sweden) NZACE (New Zealand)
- Judie Kay was presented with a Global award the Dr Constantine Papadakis Leadership Award for Excellence in Innovation Entrepreneurship and Commitment to CWIE.

**Professional Development**

In addition to the State based events, ACEN often in collaboration with OLT Projects has offered to ACEN members a series of webinars on a range of topics of interest. The webinars continue to be well received attracting up to 100 participants for some topics. This demonstrates both the growth in WIL
across the country and the continued need for professional development for WIL professional and academic staff which ACEN will continue to address.

This year ACEN, in collaboration with WIL Associations in three other countries New Zealand (NZACE) Sweden (VILNAR) and Canada (CAFCE) has offered for the first time an online Global Perspectives in WIL focused on WIL learning theory. The Module was an overwhelming success with demand far outstripping places available and receiving very positive feedback. A second module is currently being run again with ACEN members being the largest group of participants in both modules.

State Chapter Reports
The following reports outline the key activities of the ACEN State chapters during the period

ACEN SA / NT
The SA/NT committee has been working hard to strengthen its membership and deliver timely and useful events. From an events perspective our main focus in 2015 was the delivery of the SA/NT ‘Innovation in work integrated learning’ think tank, which provided an opportunity for representatives from public, private and not-for-profit sectors to identify opportunities for innovative approaches to WIL, with a focus on graduate employability. Our keynote speakers, Karsten Zegwaard from the University of Waikato and David Dahm, CEO Heath and Life in Adelaide, challenged and inspired our thinking to provide an informed and realistic view of the theory and reality of WIL, employability and professional identity in today’s economic context. The event was very well received, with attendees from four different academic institutions across South Australia, and will form the basis of future events and activities.

As a committee we have also worked hard to expand and strengthen our membership base. At the start of the year we had two member institutions; Flinders University and UniSA. Since then our membership has increased with the addition of Adelaide University as a limited member. Despite our low numbers compared to other National Chapters, we continue to actively contribute at a national level and collaborate closely with other State Chapters.

Over the next year, we will continue to focus on strengthening and supporting SA/NT Chapter membership via targeted events, discussions and activities. We really look forward to working closely and collaboratively with a larger committee with representatives, old and new, from three institutions. We aim to work together to support ACEN in developing WIL expertise locally, to increase participation in meaningful WIL activities, build industry capacity to engage in WIL, and support targeted, sustainable experiences that are mutually beneficial to meet our economic needs. It’s going to be a busy year!

Ceri Macleod
SA/NT Chapter Chair and National Board Director
October 2015

ACEN WA
ACEN WA has worked actively throughout 2015 to maintain an engaged WA Chapter of ACEN. ACEN WA and the WA branch of HERDSA have established an active partnership which maximises opportunities for WA members to participate in networking and professional development opportunities. It also optimises the sharing of resources and benefits for members of both organisations. ACEN WA is also engaged in a collaborative project with the WA branch of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and other WA universities. All stakeholders are working together to improve industry engagement in work integrated learning across WA.

ACEN WA has hosted three webinars to date in 2015. The webinars are in partnership with the OLT project teams for Building institutional capacity to enhance access, participation and progression in work integrated learning and Quality in Australian outbound student mobility programs: establishing good practice guidelines for international work-integrated learning. Webinars included:

• Building institutional capacity for student diversity – 29th April 2015
• Global mobility in health disciplines: Best practice approaches for international fieldwork placements – 26th June 2015

Registrations for all webinars exceeded 100 interested participants. Actual attendees ranged from 56 to 83. Webinars were hosted by the WA State Chair.

Two more webinars are planned for 2015:
• Volunteering to learn – 1st October 2015
• Title yet to be confirmed – 28th October 2015

The final event for 2014 will take place at Notre Dame University in November. This workshop will be focus on research in WIL and will be of a similar format to the Research Symposium conducted prior to ACEN conferences. Details of this workshop will be disseminated in the near future.


I am standing down as WA State Chair for ACEN after several years. I have enjoyed my time in this role and benefitted immensely from both state and national networks that have evolved. I have learnt a great deal and been given opportunities to be involved in some exciting and innovative WIL projects. I look forward to welcoming and working with the incoming State Chair for WA.

Sonia Ferns
Chair ACEN WA
9th November, 2015

ACEN VIC / TAS

The past twelve months have been productive and positive for ACEN's Victoria-Tasmania Branch thanks to the enthusiastic and constructive contribution by the members of the Committee and the support of the broader ACEN membership in both states. These efforts led to a series of successful face-to-face and webinar workshops which saw strong attendance and robust interaction. The workshop topics included:

• Engaging Diverse Students in WIL (joint webinar between ACEN & OLT)
• The WIL Leadership Project (joint seminar between ACEN & OLT)
• Non-Placement Authentic WIL (joint seminar between ACEN and HERDSA)
• The Labour Market and WIL (conducted in conjunction with the AGM)
• WIL and Technology (scheduled for November 2015)

The Committee through its regular meetings discussed issues emanating from the ACEN Board including the National WIL Strategy, research grants, student scholarships, and professional development, as well as State matters such as international placements, WIL agreements and membership.

The Committee underwent some uncertainty and changes in membership in the early part of the term but moved from strength to strength as the year progressed. Thanks go to Mary Appleby, Rachael Baron, Rachael Hains-Wesson, Sonja Kiernan, Annette Marlow, Gaon Mitchell, Leoni Russell (and Gail Quirk who issued her resignation) for their collegiality, hard-work, good humour and laying a strong foundation for a grand 2016.

Friederika Kaider
Chair
27th October, 2015
ACT/NSW

In late 2014 the NSW/ACT chapter experienced a change in leadership with the departure of Angela Samuels from the chair role. Theresa Winchester–Seeto and Sarah Fletcher took over the position in a co-chair arrangement until the AGM. At the AGM in September the following nominations were accepted onto the Executive Committee:

- Sarah Fletcher - Chair
- Wayne Fallon – State rep on ACEN Board
- Anna Rowe – Secretary
- Theresa Winchester-Seeto – General Committee member
- Karen Cavanaugh – General Committee member
- Jennifer Rowley – General Committee member.

Outgoing members include Angela Samuels (2014), Nitsa Athanassopoulos and Freny Tayebjee (2015). The Committee would like to extend our gratitude to all outgoing Executive members for the efforts and contribution over the years. In particular, we would like to note the contribution of Freny Tayebjee who as the founding member of the NSW/ACT chapter has driven the enthusiasm and energy for WIL debate and collaboration across institutions in both states.

The state chapter continues to have a successful attendance at forums with the most recent in June 2015 “Contemporary Challenges in WIL” held at the University of Sydney attracting a record number of 90 registrations across 15 institutions and five states. Feedback from the forum was overwhelmingly positive with participants indicating the content was useful and relevant and the opportunity to network with and learn from others being the highlight of the day.

Plans are underway for activity in 2016 with a range of themes currently being discussed. The Committee are keen to explore the use of technology to deliver webinars and workshops alongside the face-to-face forums.

The Committee are excited about the 2016 Conference being hosted in NSW with members involved across the sub-committees in the development and execution of the program.

Sarah Fletcher
Chair, NSW/ACT Chapter
November 2015

ACEN Q

With a Chapter committee of just two and with neither being able to devote the time needed, there were no ACEN organised events in Queensland in 2015. However, the AGM held on 30 September saw the election of three new members to the committee, with the promise of another to join early in the New Year. At its first meeting on 4 November, the new committee resolved to meet monthly from December 2015 and committed to one community of practice workshop in the first half of 2016, to two webinars in the year and to establish a collaborative research program for 2016 and beyond. It was also agreed that the Chapter will attempt to engage more with regional universities across the State to promote ACEN and its objects.

Alan Blackman:
Chair ACEN Q
9 November 2015

ACEN Board

I would like to thank all members of the current ACEN Board for their continuing support and contribution to ACEN activities during this period.I would like to particularly thank Michael Whelan for his contribution as Treasurer and Alan Blackman for undertaking the role of Secretary during this period.

Many thanks to the State Chairs for their contribution over the period; Sonia Ferns, Ceri McLeod, Friederika
Kaider, Angela Samuels Theresa Winchester–Seeto, Sarah Fletcher and Alan Blackman as well as general executive members, Jude Smith, Michael Whelan, Annabelle Willox and John McPhee

I would also especially like to thank Friederika Kaider and Freny Tayebjee, who are both retiring from the ACEN Board at this AGM, for their significant contribution at both State and National levels. Freny has a founding member of ACEN and has worked tirelessly over many years in various portfolios on the ACEN Board and we wish her all the very best for the future. Friederika will continue to be involved at State level in VIC/Tas.

At this AGM we welcome Dr Rachael Hains-Wesson, Swinburne University and Dr Wayne Fallon, University of Western Sydney onto the Board representing VIC/Tas and ACT/NSW respectively. We look forward to their contribution.

Many thanks again to our administrator Don MacDowell who has provided the National Executive and ACEN member’s with, as always, exceptional organisational and administrative support over this period.

National Executive as at AGM 2015

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Judie Kay, RMIT University</td>
<td>President and Advocacy and Chair Industry Engagements</td>
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<td>Dr Wayne Fallon, Western Sydney University</td>
<td>NSW/ACT Representative</td>
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<td>Ms Ceri Macleod, Flinders University</td>
<td>Communications and Membership and SA/NT Representative</td>
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<td>Dr Alan Blackman, Griffith University</td>
<td>Company Secretary and Qld Representative</td>
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<td>Ms Sonia Ferns, Curtin University</td>
<td>Student Scholarships and WA Representative</td>
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<td>Dr Rachael Hains-Wesson, Swinburne University</td>
<td>Vic/Tas representative</td>
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<td>Mrs Jude Smith, Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Chair, Research, Scholarship and Professional Learning</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Whelan, Southern Cross University</td>
<td>Chair of Finance and Audit</td>
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<td>Dr Annabelle Willox, The University of Queensland</td>
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<td>John McPhee, Swinburne University of Technology</td>
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Judie Kay
President, ACEN
11 November 2015