

UECA NEWS

FOCUS ON PLANNING FOR 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our third UECA Newsletter for 2017.

2017 has been a full year for UECA members. Our highlights include very successful PD Fests in Sydney and Melbourne, which were well attended with over 300 participants. The UECA / iGraduate benchmarking exercise ran again, providing some useful insights into our profile and operational performance relative to each other.

This year's Directors' Workshop provided a powerful opportunity for the open exchange of experience and ideas. The workshop format where groups discussed hot issues encouraged a collegiate atmosphere and a sense of being surrounded by supportive peers. It was also great to welcome the contributions of Brett Blacker of English Australia and Patrick Pheasant of NEAS to the second half of the workshop.

You will be aware that David Larbalestier has resigned from his position as UECA president after 8 years in the role. David has put in a tremendous amount of work and passion into his role at UECA and we would certainly not be as strong as it is today if it weren't for his leadership. David has quietly gone about his business, winning enormous respect in the process both from UECA members and from our partners and stakeholders. We will miss him and will formally acknowledge his contribution on a suitable occasion in the future.

On behalf of all your Committee Members, I wish you all the very best of wishes for the festive season ahead, and a prosperous New Year in 2018.

Be on the lookout for our next newsletter, due out in February. That edition will incorporate a preview of an exciting and busy UECA year ahead, and details of our PD Fest plans.



**WELCOME FROM UECA
ACTING PRESIDENT
SIMON WINETROUBE**



MEMBER SERVICES

WHO'S ON THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR?

Here are your 2017-18 Committee members and their contact details.

ACTING PRESIDENT SIMON WINETROUBE

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UECA 2018 EVENTS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Here's some date-savers for some key events in the 2018 UECA Calendar. You can access the full calendar online at www.ueca.edu.au/news.php

DATE

EVENT NOTES

PD Events in 2018

Start planning now for the PD events that are right for your centre:

- **Saturday 7 April 2018:** PD West in Perth, offered in collaboration with English Australia and hosted by Curtin University.
- **Saturday 12 May 2018:** PD Fest in Sydney, If you're planning to attend the UECA AGM and NEAS Conference, stay over in Sydney for another day and join in this event!
- **Saturday 30 June 2018:** Assessment symposium in Brisbane
- **July 2018:** PD Fest in Melbourne.
- **October 2018:** PD Fest in Adelaide

UECA AGM

Wednesday 9 May 2018: The UECA Annual General Meeting will be held in Sydney prior to the NEAS 2018 Management Conference.

Director's Forum (Sydney)

Tuesday 18 September 2018 UECA Directors' Forum in Sydney prior to the English Australia Conference.

2018 UECA Committee Meetings (Teleconference)

Your Committee meets via teleconference 5 times each year in:

- January
- March
- July
- September
- November

A summary of meeting outcomes are included in UECA newsletters and available online in the Members Area of the UECA website at <http://www.ueca.edu.au/members>.

CAMTESOL UPDATE: 14TH ANNUAL CAMBODIA TESOL CONFERENCE SATURDAY 10 – SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2018



Prof Bev Derewianka

CamTESOL starts in less than 60 days! The theme for the 2018 conference is English Language Teaching in the Digital Era. UECA is the principal sponsor of the Regional research symposium held at the CamTESOL conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia each year. As part of our commitment to this significant development opportunity for teachers in ASEAN region we provide sponsorship for the event and the plenary speaker.

In 2018 we are very pleased to welcome Professor Bev Derewianka as the plenary speaker. In addition, we sponsor and support a number of regional research participants who are engaged in a range of research projects.

If you want to know more about the Research Grants Mentoring Program and to learn how your College can participate, please don't hesitate to contact the UECA Secretariat or email the project coordinator Darren Brookes at camtesolresearchers@gmail.com

In 2018 UECA member institutions are invited to sponsor a regional researcher for \$500 USD. This enables researchers to participate in the mentoring program provided by UECA under the leadership of Darren Brookes. The sponsoring university provides a staff member to work as a mentor with the researcher. This is a valuable professional development opportunity for the Australian-based staff member. In 2018, UECA is also offering 2 free registrations to a UECA PD Fest for all institutions which participate in the program.

BENCHMARKING OPPORTUNITY IN 2018

UECA is currently working with Dr Sara Booth from UTAS to establish a national benchmarking activity for members supported through the Peer Review Portal. The Peer Review portal is being used extensively by Universities and other higher education providers to meet TEQSA requirements for benchmarking.

While full details of the program are yet to be finalised, we are planning to establish benchmarking of assessments and sample student work in Direct Entry programs as well as one or two key operational practices. The additional areas to be benchmarked will be determined by the participants.

Full details of the program including participant requirements, costs and a collaborative peer review benchmarking workshop will be available in the New Year.

