

UECA NEWS

President's Message

We are drawing to the close of what has been another busy and productive year for UECA and our members. We end the year with membership at record levels (31 centres) and a new fresh look for our website and associated collateral. Our sector has always had its trials and 2019 has been no different, but I would challenge anyone to question the professionalism and integrity of our work in the light of the extensive engagement in the UECA benchmarking project and the outcomes of that project. I would challenge anyone to question the professionalism and integrity of our work in the light of the enthusiastic participation in UECA PD Fests throughout the year, the numbers of teachers and organisers giving up their weekends to attend and the quality of the presentations and discussions which have taken place at those events. I would challenge anyone to question the professionalism and integrity of our work in the light of passion on display at the Directors' Forum and the willingness to put aside our competitive positions to share ideas and experiences for the betterment of the sector. Long may it continue.

We are looking forward to more of the same in 2020. We've gathered feedback and there is a widespread demand for us to continue the benchmarking project,

so we will build on the great work done in 2019 and take that forward with some new elements. We have PD Fests planned in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, not to mention the third UECA assessment symposium on the Gold Coast. Our AGM will again be supported by NEAS and will take place alongside their conference at Doltone House, Sydney and I look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to Perth, that great regional city, for the Directors' Forum immediately prior to the English Australia conference. We may no longer be a "major" city (Hurrah!) but there's plenty to see and do so I hope you'll make the trip.

Thanks to our committee for their selfless hard work and to all our members and sponsors for their great support throughout 2019. All the best for the festive season and I look forward to working with you again in 2020.



Simon Winetroube
UECA President

Benchmarking Project Progress

UECA's first ever Assessment Benchmarking Project wrapped up in August this year with the release of the External Referencing of ELICOS Direct Entry Program Standards: UECA National Report 2019. The report provided clear evidence that internal processes and policies for moderating assessment are rigorous and in place across participating UECA institutions. The report also showed how participating Centres are delivering quality ELICOS Direct Entry Program pathways that are fit for purpose and producing graduates to expected English language proficiency standards. In fact, the report highlighted how many participating Centres are producing graduates with academic language skills which are beyond the measure of standard proficiency tests. Their students can produce extended academic texts, such as essays and reports, and clearly distinguish their own ideas from those in source material through paraphrase and referencing. In addition to these findings the project also resulted in over 200 individual recommendations for improvement for participating Centres. UECA would like to thank the 20 participating institutions, the 68 assessors involved, our partners OPS and project leads

A/Prof Thomas Roche and Dr Sara Booth. The project outcomes are being disseminated through a number of channels. Simon Winetroube provided a summary of the project and its findings at the AIEC conference in Perth. At the recent Swinburne PD Fest, Thomas Roche chaired a lively panel discussion on the impact of the benchmarking project with contributions from panellists Jarrod Tebb, Carolyn Matthews, Will Alderton and Dr Phuong Tran. Sara and Thomas will be presenting findings of the project at the upcoming TEQSA conference in Melbourne in November. UECA is currently scoping another benchmarking project for 2020, please contact us if you are interested in finding out more. The 2019 report is available on the UECA website.



**Associate Professor
Thomas Roche**
Director, SCU College

New
UECA.EDU.AU

We are very excited to introduce our new website.

Thank you to the working panel; Kat, Callum, Magda and the Zoubakin Team **zoubakin.com** for making it happen. Please check it out here: **ueca.edu.au**

OUR PRINCIPAL SPONSORS:

NEAS Australia



Dr Patrick Pheasant
CEO NEAS

CEO Update 2019

Our Transformative Journey

NEAS has recently embarked on its own transformative journey and is inviting you to join us!

The team invite you to explore our transformed website, **neas.org.au**

Stay in touch with the NEAS team through NEAS News as our journey continues.

Register for our fortnightly newsletter if you haven't already at **neas.org.au/news**

NEAS has released the report 'Mapping The English Language Teaching Landscape 2019'.

This report profiles the importance of NEAS within Australia's education system and the lead role they provide in Quality Assurance services to students, ELT and vocational providers.

Click here to view the report

NEAS ELT Management Conference 2020

Early Bird Tickets are now available!



We invite you to share your transformational journeys at the 2020 NEAS Management Conference.

- What transformational journeys have you seen or experienced?
- How can we harness the power of journeys in creating and maintaining sustainable futures in education?

Be part of the 2020 Conference and share your story in a 45-minute presentation, 90-minute workshop or a 10-minute vox pop. **neas.org.au/conference-20/**

OUR SPONSOR:

Cambridge Assessment English

Cambridge Assessment English is also looking forward to working more closely with University English Centres Australia from 2020 and can see some particularly exciting opportunities for the new 4-skills test, Linguaskill, which can accurately and efficiently measure students' levels of English for admission, progression or graduation.

For more information about Linguaskill and Cambridge Assessment English, please visit **www.cambridgeenglish.org** or contact the Country Manager for Australasia, Markus Maciulaitis, by email: **maciulaitis.m@cambridgeenglish.org** or by phone: 0436 657 603.



**Cambridge Assessment
English**

Linguaskill 

UECA PD FEST Melbourne

Swinburne University of Technology hosted the UECA PD Fest on the 26th of October, 2019 in Melbourne. The theme was 'Shape: Tech, Academic, Social and Cultural Engagement in EAP and Pathway programs.'

The event focused on a broad range of strategies to promote and shape student engagement in the use of technology, their academic, social interactions, and their cultural expression. The day was aimed at providing professional development by teachers for teachers. The program included four streams of learning showcasing practical classroom strategies, which use apps, websites, and technology, to meet modern student expectations and shaping students into active learners, actively retaining, improving learning outcomes and taking responsibility for their learning. A range of engaging activities and ideas were presented for encouraging students, within the challenges of mixed-level, monolingual, or diverse classes, shaping positive and meaningful interactions between peers and empowering them to communicate confidently and effectively with communities.

The opening plenary by Associate Director, Learning and Academic Skills Centre, Dr Elena Verezub, from Swinburne University of Technology focussed on the topic of student engagement and "Inspire to learn".

The day was attended by 100 educators from VIC, interstate and New Zealand. The organisers received positive feedback on the program, organisation and impact of the PD Fest.

You can view all the slides from the day and a recording of Dr Elena Verezub's keynote here: <https://ueca.edu.au/pd-fest-2019-melbourne-details/>



Upcoming events 2020

PD Fests	Sydney	CET	March 28, 2020
	Melbourne	CQU	August 22, 2020
	Adelaide	Uni Adelaide	November 7, 2020
Assessment Symposium	Southern Cross University	Gold Coast	July 18, 2020
Directors Forum	Perth		September 15, 2020
AGM	Sydney	Doltone House	May 6, 2020

Directors' Forum

UECA directors gathered at Monash College for the annual forum in September. This is an extremely valuable opportunity for centre directors to meet and discuss a variety of issues in our sector.

The day featured an update on the Benchmarking project as well as informative session from Cris Vega from TEQSA which included a positive response to the project. In addition to various UECA activities, Directors had an opportunity to share their biggest achievements and challenges over the past 12 months and to engage in discussions on "Hot Topics" including:

1. Self-access/Independent Learning Centres
2. Preparing internally for an external audit
3. Self-care practice
4. Responses to adverse media

It was a productive day and concluded with dinner, which was generously sponsored by Cambridge Assessment English.



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