

## ANZACPE 2016 AGM - President's Address

ANZACPE is an Association of seven Associations.

Last year we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as such. We had much to celebrate. During those twenty five years we had grown our co-operation as professional educators; we had moved from our various some-what stand-alone, silo-like, educational endeavours towards becoming a recognisable Australasian body of educators.

Thus, we were able to genuinely celebrate a journey well-travelled together; and we gave thanks for each other, especially for our CPE Supervisor forebears whose vision and energy had called us into association and challenged us to work together.

Speaking of forebears, let us pause to remember and to give thanks for four of our CPE forebears who died during the past year: Rev Evan Sherrard, Ms Bizz Jelly, Sister Janice Gleeson Nerida Terril.

At last year's AGM, a number of concerns and anxieties were voiced concerning both our functioning as an Association and our future as CPE educators. As your President, I undertook to survey our Member Associations regarding the issues that we named during that AGM. You already have a copy of the feedback from that survey: 'ANZACPE-where to from here?'

We will consider this feedback in workshop style, later this afternoon.

I believe we've reached an important crossroads as an Association; we face some stark choices. I believe that how we choose, what we choose, and how we act regarding our choices, will determine the future and the shape of CPE into the next generation.

An African proverb comes to mind:

**If you want to travel fast, go alone;  
if you want to travel far, go together.**

I believe that as an Association we need to decide some things afresh:

- will we, in our various Associations, insist upon going alone?
- or, will we go together, and go further?

At the risk of being misunderstood, I want to challenge us all with another saying:

**Minds are like parachutes;  
they work better when they are open.**

I urge us, both as individuals and as Member Associations, to have open minds as we attend to the feedback that is summarised in 'ANZACPE-where to from here?'

I believe the feedback is urging us to work together more closely than before; not to straight-jacket us

into a one-size-fits-all, but rather to describe more coherently what we offer as educators. Our new description needs to be both clear and coherent not only within our own Association circles, but also to other educators beyond our circles.

To quote one of our Member Associations as it urges ANZACPE to come to agreement on common objectives and learning criteria for all levels of CPE:

**'We are of the view  
that our Standards and Guidelines  
need to be broad enough  
to allow room for individual Associations  
to shape CPE according to their varying needs,  
and yet prescriptive enough  
to provide a united and cohesive foundation  
for the understanding and practice of CPE  
in our part of the world.'**

I don't wish to pre-empt our discussions and decisions later this afternoon as we attend to the document 'ANZACPE-where to from here?' – but, as we workshop together I invite us to honour the wisdom that I believe is contained in the following sayings:

**No one knows as much as all of us.**

**You don't get harmony  
if everyone sings the same note.**

**If you fence the backyard, you can let the  
children out to play.**

In New Zealand we have a Maori proverb that I believe to be pertinent:

**Ki te kotahi te kakaho ka whati,  
ki te kapuia e kore e whati.  
A single reed can be broken,  
but bound together they are strong.**

It remains for me to thank your Executive for their sterling work this past year. We have met every three months, via phone-conference, and have encouraged one another to attend to the various tasks needed to further the work of ANZACPE. I understand that Judith, your new President, intends to continue this practice of meeting regularly. Much of what your Executive has actioned will be outlined in the various Reports that will be shared with you during the rest of this AGM. Particular thanks must go to our Vice-President, our Secretary and our Treasurer. I have enjoyed working with this Executive team. They have worked co-operatively, and have served us well. I invite you to thank them by taking part in that strange human behaviour of banging our hands together.

Thank you.