

Current NEAT Executive

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NEAT Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania from 4:00 – 5:30 on Wednesday February 25. The guest speaker is Bronwen Bowman who will discuss progress in the establishment of the Tasmanian Academy and the Polytechnic. Refreshments will be provided.

Data Projector Available to Members

NEAT has a data projector that can be borrowed by member associations to use at meetings and professional learning sessions. Please contact Wendy Ross for further information.

NEAT Website

The NEAT website www.neat.tas.edu.au contains important information and useful links. All current members are listed on the site. If you would like information to be included on the site, please contact Charles Morgan.

If this newsletter is addressed to the wrong person or is sent to the wrong address, please notify Wendy Ross so that our records can be corrected.

Network of Education Associations of Tasmania Incorporated
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Network of Education Associations of **Tasmania** Inc

NEWSLETTER 1 2009

From the President

The main business of the Executive this year is the management of NEAT projects, report involvement in state and national initiatives, and organisation of network activities. The Executive is strongly committed to finding new ways to support member associations.

Last year, in response to the wish of the Minister for Education to strengthen the relationship between NEAT and his office, NEAT received substantial 'in kind' support from Department of Education provided the President with access to:

- a desk in Learning Services (South), laptop computer and telephone
- printing and photocopying services
- the global address list and info-stream
- DoE booking systems and meeting venues
- some administrative support, such as a phone message service, mail outs to DoE schools : some printing and- photocopying.

This support will continue in 2009. NEAT is committed to further developing its productive relationship with the Minister and DoE by

- maintaining close communication links with Minister's office and Learning Services and supporting DoE priorities
- providing information and advice from professional associations to the Minister's office or current and projected state, national and international initiatives, issues and research
- inviting the Minister to participate in State and National Conferences and providing him with opportunities to meet with national and international keynote speakers
- providing professional learning opportunities and support to teachers statewide in areas of identified need.

A major, new initiative this year is the AGQTP sponsored program to support curriculum area leaders. The program will be managed by NEAT, which sees it as an important way to support the enhancement of leadership and practice in Tasmanian schools. NEAT will also be continuing its scholarship program support for the Financial Literacy Program.

The Executive looks forward to an active year and looks forward to working with professional associations in the service of education.



NEAT President Charles Morgan

NEAT Scholarship Program

Following the outstanding success of this program in 2008, NEAT will continue to provide \$700 scholarships to support the attendance by representatives of its member associations at a national conference. Criteria for the scholarships are as follows:

- demonstrated interest in and commitment to their area of teaching
- exemplary teaching practice
- evidence of current and / or future commitment to the activities of their association
- willingness to participate in current and future activities that support teaching in Tasmania

For further information, please contact Charles Morgan. A report from Emma Norris, the scholarship winner from TATE appears on the website.

Curriculum Leaders Program

NEAT has acquired some funding from AGQTP to develop a project for curriculum area leaders. The activity has both a research and an implementation phase. The research phase will focus on working with groups of curriculum area coordinators to identify needs and determine preferred action. It will also investigate examples of best practice.

The activity aims to support exemplary practice in curriculum area leadership. A key purpose of the program will be development of deep knowledge about the four dimensions of understanding within disciplines (knowledge, processes, purposes and forms).

The activity meets needs that have been identified by Tasmanian educators. For example, the findings of the *2006 / 7 Survey of Secondary Teachers of English in Tasmanian Schools*, conducted by the Tasmanian Association for the Teaching of English (TATE), indicate that during the past fourteen years:

- there has been a significant decrease in level of subject specialisation in secondary schools
- there has been significantly reduced time for curriculum area leadership, including the provision of professional learning and support
- there has been an increasing number of non-specialist teachers teaching out of their area of expertise and an increasing number of teachers taking up English teaching for the first time
- there continues to be a disproportionate number of early career teachers in regional and isolated schools

- the number of subject specialists nearing retirement has significantly increased

The survey results, which are part of a longitudinal study, can be viewed at the following address: http://www.tate.neat.tas.edu.au/word/survey_nov08.doc . Anecdotal evidence indicates that other curriculum priority areas reflect the situation in English.

The program will be managed by the Network of Education Associations of Tasmania (NEAT) on behalf of its member associations. NEAT will be the lead organisation and will work closely with the Government, independent and Catholic systems. Further information will be available to associations during term one.

Values Education

The 2009 Civics and Citizenship Partnership Project commences with a State Forum

This Federally funded event will include a key note address by Dr Libby Tudball, a national expert in Civics and Citizenship Education, a panel session, the opportunity to revisit the Society and History Curriculum Syllabus and reports from teachers who have lead civics and citizenship projects in their classes. Relief is offered for 25 participants with schools encouraged to match the relief day available so that two teachers can attend.

Participants will also receive information on the Civics and Citizenship School Project Grants up to \$1500 available in 2009. These school / community-based project grants can be used to implement new programs or support existing class, school or community programs that focus on student learning in civics and citizenship.

Values Education Professional Learning Project

A comprehensive raft of professional learning opportunities and school grants will be offered to teachers and schools across Tasmania. A program is being organised to complement a number of projects and curriculum areas including English / literacy, civics and citizenship, sustainability and local AuSSI projects, Asia Education Foundation programs, Global Education workshops, health and wellbeing initiatives and electronic networking.

For information on these two federally funded initiatives contact the Jan Kiernan, Project Officer, Curriculum Team, LSSE jan.kiernan@education.tas.gov.au.