



Website



Calendar



Subscribe



Like us on Facebook



Contact Us

QASEL Newsletter Edition 9, 2021

President's Update

Road Trip - Townsville to Mackay

It's always a pleasure to visit special education leaders in their schools. Last week I had the opportunity to visit members and special education leaders in the North Queensland and Central Queensland regions.

Monday

Having flown into Townsville on Sunday evening, I was straight out to meet with Regional Director, Lyal Giles to discuss QASEL's Strategic Plan and how we can best support special education leaders in NQ.

Then onto Heatley State School to meet with Wendy Burton, Deputy Principal and long-time QASEL member. What an amazing model of inclusion the dedicated team are leading. Brilliant to see it in action.

I ended the day with a coffee and some great discussions with local members and leaders Wendy, Majella, Sonia and Barb. We discussed SWD resourcing, ECDPs, strategic planning, inclusion and the QASEL conference.

Tuesday

First stop was a visit to Tracy Cronin, new principal at Townsville Community Learning Centre on just her second day in the job. Wonderful to have a look around the school and catch up with her terrific leadership team.

Then I journeyed south down the highway to Burdekin School to meet with the NQ regional councillor Claire Cheyne discussing the challenges faced by a small rural special school.

In the afternoon we caught up with special education leaders in the local area, again the discussion centred on the needs of special education leaders in NQ as well as broader strategic issues and the work of QASEL.



Wednesday

Lots of kilometres but so worth it! I got to spend time with three terrific leaders of inclusion today. Camilla at Ayr State High School, Craig at Bowen State High School, and Ann-Jay Bowen State Primary School cluster HOSES. Wonderful discussion about how QASEL might support their work and connections. We also discussed the many challenges of the roles and how they are working to overcome them to move forward on their inclusion journey.

Then onto Mackay for a well-earned sleep.

Thursday and Friday

Much of the time in Mackay was taken up attending the QASSP / QACSL Principals' conference, watching our very own microphone captain Simone Coogan warming up for QASELcon. Although I did have to step out for some Teams meetings including connecting with the QASEL North Coast Regional meeting (given my base is in North Coast, this may not have been my best piece of planning). Thanks though to Janet Humphries for making this work.

Unfortunately, due to some local issues I wasn't able to visit the team at Mackay Special School as planned, although I did get to speak to Rod about the challenges in finding teachers for relief or short contracts. Certainly, a message I'm hearing from all leaders around the state but particularly in regional areas.

Finally, off to Mackay airport for the flight home (and perhaps a little nanna nap on the plane).



Opportunities at the New State Special School at Coomera

In 2022, the Queensland Government will deliver three new schools across the state: a new primary school for Caloundra South and North Maclean (Greenbank), and a new special school in Coomera.

Construction is well underway for the new state special school in the growing area of Coomera (Gold Coast North) and will open for Prep to Year 12 students for 2022. The school is located on Foxwell Road Coomera.

Design and construction of the new buildings will include all infrastructure works to support the new buildings and facilities, a new multi-storey junior and senior learning building (20 general learning areas), administration block, resource centre, multi-purpose hall, hospitality and central amenities, and sports oval, car park and drop off areas.

Kate Hucker is the newly appointed Principal and has kindly provided an update in the link below that outlines her vision for the school and some information about current selection and recruitment opportunities for Deputy Principal and teaching positions.

[Coomera Special School](#)

Association Conferences

It was my pleasure to stop in briefly on the conferences of our fellow associations QSPA, QASSP/QACSL in recent weeks. Both conferences were highly successful events and a great opportunity to network with school and system leaders. It was also a great reminder of just how important it is for communities to come together in the wake of COVID-19's impact.

We are very fortunate in Queensland to have strong working relationships across all the professional associations and I am grateful for the continued support of Mark (QSPA), Leslie (QASSP), Brian (QACSL) and Sharon (SBMAQ).

I just can't wait for the best conference of all next week, QASELcon 2021– hope to see you there.

ASEPA National Conference

Every two years our national association, Australian Special Education Principals Association (ASEPA) works in partnership with a state association to host the national conference. This year the joint ASEPA National Conference is held in partnership with the NSW Special Education Principals and Leaders Association.

The Conference will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney from Monday, 12 July to Wednesday, 14 July 2021. The theme for the Joint ASEPA National Conference and SEPLA-CON 2021 is 'VOICE'. <https://gems.eventsair.com/asepa-national-conference-and-sepla-con21/>

This year, QASEL is offering to support members attendance by reimbursing members costs up to a maximum of 50% of the registration fee. The exact reimbursement amount will be influenced by the number of applications received. If you're a QASEL member attending the national conference and you would like to apply for this support, please email president@qasel.org.au for further information.



VOICE

Joint
ASEPA National
Conference and
SEPLA-CON 2021
ICC Sydney | 12th - 14th July



Australian Curriculum Review

Many members will have already participated in edStudio feedback sessions run by State School Division. In particular, the four sessions run by State School Disability and Inclusion with a specific lens on inclusion (2 x P-6 and 2 x 7-12) during the week of 24 May. If you did, please remember to follow up by completing your online survey.

If you were not able to join one of these sessions, you can still provide feedback directly to ACARA. The online survey can be completed by individuals, such as teachers, school leaders and groups, schools, clusters and professional associations. The learning area survey is designed so you can give high-level feedback about the overall proposed revisions or more detailed feedback about specific year levels.

Further information on how to provide individual or group feedback can be found at <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/consultation/> or by clicking the link to the information sheet attached.

ACARA Info Sheet

ASEPA Board Member Results

Following a call for nominations from members, the QASEL executive and management team have nominated me to join the board of the Australian Special Education Principals Association (ASEPA). As an incoming board member, I look forward to helping shape the strategic direction of special education at a national level. I'd also like to thank Roselyne Anderson for her contribution while in this position.

Sponsors and Business Partners

QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Gold Business Partner:



QASEL wishes to thank and acknowledge our Silver Business Partner:



BFX Furniture

QASELcon21

Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity.

Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June, Hilton Brisbane.

Final Call! Registration Must End Soon!

[Register Now!](#)

After the disappointment of cancelling our 2020 conference your conference planning committee have worked hard to pull together the high-quality program for this year. QASELcon21 is your opportunity to access high quality professional learning that supports your leadership development and the education of students with disability across Queensland.

Our theme, Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity will be brought to life through the many keynote and concurrent sessions across three days. Your full program is almost finalised, and brings together a blend of expert keynote speakers, senior department officers and support services as well as members and practitioners sharing their great practice and innovations. Below is a link to the conference flyer and draft program (subject to minor changes).

[QASELcon Flyer](#)

[QASELcon Program](#)

Building Collaboration, Confidence and Creativity



Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 June

Hilton, Brisbane

President's Diary

If you have any thoughts or feedback on any recent or upcoming events in the president's diary, please don't hesitate to send me an email. Your feedback is always welcome.

Meetings and events in recent weeks

- Australian Curriculum Review online workshops
- QSPA conference
- Road Trip – Townsville to Mackay
- Principal Association Presidents' Meeting with DDG People and Executive Services.
- QASEL EMC Meeting
- Respectful Relationship Education Advisor Group Meeting
- North Coast Regional – QASEL network meeting
- QASSP conference
- School visit to Mount Ommaney Special School
- QASEL ECDP subcommittee meeting

Upcoming meetings and events

- Principal Health and Wellbeing Project - Review Interview
- Metro Special School Principals Network Meeting
- Minister's - Joint Meeting with association presidents QSPA, QASSP & QASEL
- Showcase Awards board meeting
- Turn to Teaching program meeting
- 1-1 meeting with DDG State Schooling
- 1-1 meeting with ADG Disability & Inclusion
- NAPLAN Online Reference Group meeting
- QASEL State Council meeting
- QASELcon21 !!!!!
- School visit Narbethong Special School
- Strategic Directions Steering Committee (SDSC)

Other Messages

QELi - Inclusive Leadership Program

The Inclusive Leadership program is a nine-month, face-to-face program that focuses on strengthening the capacities of Middle Leaders and Deputy Principals. It is designed to stretch aspirants to the next leadership level and further enhance their current leadership role. The program provides a closer exploration of the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead and develop others for effective leadership of inclusive school communities. See flyer attached for more information.

Inclusive Leadership Program
Flyer

QCT TEACHX Awards Team

Do you know an inspiring teacher doing outstanding work in a school or early learning centre? Nominate them now for the 2021 TEACHX Awards.

TEACHX celebrates excellence in teaching and promotes the important work of registered teachers across all schooling sectors and early learning centres in Queensland.

Shortlisted nominees will have their profile featured on the Queensland College of Teachers' [Teacher Stories website](#) and finalists and winners' stories will be promoted to the media.

Winners will be announced on Thursday 28 October on the eve of World Teachers' Day in Queensland.

Nominations close Friday 9 July 2021.

You can nominate a colleague on our [TEACHX nomination page](#).



From Dr Neil Carrington

I have had a number of requests for more information about my Leadership Masterclass Tour. As promised, you will read below that I have created a significant discount for QASEL members. I would very much appreciate your support in passing this information on.

<https://www.austcolled.com.au/product/leadership-masterclass-with-dr-neil-carrington/>

I will be undertaking a National Tour of my Leadership Masterclass. Topics covered will include:

- Leadership vs Management in Teams and of self, colleagues and within the Organisation
- Organisational Culture: How we do things around here when no one is watching?
- Agreement vs Alignment in Teams
- Perception (why others see the world differently than me)
- High Performance Teams: Creating and Sustaining them
- Strategic Planning and Action (moving from Grasshopper to helicopter and back)
- Authentic Performance conversations, holding to account
- Deep Authentic 4-way Feedback Culture of self, colleagues and clients
- How to Coach a Team through Deep listening of self, colleagues and clients

I will continue to support Act for Kids as I always have through this venture. I have personally arranged for your members to be able to access a special discount price of 20% by using the Code: Leader002

Qld Dates:

- 16 July Gold Coast
- 21 July Townsville
- 23 July Cairns
- 27 July Brisbane
- 13 September Toowoomba

