



Australasian Association for Institutional Research

Electronic Newsletter Editor: Dave Marr editor@air.org.au

Monthly e-Newsletter – December, 2010

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EDITORIAL OF SORTS

THANKS ROB!!

It is indeed a sad day when we bid farewell to our learned and esteemed colleague, Rob Sheehan, who has diligently and persistently delivered the AAIR Newsletter to you every month for as long as many of us can remember. And a better than great job he has done over that time you'll no doubt agree.

Now it's time for a bit of a change for him and for us.

I'm filling in for this issue only. From the first issue in 2011, Wendy Marchment, who many of you will already know from her many years as an AAIR member including a long stint as President, will be taking over the reins of the Newsletter.

In this issue I'll be covering the events of the 2010 AAIR Forum, and we'll visit our new website including some of the new initiatives that have been developed such as 'News', 'Opportunities' and the 'Knowledge Base'.

If you ever feel compelled to contribute to the Newsletter, please just send your two bits worth to the Newsletter Editor at: editor@air.org.au

Dave Marr – Interim Editor

Put this date in your diary NOW!

**2011 AAIR Annual Forum
9-11 November, 2011
Sea World, Gold Coast,
Queensland**

“IR: Let the Sunshine In”

Forum details

We'll keep you updated throughout the year as information becomes available:

<http://www.aair.org.au/pages/events>

2010 AAIR Forum in Geelong

If you missed the 2010 AAIR Forum in Geelong, or even if you were there and couldn't obviously get to every session, I've captured some of the highlights for you.

[Rob Toutkousian](#), immediate past President of AIR, joined us for his first Australasian Association for Institutional Research Forum. [Read what he had to say about his experience.](#)

[Alan Mackay](#) from the Group of Eight, did the reverse to Rob; he visited the AIR Forum in Chicago this year. Alan has provided us with some [insights from that experience.](#)

[Phil Aungles](#) from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) dropped in for the whole three days for which we were very grateful. We've had problems getting the timing right so that DEEWR staff can attend so it was great to have Phil with us for that amount of time.

Ros Clermont from University of South Australia has provided a [brief summary](#) of some of the things Phil touched on in case you missed it.

So who got the awards?

The 2010 AAIR Forum produced some quality presentations and papers. These have now been added to the [AAIR Forum website](#).

In case you didn't catch up with the award winners, they were:

Best paper – David Carroll, Graduate Careers Australia for his paper titled, '[Unemployment rates and starting salaries - are Australian graduates at the whim of the wage curve?](#)'.

Best presentation – well no-one was really surprised except perhaps the presenter herself, Josie Palermo, for her presentation on '[Factors that impact on ageing tertiary workers wellbeing: A Regional Case Study](#)'.

Best New Presenter – Samer Saad, from one of our corporate sponsors, eXplorance, was voted 'Best New Presenter'. His presentation had '[A fresh look at Response Rates- Best practises for online Course Evaluations](#)'.

Coming of Age stories

You may remember back in an earlier Newsletter where Josie was asking you to send in your 'Coming of Age' stories as 2010 was AAIR's 21st year of incorporation. Well your response was less than overwhelming. In fact Josie received exactly 'zero' responses from you. So in good IR spirit, we did a little research ourselves and have started compiling some stories from some of the longer serving AAIRies as well as a couple of newbies.

If you want to read their stories, then [visit the conference website](#).

We'll keep compiling these, as it's a great way to capture the history of how one becomes involved with IR.

If you have a story, then send it to:

Josie Palermo at president@aair.org.au or to the Newsletter editor at editor@aair.org.au.

If you happened to attend our presentation at the Forum, then you'll know that we put together a video presenting some fascinating stories from some of the more well known associates of AAIR. Unfortunately, the lunchtime noise of AARies in the dining room often drowned out the interviewee.

That means we're going to have to do some cleaning up before that can be released on the website.

The AGM

As is tradition, AAIR's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled during the Annual Forum. And this year of course the terms of the Executive Committee were up. [Find out the results of the election here](#).

We did say goodbye to a couple of our long term Committee members, Rob Sheehan and Andrea Matulick. But we have been joined for the next two years by Dr Sally Nimon and Mark Bazzacco.



Photo: Andrea, Josie and Rob

Courtesy: Richard Dillon

Contact details for AAIR are available at the '[Contact Us](#)' web page.

The New AAIR Website



If you hadn't noticed, [AAIR's new website](#) is up and running. Liesha Northover, who has done a fantastic job populating the site with the rich content that had been a feature of the old website, gave us a run down on some of its new features during a lunch break at the Forum.

There was just a small number in the audience so I can probably assume that a little tour here wouldn't go astray.

This is a work-in-progress and not all of the content has been migrated from the old website. But a lot is

there and growing by the week. By early in the New Year, we should have caught up with the backlog.

The website is now packaged in a more contemporary look and feel as well as providing a more sophisticated 'back end' to allow us to manage the content more effectively.

We have also added some new features which I'll introduce you to shortly.

There's a lot 'About' AAIR that you'll find useful such as the Rules, Mission and Objectives, the Code of Ethics, AAIR's organisational structure etc. Worth a look at some stage.

Then we've got the usual links to all the papers and presentations for the [AAIR Fora](#) (I presume that 'Fora' is plural for 'Forum'). Again they're not all there yet but we're progressively adding more and more. The past few years are definitely there.

I recently sent out a call to register on the website. If you chose to register, then you will have access to one of the new features: [the Knowledge Base](#) (you can only enter this part of the website if you have registered). To date around 100 people have taken the opportunity to register which is fantastic.

These Knowledge Base discussion groups will allow you to tap into other's knowledge on topics such as business intelligence, equity in higher education, issues in NZ higher education, student surveys etc. The list is up to you. We've set up a few but if you'd like to start a new discussion group then simply let either [Liesha Northover](#) or me know.

We do however need to have a moderator or convenor for each of the topic areas. So here's a call for all you inspired AAIRies, to help us make this a success by putting your name forward either against one of the topics already established or if you want to establish your own.

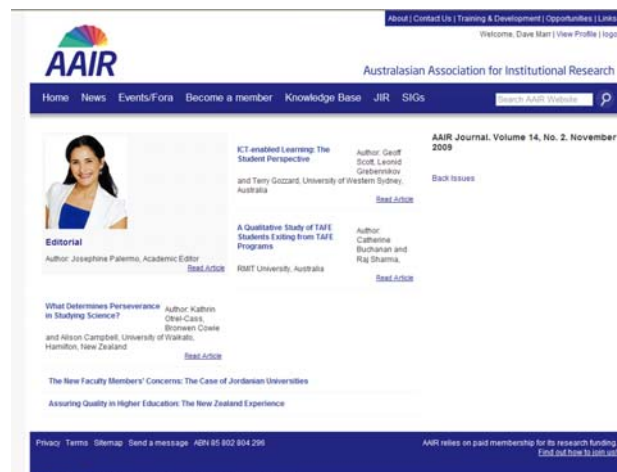
The moderator's role will be to ensure that inappropriate or malicious text is dealt with. Of course you can also be one of the more 'vocal' contributors. Again just let either Liesha or I know.

Journal of Institutional Research

One of the great initiatives our founders established was the [Journal](#). The website is now taking the Journal on-line so that each new volume is searchable. On the main menu bar that appears on every page, you'll find the standard 'search box'.

The pdf versions are still available as a more print-friendly version.

Again these are slowly being migrated from the old website so not all are quite there yet. But very soon they will be.



So what else is new?

Events

Rob always had a section in the Newsletter known as '*Places to Go – Things to Do*'. Well now this information will be available on the website.

Go to: <http://www.aair.org.au/pages/events>

Just some Faculty events coming up in the next wee while:

30th Annual Conference on
[The First-Year Experience](#)
4-8 February 2011
Marriott Atlanta Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia

[TAFE Governance and Regulations Forum](#)
28 February to 1 March 2011
Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne

[Australian Quality Forum \(AuQF\)](#)
29 June to 1 July 2011
Melbourne, Australia
Call for papers is now open until 1 April.

[EAIR Forum](#)
28-31 August 2011
Warsaw, Poland
The deadline for the submission of paper proposals is Monday 24 January 2011 and for posters, 1st May 2011.

Or where have you been lately?

Dr Sally Nimon, who you'll now know has just joined the Committee, was fortunate to have attended the Canadian's equivalent of our Forum. [Sally has agreed to share her story with us.](#)

Opportunities

Ok!! Here's where you'll find some great job opportunities.

Go to: <http://www.aair.org.au/pages/opportunities>

Positions currently being advertised include:

- Director, Research Services at La Trobe University (closes 11 February 2011);
- Planning Officer (Evaluation and Surveys) at Deakin University (closes 9 January 2011);
- two new Audit Directors at AUQA (closes 20 December 2010)

Training and Development

The [Data and Decisions Academy](#) is a series of online, self-paced courses designed for busy community college institutional research (IR) professionals in the US.

During Fall 2009, the Academy piloted three initial courses: Foundational Statistics for Decision Support, Foundations of Data Management, and Designing IR Research. Survey Design, Learning Outcomes, and Longitudinal Tracking for IR debuted Fall 2010. Future Academy plans include intermediate and advanced training, as well as courses for other segments of the IR community.

The courses are accessible without travel or special software, and are designed for busy employees who need on-the-job and on-the-go training. Through a unique learning portal, Academy participants will acquire the knowledge and skills to perform a critical IR function in about 10 hours of study and exercises. With an investment of approximately 25 hours, participants can complete the entire course and obtain a broader knowledge base of IR competencies.

AIR also offer a range of face-to-face training in what are called "Institutes".

Watch the [Training and Development website](#) for more T&D opportunities as we start adding them.

Become a member

If you're on our newsletter mailing list but are not a current member of AAIR already, why not consider joining. It's pretty simple. Got to the [website](#) and download and complete the application for membership form.

Membership in AAIR entitles you to:

- access to our Journal and regular Newsletter;
- special membership rates for registration at the Forum and other regional activities;
- professional links with the Association for Institutional Research, the European

Association for Institutional Research, and other affiliated associations for institutional research;

- inclusion in a broad network of institutional researchers in Australasia;
- the opportunity to join one of the AAIR Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence SIG; DEEWR SIG; Surveys and Evaluation SIG; and Load Management SIG; and
- access to member resources on the AAIR website.

New members and Staff Movements

Ever wonder where someone has gone in the sector? We'd really like to let people know of staff movements through the AAIR Newsletter. So let us know and we'll pass it on.

We'd also like to introduce new AAIRies, again through the Newsletter. Let us know if you've recently joined and you'd like others to know who you are and where you're working.

AAIR Committee – 2010

President:

Josie Palermo, Lecturer, School of Psychology, Deakin University

Vice President:

Dave Marr, Special Projects Officer, Statistical Services, ANU

Treasurer:

Jeff Holmes, Manager, Load Forecasting, QUT

Secretary:

Dean Ward, Manager, Strategic Information Services, ECU

General Committee members:

Mark Bazzacco, Director, Planning & Statistics, University of Canberra

Bruce Guthrie – Research Manager, Graduate Careers Australia

Don Johnston – Institutional Research Officer, Southern Cross University

Sally Nimon, Manager, Institutional Analytics, University of South Australia

Kathie Rabel, Manager, Institutional Analysis, Victoria University of Wellington



Have a very

*Merry
Christmas*

*and an even
better*

New Year!