

CONTENT

[From the President](#)[Editorial](#)[Sector News and Views](#)[Big Data, Online Learning, Analytics](#)[Graduate Outcomes and Employability](#)[Learning and Teaching](#)[Research](#)[Reports and Resources](#)[On the Move](#)[Book Reviews](#)[Positions Vacant and Trainings and Development](#)[Trainings, Higher Education Conferences and Events](#)[Institutional Researcher's Corner](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's in an answer?

So, back in March this year, we surveyed you about the [AAIR website](#), and we received a healthy 101 responses. Thank you to everyone who participated, as your feedback was really useful in helping us to make the website a valuable resource for all of our visitors.

Speaking of the website, I am sure that everyone has checked out the new website and seen what an improvement it is! Surprisingly however, there were eight respondents who claim to have

never visited the AAIR website. We did however find that 80% of visitors go to our website via links in our direct mail, and 60% of visitors going directly to the homepage as needed (multiple responses were invited for the question, 'How do you visit the AAIR website?').

I think we now have a modern and visually appealing website that provides useful and relevant information, is user-friendly, and much less cluttered than our previous website. I would like to thank all involved, and in particular Liesha Northover, our Executive Officer, and

Dave Marr, our Immediate Past President, for all the work they did during the initial concepts, design, development and implementation phases, and in getting the site live so that you can now enjoy your browsing experience even more. If you haven't checked it out, you should! Go to www.aair.org.au.

AAIR

About Membership Events SIGs Experts Resources Blog Contact Join Jobs Board

Supporting Effective Decision Making

AAIR's mission is to advance institutional effectiveness in tertiary education. Our vision is to be the professional association that has the greatest influence on tertiary education planning and evidence-based decision making in Australasia.

Learn More About Us

I'm new here, tell me what AAIR does

Are you new to AAIR? Come and have a look at all the good things we have to offer.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Sign up to our monthly newsletter and stay ahead of the game!

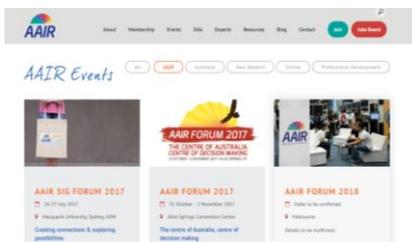
Enter your email





From the President cont'd ...

Now, back to the results of the survey and how we used the valuable information you provided in developing the new website. Several people mentioned that the entry page was cluttered and that it was difficult to find anything. We hope that you agree with us that the revised entry page has made a difference. [Event listings](#) were particularly mentioned as being important, with a weighted average of 4.06 in terms of its value to visitors, and so that section has been completely revamped and made more easily searchable with the inclusion of filters and added interactivity. The accessibility and functionality is a significant improvement on what we had previously, and we hope you enjoy the benefits and find an event to suit you.



In a similar vein, the [Jobs Board](#) was considered a useful part of the website, with survey results showing a weighted average of 3.60 in terms of its value to visitors. We have also made it easier for the user to [submit their job vacancies](#) via a form on our website. Further, we have added some [generic IR job descriptions](#) and would love your feedback on these. The [Jobs Board](#) and [Submit Job](#) pages are available to both members and other visitors at all times; however, only members are directly alerted when a job is listed. If you are not on the direct mail list for receiving notifications of job listings, please [consider becoming a member](#). If not, you are welcome to continue enjoying the benefits of the free information on our website, but you will only here about job vacancies once a month via the newsletter, and by then it

might be too late to apply for that dream job!

We also noticed in the website survey results, that many of the people who responded weren't aware whether they were members of AAIR or not. We have been looking at membership models recently, and our next big project will be to revamp our membership database, as part of a complete overhaul of our membership management.

So, there it is. You spoke and we listened! We updated the outdated. We cleared the clutter. And, we upsized the relevant content. But, if you do have any more feedback, I know Liesha will be pleased to hear it, so please email her at info@aaair.org.au.



And finally, we have only received four anonymous pet peeves, but we'd love to share them with you now:

1. Tiny graphs on presentations, too many slides and going overtime. Also apologising for your talk or self-perceived lack of knowledge or if something goes wrong. Just move on!
2. Unnecessary level of accuracy in presenting data – think about whether you need any decimal points in those figures!
...There is nothing like lots of numbers to 2 decimal points to have readers' eyes glaze over. Just because it's the default in Excel, doesn't mean you have to keep it that way! 'Numbers increased by 11%' is a lot more useful to most people than '...11.23%'.
3. Inspired by the anonymous #1 pet peeve: When you are asked to present a proposed BI solution, and clearly state that the data in the presentation is indicative only, yet are instantly called out that the numbers are incorrect...completely

derailing the meeting in one fell swoop
...Basically occurs in all meetings involving Director/Executive level staff

4. Present data in presentation. Have a senior manager present a contradictory anecdote. Have group of senior managers nod in agreement. Try your very best to kindly suggest the boss is wrong.

Thank you so much to those four anonymous respondents... you know who you are. We felt your pain, but the corners of our mouths turned upwards as well...but only because we completely understand!

Our [Pet Peeves Survey](#) is still open for you to share your issues, so if anything is concerning you please do share.

Share Your Pet Peeves



Kathie Rabel
AAIR President



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the July 2017 edition of *The Institutional Researcher*

As discussed by Kathie, the new and shiny AAIR website has been launched this month and includes an experts database, a compilation of AAIR resources, a comprehensive blog area profiling our institutional researchers, news from the president and relevant posts – and the usual membership details, jobs board and events summary. Make sure you test drive it yourself at <http://aair.org.au/>

AAIR Committee member Stuart Terry attended the American Association for Institutional Research (AIR) 2017 Forum in Washington DC (29 May – 2 June). The Forum was attended by over 2100 participants from diverse higher education institutions across the USA, Canada, South and Central America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and New Zealand. A full report on the event, plus his review can be found on the new AAIR website at <http://aair.org.au/events/2017/07/stuart-terry-air-forum-2017/>. As well, we've included his summary of the professional development program, 'A Holistic Approach to Institutional Research' on page 11

Finally, Kevin Maley, General Manager for Information and Planning at Bond University, provides some valuable perspectives into the role of the Institutional Researcher (page 12).

Happy Reading

Tracy and Monica

SECTOR NEWS AND VIEWS

Australian universities have [angrily rejected the Turnbull government's assertions they are receiving "rivers of gold"](#) from the taxpayer and can easily absorb the funding cuts announced in the May budget. In [a submission to a Senate inquiry](#) examining the government's higher education package, peak body Universities Australia said: "The government has claimed that universities are able to absorb the proposed funding cuts based on their published accounting surpluses. This argument misunderstands the true position of universities and how they operate".

University of Queensland VC and Group of Eight (Go8) Chair Peter Hoj spoke to the [National Press Club](#) on 28 June claiming reductions in public funding over time plus the government's present plan "to take \$2.8bn of direct commonwealth funding out of the system," is "tilting the funding balance in the extreme" away from "majority public ownership."

Submissions to the Senate inquiry into the *Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment (A More Sustainable, Responsive and Transparent Higher Education System) Bill 2017* are now [available on the Parliament of Australia's website](#). It is no surprise that universities have all slammed the reform package and in particular, universities are [singling out changes to the way postgraduate places are allocated and performance contingent funding for particular derision](#).

The [Grattan Institute's submission](#) to the Senate's inquiry into the 2017 budget's higher education package [examined some of the concerns about whether higher education is still worthwhile](#). With subdued job growth since the global financial crisis and many more students at university, educational choices are more complex now than a decade ago. Overall, the earnings data suggests higher education remains financially attractive for most students, and the small proposed fee increases should not materially affect that. The extra fees are equivalent to about a week's pay for most graduates. However, young people who are less academically inclined need to carefully consider which educational option is best for them.

John Anderson, ex-Deputy Minister of Australia, published a piece in *The Australian* on 30 June 2017, titled [The left is pulling our universities off centre](#). In his article, Mr Anderson argued that western universities can no longer be regarded as bastions of free thought, open inquiry and vigorous debate.

[University fees are a strong deterrent among the poorest 10 per cent of students](#) despite the availability of income-contingent loans, new research has found. And a proposal to charge fees for enabling programs would actively discourage participation among the most underprivileged groups.

The federal government has announced its plan for [clearer information about university admissions, which is expected to be fully rolled-out by 2019](#). A report into admissions systems published late last year found universities were not being transparent about the real cut-off Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) scores. It made more than a dozen recommendations, which Education Minister Simon Birmingham announced will be fully implemented by 2019. They include changing the way the ATAR and other academic requirements are presented, and easier-to-understand information about the different pathways into higher education for school leavers, mature age students and others.

Other news ...

Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) is currently [investigating](#) allegations of [serious corruption at TAFE institutes](#). This is the latest in a series of scandals involving Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector. In recent history, the VET sector has been beset with money loss, stranded students, and organisations collapsing. [Analysis](#) from the Grattan Institute estimates that 40 per cent of the [A\\$3.1 billion in loans](#) paid to training organisations through the federal VET-FEE HELP scheme are likely never to be repaid.

[Murdoch University's](#) strategy to have its enterprise agreement terminated was heard in the Fair Work Commission on 4 July 2017. Michelle Narustrang, Murdoch's director of people and culture, said the university needed to terminate the now-expired agreement in order to start afresh.



Staff at the University of Western Australia will receive [a 4.6 per cent pay rise over four years after the university yesterday reached an in-principle agreement with the tertiary education union](#). The package has been described as "innovative" as it delivers two increases to base pay — \$1100 in both January 2018 and 2020. In addition, staff will also receive a 4.6 per cent salary increase across the life of the agreement (1.25 per cent in 2019, 0.75 per cent in 2020, and 2.6 per cent in 2021).

Students who have abandoned their studies or are at risk of dropping out are [much more likely to re-engage with their education if they have personal interactions with university staff](#). Interviews with former students from Central Queensland University found that personal contact could have made a difference to their decision to leave. The study also found that if students were contacted after they left, it could have a positive impact on re-enrolments.

Australia appears to be [regaining favour in markets in South Asia](#) according to a survey of agents in the region. However, Australia's popularity level is far from its peak in 2009.

Campus news ...

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley has opened a [new campus](#) for Western Sydney University. WSU's pathway college campus at Olympic Park is dedicated to English language programs.

Rankings ...

With the release of the [Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects](#) the University of NSW is one of just two universities worldwide to be included in 50 subject areas on a major international ranking. In total, 36 Australian universities are represented in at least one subject area.

The University of Melbourne has taken out [third place in a ranking of Asia Pacific universities](#) which sees 35 local institutions named in the list and three in the top 10. The inaugural Times Higher Education Asia-Pacific ranking also reveals that Australian universities are particularly strong in research with seven of the top 10 universities that received the highest citation scores.

The QS ranking of the top 150 universities under 50 years was [released](#) July 13. UTS leads the [Australian](#) and

New Zealand entries at eight, followed by the University of Wollongong (17), QUT and RMIT (equal 18th). The list extracts qualifying universities from the overall QS ranking, scoring them on a survey of academic and employer opinion, citation of research publications and ratios of staff to student and international faculty and students.

Meanwhile in New Zealand ...

The Massey University has received a [\\$3.4 million anonymous donation](#) which is the largest in Massey's 90 year history. Massey Vice-Chancellor Jan Thomas said all donors were able to select how the money should be used. In this case the donor asked that the gift be invested in a way that supports postgraduate scholarships.

[Slightly more Kiwi graduates are staying in the country, despite falling pay rates](#). Latest [Ministry of Education statistics](#) show that 9 per cent of domestic graduates left the country within a year of earning bachelor's degrees in 2014-15, down marginally from 10 per cent in 2011-12. There have been similar reductions of 1 to 2 per cent in the past year in the proportions overseas in each of the first nine years after graduating - reflecting New Zealand's buoyant job market, particularly compared with Australia.

One of New Zealand's biggest polytechnics is under investigation over alleged rule breaches - [including claims that tutors completed students' assignments for them](#). Manukau Institute of Technology's commercial training division, EnterpriseMIT, has been the subject of a 14-month investigation by Deloitte, auditors for the Tertiary Education Commission.

The University of Otago fears Government changes to tertiary education [could damage the international reputation of New Zealand universities, while unions fear they could lead to privatisation](#). The proposed changes have sparked controversy as they progress through the select committee process. The Government's Education (Tertiary Education and Other Matters) Amendment Bill is aimed at increasing funding flexibility in the tertiary sector, strengthening monitoring and compliance and ensuring "consistent treatment of tertiary education providers". It would also allow polytechnics and wananga to call

themselves universities if given permission.

The [International Student Wellbeing Strategy](#), released by the Ministry of Education, outlines [four key strategic outcomes to support international students](#) and safeguard New Zealand's reputation as a welcoming study destination. The four overarching outcomes of the strategy include economic wellbeing, education, health and wellbeing and inclusion.

In addition, New Zealand has become the latest destination country to launch an international education strategy, setting out the government's goals and priorities for the sector through to 2025. [The draft New Zealand International Education Strategy was released for consultation last week](#) by Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister, Paul Goldsmith, during a special event at Auckland University of Technology, and builds on the [Code of Pastoral Care](#) updated last year and the [International Student Wellbeing Strategy](#). The draft is formed around three goals: 'an education to be proud of'; 'sustainable growth'; and 'global citizens'. Throughout the document, the government also espouses the principles of integrity, collaboration and being student centred and future focused.

Around the world ...

A new report from Universities UK has noted the main reason students report an institution has not offering good value for money is because there are not enough contact hours. [Education, Consumer Rights and Maintaining Trust: What Students Want from University](#) reviews student attitudes to, and perspectives on, their relationship with their university in the context of increased financial contribution, market competition and consumer rights.

The British Council has released a new report [The Shape of Global Higher Education: International Mobility of Students, Research and Education Provision](#).

The first results from the [Teaching Excellence Framework](#) (TEF) in the UK have resulted in interesting outcomes. Top research-intensive universities (and those higher ranked) are among those achieving the [lowest rating](#). However, a diverse cross-section of the sector was [represented across the gold tier](#), which also included private institutions, former



polytechnics and further education colleges.

Also in the UK, [Lord Andrew Adonis](#), a former adviser to Tony Blair who later served as education minister, has [attacked the student finance system](#), accusing the Government of running a Ponzi scheme which leaves students in England with debts of more than £50,000.

Of note - Andrew Norton, in his [Commentary from Carlton](#), has reflected on differences and outcomes of the Australian and UK higher education loan systems, noting the differences between tuition costs, graduate earnings and loan repayment schemes.

Simon Marginson writes in [University World News](#) on the impact of Brexit on US institutions noting how fruitful higher education has become as a consequence of the relationship with the European Union

President Emmanuel Macron's government has pledged [a wide-ranging reform of the national end of school examination, the French baccalaureate](#), in a drive to curtail widespread failure at university. He wants to cut the number of subjects sat for the baccalaureate from 10 or more to three or four. The aim is to reduce the burden of organising the qualification while raising the intellectual level of undergraduates.

Enrollment at US colleges and universities [has declined over the last five years](#), and 2017 is proving to be the most disappointing year so far, with just over 18 million students enrolled in higher education nationally last semester. That's down 2.4 million compared with the fall of 2011, according to a study by the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).

[Huge rise in students caught cheating in Welsh universities revealed](#). The number of students caught cheating in Welsh universities has risen by almost 50 per cent in two years. Across Wales, allegations of cheating went from 1,370 in the academic year of 2013-14 to 2,044 in 2015-16.

Ideas to ponder: The vision of seamless access to student services as diverse as access to libraries, payment in student restaurants and cafeterias, use of local public transportation services or the digital transfer of records was at the centre of a recent European Student Card or [ESC Conference](#) in Münster, Germany.

457 visas ...



[Alterations to the 457 visa](#) scheme are likely to have a significant impact on the decision-making processes of potential students despite the changes actually having little impact on them. Post-study work rights was one of the most beneficial factors in students and agents viewing Australia in a positive light. In addition to visa changes, other negatives included costs, accommodation, cultural differences and racism, according to the report on South Asian agents' perceptions of Australia as an education destination.

The new 457 visa also has a negative impact on Australia's [ability to recruit "high caliber global talent"](#), says the Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants in a letter to Immigration Minister Peter Dutton last month.

And the consequences are real: [Professor Steve Chapman, Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University](#) also needs to rethink his long term plan due to the visa change. "...I will have to leave the country in June 2020. I've bought a house, I've made a commitment to Australia. I'm shocked and pretty devastated. I have a university that wants to keep me. I have strategic plan that I can't even complete now," Professor Chapman said.

The government has since [revised its visa rules](#), showing that it had listened and acted on several key concerns raised by Australia's universities about new visa rules. University lecturers and vice-chancellors (CEOs) will be restored to the [Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List](#) (MLTSSL), with a pathway to permanent residency. The government has also given Universities Australia a commitment that study towards a PhD will count as relevant work experience for the purposes of applying for new skilled visas. However, 'university tutor' has been removed from all lists.

[Not Just for Students](#). Inappropriate social media posts from current and soon-to-be college students have made news headlines in the US lately. Students, however, aren't the only ones who need to hone their digital literacy skills. Many professors also need to think twice about their digital discourse. (Interesting overview from Shontavia Johnson in [Inside Higher Ed](#))

And finally, in this month's [eAIR Newsletter](#) ... Leveraging your IR office as a change agent. This month's question is answered by Kevork Horissian, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research & Assessment, Bucknell University: [How can my institution leverage our Office of Institutional Research as a change agent?](#)

BIG DATA, ONLINE LEARNING, ANALYTICS & TECHNOLOGY

A new research study has indicated employment as the main reason for student attrition in online degree courses. Authors Steven Greenland (CDU) and Catherine Moore (UniSA) have undertaken qualitative interviews with over 200 students enrolled in open access online tertiary education in Australia. Full article [here](#), and their piece in [The Conversation](#) notes the assessment policies of many universities offers no concession for work-related challenges, so working students often fail to resume their studies.

From the US, although many presidents consider metrics like retention and graduation rates important in making decisions about their institution's performance, only 12 per cent report they will make the use of data in decision-making a "future area of importance," according to an American Council on Education survey reported by the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and summarised in [Education Dive](#).

[Students say they are not as tech savvy as educators assume](#). One of the biggest misconceptions students at this year's [New Media Consortium's Summer Conference](#) (NMC) brought up was the idea that millennials are digital natives.

[67% of parents would consider a cost-saving online degree for their child](#). HSBC's Value of Education survey also showed that two fifths of parents worldwide would consider sending their child abroad to study for their post-secondary education. However, a third do not know how much it would cost for their child to do so.

A suite of articles this month from [The Evollution](#) on CRMs: [Going Beyond the Status Quo: Maximizing the Institutional ROI for CRM with CLM](#); [Leveraging Technology to Know and Serve Students](#)

[Better](#) and; [Leveraging Tech Systems to Drive the Student and Staff Experience](#) which examines the importance of CRMs in improving the student and staff experience in non-traditional divisions .

[Top 4 uses for Blockchain in higher ed.](#) As new technologies emerge, they often help make things more convenient for users. One such instance of this is the use of Blockchain in University IT. Uses relate to use and access to credentials.

From LinkedIn, Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson believe there is no need for panic about the AI-induced technological unemployment predictions. [Why "How many jobs will be killed by AI?" is the wrong question](#) notes that the right policies will give us the best of both worlds: all the benefits that come from the AI breakthroughs of today and tomorrow *and* jobs that provide people both dignity and a good wage. (A review of their new book can be found on page 8)

An excellent opinion piece this month in [Campus Review](#) (if you can access) from Professor Jim Nyland, Associate VC at ACU on how we must "rethink what knowledge is for and how it is manufactured, consumed and applied; especially in the modern digital era". Professor Nyland asks: "Do our current and future students, who have grown up with the internet, smartphones, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter et cetera, think critically about the world they inhabit?"

Privacy

[Carnegie Mellon Study Shows Edtech Startups Fall Flat on Student Privacy.](#) Critics of how Edtech startups secure and protect their user's data can now refer to a [new study](#) from Carnegie Mellon University, where researchers found that these companies often fail to "prioritize student data protections" over customer acquisition and product development. The study also points out that many startups lack formal methods for communicating what plans they have in place regarding student data.

[Report Finds Nearly 14M College Emails, Passwords For Sale on the Dark Web.](#) A recent [study](#) shows college emails to be particularly vulnerable to hackers and scammers, who glean the email addresses and sell them on the dark web. The report found nearly 14,000,000 email addresses and passwords belonging to faculty, staff, students, and alumni at US

institutions were available to purchase online.

Worthy of consideration is a paper from Clifford Lynch published in *First Monday*: [The rise of reading analytics and the emerging calculus of reader privacy in the digital world](#). studies emerging technologies for tracking reading behaviors ("reading analytics") and their implications for reader privacy and illustrates the way reader privacy concerns are shifting from government to commercial surveillance, and the interactions between government and the private sector in this area. (US focus).

GRADUATE OUTCOMES AND EMPLOYABILITY

New data from social media platform LinkedIn reinforces claims about [the career benefits of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths \(STEM\) credentials](#), and suggests more students should pursue them. The figures suggest that almost half (46 per cent) of STEM graduates are finding their way into non-techy jobs, with academe at the top of the list. Salespeople, customer service specialists, architects and consultants are also popular occupational destinations.

[International students are just as successful at finding work after graduation as local students](#) and appear just as successful in rising through the career ranks, according to new research by the Australian Universities International Directors' Forum. The study of international students who graduated in 2012 and 2014 also revealed high levels of satisfaction with their study at an Australian university.

LEARNING & TEACHING

Three of the US's largest publishers, Pearson Education, McGraw-Hill Education and Cengage Learning, are suing Follett Corporation, a major textbook distributor, on charges of [selling counterfeit textbooks in its stores.](#)

[Fixing the Textbook model.](#) The idea that students could still be over-paying for course materials all over the US is the discussion point for Brad Wheeler, the vice president for IT and CIO of [Indiana University](#). Wheeler explains how his institution is "ditching" the college

textbook and replacing it with digital alternatives that are accessible to students from day one.

And if you missed this last month, [James Arvanitakis from WSU calls for free textbooks as a possible solution to stemming first-year attrition](#)

[Open Universities Australia](#) will offer 118 single units from seven universities under the OUA umbrella and students will be able to create their own bespoke postgraduate programs to match their interests and employer-specific needs.

A draft internal audit report into the [University of Southern Queensland's academic board](#) that found it at high risk of noncompliance in seven key areas has been dismissed as "just opinion which is being challenged" by acting vice-chancellor Janet Verbyla.

[Australia's biggest TAFE plans to declare itself a self-accrediting institution](#) as its boss becomes increasingly riled at policy settings that favour universities. Under the plan, TAFE NSW would give its new courses interim endorsement while they awaited national accreditation. The idea is part of the rollout of "SkillsPoints", nine proposed centres focused on local industry sectors, where industry representatives will be able to place orders for courses tailored to their needs.

RESEARCH

The ARC has updated its current open access policy to remove some of the ambiguities in its application. The requirement that any research output arising from ARC funded research must be made openly accessible within a twelve month period from the publication date has not changed but the details are now more explicit – updated policy [here](#)

Australian Industry, Innovation and Science Minister Arthur Sinodinos has released the [National Survey of Research Commercialisation \(2013-2015\)](#). The report provides a collection of data on different types of research engagement and commercialisation activities occurring within Australian universities, publicly funded research agencies (PFRAs) and medical research institutes (MRIs). Across all indicators, universities led the charge into the marketplace of ideas. They established 29 of the start-ups, some 69 per cent of overall businesses created to commercialise



research. Higher education institutions also accounted for 74 per cent of consultancy-collaboration-contract income. Universities additionally made 75 per cent of invention disclosures, a statement used to determine a need for patent protection.

Google has been accused of funding researchers to write papers supporting its interests. However, reports in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [University World News](#) disputed the claims from the Campaign for Accountability or CfA, a non-profit watchdog, which has published a database of alleged beneficiaries.

University World News also covered two issues related to research activity from Chinese universities: [Research could suffer as internet controls tightened](#) examined internet access restrictions in China and new internet controls; [Cash rewards soar for research published overseas](#) explores cash rewards for Chinese scientists whose research features in overseas journals and their rise in recent years – reaching over US\$160,000 for papers appearing in the most prestigious Western journals, according to a just-published analysis.

(MORE) REPORTS AND RESOURCES



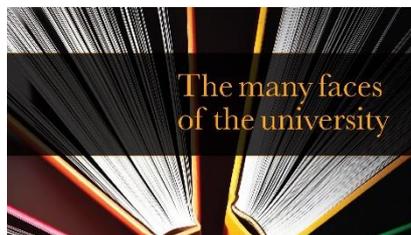
[Episode 2 of the "It All Adds Up" podcast](#) was published on 29 June. In this episode, Jess Irvine, Matt Wade and Ross Gittins discuss the Gonski 2.0 reforms, which passed through parliament the previous week largely unscathed. The question of whether it is still worth getting a university's degree under the current reform was also covered.



Also a podcast, the New Zealand Herald and Newstalk ZB's *Cooking the Books* podcast tackles a different money problem each week. In this episode, the question of [whether university is still the golden ticket to a good career](#) was discussed.



A conversation with Ittita Cherastidtham, Grattan Institute's Higher Education Fellow on [higher education funding – the pressures, the changes and possible solutions](#). Higher education is a complex sector. There are many types of providers from universities to private providers and TAFEs. And with Higher Education getting a lot of attention during this year's Budget from the Coalition, there is one issue that has and will continue to remain – that of the tension between private and public funding.

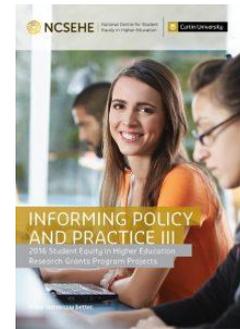


[The many faces of the university](#)

Compiled by Shakespeare Martineau.

Universities have many roles, and they play them simultaneously in a complex and interwoven existence with students, academics, communities and each other. This [Wonkhe](#) (UK) publication explores the forces within and around universities that necessitate change, and, importantly, how the sector should

respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by them.



[Informing Policy and Practice III: 2016 Student Equity in Higher Education Research Grants Program Projects](#)

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education

This publication features the ten commissioned research reports from the 2016 research grants funding round, as well as three progressive projects from the inaugural NCSEHE Equity Fellows Program. Reports include: Enabling and transitional support structures and programs; Supporting Students from Regional and Remote Communities; Supporting Indigenous students and; supporting equity cohorts. Themes covered by the Equity Fellows to-date examine perspectives of equity via leadership initiatives in research.



[Government-funded students and courses 2016](#)

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

This latest publication provides a summary of data relating to students, programs, subjects and training providers in Australia's government-funded vocational education and training (VET) system (defined as all Commonwealth and state/territory government-funded training delivered by technical and further education [TAFE] institutes, other government providers [such as universities], community education providers and other registered providers).

The report reveals the number of students enrolled in government-funded training increased 3.3 per cent to 1.3 million students in 2016 compared with the previous year, driven largely by increasing enrolments in short course skill sets.



ON THE MOVE

Jonathan Powles has started as PVC Academic Innovation at the University of New England. Professor Powles moved from the University of Canberra, where he directed the teaching and learning centre.

ANU council member **Naomi Flutter** is the university's pro chancellor as of July.

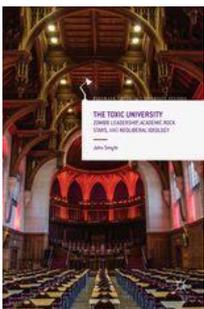
Monash PVC Industry Partnerships, **Mohan Krishnamoorthy** is moving to the University of Queensland where he will be PVC Research Partnerships.

Robert Webster is now executive director, corporate services at the University of Western Australia. He moves from executive director for strategy, planning performance.

ANU is recruiting a chief financial officer. The position is in the portfolio of the highly-regarded chief operating officer **Chris Grange**.

David Pitt, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, is leaving Monash University at the end of 2017

BOOK REVIEWS



[The Toxic University: Zombie Leadership, Academic Rock Stars and Neoliberal Ideology](#)

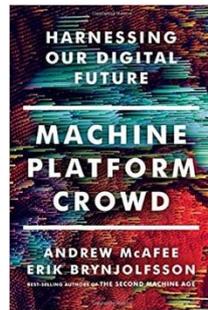
John Smyth

This book considers the detrimental changes that have occurred to the institution of the university, as a result of the withdrawal of state funding and the imposition of neoliberal market reforms on higher education. It argues that universities have lost their way, and are currently drowning in an "impenetrable mush of economic babble, spurious spin-

offs of zombie economics, management-speak and militaristic-corporate jargon".

A recent interview with author John Smyth in [Inside Higher Ed](#) outlines his views on the "lemming-like behavior" of institutions and governments alike.

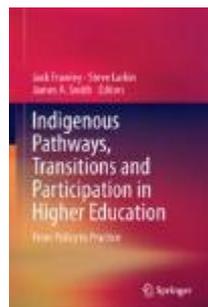
Note: Smyth is currently visiting professor of education and social justice at the University of Huddersfield, in Britain and emeritus research professor of education at Federation University Australia. He thinks the trends in those nations apply in the US as well.



[Machine, Platform, Crowd: Harnessing Our Digital Future](#)

Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson

The same authors of *The Second Machine Age* want us to rethink the integration of minds and machines, of products and platforms, and of the core and the crowd. In all three cases, the balance now favors the second element of the pair, with massive implications for how we run our companies and live our lives.

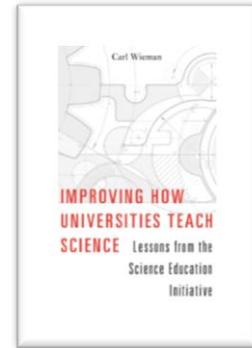


[Indigenous Pathways, Transitions and Participation in Higher Education: From policy to practice.](#)

Jack Frawley, Steve Larkin, James A. Smith

This book brings together contributions by researchers, scholars, policy-makers, practitioners, professionals and citizens who have an interest in or experience of Indigenous pathways and transitions into higher education. The book outlines the issues of social inclusion and equity in higher education, and the contributions

draw on real-world experiences to reflect the different approaches and strategies currently being adopted. Focusing on research, program design, program evaluation, policy initiatives and experiential narrative accounts, the book critically discusses issues concerning widening participation.



[Improving How Universities Teach Science: Lessons from the Science Education Initiative.](#)

Carl Wieman

Wieman's new book chronicles the latter effort and makes a strong, evidence-based case for pursuing broad changes in science instruction: out with lectures and in with active learning. It's also an easily digested how-to guide for interested parties, including deans, department chairs and other faculty members. The project has major implications for administrators, too.

POSITIONS VACANT

Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our [Higher Education Jobs](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues [AIR Careers](#) page.

Editor's note: There are plenty of vacancies at the moment – please explore these at

<http://air.org.au/higher-ed-jobs/>



LOOKING FOR SOME TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

LOOKING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCES AND EVENTS?

Here is a selection of upcoming events (or past events) that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

[Bluenotes Americas 2017](#)

1-4 August, 2017 The Brown Hotel
Louisville, KY United States

This year's *Bluenotes Americas Conference* theme is 'Higher Education in the 21st Century: Using Data to Respond to Opportunities and Challenges'. A three-day conference to connect, share expertise, and learn from best practices.



29-31 August 2017, Intercontinental,
Sydney

The Higher Education Summit will see Vice-Chancellors from across Australia discussing the critical forces that are shaping the future of the sector.

[EAIR 2017](#)

3-6 September, 2017

[EAIR](#) is the European Association for Institutional Research (International association for higher education researchers, practitioners, managers and policy-makers). There will be eight major tracks: governance and management, teaching and learning, quality management, strategy and strategising, professionals, performance and assessment, funding and regional innovation.

[Universities Australia Marketing Communications and Development Conference](#)



6-7 September 2017

A UA signature event run by the sector for the sector, bringing together marketers, communications teams, media officers and development officers from the higher education sector to share best practice and new ideas in a rapidly transforming marketing landscape

[SEAAIR 2017 Annual Conference](#)

6-8 September 2017

Theme: ASEAN Higher Education at the Crossroad: Challenges, Changes, Capacities, and Capabilities

From networking with peers to presentation sessions by leading experts in the field, the annual conference is the must attend event for academics, educators, researchers and practitioners in higher education

[Tertiary Education Management Conference 2017](#)

17-20 September 2017, Crown
Convention Centre, Melbourne



The TEMC this year will be exploring the theme *Eureka*. The conference will be revolutionary in exploring ideas that encourage and create fabulous discussion, innovation, awesome networking and important information sharing.

[Australian International Education Conference](#)



10-13 October, 2017, Hobart Grand
Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania

AIEC 2017 will explore this landscape in all its variety by embracing our 'diversities'. Whether it be people, cultures, languages, places, partnerships, education sectors, pathways, delivery models, approaches to learning and teaching or careers and employment, we will look critically at what we are achieving.

[Service Improvement and Innovation in Universities](#)

19-20 October 2017, Pier One, Sydney
Harbour

This year's conference will sharpen the focus on innovation; what innovation is in tertiary education and skills for creating innovation.

[28th ISANA International Education Association & 22nd Australia and New Zealand Student Services Association Conferences](#)



5-8 December 2017, STAR, Gold Coast,
Australia

The theme for the conference is ***Widening Perspectives of Student Success***.

The conference will give us the opportunity to explore and discuss the many factors that contribute to the overall student success, both within and outside the classroom. There will be an exciting program of speakers, workshops, social activities and lots of networking opportunities. Delegates will be able to share successful strategies, engage with key stakeholders and develop important partnerships.



SPECIAL FEATURE



In May/June AAIR Committee member Stuart Terry attended the American Association for Institutional Research (AIR) 2017 Forum in Washington DC, USA. Stuart participated in the Forum's professional development program, 'A Holistic Approach to Institutional Research'.



A Holistic Approach to Institutional Research

This year I enrolled with AIR in the inaugural professional development programme, 'A Holistic Approach to Institutional Research'. The initial cohort had about 80 participants, mainly from the USA, but also included people from the Netherlands, Canada, France and New Zealand.

The programme provided a foundation to navigate the ever-growing demands for data and information in the current higher education landscape. In addition to the course content, a cohort model, mentor support, and group activities encouraged active conversation among participants

The programme consisted of six weeks of online learning consisting of paper and video lessons followed by pre-tests, assessments and post-tests, concluding



with a two-day intensive face-to-face workshop. There were generally two to three assessment tasks to be submitted each week based on either the sample data, or using experiences from your own institutions.

The topics covered were:

- Introduction
- What it means to work in institutional research
- Transforming data into information
- Data management and governance
- Applied research design
- Data informed decision cultures
- Looking ahead

As part of the online learning and assessment we were required to post each week to a discussion board about an aspect of the topic covered that week, and then also respond to and comment on at least one other participant's posting.

The two-day intensive workshops were facilitated by the mentors and developed on the topics covered in the online component of the programme.

The workshops were very interactive, using self- and group-based learning and presenting.

This course provided me with the key foundation of the 'what and why' of institutional research and how to navigate the ever-growing demands for data and information. Institutional research is broad and encompasses myriad roles and responsibilities, and higher education institutions are diverse, and as such, some aspects of the function of institutional research vary by institution. This programme acknowledged those differences and focused on the commonalities that ground the field to make participants think holistically.

I learned so much from the opportunities of learning from others, and by sharing my own perspective in both the online discussion boards and in the workshop.

Stuart Terry

Organisational Researcher in Quality Services, Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin, New Zealand

Stuart shares his experience of the AIR Forum

This year I was fortunate to have my abstract on Engaging the Gen Y Student Voice accepted at the AIR 2017 Forum and to be included in the affiliated organisations best presentation category. I was one of 27 recipients of the AIR Travel Grants and I gratefully acknowledge the support of AIR Travel Fund and AAIR for the generous support to attend AIR.

The annual AIR forum is the largest gathering of professionals working in the field of institutional research. Over 2100 participants attended the 2017 forum which was the largest number to attend any forum to date. The forum was held over five floors in 47 meeting rooms of the Marriott Marquis Convention Center in Washington DC from 29 May to 2 June.

The forum attracts participants from diverse higher education institutions across the USA, Canada, South and Central America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and New Zealand. As expected there was a strong contingent of members representing mostly North American based affiliate organisations. There was also a large contingent from the newly chartered Taiwan AIR.

Continue reading Stuart's full review of the AIR 2017 Forum on the new AAIR [Blog](#)



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER'S CORNER

Five questions with ... Kevin Maley, Bond University



What is your job title?

General Manager, Information and Planning

Briefly, how would you describe your role in terms of your place in your institution?

Our team's role is to analyse information from multiple internal and external sources to inform operational and strategic decision-making. Analyses and reporting are fairly centralised at Bond, so we are often seen as the go-to team to conduct analyses of a broad range of topics across the Higher Education sector. Our office is provided a level of independence from faculties and other offices which allows us to provide honest opinions based on data and robust information without the perception of inherent bias.

From your perspective, what are the emerging areas of interest in institutional research?

I think there is a lot more that we can do with the information we already have. Looking around and speaking with others, I see there is still work to be done in reducing the siloing of information that appears to be endemic in many institutions, improving inter-departmental collaboration and teamwork, and more efficiently utilising quantitative and qualitative information to develop actionable insights and inform decision making.

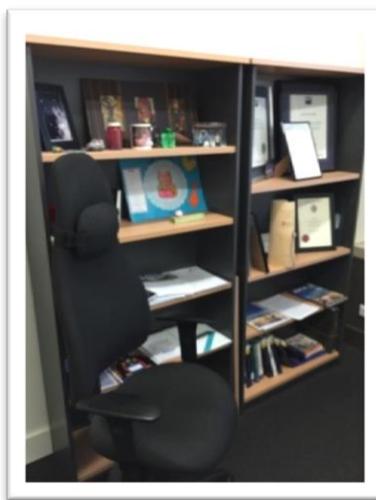
What do you believe will be the future priorities for institutional research?

It currently takes about half an hour to explain to others what we do, so I think we need to improve our profile as a profession, and encourage people throughout our institutions to contact their Institutional Research team if they want honest, holistic, evidence-based analyses to guide their decision making.

Whilst there are people that are strong in specific focus areas, Institutional Research encompasses a broad range of topics and I think we can do more to facilitate succession planning and career paths.

Complete this statement: *In my role, I can't operate effectively without ...*

My lunchtime exercise break. If I don't at least get a walk in at lunchtime, I can get a bit cranky come 4pm...



Kevin Maley's Institutional Researcher's Chair (Photo courtesy of Kevin)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Institutional Researcher Issue 8, August 2017

A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late August. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by Wednesday 16 August 2017.

 AAIR on Twitter [@AAIRaustralasia](https://twitter.com/AAIRaustralasia)



*Monica Chen and Tracy Creagh
The Institutional Researcher Editors.*

