



**Home Economics Institute of
Australia (Qld) Inc.**

Annual General Meeting

20 March 2010



HEIA(Q) INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 March 2010

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HEIA(Q) Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 20 March 2010
Time: 12.00 pm–12.30 pm
Venue: The Landing at Dockside
44 Ferry Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Correspondence
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
4. Business arising from minutes
5. President's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Auditor's Report
9. Appointment of auditor
10. Membership report
11. Delegate's Report
12. Newsletter Report
13. Professional Development Report
14. Appointment of Committee of Management
15. Confirmation of the address of the registered office
16. General business
 - a. Presentation of gifts of appreciation
17. Closure



MINUTES OF 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date 21 March 2009
Time 2.00 pm
Venue Mu'ooz Restaurant
197-201 Beaudesert Road, Moorooka, QLD
Chairperson Renae Bradbury
Minutes Secretary Denise McManus

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Renae Bradbury welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Renae Bradbury, Debbie Cain, Kylie King, Denise McManus, Vicki Potter, Yvonne Rutch, Renee Austin, Rosemarie Sciacca, Joanne Spotswood, Jay Deagon, Catharina Esterhuysen, Carol Turnbull, Margo Miller, Claire Cobine, Dianne Polson, Christine Cottrell

Apologies: Aileen Lockhart, Janet Reynolds, Sharyn Laidlaw, Helen Keith, Deanna Dean, Naomi Holley, Cheryl Conroy, Helen Johnston, Trish McHugh, Angeline Sloman, Robyn Ragterry, Andrew McVittie, Joanne Jayne

2. **Correspondence**

No items of correspondence were tabled.

3. **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**

Minutes tabled.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Kylie King

Seconded: Deb Cain

Carried

4. **Business arising from minutes**

No business arising

5. **President's Report**

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: Renae Bradbury

Seconded: Vicki Potter

Carried

6. Secretary's Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Renae Bradbury
Seconded: Claire Cobine
Carried

7. Treasurer's Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Debbie Cain
Seconded: Yve Rutch
Carried

8. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: That Arabon Certified Practising Accountants, PO Box 100, Sherwood QLD 4075, be appointed as auditor for 2009.
Moved: Debbie Cain
Seconded: Renae Bradbury
Carried

9. Membership Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Denise McManus
Seconded: Kylie King
Carried

10. Delegate's Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Debbie Cain
Seconded: Margo Miller
Carried

11. Newsletter Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Carol Turnbull
Seconded: Vicki Potter
Carried

12. Professional Development Report

Report tabled

Motion: That the report be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Yvonne Rutch
Seconded: Jo Spotswood
Carried

13. Appointment of Committee of Management

The following nominations were received:

President: Kylie King
Vice President: Vicki Potter
Treasurer: Deb Cain
Secretary: To be appointed by the Committee of Management
National Delegate: Aileen Lockhart
Newsletter Editor: Jan Reynolds

Members of the Committee of Management: Yve Rutch, Denise McManus, Sue Going, Deanna Dean, Naomi Holley, Rosemarie Sciacca, Louise Borg

Motion of Election of Officers: As the nominations received equal the positions available, there is no need for a ballot and those nominated be declared elected.

Moved: Renae Bradbury
Seconded: Deb Cain
Carried

14. Confirmation of the address of the registered office

Motion: The residential address of the 2008 HEIA(Q) Secretary be used as the HEIA(Q) registered address until a decision is made by the Committee of Management.

Moved: Renae Bradbury
Seconded: Yvonne Rutch
Carried

15. General Business

As Renae Bradbury, Julianna Kneebone and Jo Spotswood would not be continuing on the Committee of Management, their contributions to the work of HEIA(Q) whilst they have been committee members were acknowledged.

CLOSED: 2.30pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kylie King

2009 was a busy year for the Queensland Committee of Management, serving a membership base of 626 professional home economics members, predominantly in the education sector. A membership of this magnitude presents many demands on its passionate and dedicated volunteer members who conceptualise and manage the work of the division; at the same time this large membership provides great strength and a strong voice in home economics across a variety of networks and forums. To effectively communicate information to members, the division has relied on our website and electronic email to contact 98% of our membership, plus our Newsletter Editor has continued to produce quality printed newsletters four times throughout the year as a means of sharing matters of interest.

Apart from thanking all members for their ongoing support throughout the year, special thanks must be given to members of the Committee of Management, members of the Conference Committee and to the Regional Co-ordinators for their industrious efforts behind the scenes, planning, preparing and delivering the many services from which our members benefited in 2009. At the Annual General Meeting, we farewelled outgoing Committee of Management members Renae Bradbury, Joanne Spotswood and Julianna Kneebone and thanked them for their tireless efforts over the years, before welcoming on board new team members and recent graduates Deanna Dean, Rosie Sciacca, Naomi Holley and our student representative Louise Borg.

The World Home Economics Day celebration was the first of many successful events in 2009. It was held at a small Eritrean Cafe in Moorooka. Our hosts were an inspiring self-funded group of refugees who had established a business and training package designed to support women of their culture in assimilating into their new Australian communities with dignity, and in developing skills to earn a comparable living. During the celebration, the Committee of Management congratulated the 2009 King and Amy O'Malley scholars for their academic success. Recipients were Kate Stevanovic, Sue Corley, Jenny Svehla, Caitlin Murray, Ellen Graham and Natahlia McGrath, all of whom were students at the Queensland University of Technology.

The immensely successful professional development theme in 2009 was *Creativity at Work*. This theme was carried through at both the regional workshops and the state conference. The Professional Development Committee worked tirelessly, under the guidance of Yve Rutch, to ensure members in all nine regions across this vast state had access to both 'FoodChoices' workshops facilitated by Jan Reynolds and Sue Going's 'Fabulous Felting' workshops. Feedback from both sessions has been very positive and it seems participants are keen to explore and apply the newly learned practical applications in classrooms across the state. Equally, the state conference *Home Economics: Creativity at Work* was very well received and I thank the Convenor of the Conference Committee, Michelle Nisbet and her team for the enormous and thoughtful work that went into the planning and delivery of this ambitious and highly successful conference.

At the state conference, colleagues recognised and valued professional contributions to Home Economics education by awarding Excellence in Teaching Awards to deserving recipients Renae Bradbury and Margaret Duncan.

A pre-conference seminar organised by student Louise Borg, saw Margot Riley from the State Library of New South Wales enthral delegates as she explored the history and reinvention of second-hand clothing as evolving fashion trends. This was followed by the formal introduction of

the 2009 QUT graduands to the profession of Home Economics education, as we celebrated their tertiary successes and exposed the benefits of belonging to and participating in a professional association.

Dr Michael Marendy, curator of the City Hall exhibition *Dressing Up Brisbane*, took our members on a personally guided tour as he explored the colourful history and evolution of the textiles and fashion industries in Brisbane.

Our final event for the year was our celebration of World Food Day, for which HEIA(Q) joined forces with the Global Learning Centre to organise an event where Kathleen Gordon inspired members to investigate the practices of and problems relating to ethical food production, distribution and food equality.

Behind the scenes, HEIA(Q) Committee of Management members have attended a number of ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) briefing sessions throughout the year as we attempted to voice concerns pertaining to Home Economics and the ongoing Australian curriculum developments. The Committee of Management provided feedback to Queensland Studies Authority on a minor rewrite of the Senior Home Economics syllabus. As members of the Consumer Federation of Australia (CFA), HEIA(Q) supported the CFA in its efforts to secure funding to develop a mechanism that will support consumer policy-focused research. We also lodged a submission to the Queensland Government's inquiry into chronic disease, reminding the current government that our members advocate on a daily basis for improving the immediate and long-term health and nutritional outcomes for many young Queenslanders across the state.

In acknowledging the diverse challenges faced by new graduates upon entering the teaching profession, Vicki Potter and Kate Aldridge have worked towards the establishment of an online mentoring program to support beginning teachers. Six teachers from various regions across the state have volunteered to participate and engage in the program once it formally begins.

It has been a hectic year at the helm and I sincerely thank all members of the Committee of Management, sub committees and other volunteers who tirelessly and passionately come together to continue their support for our association on a diverse range of levels.

Despite the strength of our membership, we still need your support. We have a number of positions being vacated on the Committee of Management and the Professional Development Committee, so we encourage members to consider nominating for these roles, or other sub-committees of personal interest.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rosemarie Sciacca

Being a new member of the HEIA(Q) Committee of Management and undertaking the role of Secretary has been an enlightening experience. I feel fortunate to have held this position and to be able to work as part of a diversely experienced and supportive team. It is this support that has enabled me to swiftly settle into my role and assume the duties of Secretary. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Committee of Management and to past Secretary Renae Stanton for facilitating this.

In keeping current with technology, the Committee of Management has found it most effective to communicate with members via email, thus enabling instantaneous notification of curriculum updates, professional development opportunities and other relevant information and events. We hope that our members feel informed and up to date, particularly in this time of curriculum change.

The secretarial duties could not have been performed efficiently this year without assistance from key members of the Committee of Management. Denise McManus has been highly proficient in her role as Minute Secretary and in organising the monthly agenda. I would like to express my gratitude to Denise for her support in my first year in this position and for developing a good working partnership with myself. My thanks also go to Vicki Potter for dutifully managing the online correspondence this past year. I also would like to express my gratitude to Debbie Cain who took responsibility for the mail correspondence during my brief absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Debbie Cain

2009 has been yet another financially successful year for HEIA(Q).

2009 saw HEIA(Q) engage the services of Denise McManus as our Professional Development Administrator. By doing this we have been able to streamline the systems we use, including the payment by members for workshops. For the first time we have been able to offer direct deposit options for our members, which proved to be very popular. This has resulted in quicker and more efficient payment transfers to HEIA(Q). It is our goal for 2010 to implement credit card payment options for our members, and thus further increasing efficiency and promptness of payments, as well as improving convenience for our members.

Whilst the income received from our 2009 conference is lower than 2008, the expenses were also lower, thus creating an almost break-even position for our members. The lower income was partly due to the reduced conference sponsorship, which seemingly was a direct result of the global financial crisis. Likewise, our workshop income was lower, as were our recorded expenses. This was due, in part, to HEIA members facilitating the workshops rather than external consultants.

Although there has been an obvious slowing of the economy, resulting in lower interest rates being offered by the banks, income from our term deposits has still been healthy.

As capitation received from HEIA Australia is the primary source of income for HEIA(Q), our membership numbers are an important consideration in our financial position. In 2009 membership has remained steady. The resulting capitation income for 2009 was \$25,973, as opposed to \$30,774 in 2008. The decrease, despite stable membership, was due to the timing of quarterly payments sometimes not being received until the following year.

Arabon Certified Practising Accountants of Sherwood, Brisbane were once again appointed as our Auditors for 2009.

As always, my sincere and genuine thanks go to Jan Reynolds for her tireless support, as well to the Committee of Management who are always professional and helpful as I fulfil my duties as Treasurer of the Queensland division.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Treasurer of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld):

SCOPE

We have audited the financial reports of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld):

The Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) for the period ending 31 December 2009 as set out on the following pages.

The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. We have performed an audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it as to whether the financial report fairly represents the performance of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) for the period ending 31 December 2009.

Our audit has been planned and performed in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide a reasonable level of assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards (and relevant regulatory and statutory requirements when appropriate) so as to present a view of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) which is consistent with our understanding of its operations.

QUALIFICATION

The Income and Expenditure Statements as provided and audited do reflect a true position of Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) Inc. There is no indication of malfeasance or misfeasance. However, a Balance Sheet is not available due to the software utilised so is unable to be audited. Hence, one is provided.

As is also common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) Inc. to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions, and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fundraising was limited to the amounts recorded.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, subject to the above qualification, the financial reports do present fairly the financial position of the Home Economics Institute of Australia (Qld) as at 31 December 2009 and the results of its operations for the aforementioned period then ended in accordance with Statements of Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards.

Date 16 February 2010

Auditor M McDowall B Com LLB CPA JP

AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Home Economics Institute Aust Inc
 ABN 38336138850
Balance Sheet
 As at 31 December 2009

	This Year	Last Year
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cheque Account #00906586	41,913.65	41,155.65
T/D 413050 151435	20,617.74	20,000.00
T/D 064110 50137562	31,195.99	28,625.94
T/D 064164 50111495	17,394.25	16,046.36
GST Adjustment Account	103.70	137.90
GST Receivable	1,229.00	0.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	112,454.33	105,965.85
TOTAL ASSETS	112,454.33	105,965.85
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
GST Payable	826.64	926.64
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	826.64	926.64
TOTAL LIABILITIES	826.64	926.64
NET ASSETS	111,627.69	105,039.21
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	111,627.69	105,039.21
TOTAL EQUITY	111,627.69	105,039.21

Home Economics Institute Aust Inc
 ABN 38336138850
Profit and Loss Statement
 For the year ended 31 December 2009

	This Year	Last Year
ORDINARY INCOME		
Capitation Income	25,973.18	30,774.32
Annual Conference	55,938.18	62,386.70
Interest Received Term Deposits	4,535.68	2,909.06
Interest Received	223.73	296.56
Workshop Income	14,383.64	15,293.18
World Home Economics Day	1,018.18	0.00
Function - End of Year	0.00	2,414.55
Newsletter - Advertising and Inserts	450.00	0.00
Sundry Receipts	2,388.09	49.09
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	104,910.68	114,123.46
TOTAL INCOME	104,910.68	114,123.46
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
Accountancy	977.27	772.73
Awards in Excellence Teaching	179.91	0.00
Books and Publications	1,404.91	0.00
Conference Expenses	56,637.53	66,177.60
Books and Publications	0.00	287.84
Flowers and Decorations	0.00	161.82
Meeting Expenses	3,363.18	3,806.82
Miscellaneous Expenses	536.36	0.00
Newsletter Expenses	11,146.67	10,375.31
Printing and Stationery	697.15	1,411.94
Promotional Expenses	3,402.77	753.41
Computer Supplies	0.00	217.27
Storage Hire	2,449.45	1,301.82
Subscriptions	115.45	104.64
Function - WHEc Day Dinner	2,348.05	2,086.16
Donations	0.00	86.00
Workshop Expenses	13,651.65	15,193.06
Postage - General	1,411.85	779.51
Professional Services	0.00	18.18
TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES	(98,322.20)	(103,534.11)
NET PROFIT	6,588.48	10,589.35

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Janet Reynolds

As at 31 December 2009, the Queensland Division had 626 members, 9 more than at the end of 2008. Whilst there was only one new school membership, there were 20 new school members, indicating that at least some Home Economics departments are growing. Whilst the numbers of members in the different membership categories vary, the overall membership has remained constant at above 600 for approximately four years. This current high membership reflects the value placed on the Institute and positions the Division well for advocating on behalf of its members. Nationally, at the end of December 2009, there were 1562 members, an all-time high. By comparison, at the end of 1994, the first full year of HEIA's operation, there were 87 members in the Queensland Division, and 650 members across all Divisions.

Member type	HEIA(Q) members 31/12/09	HEIA(Q) members 31/12/08	Nationally 31/12/09
Associate	4	5	20
Full	127	132	408
School contact	102	101	218
School non-contact	352	332	714
Student with journal	26	27	114
Student no journal	1	7	12
NIPE	14	13	76
TOTAL	626	617	1562

There were new members joining in almost every month. The kit developed by the Division for new members was sent to all new members to complement the kit sent by the National Membership Secretary.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Aileen Lockhart

2009 saw the efforts and collaboration of HEIA delegates, standing committees and members culminate in new and highly successful events and structures. Council welcomed Miriam McDonald (NT) as President-Elect and is confident that, under her leadership, HEIA will continue to deliver a quality service to our members. Memberships continued to climb in 2009, reaching 1550 at the end of December. School memberships form the bulk of membership.

The national conference *Daring to dream—Preferred futures through Home Economics* held in Darwin from July 8–11 2009, delivered a thought-provoking program of presentations and workshops by local, interstate and international presenters who explored the diversity of issues related to social justice, equity and sustainability in the home economics context. The HEIA(NT) Conference Committee, convened by Miriam McDonald and Penny McIntyre, ensured that the uniqueness of the Northern Territory emanated throughout the conference with choices of exquisite locales, cuisine, entertainment and warm hospitality.

Peta Craig (ACT) continued to work energetically as Convenor of the Public Health Standing Committee and coordinated HEIA's responses to the discussion paper *Australia: The healthiest country by 2020*, and to the Department of Health and Ageing paper regarding the development of a new women's health policy. HEIA is now a member of the Butterfly Foundation, which coordinates the National Eating Disorders Collaboration, of which HEIA is a member.

As Convenor of the Education Standing Committee, Dr Janet Reynolds (Qld) continued to ensure that HEIA is kept in the loop with all matters pertaining to the national curriculum through representation at National Education Federation and Teaching Australia meetings. Highlights of the Education Standing Committee for 2009 included the highly successful development and launch of *FoodChoices* as an online subscription-based resource and the continued partnership with Xyris, as well as a 'Train the Trainer' workshop enabling all divisions to run workshops related to the resource. As Convenor of the Education, Publications, Journal and Newsletter Standing Committees, Janet ensured that our membership was informed in matters pertaining to HEIA, the national curriculum and Home Economics education.

The work of Melinda Williams (Tas) as Convenor of the Merchandise Standing Committee was supported by the tireless support of Carol Elias (WA), Gill Ginn (Tas) and Janet Reynolds (Qld). HEIA's best seller continues to be *Nutrition—The inside story*.

Miriam McDonald (NT) and Penny McIntyre (NT) worked tirelessly on the long awaited and highly anticipated release of the HEIA online shop. The benefits are yet to be realised, but optimism abounds that the streamlining of this process will not only improve efficiencies for our customers, but save the valuable time of the volunteers who support this HEIA service.

The Strategic Plan 2009–2011 was finalised. It articulates strategic and future-focused goals as well as operational goals that direct the day-to-day business of Council. Convenors of standing committees have been asked to use the Strategic Plan to develop their Management Plans for 2010, with the document to be used by divisions to guide their own goals and plans.

The work of Council is only possible through the energies and support of the divisions and Council extends its thanks to the Divisional Committees of Management and their teams in the states and territories and wishes them well in their endeavours in 2010.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Janet Reynolds

In 2009, the newsletter *inForm* continued with its customary pattern regarding types of article and size of the newsletter. The newsletter is typically 24 pages in length and professionally published.

A typical edition of the newsletter would feature the following: a report on what HEIA(Q) has offered in professional development and what is still to come; reports on other events; advocacy or submissions organised by HEIA(Q); professional updates such as syllabus developments; some form of resource support for classroom use; a profile of a Home Economics department in a Queensland school; 'people' news such as retirements and awards; and news from other organisations that impacts on our work; and diary dates. There is always plenty to report on, and we rarely run less than 24 pages in each issue.

The production of the newsletter is supported by voluntary and paid labour. The volunteers, as you might guess, are the HEIA(Q) members who source or write articles. The paid labour comes in the form of proof-reading, design layout, printing, bagging and inserting any extra materials, and arranging postage. We are very fortunate that the company that does the printing has the facility to bag the newsletter into plastic bags, generate labels and get them all to the post office for us. I would like to thank all these 'workers', whether voluntary or paid, for the combined talent and efficiency that has made my job a lot easier.

In 2009, the Committee of Management allocated \$11,000 for the production and distribution of the four issues of the newsletter. The actual costs were \$11,421.48; however, there was an income of \$450 from corporate organisations paying to insert flyers in the newsletter, making the net costs \$10,971.48. This figure has been relatively stable in recent years.

Hard copies of *inForm* are sent to all HEIA(Q) members, but with each school membership receiving only one copy. The newsletter is also available on the website. The latest editions are available on the *Members Only* page of the national website www.heia.com.au with older editions being available on the *inForm* page of the HEIA(Q) site www.heia.com.au/heiaq

As Editor, I am guided by the decisions of the Committee of Management. The Committee's directions have included the need to try and include contributions from members who do not regularly contribute to the newsletter, to include news about what is happening outside the South East corner, and to profile the work of some of our newer members of the profession. Hopefully members have enjoyed reading about these people and events. I would like to continue with these ideas and encourage members to contribute to this end.

The newsletter is an important vehicle for keeping members informed about what is happening in the profession in Queensland, and about the issues and events with which HEIA(Q) is involved. I welcome comments that might enable us to better meet the needs of members.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Yve Rutch

With the emphasis by the Queensland College of Teachers on professional development to develop skills and knowledge for rapidly changing educational environments, it is HEIA(Q)'s aim to provide quality professional development for its members. In 2009 this was actioned through the regional workshops and the state conference, all with the theme of *Creativity at Work*. In addition, we have offered professional learning in the form of the World Home Economics Day seminar, a pre-conference seminar and a World Food Day seminar, with two of these being free of charge to members.

The regional workshops offered across nine regions were *Working a Creative Classroom—Fabulous Felt*, facilitated by Sue Going, and *FoodChoices* with Jan Reynolds.

The *Fabulous Felt* professional development workshops began with Brisbane South hosting 17 attendees. Term 3 saw Rockhampton, Brisbane North, Brisbane West and Townsville host more of these hands-on workshops, and in Term 4, Mackay teachers enjoyed the 'felting' experience. Unfortunately, six regions had to cancel workshops due to lack of numbers. Some teachers have been concerned at the workshops being held on a Saturday. There is no quick solution to the best time to run full-day workshops, as many teachers would not be allowed to attend during the week, with some being asked to personally pay for teacher replacement if this is the case. In total, 100 members and non-members travelled to a workshop, with some workshop attendees travelling long distances (Murgon to Brisbane and Miles to Ipswich) to enable them to participate. Congratulations to Sue Going for her time and professional and practical knowledge in facilitating the workshop. Her expertise and knowledge were key to the success of these workshops. The majority of comments have been constructive and positive after each of the workshops. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all attendees who took the time to complete an evaluation form. Participants loved the hands-on aspect of the felting workshops and the fact that it is an activity where mistakes are welcome!

In total, 80 teachers from Home Economics, Science and Physical Education faculties attended *FoodChoices* workshops facilitated and presented by Jan Reynolds in Mackay, Hervey Bay, Brisbane, Caboolture and the Gold Coast. Jan has a wealth of knowledge in this area and appreciation for her expertise was reflected in the feedback from participants. It was unfortunate that some workshops had to be cancelled due to the small numbers of registered attendees. Participants were delighted with the program and that, as a result of the hands-on workshop, they could now use it to its potential. The 'hands-on' approach was appreciated by all, with some wanting a longer workshop. The overall result is that many attending the workshops have agreed that the *FoodChoices* program and the workshops have been an excellent teaching tool and learning resource. Overwhelmingly, the demand for more *FoodChoices* workshops was the biggest improvement suggested on the evaluation forms. The Professional Development sub-committee feels sure that, as long as teachers are willing to attend workshops, they will still be offered again in 2010.

In total, 11 workshops were run across seven regions.

Thanks must go to the Professional Development Committee: Denise McManus; Carol Turnbull; Julie Nash and Kaye Gleeson for their time and efforts in facilitating the professional development program for HEIA(Q). It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Kaye Gleeson who will be moving to Toowoomba for work commitments. We thank Kaye for her valuable input into Home

Economics and HEIA(Q). We also farewell Lesley Cormack (Roma Region), Nerelle Goodwin (Toowoomba Region) and Janet Curran (Townsville Region) who have decided to retire as regional co-ordinators for HEIA(Q). We value your commitment to the professional development of teachers in your regions and thank you for your time and dedication to the cause.

August saw the Conference Committee deliver, under the expert direction of Michelle Nisbet, an inspiring and stimulating day framed through the lens of *Home Economics: Creativity at Work* at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Over 260 delegates engaged with a variety of keynote speakers, including Lisa Smith from Minds at Work and Dr Irena Yashinshaw from Innovation Edge, before actively participating in a variety of interactive workshops with local and interstate presenters. The conference challenged workplace practices as well as philosophical thinking on a variety of personal and professional levels. It attracted generous sponsorship packages from the Department of Education and Training and Xyris Software (Australia) Pty. Ltd., as well as hosting 12 trade tables and a creative textiles exhibition from a group of 3rd year QUT graduates. For an outstanding achievement, thank you to the Conference Committee: Michelle Nisbet, Denise McManus, Kylie King, Jade Pinder, Angela Custance, Robyn Gooley, Kate Stevanovic and Janet Reynolds.

HEIA(Q) is committed to providing quality professional development and appreciates access to quality speakers and facilitators, enabling HEIA(Q) to keep members up to date with current issues that enhance teaching and learning in Queensland schools. I urge all members of HEIA(Q) to continue to support HEIA(Q) and its professional development program in order to gain the best possible outcome for students, staff and stakeholders of Home Economics education, both now and in the future.