



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

# **Annual General Meeting**

**15 March 2008**



**HEIA(Q) INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**15 March 2008**

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## **HEIA (Q) Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** 15 March 2008  
**Time:** 12.00-12.30pm  
**Venue:** Tisane Tea Room, 4/9 Doggett St, Fortitude Valley

### **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. Presentations of appreciation
17. Closure



## MINUTES OF 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
**Time** 10.30am  
**Venue** Ahmet's Turkish Restaurant, 164 Grey St South Brisbane Q  
**Chairperson** Claire Cobine  
**Minutes Secretary** Sharyn Laidlaw

### 1. **Welcome and apologies**

Claire Cobine welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Janeen Bahr, Michelle Barnard Lake, Glennis Barnard Lake, Jenny Brookes, Judith Byrne, Debbie Cain, Claire Cobine, Cheryl Conroy, Carolyn Cunningham, Angela Custance, Kimberley Darguash, Margaret Duncan, Kate Edgar, Tinie Esterhuysen, Sharon Flux, Sue Going, Megan Hobley, Naomi Holley, Joanne Jayne, Helen Johnston, Sharon Kane, Helen Keith, Kylie King, Sahron, Kirakov, Julianna Kneebone, Sharyn Laidlaw, Aileen Lockhart, Kerry McLean, Denise McManus, Andrew McVittie, Fran McVittie, Lynn Moore, Julie Nash, Dianne Polson, Michelle Popplewell, Jan Reynolds, Bree Richters, Chantelle Robinson, Jemma Rowney, Rosemaie Sciacca, Christina Spence, Joanne Spotswood, Roy Spotswood, Renae Stanton. Marko Stevanovic, Carol Turnbull

Apologies: Margo Miller

### 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: Cheryl Conroy

Seconded: Aileen Lockhart

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: Joanne Jayne

Seconded: Helen Keith

Carried

**6. Secretary's Report**

Report tabled

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

Moved: Claire Cobine

Seconded: Denise McManus

Carried

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Report tabled.

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

Moved: Aileen Lockhart

Seconded: Helen Johnston

Carried

**8. Appointment of Auditor**

Motion: That Arabon Certified Practising Accountants, PO Box 100,  
Sherwood Qld 4075, be appointed as auditor for 2007.

Moved: Aileen Lockhart

Seconded: Sharyn Laidlaw

Carried

**9. Membership Report**

Report tabled

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

Moved: Jan Reynolds

Seconded: Carol Turnball

Carried

**10. Delegate's Report**

Report tabled

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

Moved: Aileen Lockhart

Seconded: Renae Stanton

Carried

**11. Newsletter Report**

Report tabled

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

Moved: Jan Reynolds

Seconded: Aileen Lockhart

Carried

**12. Professional Development Committee Report**

Report tabled

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

**13. Appointment of Committee of Management**

The following nominations were received:

President: Helen Johnston  
Vice President: Julianna Kneebone  
Treasurer: Debbie Cain  
Secretary: Renae Stanton  
National Delegate: Aileen Lockhart  
Newsletter Editor: Jan Reynolds

Members of the Committee of Management: Denise McManus, Helen Keith, Kylie King, Sue Going, Megan Hobley and Jo Spotswood.

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: Claire Cobine  
Seconded: Joanne Jayne  
Carried

**14. Confirmation of the address of the registered office**

Motion: The residential address of the HEIA(Q) president be used as the HEIA(Q) registered address.

Moved: Aileen Lockhart  
Seconded: Julianna Kneebone  
Carried

**15. General Business**

- As Joanne Jayne, Julie Nash, Claire Cobine, Michelle Nisbet and Sharyn Laidlaw would not be continuing on the Committee of Management, President Joanne Jayne acknowledged their contributions to the work of HEIA(Q) whilst they have been committee members.

Meeting closed at 12.10pm.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Helen Johnston**

I am pleased to present this report as President of the Queensland Division of HEIA Inc. to capture an overview of the Queensland Divisions 2007 activities. This report identifies and describes the various activities which have taken place during the year and defines the role of the 2007 Committee of Management (COM) in supporting and enhancing members' opportunities to engage and to enhance their personal and professional education. The report will also record for history the action our Committee of Management has taken to address the burning issues which continue to impact on the teaching of Home Economics in Queensland. One theme captured our work this year. The words edu Nation - Nutrition Education for a new generation - maintained the focus on our vision and helped create the nucleus for our conference and professional development throughout the year.

## **Membership**

Our membership as of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 was 611. My sincere thanks go to Janet Reynolds for devoting much of her time and energy to ensure that home economics teachers' membership record is current. Large numbers in this organisation bring financial and advocacy strength at a state and national level. However, such a large membership brings the challenge of catering for the diverse needs of members. The Committee of Management is always open to advice from members to improve the service we currently offer.

## **Keeping Members Posted**

Members, through the Divisional Newsletter *Inform*, have been kept up to date with latest news; information of current conferences; profiles of a variety of schools across the state; historical events in *The Way We Were* column; photos of various members at play; and new teaching strategies. Although I am a retired teacher, *Inform* is still a **must read** in my quarterly calendar of events. We are indebted to Janet Reynolds for her effort in producing a newsletter that is professionally informative and interesting to read. We also acknowledge the members who have assisted Janet by providing articles, photographs and other copy. HEIA Inc members can find copies of previous *Inform* publications on the HEIA (Q) website.

The HEIA (Q) website is regularly updated with current news and events. The website manager, Janet Reynolds, works hard to ensure that this happens, as well as providing current research and up to date educational news for our members. Many thanks to Miriam McDonald (Northern Territory Division) for the wonderful job in giving a modern look to our website.

## **eduNation - Nutrition Education for a new generation**

The alarming levels of obesity in Australia and the associated diseases which occur when a person is obese contributed to the Committee of Management's decision to advocate for *Nutrition Education* as the theme for the year 2007. It was felt that **knowledge of nutrition was important for all students; however students needed an action - oriented approach to nutrition education so that they could be empowered to take control of their own personal health.**

*The Nutrition Education Program developed involved a 2 day conference supported by a one day workshop to be held in 10 regions throughout the state.*

## **Conference**

Keynote guest speakers Dr. Rosemary Stanton, Associate Professor Jenny O’Dea, Dr. Janet Reynolds, Dr Fiona Rowe, Dr Micheal Carr – Gregg and Lisa Smith captured the imagination of the delegates by discussing a variety of issues impacting on today’s teenagers. At workshops, delegates heard from other guest speakers such as Professor Sandra Capra (Newcastle University), Associate Professor Donna Pendergast (University of Qld), Dr. Sue Ash (QUT), Dominique Rizzo (Mondo Organics), Laurie Kelly (Mindworks), Matthew Dick (Queensland Health), Kellie Hogan (Nutrition Australia). The action oriented workshops focussed on “what to do in schools’, with strong, coherent messages on what to teach; how to understand and teach the whole child in context; brain theory and its relationship to nutrition education; understanding and dealing with multiple and complex relationships; and understanding the impacts of and sometimes exploitation of electronic connections.” (Source eduNation -Nutrition education for a new generation brochure)

Evaluations from most of the 361 registrants clearly indicated that this was the most successful conference ever held. Registrations at this conference proved to be the highest so far achieved at a State or National Level. Well done conference team. The success of this conference can be attributed to many factors. Firstly, thanks must go to the Conference Convenor Janet Reynolds and her team Debbie Cain, Claire Cobine, Cheryl Conroy, Robyn Gooley, Denise McManus’ Julie Nash, Kellie Hogan, Matthew Dick, Jacky Dawson, and Renae Stanton. These people put in many hours of voluntary work to ensure delegates received the highest quality professional development. Your selfless efforts are very much appreciated.

*Echo Events* must be congratulated for their efficient administration and co-ordination of the conference. Having a professional PCO saved the committee hours of work in many different ways.

I believe the quality of the guest speakers, the fabulous Hilton venue, and the action-oriented program developed by the team ensured the success of the conference.

Congratulations must go to the conference team for its successful submission to the Queensland Government’s Community Partnership Awards Scheme. HEIA (Q) was awarded a *grant of \$47,100* to support its *eduNation program*. The money was used to subsidise delegate costs to attend, and to support the PD program by subsidising presenter fees and to travel to the country regions including Thursday Island. Well done team.

## **Professional Development**

HEIA (Q) is extremely grateful to Denise McManus and Yve Rutch and the rest of the professional development team for their proficient and expert organisation of the 2007 professional development program. The intended purpose of the 2007 program was firstly to enable teachers to engage critically in learning and teaching that would motivate teenage students to develop skills enabling them to implement healthy eating patterns. Secondly, the program was designed to assist teachers in the development of units of work and assessment tasks that support effective nutrition education. Workshops were generally well attended throughout the state though unfortunately some workshops were cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Organisation of the professional development for the state requires a great deal of time and effort attending to phone calls, administration tasks, mailouts to members, and writing reports to the committee on the progress of the programs being offered. This year Denise McManus has done an extraordinary job mentoring Yve Rutch in the role of professional development convenor. We wish Denise a happy retirement from this role and acknowledge the exceptional work she has done to ensure quality professional development occurs across our diverse state. We congratulate Yve Rutch for taking on this leadership role in 2008-2009. We also thank the 10 regional co-ordinators for their hard work throughout the year in motivating and energising teachers to take part in our professional development program.

### **Supporting and enhancing the professional standing of Home Economics**

The Committee of Management has continued to support and enhance the professional standing of HEIA(Q), keeping members informed of relevant government policies and proposals and responding to a variety of government initiatives. For example,

- ❑ Vice President Julianna Kneebone coordinated HEIA(Q's) response to the Senior Phase of Learning Document.
- ❑ Feedback was given in response to the QCAR Essential Learnings - in particular the Technology Essential Learning and the Health and Physical Education Essential Learning.
- ❑ HEIA (Q) worked with HEIA Inc to apply for Federal Government Grant to support the production of a recipe book as a companion to the text "Nutrition - the Inside Story".
- ❑ A successful submission to the Queensland Government's Community Partnership Awards scheme meant HEIA (Q) was awarded a grant of \$47,100 to support the 2007 eduNation Program.

Nationally, we have:

- ❑ Contributed to National Council's Education Standing Committee's response to draft guidelines for alcohol consumption currently being developed by NHRMC.
- ❑ Supported and assisted with HEIA education standing committees response to FSANZ labelling of alcoholic beverages with a pregnancy health advisory label.
- ❑ Responded to Teaching Australia's paper "Professional Standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership".
- ❑ Contributed to the discussion on the development of the new textile posters teaching resource.

**Whilst much of the day to day operations of HEIA (Q) focus on raising the benchmarks in education, it is equally part of our role to advocate for and enhance our professional standing.** HEIA (Q) seeks, at every opportunity, to

promote the quality educational outcomes that home economics education offers. One way of doing this includes members nominating colleagues for Teaching Excellence awards. In 2007, the Committee of Management decided to present **EduNation Awards** at the state conference. These awards were to recognise individuals, companies or groups who have made a significant contribution to Home Economics in Queensland. In 2007, these were presented to Xyris Software, Miriam MacDonald, Joanne Jayne, Janet Curran and Dr. Janet Reynolds. I sincerely congratulate these worthy recipients of this prestigious award.

**World Home Economics Day** took on an International theme this year, with celebrations centred on the culture and cuisine of Turkey. Fifty attendees assembled at Ahmet's Turkish Restaurant for brunch, to enjoy a range of Turkish culinary delights, and to observe members trying the art of belly dancing. Susan Gencerler and John Gibson from Ahmet's gave a short, informative presentation on Turkish culture and cuisine. The **2007 O' Malley** scholars were presented: Joanne Spotswood, Rosemarie Sciacca, Chantelle Robinson, and Bree Richters. We congratulate them on receiving this prestigious award. Thank you to Cheryl Conroy Queensland selection panel member for presenting these awards.

The **Annual General Meeting** followed the World Home Economics celebrations. Presentations were made to outgoing committee members, Michelle Nisbet, Claire Cobine, Sharyn Laidlaw, Julie Nash, Jo Andrews and Joanne Jayne. Members took the opportunity to congratulate Joanne Jayne for her outstanding leadership as President of HEIA (Q) from 2005 -2006. Thank you Renae Stanton, Debbie Cain and Denise McManus for your organisation of the 2007 World Home Economics Day.

Aileen Lockhart is our **Divisional Delegate** to National Council as well as **HEIA Inc Secretary**. It is important for us to remember that we are a Division of a national body. Aileen continues to do an excellent job representing Queensland and we thank her most sincerely for the time and energy she exerts to fulfil her roles in a professional, congenial manner. We also thank her for mentoring Debbie Cain in her new role as treasurer.

### **Recognition of Service to HEIA (Q) - The Committee of Management**

I have mentioned the outstanding contribution that committee members, Dr. Janet Reynolds, Denise McManus and Aileen Lockhart have made to the COM in previous pages of this report and sincerely thank them for their many initiatives and professional support and leadership throughout the year.

I would also like to note my sincere appreciation of Renae Stanton in her role as secretary, (and co-ordinator of World Home Economics Day) and the work of Denise McManus as minute secretary. This shared role has been an outstanding success and all work has been presented in a polished and professional manner and has ensured that HEIA (Q) runs smoothly and efficiently.

Julianna Kneebone, acted in the role of President of HEIA (Q) for 3 months whilst the President was away overseas. Julianna must be thanked for her strong leadership during this period as she was the driving force behind HEIA (Q's) response to Ed Queensland Senior Phase of Learning Document. She has been

very supportive in her role as Vice- President and an active participant in initiating new ideas for the COM.

The new treasurer Debbie Cain has done an outstanding job and has to be congratulated for her professional approach to the task as the time and skills required for undertaking the responsibilities of this role are extensive. I would also like to commend our young members Jo Spotswood, Kylie King, and Megan Hobley who have come on board this year. It is a daunting experience, voluntarily, taking on professional responsibility for promoting and supporting home economics teachers in Queensland. Each and every one of you have my utmost respect for the work you have done this year and I thank you most sincerely for your educational knowledge, your motivation and your desire to make a contribution to this great profession.

Jo Spotswood, one of the 2007 O'Malley scholars has been willing to take on leadership roles throughout the year, and was responsible for the organisation of the very successful fourth year function that was held at Vil'laggio's Italian Restaurant in November.

Thank you also to Kylie King and Megan Hobley for their professional insight at meetings and their assistance with organisation of WHED 2008.

Sue Going was forced to resign from the COM during the year due to personal reasons but still represented the COM at the HPE subject advisory meetings. We thank her most sincerely for her reports from this committee and are pleased that she has agreed to return to the COM in 2008. Her expertise on the committee will be very much appreciated.

Helen Keith is retiring after 11 years on HEIA (Q) COM and previously many with HEAQ. Her wealth of knowledge, her home economics expertise, her ability to think through issues and see both sides of an argument, and her calm personality will be sadly missed. Over the years Helen has put up her hand to take on a variety of responsibilities and tasks for the COM and has always undertaken these tasks with integrity, efficiency, supportively and professionally. Over the years Helen has taken on the role of Vice President, has organised WHED celebrations, has represented HEIA (Q) on the O'Malley selection panel and initiated and prepared information folders for COM, has coordinated the excellence in teaching awards for several years and has been our merchandising coordinator. Helen has been pivotal in providing professional development opportunities for teachers to travel internationally. Teachers have gained valuable cultural knowledge and understanding of how home economics is taught in a variety of cultures and have been able to broaden their student's awareness of these different cultures in their teaching delivery. Each year she has organised the Past and Present COM luncheon. This year's luncheon at the Rare Pear was well attended and showcased the restaurant and food of two fine Home Economics teachers – Libby Davies and Colleen Gillespie. Helen Keith will be missed for her efforts, expertise and initiatives.

As outgoing 2007 President, I would like to recognise the support, assistance, and guidance the COM has given me throughout the year. It has been very much a team effort, with each and every one of us trying to ensure quality outcomes for our members. I have endeavoured to do my best for HEIA (Q) throughout the

year, but have the sense to realise that the role of President, requires a person who is a passionate, articulate advocate of home economics and a person who is currently teaching in the profession. Home Economics in Queensland is constantly evolving and exceptionally strong leadership is required to ensure that home economics continue to be a viable subject in Queensland. Our membership must continue to stay strong to advocate for the well being of families and individuals long into the future.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Renae Stanton**

The role of Secretary has been both interesting and rewarding during the past year. It took some months to develop systems that worked best for me and to gain confidence in completing the role. Most of the administrative tasks are routine and with the assistance of Denise McManus as Minute Secretary, a good working relationship has been maintained throughout the year. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Denise for the manner in which she has professionally and willingly fulfilled the role of Minute Secretary. Thank you Denise.

In the HEIA (Q) we have a strong membership base and it is with the support of all the members of the Committee of Management that we are able to offer the high standard of service to members. On a monthly base the Committee of Management handles all the business matters necessary for this association.

In 2007 we have taken steps to record various email correspondence in our minutes. This includes the HEIA(Q) inquiry email and those emails sent directly from the membership and general public to office bearers as well as those emails we send directly to the database of members. The Committee of Management felt that this was necessary as many people now are choosing email as a standard means of communication. I believe that it is a strength of the HEIA(Q) Committee of Management to be forward thinking and act on and improve our ways of working.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Debbie Cain**

Being a part of the HEIA (Q) Committee of Management for the first time in 2007 has been a rewarding and enlightening experience. Holding the position of Treasurer was a steep learning curve, and I feel privileged to be a part of such a professional and supportive group.

This year a decision was made to hold a 2-day conference, namely *EduNation*. This translated into a large increase in financial activity, with the conference alone, generating income and expenditure in excess of \$100,000. Active

sponsorship by a number of organisations, along with a grant of \$48,100 through the Queensland Government's Community Partnerships Awards scheme, enabled a quality conference and associated regional workshops to be offered at a reasonable cost. Part of the grant was used to support regional members by offering a further discount on the registration fees to those who had used air travel to access the conference. Whilst the ambitious conference and professional development program meant a lot of work for those involved with the fiscal responsibilities, the rewards in terms of benefits to members and raising the profile of HEIA made it worthwhile.

Throughout the year the Committee of Management had various discussions about whether our current financial package met the requirements of the Incorporations Act. We have decided to maintain the status quo until further requirements are made clear and we will continue to take advice from our auditors. Arabon Certified Practising Accountants of Sherwood, Brisbane were once again appointed our Auditors for 2007.

My sincere thanks go to Aileen Lockhart, Past Treasurer, and to Jan Reynolds for their patience and guidance as I settled into my new role. I look forward to continuing in my role as Treasurer in 2008.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Janet Reynolds**

As at 31 December 2007, the Queensland Division had 619 members, 9 fewer than at the end of 2006, which was an all-time high in the history of any Division of the Institute. 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. 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 there were 1465 members, an all-time high.

<b>Member type</b>	<b>Number for HEIA(Q) 30/12/07</b>	<b>Number 31/12/06 for HEIA(Q)</b>	<b>Nationally at 31/12/07</b>
Associate	5	3	<b>11</b>
Full	151	146	<b>480</b>
School contact	98	93	<b>191</b>
School non-contact	329	343	<b>605</b>
Student with journal	17	25	<b>86</b>
Student no journal	3	2	<b>18</b>
NIPE	16	16	<b>74</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>1465</b>

There were new members 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 Lockhardt**

It is difficult to sum up the efforts of a dedicated group of people who manage the many and varied activities of HEIA Inc without seeming to trivialize or omit a vital contribution. It is not the activities of the Council alone but the joint efforts of the divisions and national committees that ensures HEIA delivers on its promise to *enhance the professionalism and political legitimization of Australian Home Economists*.

The year began with HEIA Inc having to make the difficult decision to withdraw its offer to host the 2012 International Federation of Home Economists Congress. After extensive consultation and thorough reflection of our obligation to our membership it was deemed unwise to proceed with our original proposal, the financial risk to HEIA considered being overwhelming.

The Merchandise team has continued to manage the increasing demand for HEIA resources, with *Nutrition – The inside Story's* popularity resulting in a second edition currently going to press. Dr Janet Reynolds has mustered relentless energy and commitment to ensure that this new edition of the text and the new Totally Gorgeous Textile poster series are to be available for the 2008 school year. The official national launch of both resources, as well as a formal recognition of Jan's efforts, will be held following the HEIA Inc AGM in Sydney on Saturday 29 March 2008. The updated "Food Choices - the IT Way" is also eagerly anticipated and Council values the partnership that has been nurtured between HEIA and Xyris through the persuasive and persistent efforts of Jan.

Following the 2007 Conference in Sydney hosted by HEIA NSW, the challenge went out to the other divisions to come up with something different. HEIA NT has embraced this challenge and planning for the 2009 Conference in Darwin is underway. With the 2007 Conference only just rescued by a grant from Catholic Education, HEIA NT is ever conscious of the need to secure corporate sponsorship and reminds all divisions that it is only our collective networking that will keep us in the minds, and budgets, of our traditional and potential corporate sponsors.

Following on the success of HEIA Q in gaining government sponsorship for the two-day "*eduNation – Nutrition Education for a New Generation*" state conference, Marilyn Yates of HEIA WA advised of her successful application for funding from the ASISTM (Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics). Marilyn wisely reminded us all that that the study of Nutrition involves Science, Mathematics and Technology learnings and encouraged other divisions to considered the fullest range of learnings within the Home Economics curriculum in order to lift the profile of Home Economics as a worthwhile and contemporary area of study. Through collegial support divisions who might not otherwise have the expertise or

confidence to tackle such projects are encouraged, with the support of other divisions, to seek out new opportunities and networks.

In 2008 HEIA Inc will welcome Leanne Compton as its president, as Julie Taylor steps down after a challenging and hectic year. Carol Kotz, with the support of Janet Reynolds, is to be congratulated for her ongoing commitment to and effort in managing the financial affairs of HEIA Inc. Penney Furmage as newsletter editor and Dr Janet Reynolds as editor of the journal continue to deliver informative and contemporary publications that meet the needs of our members. Miriam Mc Donald has worked tirelessly to ensure the HEIA website meets the changing needs of the divisions and membership. Council expressed its excitement to see the energetic approach Peta Chubb has brought to the Public Health Standing Committee and welcomed the collaborative submissions to both the NHRMC and FSANZA. HEIA representation in Teaching Australia and National Education Forum activities continues to strengthen valuable networking opportunities.

In 2008 Council hopes to see a higher profile for the International Affairs Standing Committee under the Chair of Gail Boddy, the revision of both the Policy and Procedure Handbook and Strategic Plan, as well as the introduction of the HEIA online shop. The changing face of the marketplace and the emphasis on e-business has implications for HEIA at all levels. HEIA Inc is a different organisation now than it was when the 2004-2007 Strategic Plan was developed and the new Plan should reflect the goals of HEIA for the next 3-5 years. It may be timely to revisit the 'values' of HEIA Inc as stated and explore the contemporary context where the current environment is decidedly political. Values such as ecological sustainability and investment in social capital have a critical place in our guiding principles and values. The Policy and Procedures Handbook drives the ethical decision making and legal requirements that underpin not only the activities of Council but also those at the divisional level.

The major challenge for all divisions and Council however is to garner from our membership those who would step into the positions left vacant at Council and Committee of Management members retire to pursue other paths, whether professional or personal. Can we rise to the challenge... most certainly... but only with our collective effort!

## NEWSLETTER REPORT

**Janet Reynolds**

In looking back at the newsletter for 2007, it seems that a pattern has emerged for the types of articles that go to press in *InForm*. Each edition tends to have the President's report, 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, 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.

I had hoped that we could continue with running some very specific themes throughout 2007 as we had done in 2006. In particular, I was hopeful that we could run a 'The way we are' theme to complement 'The way we were' in 2006. However, this proved too difficult and there were other priorities for the newsletter.

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. I would like to continue with these ideas and encourage members to contribute to this end.

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 articles 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.

The newsletter is an important vehicle for keeping members informed about what is happening in the profession in Queensland and 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

Denise McManus

The focus of the professional development workshops in 2007 was nutrition education. The one-day workshops were designed to complement the 2-day *eduNation* conference and support teachers in the development of units of work and assessment tasks that support effective nutrition education. All workshops were facilitated by Dr Janet Reynolds.

Seven workshops were run across the state, plus a special workshop for curriculum leaders in the Torres Strait, attracting 140 delegates across all workshops. That is, an average of approximately 20 delegates per workshop, which was a suitable number given the hands-on nature of the workshops. However, three workshops (Roma, Mackay and Sunshine Coast) had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. HEIA(Q) can only run the workshops if the numbers are viable from a financial point of view. However we do take into account that some regions have relatively small numbers of teachers and will not attract big numbers. 140 delegates represents approximately 20% of members, given that some non-members also attended.

The workshops were very well received by participants. For that, I have to thank Jan Reynolds, the PD sub-committee and the regional coordinators. Delegates clearly appreciated Jan's knowledge, but importantly her ability to relate to the home economics profession, her enthusiasm and passion. The sub-committee and regional coordinators were also responsible for the successful management of the workshops. Having a local coordinator is great for management issues, as well as building local networks.

Evaluations identified two main areas where delegates thought the workshop could have improved:

- **Running this year's workshop over two days as it was so jam-packed**  
It was great that so many teachers wanted to work on for another day, it really does show our commitment to professionalism. However, it is not always possible for presenters to facilitate on two days, especially if we only have one facilitator for the workshop. That would mean a huge commitment for one person to be out and about for up to 20 days, plus travelling time. A 2-day workshop would also add to the costs. Further, our networks tell us that teachers would have difficulty in attending for 2-days, even though they would like to. Lack of TRS continues to be a problem. In retrospect, we could have made the day longer – although that is often not a popular option (many commented on the 4.30pm close of the conference).
- **Running workshops on a school day**  
Another frequent comment in the evaluations is that the workshops should be held on a work day. There is no argument with this. The regional coordinator determines the exact date of the workshops, and this year, one region elected to hold their workshop on a student-free day. However, again if it is thought about further, it can be seen that other than on a student-free day, it is impractical to hold a workshop on a weekday. Schools are reluctant to release one teacher let alone a whole department's staff to attend workshops run by a professional organisation. A day at the weekend gives every person in a department the opportunity to gain the benefits of the workshop. It provides

a chance for departments to get together and collaborate outside the school setting and socialise for a change. Workshops run in an afternoon, after the school day, are also impractical. It is costly to send a presenter to the regions for 2 hours. The charge for the whole day plus travel would greatly increase the participant costs.

HEIA(Q) endeavours to keep members up to date and give teachers every chance to remain on top of current issues. This enables home economics teachers to provide quality teaching and learning. Personally I think that one Saturday in the year is a small price to pay to ensure one's teaching continues to be high quality and current. The organisation by the regional coordinator usually ensures that it is a relaxed day in a nice environment with great hospitality. This eases the sting of "working" on a Saturday. Many schools really took advantage this year of bringing their whole department together for a day of planning in a supported environment.

Attendance at workshops is variable, and therefore to maintain the success of the workshop and financial viability, a certain cut-off number of delegates is required. We continue to monitor this. If low attendance indicates that face-to-face workshops do not meet our members' needs, then we will take note of that and look at alternative ways of supporting members. An option for regions is to organise their own professional development using local presenters. The financial implications of lower attendance would then not be so great.

It is a concern that a number of members who really wanted to go to a particular workshop then "miss" that workshop. Emailing reminders to members and sending the PD workshop brochure to all those listed on the school membership is having some success. Members may like to suggest ideas that schools could use as their own reminders.

The only other event on the calendar for 2007 was the ever popular Workshop on Wheels. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to flooding. At least the drought was broken.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the PD committee and the regional coordinators for their support over the time I have been the convenor. Without the dedication of these people, there would be no PD program. I know Yve Rutch will also have their support as she takes on the role of convenor. I urge you to support your efficient and dedicated professional body by attending events and PD so that it can continue its valuable work on your behalf.