



# NZACE

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION  
FOR CO-OPERATIVE  
EDUCATION INC.

*Promoting Work-Integrated Learning*

# ACETALK

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

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Dear all,

I hope this doesn't find you too stressed out and I am sure everyone is looking forward to the end of the year! I just want to update NZACE members on a few things that I mentioned last time and let you know Council's plans for next year.

An update on the NZACE Teaching & Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) on pedagogies co-op practitioners and employers use to aid student learning, and in particular in the integration of the work component and on-campus learning. This is now near completion and (touch wood) has gone very well indeed. I am very grateful to all the team members who took time out of their busy schedules to work on the project. We have collected all the data and are in the process of writing up the findings. A paper about the preliminary findings has been accepted in the proceedings for the WACE/ACEN conference to be held in Sydney in October 2008. A teaser from the findings; it seems many programs do result in integration of on- and off-campus learning, but this is pretty ad hoc with students driving the process rather than the institutions or employers. We are currently working through the option of publishing a short monograph based on the project.

Second, I mentioned last time we were working with Ako Aotearoa on a project and this has now crystallized into a team from NZACE developing a web presence on Ako's soon to be launched web site. We will let you know when the web site becomes active. The intention is to showcase co-op/WIL in New Zealand and to help develop a connected community.

Third, after careful deliberation Council decided to relocate the 2009 annual conference from Nelson to Waiheke Island.

Fourth, it has been agreed with conference organizers that the 10th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education will be marked by a special issue. This special issue will consist of invited papers from the WACE/ACEN conference.

Finally, at the time of writing we have had no applications for the contestable research fund. Application closes 31 October 2008 and should be sent to Chris Eames (c.eames@waikato.ac.nz)

*Richard K. Coll*

Chairperson, NZACE

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## ***NEWS FROM ACEN, AUSTRALIA***

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2008 has been a busy year for the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN). Each state has continued to host events at a local level, and building state networks. The national scoping study of work integrated learning (WIL) in Australia will be submitted to the Australian Learning and Teaching Council soon with the full report expected to be published in October. This report will reflect the first large scale scoping study of WIL in contemporary Australian higher education with the explicit aim of improving students' education experience. It was undertaken in response to the high level of interest in WIL in Australia, both by Universities and the Professions.

Another main feature of the year for ACEN in 2008 has been the hosting of the WACE Asia Pacific International Conference which takes place from September 30 through October 3 in Manly, Sydney. Over 300 people have registered for the conference, and the program is packed with eight concurrent sessions to enable paper presentations. Several excellent keynote speakers are involved, and a great social program to encourage networking.

Plans for ACEN's future include the development of both a web portal for industry access to WIL units/courses and a WIL student management system to make managing larger numbers of students on WIL placements more viable.

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## ***CONFERENCE REPORT: THE WACE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE***

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**Hot off the Press!!! This is not quite “breaking news” but close to it!**

Hosted by Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN)

Practice....Pedagogy....Partnerships  
30 September – 3 October, 2008  
Manly, Sydney, Australia

For the New Zealand contingent (of about 9) the loss of the Warriors to the Manly team in the NRL Rugby League had a benefit. They were welcomed to Manly by the locals with a cheeky grin.

The conference was hosted by an organisation that had only been in existence for a few years. ACEN can be very proud of their management of the event which ran very smoothly.

The conference followed a fairly traditional format with each day beginning with combined sessions: Keynote speaker and some form of panel discussion. This was followed by three blocks of Parallel Sessions and Workshops interspersed by morning and afternoon tea and lunch. In all there were 155 scheduled presentations. This meant 6 – 7 parallel sessions to choose from – and sometimes it was a hard choice to make.

The keynote speakers were:

- Professor Lee Harvey from Britain – Higher Education Quality Consultant
- Stephen Billet – Professor of Adult and Vocational Education from Griffith University in Australia
- Barbara Holland – Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Western Sydney
- Enwei Xie – General Manager of STB, Microsoft China Research and Development Group.

The panels were:

- Industry panel
- Student panel
- Vice-Chancellors Panel

It was a good opportunity to catch-up with keynote speakers from previous New Zealand conferences – Janice Orrell, Stephen Billet, Neil Ward. Networking is an important part of any conference and this was no exception. However there were also some more formal meetings – Richard Coll and Dave Hodges attended board meetings for the World Association and Jenny Fleming attended an ACEN meeting for representatives of national associations.

Parallel sessions were run strictly to time (25 minutes), with papers ranging from those with a strong research foundation to conceptual papers to presentations about the feature/s of Work-Integrated Learning/Co-op programs. The website (<http://www.abcon.biz/acen.html> or <http://www.waceinc.org> ) will contain many of the papers. A special edition of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Co-operative Education will contain a selection of refereed papers.

Workshop sessions of an hour and half enabled a closely-facilitated discussion about some specific topic. For example Richard Coll (NZ Chair of NZACE) co-convoked a session with Neil Ward from Britain and Bob Laslett from Australia. The session covered De-Briefing and Mentoring. Participants collectively produced ways in which these activities can be undertaken and examples of Good Practice. The combined result will be available at some stage in the future.

The conference dinner was an amazing affair – in a marquee attached to the Sydney Opera House, overlooking the Harbour Bridge and the Harbour. Small groups of delegates were shepherded by students across the harbour on a ferry. This was followed by a short walk to the marquee along the harbour-side.

ACEN had employed the services of a conference organiser. This is really a necessity for a conference of this size. A group of hospitality and tourism students assisted with a number of aspects of the conference: organising rooms, chairs, tables, guiding delegates round the venue etc. It was professionally done and some delegates didn't realise the team were students until the acknowledgement at the end of the conference.

Richard Coll featured strongly in the conference. In addition to the workshop, he also chaired a number of sessions. On the final day he was formally presented with the Co-operative Education and Internship Association (CEIA) James W. Wilson Award. A previous edition of ACETalk (Issue 35 February 2008) described the award. In presenting the award, Phil Gardner from the USA explained that he had presented Richard with a previous award at the Asia-Pacific Conference in Auckland in 2004. Richard was the first person outside the United States to receive that award. Phil took great pleasure in presenting the Wilson Award to Richard, not only for his own contribution to research into Co-op but also for the encouragement that he gave to others in the field and especially in encouraging less experienced practitioners.

New Zealand practitioners at the conference certainly agreed with this. They left the conference with a sense that the quality of research in this area in New Zealand was in good heart. The New Zealand conferences are certainly providing good quality papers.

#### *Quotable quotes:*

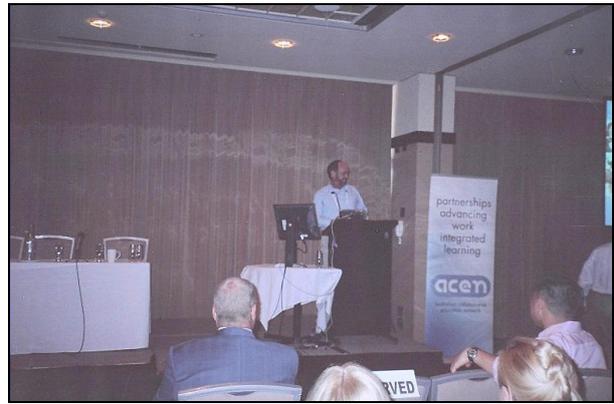
From one keynote speaker: "Reflection can be enhanced by good coffee and good wine"

Did you know that the word mentoring comes from Homer's Odyssey? While Odysseus was away fighting a war, he entrusted his son to his old friend Mentor.

## PHOTOS OF THE WACE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE



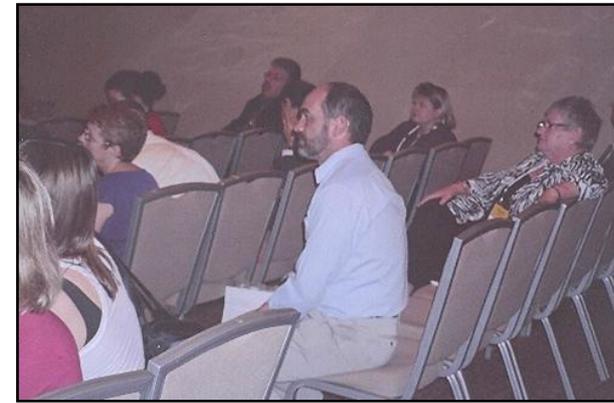
Manly beach –important feature for the conference



Richard Coll in full swing



Janice Orrell (*on right*; keynote from NZACE Rotorua 2007 conference)



Richard Coll trying very hard to look interested in Phil Gardiner's talk



Levina Paku (Waikato) and Jenny Fleming (AUT) at the dinner (*Ed*: spot the empty wine glasses).



Ravi Bhat (Unitec) enjoying the moment

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## ***THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION***

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*By Nick Wempe*

As part of my PhD research into collaboration in IT education within ITPs I have spent some time researching the role of the Tertiary Education Commission. This is by no means an article for or against the Commission, rather a reflection of the opportunities that exist for cooperative education given the mandate of the TEC.

The Tertiary Education Commission/Te Amorangi Matauranga Matua, was established in 2003 under section 159c of the Education Act 1989. The TEC's role is the implementation of tertiary education reforms in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and is the leading agency for managing relationships with the tertiary sector and for policy development.

The TEC mission statement "The TEC works with the tertiary education sector and others to enhance the relevance of, foster excellence in, and enable access to tertiary education and training so that all can meet their full potential and on tribute to New Zealand's ongoing *development and wellbeing*" (<http://www.tec.govt.nz> accessed 15 September 2008).

The Tertiary Education Strategy 2002/07 outlined the expected changes to the tertiary sector through a series of strategies and further defined by specific objectives. Regarding links with respective industries they state that a greater alignment with national goals is required. "Education and training providers and ITOs will need to ensure that, amongst them, the courses and programmes they offer, and their research activity, align more closely with the priorities and national goals" (TEC 2002, p.18).

The TEC advocates a need for tertiary providers to create stronger links with business and other external stakeholders. This direction is in an effort to ensure that the tertiary system is more responsive to the skill needs of the labour market and the needs of communities that the institutions serve. This requires tertiary providers build stronger relationships and networks with the respective industries and ITOs.

The intent of these objectives was that, by 2007, the benefits of learning in the workplace will have been extended to employees in as many industries as possible. The TEC believe that a mixture of off-job and on-job education through a mixture of Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics, private providers and ITOs will best respond to the skill needs of industry and employees. The belief is that employers and employees will be more prepared to co-invest in skill development and will see training and up-skilling as a natural aspect of employment.

To me the Tertiary Education Strategy 2002/07 has at its core, a mandate to encourage collaboration between tertiary and industry, yet traditional classroom education remains the core of tertiary education. Why?

One challenge for New Zealand industries is the size of our industries. A majority of businesses in New Zealand are described as small to medium with a work force of less than 50, often less than 10. It is difficult for businesses to carry the cost of employer education and have left this largely to the tertiary sector. I believe it is time that employers accept training as part of a normal business cost but also for Government to review its policies on training incentives.

The challenge for Government is the control of the cost of tertiary education. Certainly this is true of cooperative programmes which tend to be more expensive than classroom education but has a much greater payback in terms of established benefits to the employer and the student.

The benefit of cooperative programmes is their flexibility to adapt to the requirements of a given sector while providing a strong academic framework for the validation of the knowledge gained. This is very much an open systems approach to learning.

Current educational policy suggests a greater requirement for accountability, both for the management of institutions and governance councils. The result is a traditional funding structure that is diametrically opposed to an open system approach.

The intent of government legislation to encourage partnerships with industry appears to be at odds with the requirement to control and manage. Newman (2001, p.116) states that in an open systems approach "Networks are dynamic and fluid, held in place by network members rather than statutory requirements or incentives. Collaboration is entered into in order to deliver mutual goals (e.g. local economic development) rather than comply with government's requirements or partnership demands".

So where does NZACE fit in all this. Well I would like to encourage the debate on how NZACE, and others involved in cooperative education in New Zealand, Work toward obtaining Governmental acceptance of cooperative education as a major educational force in the education of a dynamic and adaptable workforce for the growth of New Zealand.

### References

- Newman, J. 2001. *Modernising Governance: New Labour, Policy and Society*. London, Sage Publications.  
Tertiary Education Commission. 2002. *Tertiary Education Strategy 2002/07*. Wellington, Tertiary Education Commission.

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## UPCOMING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

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### Joint CGU-Wace International Symposium

Location: *Madrid, Spain*  
Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2008  
<http://www.waceinc.org>

Venue: *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*  
Abstract Submission: **Closed 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2008**

### 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Experiential Learning

Location: *Sydney, Australia*  
Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2008  
Registration: *Early bird before 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2008*  
<http://www.education.uts.edu.au/icel/index.html>

Venue: *University of Technology Sydney*  
Abstract Submission: **Closed 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008**

### World WACE Conference - 2009

Location: *Vancouver, Canada*  
Dates: 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2009  
Registration: *1<sup>st</sup> Feb - 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2009*  
[www.waceinc.org](http://www.waceinc.org)

Venue: *Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel*  
Abstract Submission: **Closes 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2008**

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## ***NZACE CONTESTABLE RESEARCH FUND – APPLY NOW!***

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The New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education (NZACE) established a Contestable Research Fund in 2006 to support research into cooperative education or work-integrated learning. The purpose of the Fund is to support research projects that aim to enhance understanding about the theory and practice of cooperative education, and to assist the development of research capability in educators or administrators involved in cooperative education programs.

### *Criteria for funding*

The criteria that will be considered when assessing applications for funding to support research projects are:

1. Applicants must be members of NZACE at the time of application
2. How the research project will build on the national and international knowledge base in cooperative education theory and/or practice
3. How the research will be designed to enable substantive and robust findings
4. The research expertise of the researchers and/or the capacity of the project to build research expertise in the researchers, and
5. The research can substantially be completed within two years of grant receipt.

### *Funding*

The value of the Fund in any one year will, vary according to the resources of the Association. In 2008 the total Fund will be no more than \$4,000. Grants may be made to successful applicants in amounts less than those requested, but only where the project remains viable with the lesser amount. NZACE will also provide grant recipients one free conference registration per grant to an annual NZACE conference within two years of the grant receipt to present a paper on the research.

### *Use of funds*

Any grant made from the fund may be used to purchase equipment or other resources that will enable the research to be conducted (e.g., tape recorders, transcription costs), or to pay for travel to project meetings, or researchers' time. The grant should not be used to purchase computers or to fund conference attendance.

### *Reporting*

All funded projects will be required to submit a milestone report detailing progress one year after funding is received and a two page report to the New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education for tabling at an Annual General Meeting of the Association within two years of receiving the funding. This AGM report can be delivered in person or on behalf. As noted above, it is also expected that the researchers will present a paper on their project at a future NZACE annual conference. In addition it would be expected that funded researchers would submit an article or articles based on their research to an international cooperative education journal (e.g., Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships or Asia Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education). Such articles should record the contribution of funding from the NZACE Contestable Research Fund.

### *Applications*

Applications are invited by October 31, 2008. Applications will be considered by a panel drawn nominated by the Council of NZACE and will exclude anyone involved in research associated with any application. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by November 30, 2008. Applications should be sent as an attachment to Dr Chris Eames (c.eames@waikato.ac.nz) by the due date.

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## MEMBERSHIP FEES

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**Individual membership:** \$50 a person

**Corporate membership:** \$150 for four nominated persons from one institute, with \$30 for every additional person

**Institutional membership:** \$500 per institution, with an unlimited number of nominated persons from that institution

Contact Katharine Hoskyn, Auckland University of Technology 09 921 9999 ext 5349, for details about renewing membership or becoming a new member. Alternatively access the NZACE webpage for more details ([www.nzace.ac.nz](http://www.nzace.ac.nz)).

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## NZACE AWARD RECIPIENTS

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### Allister McLay Best Paper Award

2007 *Dave Hodges and Diana Ayling*

2008 *Neil Haigh*

### Honorary Life Memberships

*Chris Kirk (2007)*

*Chris Eames (2007)*