

It's my pleasure to report to you, our members, on the achievements of your Association over the past 12 months. And as we look back over 2018, there is certainly much to be celebrated.

PESA's growth continues at a healthy pace. At our 2018 AGM, we reported that membership had grown to almost 1000 individual and institutional members. We are very pleased that this figure has now more than doubled to almost 2100 members. This includes over 150 institutional members.

Our membership fees were reviewed at the beginning of this year, and we were keen to ensure they remained reasonable and affordable, having regard to our operational costs, diversity of our membership base, and value for money.

Some of you might be aware that we completed our new strategic plan late in 2017, with the assistance of Social Ventures Australia. The development of this plan was a turning point in PESA's genesis and required us to focus on who we were as an organisation, and what was vital to our mission and vision.

The strategic plan identifies three key priorities for our association for the coming years. These are:

- **Promoting** Positive Education and **engaging** educators, government and the wider community
- **Equipping** educators with evidence-based Positive Education resources
- **Facilitating collaboration** between various stakeholders, including educators, academics, parents and government

The process refined our thinking around our strategic priorities, which then led to a dozen key initiatives which we now consider KPIs for our organisation. These are listed on our website for those of you wishing to learn more.

Our governance structure was also reconsidered, identifying the need for a modification of our Board structure for more effective governance - specifically, a Board composition of 6 member-elected directors, and 5 co-opted directors, with member-elected directors to always form the majority. This will allow for greater diversity of directors' skills and backgrounds.

These changes were adopted by special resolution at an EGM held on 9 March 2018, and precipitated formation of a Governance Nominations Committee, charged with the task of identifying and nominating appropriate candidates for election as co-opted directors. The members of this committee are directors Anne Johnstone, Warren Symonds and Simon Murray.

We will keep members informed as and when co-opted directors are added to our Board, and of course if you know of anyone who you feel may be a worthy nominee, please forward their details to me. [smurray@pesa.edu.au](mailto:smurray@pesa.edu.au)

With regard to staffing, over 2018 we continued to be supported by Marita Hayes-Brown, our CEO, who is now in her third year in this role. We were also assisted by our administrative assistant, Carla Wardlaw, as well as our newly appointed content coordinator, Cheryl Mortimer. We thank Carla and Cheryl for their excellent contributions to PESA since their commencement. Carla has very recently – and reluctantly - resigned to focus on her Masters' studies, and we've now welcomed Kylie Edgar to the PESA team in Carla's place.

2018 saw our most successful conference to date, which was very generously hosted by Geelong Grammar School. Across the 3 days, we hosted over 800 participants from Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, USA, UAE, UK, India, Taiwan, Ireland, and Malaysia.

We were also delighted that our Patron, Professor Martin Seligman, attended this conference as a keynote presenter, and we remain very grateful for Professor Seligman's ongoing support of our Association. Additionally, our PESA Ambassador, Professor Lea Waters, continues to give to PESA so generously. Professor Waters has given a keynote at every PESA national conference and we are delighted that Professor Waters joins us again this year.

The selection of Queensland as the venue for this year's conference is testament to our commitment to support our membership Australia-wide, and we are delighted that so many representatives from Queensland schools and universities are in attendance.

After last year's record-breaking conference, and in acknowledgement of the inordinately high level of resourcing required to be devoted to the conference by the host school, the Board took the view that it was time for our conference to be held at a conference venue rather than a school. The transition has been a smooth one, assisted considerably by the staff of BCC Events Management, who were engaged as our conference managers for this year's event. Our thanks to BCC for their support.

I also wish to pass on the Board's gratitude to our 2019 conference committee - Carolyn Speers, our Conference Chair, and our volunteer committee members Madonna Ahern, Toni Kirton, Nicholas Stansbie, Sue Chandler, Thomas Flood, Kelli Gallagher, Louise Hawkins-Waters, Cheryl Mortimer, Adele Johnston, Lia Trevisan, Julie Brunckhorst, Jennifer Da Silva, Tina Giansiracusa and Marita Hayes-Brown, all of whom have devoted time, creativity, and plenty of elbow grease to bring you a high quality professional development, wellbeing and networking event.

Our sincere appreciation also to this year's keynote presenters, panel participants and masterclass, workshop and inspire session presenters for sharing their experience and expertise with us.

PESA is committed to supporting pre-service teachers to access information and resources on Positive Education and to this end, we offered scholarships to attend the conference to six individuals from universities across Australia. Congratulations to Zul Ratulangi, Fiona Boylan, Emelie Adams, Elizabeth Mann, Thomas Schwartz and Cassandra Meehan, our scholarship recipients for 2019.

PESA's relationship with key international Positive Education stakeholders continues to grow, including IPPA, the International Positive Psychology Association. Again, we are grateful for the generous support of Professor Lea Waters, President of IPPA and PESA Ambassador. Some of you are no doubt attending the IPPA conference in Melbourne later this year where PESA looks forward to presenting a conversation hour on Positive Education.

We also continue to collaborate with IPEN, the International Positive Education Network. Three PESA Board members are also members of the IPEN Board, namely Anne Johnstone, Charlie Scudamore and myself. That PESA is so strongly represented on the IPEN Board is a clear reflection of the position Australia holds in leading Positive Education across the globe. Additionally, a number of PESA members attended, and presented at, the IPEN World Congress in 2018 in Texas, USA.

In February this year Anne Johnstone, Charlie Scudamore and I attended the World Government Summit held in Dubai. At this summit there was a strong focus on wellbeing, and we were able to contribute strongly to discussions centred on enhancing wellbeing in schools across the world.

Our relationship with PECA, the Positive Education China Academy, continues to develop and you will be hearing from Anna Han, its CEO, later today.

In 2018, we again received very generous financial support from Mr John Higgins of Higgins Coatings, who has been a committed supporter of PESA since our establishment. Our sincere appreciation to John for his generosity.

Some of your schools may have participated in Australia's first Positive Education Day in November last year. We were very pleased to have partnered with Upper Hunter charity Where There's a Will, in rolling out this initiative. The day yielded donations from 70 participating schools which allowed us to offer five full scholarships to teachers from disadvantaged schools to attend our national conference, and you'll hear more about that later today also.

Chapter Committees have now been established across all states of Australia, as well as the ACT. The excellent work being undertaken by these volunteers cannot be overstated, and they are a crucial component in achieving our key strategic priorities. In 2018, for the first time we were able to offer state conferences in SA, WA, ACT, Qld and Victoria, as well as PosEd Fora in NSW and networking and professional development events in Tasmania.

A special thank you was made yesterday to our state chapters, and I now echo the Board's thanks to these hardworking individuals for their contribution to the growth of Positive Education across Australia over 2018.

I speak for our entire Board when I say it continues to be a privilege to lead PESA, and to work alongside you, our members, in our shared mission of embedding Positive Education in our schools and communities, to enable our young people, school staff and the wider community to flourish.

We are grateful to each of you for your dedication to this mission, and for your spirit of generosity in sharing your experience and expertise with PESA, and with each other.

**Simon Murray OAM**

Positive Education Schools Association Chairman