

03/03/21

What 2020 has taught us is that “we don’t have to do it all alone. We were never meant to” – Brene Brown. 2020 was an atypical year and we have become adept at working with uncertainty. The strength of the 2020 executive came down to dedication, support, and an overwhelming sense to lean into new ways of providing support to our members while ensuring that we still had seats at the table with various boards and authorities.

ATOM National

2020 was a productive year for ATOM National. Most notably the expansion of ATOM to include ATOM SA and ATOM NT. ATOM QLD took on an active role in supporting our colleagues in the Northern Territory with setting up their Territory chapter. ATOM now comprises of Victoria, QLD, Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory. Some initial work is happening to establish ATOM Tas and Co-Chair Roger Dunscombe has initiated a conversation with John Montgomery who leads Creative Arts curriculum in NSW. COVID-19 significantly effected ATOM Publications and awards branches and as a result changes to dates of awards have occurred. Jobkeeper assisted in keeping staff and running operations.

National Advocates for Arts Education

NAAE comprises of 2 representatives of each of the 5 art forms, a Chairperson and observers who provide advice. Representation includes Art Education Australia, AusDance Council, Australian Society for Music Education, Australian Teachers of Media, Drama Australia, Music Australia and the National Association for Visual Arts as well as 2 observers Tamara Winikof OAM, Professor Sandra Gattenhof as well as Julie Dyson AM who has provided advice as outgoing Chair.

The NAAE received media attention from media releases regarding proposed changes to university fees and the closure of several arts schools/courses across Australia. NAAE has had an active role in regards to consultation of the Australian Curriculum review. Lastly, NAAE initiated a call to action for Federal Government to conduct a Review of The Arts in Australian Schools which was unsuccessful however NAAE is continuing to pursue this project.

ACARA Curriculum Review

ATOM QLD has established a proactive and productive relationship with Learning Area Manager Helen Champion and Robyn Carmody. We were fortunate to have Helen keynote at our Refine and Define virtual conference ensuring that our delegates were aware of the process for the curriculum review and were also enabled to provide feedback on the current version of Media Arts. ATOM QLD has been represented at all levels of consultation – QCAA Learning Area Reference Group, ACARA Curriculum Learning Area Reference Group and ACARA Critical Friends. ATOM Qld’s Life Member Professor Michael Dezuanni has also proposed a 6th key concept (Relationships) to be included into the next version of Media Arts.

QCAA

ATOM QLD executives continue to work with QCAA regarding the implementation of the new senior syllabus as well as development of curriculum in the Junior Secondary/Year 10 space. A successful outcome from our 2018 advocacy work is the celebration of student work from the Arts. This has resulted in the future publication of *Pinnacle* which will highlight student work from the highest achieving students in each of the 5 art forms.

Professional Learning

In 2020 we invested in virtual platforms to enable continued professional learning and resource sharing. We launched our *Twilight PD* series which comprised of 4 sessions that were well attended by primary educators, secondary educators, and pre-service teachers. This enabled us to also profile best practice with two of our

executives sharing their practice as well as invite industry to present contemporary approaches to storyboarding and managing multiple platforms for content creation.

Define and Refine Virtual Conference

Leaning into a COVID-19 world we persisted with providing a virtual equivalent of a state conference. Significant investment in IT infrastructure, Human Resources and funding enabled us to pull off an interactive and dynamic conference. A big thank you to Essential Screen Skills our partner, our sponsors Teds Cameras, Australian Children's Television Foundation, Ilographer, Vitec group and SBS Learn. A huge thank you to our conference team Mark Deere, Sofia Hobson, Kristina Chapman, Aimee Gust, Jenny Boyne, Helen Lauder, Renee Yates and Kelsey Clark. We had the privilege of Helen Champion and Professor Michael Dezuanni providing keynotes, industry guests provided by Essential Screen Skills, Apple educator Linda Pitt and QUT DMRC as well as Primary and Secondary educators who delivered presentations, workshops or were on panel. Due to the nature of our virtual conference we had delegates from all over QLD and interstate participate. We also increased engagement from Primary educators and pre-service teachers.

Many thanks –

Essential Screen Skills:

Throughout 2020 we were very well supported by Essential Screen Skills – Nadine and Laura thank you for letting us be part of your story. Essential Screen Skills assisted us with our Twilight PDs and partnered with us to deliver our Virtual Conference. We have also been fortunate to have our Vice Presidents (Aimee and Karyn) and Treasurer (Greta) be part of their board to help inform how we can bridge the gap between schools and industry.

Genesis Christian College:

For hosting a couple of our meetings (when COVID restrictions eased) and our executive during our Virtual Conference.

Managing Committee:

Aimee for driving professional learning, expanding our pre-service teacher reach and maintaining our industry partnerships. Karyn for all of your hours spent video conferencing into curriculum development and consultation work – ensuring that there is always a QLD and Media Arts voice. Greta, Helen and Elizabeth for ensuring that our finances and governance are always in order. Kristina for your amazing secretary skills and excellent sense of humour. Mark for your IT/website wizardry. Elizabeth our administration officer who does an incredible job of managing our memberships and general administration duties. Simon for sorting out a storage solution and location for all of our ATOM QLD documents and equipment. Our regional reps whose perspective is incredibly valuable in ensuring that we are catering to everyone. To all of the 2020 executives who attend meetings, work behind the scenes and build our profile thank you for your good humour and voicing your honest opinion so that we are always operating in the best interest of the association. It is a voluntary position and you have made all of the above and more happen!



2020 President

Moneth Montemayor