Annual general meetings - 1997 AGM
17th September 1997

Guest speaker

Jenny Galligan, Senior Education Officer - Learning, Teaching and Technology - gave a very informative overview of the Schooling 2001 project. Participants received a copy of the Schooling 2001 School Kit which had just been mailed out to all Queensland state schools. Important points raised included the following:

- All professional associations should register as Training Providers with the Centre for Teaching Excellence for offering PD; state school teachers may offer fee for service for teachers in all systems.
- New school based models, rather than School Support Centres for offering PD. Small band schools should cluster.

President’s report

The Joint Council of Queensland Teachers’ Associations has steadily increased its numbers over the past year and now represents 14 professional associations. The increase in affiliated associations improves the Joint Council’s ability to speak with a united voice on matters affecting member professional associations. More members and a greater commitment by all has seen an increase in attendance at the general meetings held each month.

At a national level JCQTA has had continued input into the deliberations of the Australian Joint Council of Teacher Professional Associations (AJCTPA). In August 1996 the inaugural meeting of the National Forum for Teacher Professional Associations was held in Canberra. The final report from this meeting was sent to Dr David Kemp, federal minister for education and employment, in December 1996. Since then Dr Kemp has finalised the makeup of this new advisory group and has indicated that members of this group should be practising teachers. The AJCTPA has been offered a place on the National Forum. State joint councils were invited to nominate candidates to represent the AJCTPA. Herb Coleman from QSITE, Joan Jenkins from SLAQ and Mark Cooper from ECTAQ were nominated by JCQTA. All state members of AJCTPA voted for a national representative on the National Forum. Four names were submitted to David Kemp for final choice. Mark Cooper from Queensland was one of the four. Congratulations to Mark for getting this far. We look forward to the final makeup of the National Forum.

At the state level the Joint Council is represented on the executive of the Queensland Professional Development Consortium. Our representative, Ms Pam Dodd proffers the collective view of member associations to the consortium. This provides an opportunity to strengthen our ties with the Board of Teacher Registration and with this the opportunity to promote our collective view on professional development and professional development activities.

The Joint Council continues to be an important distribution point for information impacting on its members both from a state and national level.

The major activity for the Council in the past year was the Teaching Towards Tomorrow: Teaching in the 21st Century conference. After much time and effort had been expended by many people the conference came to fruition at the Clunies Ross Centre in Brisbane

The conference was opened by Dr Ken Wiltshire and the two keynote speakers, Colin Ball and Dr Ian Lowe set the scene for a good conference. The calibre of the presenters maintained the high standard established by the keynotes. Feedback from participants indicated that the conference was well received, informative, well organised and of immense benefit to participants. Unfortunately, the number of participants, sixty-five, was insufficient to cover the cost of staging the conference. There was a loss of a little over $2,000 which has temporarily been met by the Science Teachers Association of Queensland. Our thanks go to this association for stepping in. Thanks are also due to those other associations which provided additional funds for the conference. Lessons learned from the staging of this conference will help, if any future conferences are contemplated.

Looking Ahead
It’s time for the Joint Council to review its vision, revamp its public face, redo the information brochure, consider a Web presence and continue to increase the number of members. It is with renewed vigour and a positive outlook that the Joint Council can represent its members’ interests most effectively at a state and national level.

Conclusion
The past year has again been interesting, enlightening and provided personal satisfaction even with the ups and downs around the time of the conference. I would once again like to thank most earnestly all members of the Joint Council for the effort they have put in over the past year. In particular I wish to thank members of the Executive who have tirelessly provided that extra support when it was needed and without whose efforts the Joint Council would not function.

Richard Smith
President
Joint Council of Queensland Teachers’ Associations