

BULLETIN

April 2014

From this month's editor, Jo Osborne

Busy month! Can I exhort you to please to join in with our eAGM via the ODLAA mailing list during the week of 7 April? You will be asked to send an email to executive@odlaa.org to register your "attendance"; then to participate in the online discussion remember to email odlaa-memb@une.edu.au (don't hit "Reply" instead, as this will go back to the sender, not the mailing list).

And – before the end of the week you can register for next week's webinar, "Professional Development for Practitioners in Open & Distance Learning" – see details later in the Bulletin.

Oh, yes – and then there's Easter! May I be the first to wish you all a fine and happy time, whatever you're doing. For me, it's going to be finishing off a bit of house painting that didn't get done over the summer, and enjoying some autumn sunshine (I hope) on the veranda with a good book.

ATTENTION ALL ODLAA MEMBERS

Please join us for the e-AGM and participate in shaping ODLAA's future directions. We need you, the members, to have direct input into the type of association that will best serve your current learning and teaching and research needs. We want your thoughts on the proposed changes to the Constitution concerning types of ODLAA membership, election of Executive Committee positions and financial reporting requirements.

We also want to explore how ODLAA through its *Distance Education Journal* and webinar series can meet your professional priorities. What other outreach media can be used? How can we all communicate more effectively? What other services can be offered? How can we ensure a more active and engaged membership?

This is the time to have your say in shaping ODLAA into a more participatory, effective professional association and making the 2015 Summit one of the best yet.

The e-AGM will commence this **Monday, 7 April**, and conclude on Friday, 11 April. You will already have received the agenda with meeting details for the week and a guide to participating – a summary is provided overleaf. Have your say. ODLAA belongs to the members and the Executive Committee is here to respond to your wishes.

We look forward to having a rich conversation with you all.

The ODLAA Executive Committee

ODLAA 2014 eAGM agenda

Please sign up (executive@odlaa.org) any time on Monday 7 April. After you have signed up, it is deemed that you will be present throughout the week and you need not repeat this every day. Messages related to the eAGM will be communicated via the mailing list.

Date	Agenda items	Introduced by
Monday 7 April (from 9am)	President's welcome Motion to accept minutes Open discussion of minutes & business arising	Som Naidu (President)
Tues. 8 April	President's report Motion to accept report Open floor for discussion Motion to accept special resolutions for constitutional change	Som Naidu (President) Mutuota Kigotho (Secretary)
Wed. 9 April	Treasurer's report Motion to accept report & appoint auditor Open floor for discussion	Stephen Relf (Treasurer)
Thurs. 10 April	DE journal management report Motion to accept report & open floor for discussion	Som Naidu (President)
Fri. 11 April	Results of election for members of Executive Committee Opportunity for AoB discussion and member feedback AGM closes 2pm	Som Naidu (President)

The May edition of the *ODLAA Bulletin* will include highlights of the e-AGM and information about the incoming Executive Committee.

Pssst ... Are you a current member?

Our charming Executive Officer, Joanne, sent us each an email to renew our annual membership of ODLAA back in February. It was easy to put this in the pending tray at the time – and even some members of the Executive Committee have needed further reminders (mentioning no names)! If you haven't renewed yet for 2014 you are still welcome to attend the AGM, but if you're a non-financial members you won't be able to vote. Please send an urgent email to Joanne at executive@odlaa.org to reawaken your membership. We miss any one of you who leaves us, and we need your input to maintain an active and engaged professional service!

ODLAA webinar – still time to register!

Professional Development for Practitioners In Open And Distance Learning
Tuesday 15 April, 1–2pm (Australian EST)

Topics and speakers

Gerry Kregor (University of Tasmania) will be introducing the Quality Matters program for the peer review of online units, first founded in 2003 to improve students' experience of online and blended learning.

Janet Buchan (James Cook University) will be discussing the CMALT Australasia professional accreditation scheme, which is offered in partnership with the Association for Learning Technology (ALT) UK.

Registration

The webinar is offered free of charge and open to non-members, so please distribute this invitation to any colleagues who may be interested. If you wish to attend the webinar, please register by emailing jo.osborne@utas.edu.au by 4pm Friday 11 April (Australian EST) at the latest. Details will be sent to you before the event about how to access and join in the webinar.

Quite a good spread of registrations so far, from individuals across 12 universities and three other organisations. Email to register for details, and invite your colleagues to do the same.

Further information

For more information on this webinar topic, visit the [ODLAA website](#).

ODLAA – DEHub publication recognition

If you were one of the authors published in the volumes arising from the DEHub and ODLAA Summit held in Sydney in 2011, then you'll know about this already!

The hard work and persistence of editors Julie Willems, Belinda Tynan and Ros James has been acknowledged by ACER in their selection of the publication for indexing in their resource databases:

Dear Editors and Authors,

Greetings! I hope you are well. I would like to inform you that your *publication Global Challenges and Perspectives in Blended and Distance Learning* was recently indexed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). ACER is an independent educational research organization based in Camberwell, Victoria, with offices in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Dubai, and India. ACER provides learning tools for students, develops and manages a range of testing and assessment services for the Australian education community, and conducts research and analysis in the education sector.

Recently, ACER selected 31 records from IGI Global publications for indexing as exemplary resources for students. Publications were added across 3 research banks and databases managed by ACER, including the Blended, Online Learning and Distance Education (BOLDE) research bank, the Australian Education Index (AEI), and the Database of Research on International Education (DRIE).

Congratulations to you and your fellow editors and authors on a job well done!

Best wishes,

Ann Lupold
Promotions Coordinator
IGI Global

For further details of the volumes published in 2013 and list of contents see:

<http://www.igi-global.com/book/global-challenges-perspectives-blended-distance/72372>

Let us know!

If you have recent publications you would like to trumpet about, please share them with us! Send details to Joanne at executive@odlaa.org so we can include details in our future ODLAA bulletins.

ePortfolios for PD?

How are universities helping staff to use a formalised process of ePortfolio development for collecting evidence of teaching practice for application in awards or promotion, or evidencing achievement of performance management goals?

A call for information recently went out to ACODE representatives, but if you have further information, or would be interested in engaging in the conversation, please contact jo.osborne@utas.edu.au.

And finally ...

As threatened, a photo of my puppy.



Happy Easter!