

AALL Highlights 2021 - President's report

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This report provides a behind-the-scenes look at what the AALL Executive team has been working on this year, including:

- 1 **Achievements** – key initiatives, Executive roles and contributions;
- 2 **Membership and finance** – membership trends, treasurer's report and budget links; and
- 3 **AALL Executive** – welcome to incoming members, thanks to members who are completing their terms; and
- 4 **A few final words** – my sincere thanks to all.

Achievements

1.1 Key initiatives

Despite the personal and professional challenges that Executive members have faced, this year's vibrant Executive team hasn't let the coronavirus pandemic get in the way of numerous achievements. These include:

- **a range of new professional development events**, with a new season of [Connect. Inspire. Share.](#) (with recordings and slides on the website); a new [Meet the Author PD](#) series; and the continuation of the [2020-2021 Symposium-Over-Time through ICALLD](#), facilitating greater networking between members and ALL educators based nationally and internationally in the UK, Canada, NZ and Scotland;
- **a dozen new journal publications**, including ten articles, one reflection and one letter published to-date in the [Journal of Academic Language and Learning](#) this year, and thousands of abstract views per month. Articles range from the digital tools and English language proficiency to embedded language development; and from to success, retention and academic skills to international peer-assisted learning advisers – see the [Journal report](#) and the [JALL website](#) for more details;
- **two new rounds of AALL Grant applications**, resulting in five funded grants on (1) machine translation and student writing; (2) Scribo automated evaluation feedback; (3) ALL service usage and impact; (4) incorporating learning science principles in ALL practice; and (4) multimodal academic literacy support videos over the coming year – see the [Grants report](#) for more details;
- **an active, supportive social media presence**, keeping members informed of relevant PD opportunities and fostering discussion and information exchange – join the [AALL facebook group](#) for updates and to post messages to AALL colleagues, view the growing range of AALL videos on the [AALL YouTube channel](#), and follow [@AusAALL on Twitter](#);
- **a range of new and developing resources and features on the AALL website**, with news updates on the [home page](#): calendar updates under [events](#); AALL goals and constitution on [about our association](#); contact details on the [AALL Executive page](#); an updated table of ALL centres/units and an article on changing identities in Academic Language and Learning in [publications](#); an overview of ALL practice on the [ALL practice page](#); a newly developed [ALL history page](#); new [Meet the Author PD event page](#); new [AGM 2021 page](#);

- **continuation of a 30 percent reduction in membership fees until 5 March 2022**, providing fee relief at a time of financial distress for many members as a result of the pandemic – see [memberships page](#) for more details; and
- **a vibrant Executive team, with growing range of roles**, including a new role on Memberships and New Members to welcome new and continuing members to the Association – see also below.

1.2 Executive roles and contributions

AALL Executive members have selflessly volunteered their time to bring about these improvements, assisting members to extend their professional networks and enhance their practice through discussion, professional development, presentations, publications and research. I would like to commend [AALL Executive members](#) as individuals of great talent, dedication and distinction.

Executive members, their roles and their key contributions to AALL this year include:

- **Siri Barrett-Lennard**, President, Western Australia State Representative, Member of the AALL Grants Review Working Group and Steering Group Member for ICALLD;
- **Sally Ashton-Hay**, Vice-President, AALL Grants Coordinator, Chair of the AALL Grants Review Working Group, Queensland State Representative and Steering Group Member for ICALLD;
- **Amelia Dowe**, Secretary, Elections Convenor and Tasmania State Representative;
- **David Rowland**, Editor of the Journal for Academic Language and Learning, Treasurer and Founding Member of AALL;
- **Leighana Thornton**, Public Officer, New South Wales State Representative and Convenor of new 'Meet the Author' PD series;
- **Alex Barthel**, Senior Counsel, Assistant Treasurer, Member of the AALL Grants Review Working Group and Founding President of AALL;
- **Kate Chanock**, Senior Counsel, member of the AALL Grants Review Working Party and Founding Member of AALL;
- **Gail Heinrich**, Web Manager and Australian Capital Territory Representative;
- **Lesley Cioccarelli**, Social Media Coordinator (AALL Facebook, Twitter and YouTube), Australian Capital Territory Representative and Steering Group Member for ICALLD;
- **Raelke Grimmer**, Northern Territory Representative and AALL Conference Convenor;
- **Andrew Pollard**, Northern Territory Representative and AALL Conference Convenor;
- **Elena Verezub**, Victoria State Representative and Convenor of 'Connect. Inspire. Share.' PD series;
- **Steve Campitelli**, Victoria State Representative and Convenor of 'Connect. Inspire. Share.' PD series;
- **Shirley Brown**, Queensland State Representative and Memberships and New Members Coordinator;
- **Rosemarie Fonseca**, New South Wales State Representative and Convenor of new 'Meet the Author' PD series;
- **Rebekah Clarkson**, South Australia State Representative;
- **Kirstin Marks**, South Australia State Representative; and
- **Miriam Sullivan**, Western Australia State Representative.

Activities across Australia are documented in State, Territory and other National Reports on the AALL [AGM webpage](#). I encourage you to read these to learn more about state and territory

representatives, which institutions members come from, local events and other national executive member contributions.

2 Membership and finance

2.1 Membership trends

Membership across states and territories has been strong, averaging just over 200 members consistent with previous years, despite the challenges of COVID-19. After early year fluctuations, memberships have reached a peak of 233 in November (Table 1).

Table 1: AALL Membership February to November 2021

State	Feb	April	May	Aug	Oct	Nov
ACT	17	17	18	16	16	18
NSW	54	58	58	64	62	67
NT	7	9	9	6	7	7
QLD	40	40	40	42	43	45
SA	11	11	11	12	11	12
TAS	2	2	2	3	3	3
International	1	1	1	1	0	0
VIC	49	49	49	46	46	46
WA	25	25	25	22	28	35
Total	206	212	213	212	216	233

These strong membership results have been assisted by the temporary fee reductions that will remain in effect until 5 March 2022 (see [AALL website membership discount information](#)).

2.2 Treasurer's report and budget

Continued temporary fee relief has been possible due to the healthy state of AALL finances, as can be seen in the [Treasurer's report](#). I also encourage you to look at the [proposed budget for 2022](#) to see how the Executive proposes to allocate finances for the coming year. Some fees are fixed, such as those to support website and journal hosting. Others are variable, and will depend on the Association maintaining current membership levels. These variable elements include:

- competitive research, resource development and event grants;
- state and territory support for events; and
- strategic funding for emerging needs, such web updates, upgrades and enhancements.

3 AALL Executive

3.1 Welcome to the incoming Executive team

It brings me great pleasure to welcome the incoming Executive team for November 2021-2023. National roles are continuing to develop, with confirmations to-date of the following twenty Executive members, with places for up to four more co-opted members:

- Rebekah Clarkson (SA Rep) – President
- Siri Barrett-Lennard (WA Rep) – Vice-President, Past President

- Amelia Dowe (TAS Rep) - Secretary
- Gail Heinrich (ACT Rep) – Web Manager
- Stephen Campitelli (VIC Rep) – PD Coordinator
- Shirley Brown (QLD Rep) – Memberships and New Members
- David Rowland (Treasurer and Journal Editor)
- Alex Barthel (Senior Counsel and Assistant Treasurer)
- Kate Chanock (Senior Counsel)
- Lesley Cioccarelli (Social Media Team Member)
- May Kocatepe (NSW Rep) – Public Officer, PD Events Team Member
- Alice Lee (NSW Rep) – Social Media Coordinator, PD Events Team Member, Systems Adviser
- Tiana Blazevic-Bastow (SA Rep) – Social Media Coordinator, PD Events Team Member, Systems Adviser
- Shane Rigby (ACT Rep) – Treasury Assistant
- Sue Gollagher (NT Rep)
- Stephen Miller (NT Rep)
- John Smith (QLD Rep)
- Lisa Amerikanos (TAS Rep)
- Guido Ernst (VIC Rep)
- Andrew Kelly (WA Rep)
- Conference Convenors and other Co-opted roles TBC

3.2 Thanks to Executive members who are completing their terms

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Executive members who are completing their terms, who have contributed greatly to AALL success and achievements:

- Sally Ashton-Hay (QLD Rep, Vice-President, Grants Coordinator, ICALLD Steering Group Member)
- Leighana Thornton (NSW Rep, Public Officer and Meet the Author PD events)
- Elena Verezub (VIC Rep, Connect. Inspire. Share. PD events)
- Rosemarie Fonseka (NSW Rep, Meet the Author PD events)
- Miriam Sullivan (WA Rep)
- Kirstin Marks (SA Rep)
- Raelke Grimmer (NT Rep, Conference Co-convenor)
- Andrew Pollard (NT Rep, Conference Co-convenor)

4 A few final words

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to AALL members. It has been a great privilege to lead the Association as President in 2020-2021.

Thank you also to the Executive team. I have witnessed your dedication first-hand, been warmed by your friendships and been deeply impressed by your selfless volunteer contributions. You have walked in the footsteps of giants, helping to make AALL the vibrant and vital professional network that it is today. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with you.

I look forward to continuing to support AALL as Vice-President in the upcoming period.

Siri Barrett-Lennard, AALL President 2020-2021