



Address: 67-73 St. Hilliers Road Auburn NSW 2144

Email: admin@ebe.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.ebe.nsw.edu.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2020 ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS EDUCATORS NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (14 DECEMBER 2020)

It is my pleasure to present the Economics and Business Educators NSW (EBE NSW) President's Report for 2020. Since the last EBE Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December 2019, it has been a productive year for EBE NSW as we have sought to serve our members and their students and support them in the classroom as they have taught the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce courses, providing them with high quality educational services. We have also faced many challenges, with the COVID-19 situation throwing many unforeseen obstacles at us. However, there have been many successes and achievements despite these challenges, and we have much to be proud of.

We continue to address elements of our **Strategic Plan 2018-2020** which communicates the vision of EBE NSW:

- "Inspire teachers to be passionate and dynamic Economics, Business, Legal and Commerce educators."

The three strategic pillars in the strategic plan are:

- Professional growth (Goal: Develop teacher capacity in Economics, Business, Legal and Commerce education)
- Networking (Goal: Build a supportive network for Economics, Business, Legal and Commerce educators)
- Advocacy (Goal: Act as a voice on matters of significance to Economics, Business, Legal and Commerce educators)

Evidence of our success in these areas follows in this report.

EBE NSW would be unable to achieve its vision and goals without the knowledge, skills and time of the educators who are members of the **EBE NSW Board of Directors**. Sixteen educators made up the Board of Directors during the last year:

- Mr Joe Alvaro
- Mr Andrew Athavle
- Mr Gavin Brennan
- Ms Cheryl Brennan
- Ms Bernadette Henry
- Ms Sanija Hrcic
- Dr Kate (Catherine) Keeley



- Ms Roset Khair
- Mr Kenson Low
- Mr James Martin
- Ms Wendy Mockler
- Ms Carolyn Muir
- Ms Mai Ni Pham
- Ms Meaghan Staples
- Mr Nicholas Ward
- Ms Tania White

We had a diverse Board with educators from government, Catholic, Christian and independent schools (including schools located in rural and remote areas). We also had an educator who served as a Director from a university. All Directors serve on a pro-bono basis. Cheryl Brennan and myself also sit on the Board of the Directors of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW (the coordination and consultancy body for professional teacher associations in NSW), of which we are a member organization. I also sit on the Board of our national subject association, Business Educators Australasia, as the NSW representative. Cheryl Brennan is also the President of Australian Professional Teachers' Association. This diversity enables EBE NSW to better serve the interests of all members and remain strategically focused as it carries out its activities and faces the challenges in the current educational environment.

Full Board meetings were held during the year and Board members also communicated regularly online.

I would like to thank all the Board members for all their work and willingness to give to and share with the teaching profession and assist teachers to improve student learning outcomes. It is not always easy juggling the demands of a full time job and carrying out the important and useful work we do for EBE NSW on a pro bono basis, and I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all Board members. I also add a vote of thanks to Board members who carried out the added responsibilities as an Executive Board member. Thank you to Cheryl Brennan (Vice – President), Mai Ni Pham (Vice – President), Tania White (Treasurer) and Wendy Mockler (Company Secretary).

This year we nominated two Board members, Andrew Athavle and Cheryl Brennan, for a 2020 Professional Teachers' Council NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award. Congratulations to Andrew and Cheryl who were announced as recipients of this award on World Teachers' Day (30 October 2020).

EBE NSW membership numbers continue to be strong. Our members are made up of teachers in both government and non – government schools in NSW, teachers from Australian international schools overseas, student teachers and members in the business/corporate category. I wish to thank our members for their support of the association and participation in our activities this year. In all our activities our top priority is meeting and exceeding the expectations of our members.

EBE NSW is passionate about the subject matter in the **courses** it represents and supports and considers these courses critical for a relevant and balanced school curriculum.



EBE NSW continues to support teachers of the junior secondary elective Commerce course. This course continues to be popular with young people and plays an important role in increasing the knowledge and skills of young people in the areas of consumer and financial literacy, enterprise, law, and civics and citizenship.

Quality support also continues for the senior courses our members teach – Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies.

The strength and sustainability of the teaching profession is directly related to the quality of our teachers. Good teachers never stop learning. This is why designing and conducting professional development courses is our core activity. EBE NSW continues to provide members with access to effective, syllabus friendly, classroom focused and cost friendly **professional development courses** to assist teachers in providing meaningful and engaging learning experiences in the classroom. We are especially committed to supporting beginning teachers as they face the challenging and demanding early years of teaching. Although some of our professional development courses had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, we were still able to conduct a number of professional development courses which were carefully prepared to meet the professional learning needs of teachers:

1. *“Economics Skills in the HSC Economics Course”*
- 12 February 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director – Gavin Brennan
2. *“Teaching the Preliminary Course (Year 11) in Business Studies for the first time?”*
- 6 March 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director – Roset Khair
3. *“Teaching the Preliminary Course (Year 11) in Economics or Legal Studies for the first time?”*
- 10 March 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director – Nicholas Ward
4. *“Teaching the HSC (Year 12) Economics course for the first time?”*
- 2 September 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director - Gavin Brennan
5. *“Teaching the HSC (Year 12) Legal Studies course for the first time?”*
- 9 September 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director - Bernadette Henry
6. *“Review of the NESA 2019 HSC Economics Examination – Implications for Teaching and Learning”*
- 17 September 2020
- Convenor: EBE NSW Director – Tania White



7. *“Teaching the HSC course (Year 12) in Business Studies for the first time?”*
 - 18 September 2020
 - Convenor: EBE NSW Director – James Martin

8. *Review of the NESA 2019 HSC Business Studies Examination – Implications for Teaching and Learning*
 - 21 October 2020
 - Conevor: EBE NSW Director – Tania White

9. *“Teaching Commerce for the first time?”*
 - 4 December 2020
 - Convenors: EBE NSW Directors – Roset Khair and Carolyn Muir

Thank you to all the EBE NSW Board members who convened our professional development courses this year and those who designed and presented sessions at these events, enabling members to benefit directly from the expertise of EBE NSW Board members (teachers in the classroom) during these courses. I also thank all our external presenters this year. All our courses are evaluated by attendees and we use this information to learn about what is working well and what needs improving. Overall evaluations this year indicated that the content of our professional development courses are meeting the professional learning needs of teachers attending.

EBE NSW (through the Professional Teachers’ Council NSW) is a NESA endorsed provider of professional development for the maintenance of accreditation at Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead levels. Our members use professional development hours from our courses to meet their accreditation requirements with NESA. Thank you to Mai Ni Pham for completing the application forms to enable our courses to be NESA endorsed.

Further professional development was available to members through the **EBE NSW Helpdesk** (helpdesk@ebe.nsw.edu.au) enabling members to access EBE NSW Directors for advice and assistance in relation to the teaching and learning of Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce this year.

As members prepared for online learning during the COVID-19 lockdown, we were able to organize the professional sharing of teaching and learning resources, with members sending their resources to the EBE NSW office. These were then sent out to members to assist them with their **online teaching and learning programs**. Thank you to all members who shared their resources during this challenging time for our members.



EBE NSW continued the selling of the following **EBE NSW publications** this year which are designed to enhance teaching and learning programs in schools:

- The EBE NSW Book of Economics Questions for HSC Students
- Annual EBE NSW Trial HSC Examinations (Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies). The EBE NSW Trial HSC Examinations give EBE NSW Directors another opportunity to share their expertise and experience with members.

We continued to run the **Business Educators Australasia Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition** in NSW this year in association with Business Educators Australasia, which enables students in NSW and around Australia to develop their business planning skills. I would like to thank our PYOE NSW Coordinator, Nicholas Ward, for all his work in coordinating the competition in NSW this year, including the coordination of the NSW short listing process and organizing the NSW awards ceremony where certificates and prizes were awarded to the NSW student winners and their teachers. I thank Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand for judging the NSW finalists and supporting the NSW awards ceremony. This competition is an excellent way for EBE NSW to interact directly with students of the courses we represent and support and their parents.

The **EBE NSW website** continues to be a major source of up to date information in relation to the vision and goals of EBE NSW. In addition, EBE NSW members have access to resources such as conference presentations and The EBE Journal – Journal of the Economics and Business Educators NSW that are only available through the member section of the website. Dedicated web pages for Business Studies, Commerce, Economics and Legal Studies continue to provide useful resources for members.

We have also communicated regularly with members through **emails**.

We have continued our **social media** presence through Twitter and Facebook.

Acting as a voice on matters of significance to Economics, Business, Legal and Commerce educators is an important aspect of the EBE NSW Strategic Plan 2018-2020. EBE NSW is well placed to improve the quality of our courses and respond to changes in the area of education as we have members who are teachers in schools, active in the classroom, committed to their students and passionate about the curriculum. This year we made the following submissions:

- Economics and Business Educators NSW Submission to the NSW Curriculum Review Interim Report (October 2019) - Nurturing Wonder and Igniting Passion
– Designs for a Future School Curriculum
- Economics and Business Educators NSW Submission to The Review of Senior Secondary Pathways into Work, Further Education and Training (2019)
- Economics and Business Educators NSW Submission to the 2020 NSW Parliament Inquiry into the review of the New South Wales school curriculum



I continue to represent EBE NSW on the **Reserve Bank of Australia Educators Advisory Panel**. The Educators Advisory Panel (EAP) was established by the Reserve Bank in this year. The role of the EAP is to provide expert guidance to the Bank on matters of education so as to inform the Bank's educational initiatives.

I acknowledge the continued support provided to EBE NSW by **Business Educators Australasia (BEA)**, its umbrella national subject association. Our connections to BEA are important to teachers and students in NSW because this is the channel through which we have input into matters relating to the Australian curriculum and other critical national matters which impact on us here in NSW. In addition, these connections enable us to offer the Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition to our members and their students. I would like to thank the President of BEA, Tony Kuc and the Executive Officer of BEA, Christine Reid, for their leadership of BEA as they work with teachers from across Australia.

We continue to use the services of the **Professional Teachers' Council NSW** to manage the EBE NSW Office. I thank all the PTC NSW staff for all their work for our association, in particular Rona Afenir for her events management skills. This year we continued renting storage space from Kennards Self Storage in Auburn.

EBE NSW is in a healthy **financial position** and full details are available in the audited accounts of the association which are available at this Annual General Meeting. Thank you to our Treasurer, Tania White and our Bookkeeper, Mai Mai Lin for all their work with regards to the finance function of the association.

EBE NSW is highly respected and recognised. Despite this and our many achievements we cannot afford to be complacent as we look to the future. Educational change continues to increase and teacher associations like EBE NSW are being called upon to do more and more with limited resources. Many **challenges and opportunities** await us in the future:

- We need to continue to pay attention to developments in the area of education which impact on our members at the Federal and NSW Government levels and make our views known when appropriate (for example, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Review of the Australian Curriculum and the NSW Curriculum Review).
- We need to ensure that our professional development courses are responsive to emerging teaching and learning strategies and technologies.
- We need to provide professional development courses for the maintenance of accreditation at Highly Accomplished and Lead levels.
- We need to continue to pay attention to governance issues and update our constitution.



ECONOMICS & BUSINESS EDUCATORS NSW

An affiliate member of Business Educators Australasia Inc.

SERVING MEMBERS SINCE 1966

- We need to continue to maintain the financial stability of our association and invest our finances more wisely so as to generate greater returns and to consider further ways we can use funds to add more value to membership of EBE NSW.
- We must be on a path of continuous improvement, maintain high standards in all we do and continue to encourage and develop excellence in the teaching and learning of Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce, which we know are subjects that contain critical and powerful knowledge and skills that we want young people to leave school with and build on throughout their lives.

EBE NSW has been an active association over the past year, representing and supporting teachers and students of the NESA Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce courses. The teaching and learning of the courses we represent and support would continue without EBE NSW but I would argue the quality of the lessons in classrooms and teacher capacity and confidence with regards to these courses would suffer if EBE NSW did not exist. Our association has made a very significant contribution to education this year and has played a significant part in furthering the teaching profession and assisting teachers to improve student learning outcomes.

I again thank all the EBE NSW Board members and the EBE NSW office staff for their efforts during this challenging year and for assisting me in my role as President. I also thank all the EBE NSW members who are driven to ensure their students reach their full potential. I hope that we will soon see an end to the pandemic and a return to more face to face professional development events (including the EBE NSW Annual Conference) in 2021.

Joe Alvaro
President - Economics and Business Educators NSW
14 December 2020