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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2014 ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS EDUCATORS NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (1 December 2014)

It is my pleasure to present the Economics and Business Educators NSW (EBE NSW) President's Report for 2014. Since the last EBE Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 October 2013, it has been a productive and exciting 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES NSW) Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce courses, providing them with high quality educational services. EBE membership numbers continue to be strong and have increased this year compared to last year as shown in the EBE NSW Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2014. Our members are made up of teachers in both government and non – government schools in NSW, Australian international schools overseas, student teachers and members classified as “corporations”. I wish to thank our members for their support of the association and participation in our activities this year.

Our roles of support and advocacy have been especially important in recent times as we witness a **climate of educational change**, including reduced funding for government curriculum authorities which has resulted in a reduction of support services from these authorities for teachers of Economics, Business Studies, Commerce and Legal Studies. In addition developments with regards to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Australian Curriculum, the move to the National Professional Standards for Teachers, the release of the NSW Government Great Teaching, Inspired Learning Blueprint for Action policy and the amalgamation of the NSW Board of Studies and the NSW Institute of Teachers into BOSTES NSW have provided us with both challenges and opportunities and will continue to do so into the future.

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**. Ten educators made up the Board of Directors this year:

- Joe Alvaro
- Andrew Athavle
- Cheryl Brennan
- Kate Dally
- Bronwyn Hession
- Stuart Jones
- Kate Keeley
- John Lodewijks

- Pauline Sheppard
- Rhonda Thompson

We had a diverse Board this year with educators from government, Catholic, Christian and independent schools, as well as BOSTES NSW and universities. One of our directors, Bronwyn Hession, continues to be President of our peak national subject association, Business Educators Australasia, of which EBE is an affiliate member. Our connections to BEA are important to teachers and students in NSW because this is the channel through which we increasingly have input in matters relating to the Australian curriculum and other critical national matters which impact on us here in NSW. I also sit on the Board of the Directors of the Professional Teachers' Council NSW, of which we are a member organization. This diversity has enabled EBE to better serve the interests of all members and remain strategically focused as it carried out its activities and faced the educational challenges of this year. Full Board meetings have been held regularly and Board members have also been able to communicate regularly online. We are grateful to Club Burwood RSL for allowing us to use their meeting rooms for our Board meetings at no cost.

I would like to thank all the Board members for all their work and willingness to give to 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. Thankyou to Kate Dally and Stuart Jones as Vice – Presidents, Bronwyn Hession as Treasurer and Pauline Sheppard as Company Secretary.

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. We have implemented a busy professional development program this year carefully prepared to meet the professional learning needs of teachers:

1. *"Teaching the Preliminary Course (Year 11) In Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies for the First Time?" – 24 February 2014*
2. *"Revamping and Resourcing Commerce" – 17 March 2014*
3. *"2014 EBE NSW Annual Conference" – 16 May 2014*
4. *"South Coast Correctional Centre Field Trip" – 2 July 2014*
5. *" Current Economic Events and Monetary Policy" – 13 August 2014*

6. *“Teaching the HSC Course (Year 12) In Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies for the First Time?” – 8 September 2014*
7. *“ CHOICE Lab and Testing Facility Field Trip” – 24 September 2014*
8. *“ Legal Update Conference” – 14 October 2014*
9. *“ HSC Business Studies Marketing (Topic 2) Information Evening – Marketing in a Business Context” – 27 November 2014*

EBE NSW was represented at the 2014 Business Educators Australasia Biennial Conference on 2 and 3 October 2014 in Western Australia where I presented a conference session titled , “The Australian Consumer Law: A Young Peoples’ Friendly Guide Using a Real World Approach”. This was a most successful national conference and I congratulate the conference organizing committee on their efforts.

EBE NSW Board members Andrew Athavle, Kate Dally, Stuart Jones and Pauline Sheppard and myself designed and conducted presentations at various professional development courses throughout the year, enabling members to benefit directly from the expertise of EBE Board members during these courses. I thank these directors for these contributions and all our other 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 and student teachers attending.

EBE NSW (through the Professional Teachers’ Council NSW) is a BOSTES NSW endorsed provider of professional development for the maintenance of accreditation at Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead levels, and a number of our members use professional development hours from our courses to meet their accreditation requirements with BOSTES NSW . Courses that are endorsed are advertised on the BOSTES NSW website which enables us to benefit from this additional method of promotion. A number of our courses this year were BOSTES NSW endorsed, thanks to the work of EBE NSW Director Bronwyn Hession and I thank her for her expertise in this area.

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

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

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

The examinations are a major annual publication project. I thank my fellow EBE NSW Directors for their commitment to this work and enabling teachers to access high quality assessment material. Special thanks to EBE NSW Director Kate Dally who coordinated this project.

“The EBE Journal – Journal of the Economics and Business Educators NSW” continues to be provided in an electronic format which is accessible by members on the EBE website. Past issues of the journal are also available on the website, which enables members to access professional reading and resources which are available in the journals. I would like to thank our Journal Editors Kate Dally and John Lodewijks for all their work on “The EBE Journal” and all the contributors to the journal this year. EBE NSW has a long history of providing a journal to members and we are committed to continuing this EBE NSW membership benefit into the future. The journal is especially important for our members in remote areas. One of our members from an Australian international school provided the following feedback with regards to our journal, “I really enjoy and gain great value from the journals as it can be somewhat isolating in terms of access to current subject specific material”.

We continued to run the **CPA Australia Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition** 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, Rhonda Thompson, for all her work in coordinating the competition in NSW this year, including the coordinaton of the NSW shortlisting process. Cheryl Brennan, Kate Dally, Stuart Jones, Rhonda Thompson and myself were on the NSW shortlisting panel this year, and we were impressed with the standard of entries in NSW.

We were able to recognize the PYOE NSW winners at our annual NSW awards ceremony on 20 October 2014 at the Sydney office of CPA Australia together with Mr Anthony Matis, General Manager of Education, CPA Australia. At the ceremony prizes and certificates were awarded to the NSW student winners and their teachers. I congratulate the following winners and their teachers from NSW:

- Division 1(Individual entry)- Emma Quoyale, Loreto Normanhurst for her business plan “Em Corp” (Teacher: Ms Alexandra Osborne).
- Division 2 (Group entry) – Nikita Chawla and Priyanka Visvalingam, MLC School for their business plan “ Salty Memories” (Teacher: Ms Helen Kondos).

Although our NSW winners were not successful at this year's Australasian judging and awards ceremony, they are to be commended on their excellent business plans. I congratulate the following students who were the national winners in this year's competition:

- Division 1 (Individual entry) – Angus Wither (Western Australia), Wesley College, for his business plan, "Life Housekeeping".
- Equal Division 2 (Group entry) – Stewart Jackson and Toby Burnell (Tasmania), The Hutchins School, for their business plan, "expressO".
- Equal Division 2 (Group entry) – Anthony Maxfield and Paedan Monaghan (Victoria), Hopetoun P-12 College, for their business plan, "Foreshore Flix".

CPA Australia sponsors the PYOE Competition and EBE NSW acknowledges its support of students and teachers through this competition. This competition is an excellent way for EBE to interact directly with students of the courses we represent and their parents.

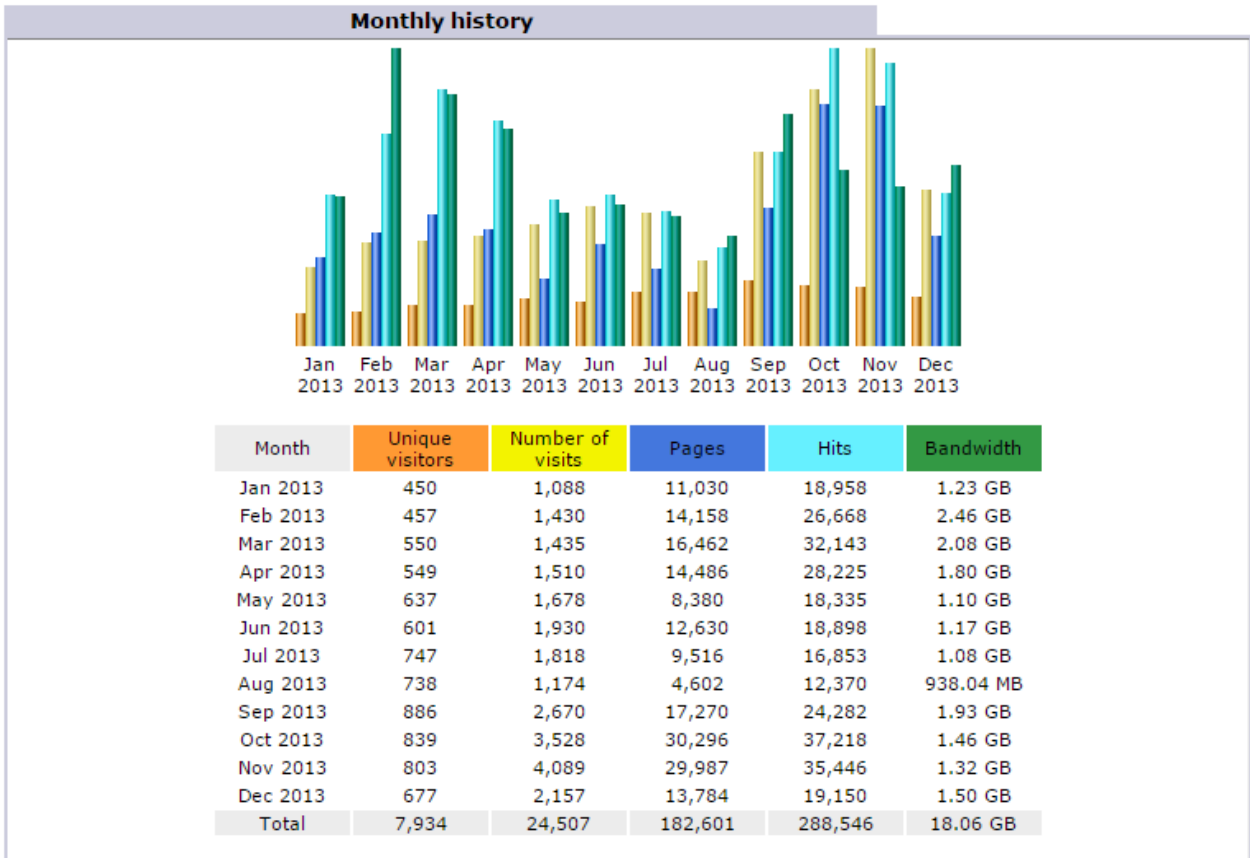
Another way we interacted directly with students this year was through our **HSC student seminars** at the 2014 Western Sydney Careers Expo at the Sydney Showground. EBE NSW Director Bronwyn Hession presented the seminar titled " HSC Economics – Exam Preparation" and I presented the seminar titled " HSC Business Studies – Exam Preparation". We provided these free of charge, enabling students to hear about strategies to maximise their examination marks in HSC Economics and HSC Business Studies.

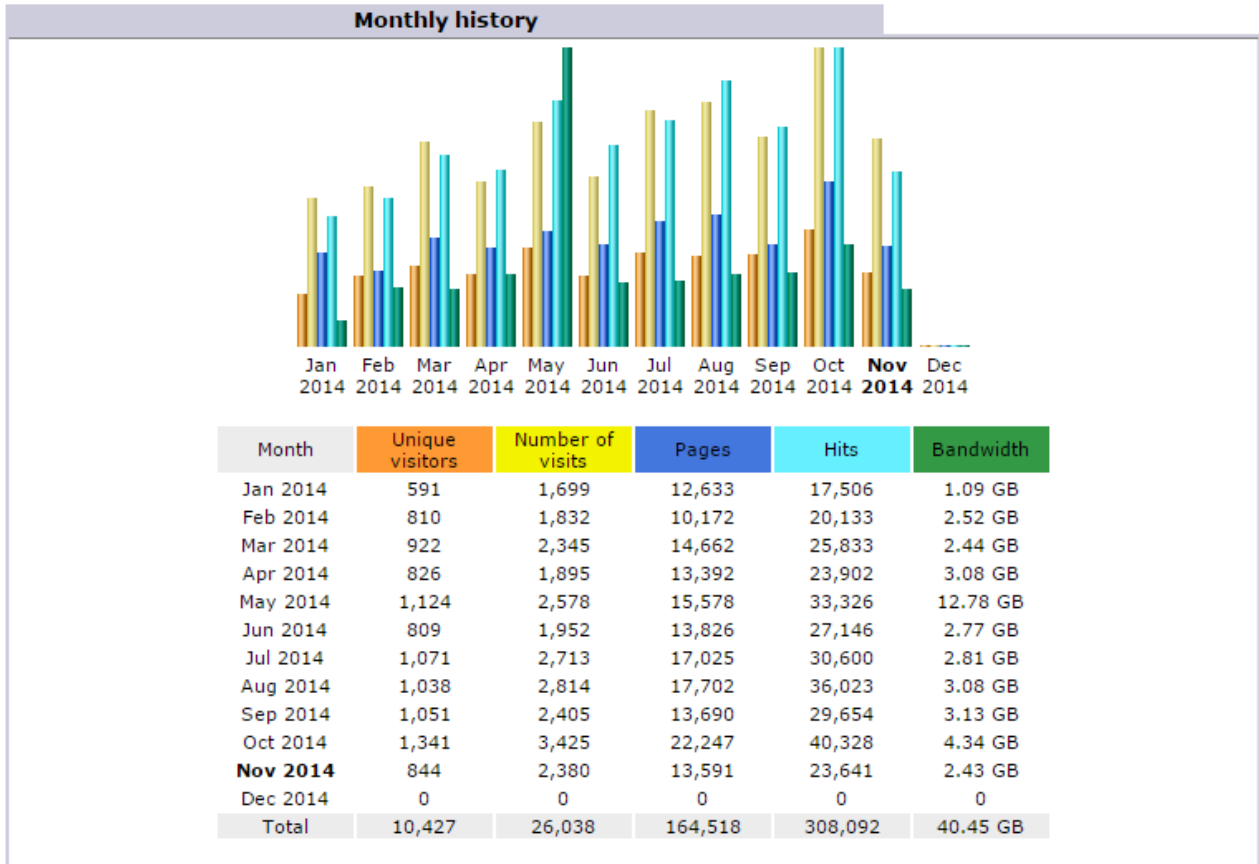
The **EBE NSW website** continues to be a major source of up to date information in relation to the vision and goals of EBE NSW. We outsource the upkeep of the technical side and design of the website to our webmaster, Rob Berry, while maintaining oversight of the content that appears on the website. We thank Rob for his assistance with the website and for his knowledge and skills in this area.

As can be seen in the graphs on the next page there continues to be an increase in the number of visitors to the EBE NSW website.



EBE NSW website statistics as at 23 November 2014





We have also continued to produce regular **e-newsletters** which are emailed to members (and made available on the EBE NSW website), enabling members to receive all the latest news with regards to the teaching and learning of Economics, Business Studies, Commerce, and Legal Studies directly into their email inbox.

Improving the **quality of the courses we represent** and responding to **curriculum change** remains an ongoing feature of our work. EBE NSW is well placed to improve the quality of our courses and respond to curriculum developments as we have members who are teachers in schools, active in the classroom, committed to their students and passionate about the curriculum.

This year EBE NSW made a submission to the 2014 Federal Government Review of the Australian Curriculum (part of the Coalition’s Students First policy) in the context of the Australian Curriculum in Economics and Business and the Australian Curriculum in Civics and Citizenship. The final report from the Review of the Australian Curriculum was also released this year, including information on the Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business and Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship. The Review makes 30 key recommendations which will need to be examined by all Australian education ministers before any action is taken.

At the 2014 Business Educators Australasia Biennial Conference on 2 and 3 October 2014 in Western Australia EBE NSW Director Bronwyn Hession and myself were able to join with educators from all around Australia, and reflect on and discuss the challenges and opportunities of the Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business and Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship.

EBE NSW will continue to actively monitor and respond to developments in the ongoing Australian Curriculum development process and contribute to what we hope will be quality, satisfying and future focused Economics, Business and Civics and Citizenship courses for our members and their students.

I represented EBE NSW at the **14th Annual Meeting of Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) Professional Teachers' Associations, Tertiary Educators and Advisors from NSW Department of Education and Communities** on 28 November 2014. HSIE professional teaching associations and tertiary educators in the area of HSIE came together to discuss the Australian Curriculum, learn from each other and discuss ways HSIE professional teaching associations could support HSIE pre-service teachers. Tertiary educators and professional teachers' associations such as EBE are an essential link between teachers, schools and the curriculum. EBE recognizes the importance of connecting with the future teachers of the courses we support who are studying at university and promoting the importance to them of becoming a member of EBE. This year we continued to offer a student teacher membership category which is heavily discounted and student membership discounts to all our professional development courses.

At this meeting we heard from Dr Jennifer Lawless, Board Inspector, HSIE from BOSTES NSW who gave us an "HSIE 2014 Update". As Jennifer will be retiring from BOSTES NSW this year, we had the opportunity to farewell her and thank her for all her work for the HSIE key learning area. Jennifer was a guest speaker at an EBE Board of Directors meeting on 17 February 2014. I wish her all the best for the future.

In recognition of the important work EBE NSW is doing in the area of financial literacy, we were presented with a **2014 ASIC MoneySmart Highly Commended Award (Education Category)** which I accepted on behalf of the EBE NSW Board of Directors, staff and members at the presentation dinner on 2 September 2014. EBE NSW is proud of its work in the area of financial literacy and it was an honour to receive this award on behalf of the association.

The award citation and judges' comments appear below:

Economics and Business Educators (EBE NSW) has been supporting secondary teachers of financial literacy and their students on an ongoing and sustained basis since its creation in 1968. EBE NSW specialises in providing classroom and syllabus focused professional development courses for teachers of financial literacy. Designed by practicing classroom teachers and academics, these courses encourage interaction between high quality stakeholders in financial literacy and teachers who are on the frontline, teaching financial literacy in classrooms. EBE NSW has designed, conducted and evaluated professional development events focusing on financial literacy over the years, including

- *2014 EBE Annual Conference;*
- *Revamping and Resourcing Commerce; and*
- *The EBE Journal – Journal of the Economics and Business Educators NSW.*

The EBE NSW has also been very active in advocating for the inclusion of financial literacy in the Australian Curriculum and engaging teachers with consultation processes. As financial literacy is given increased attention in the curriculum, EBE NSW will continue to design and implement effective professional development courses using the expertise and skills of its members and its connections with stakeholders in the financial literacy sector.

Judges Comment

The Judges highly commended Economics & Business Educators NSW for the great work they are doing, and the importance of their work in the community. They have been a key player for several decades and have made a major contribution to financial literacy. Economics & Business Educators NSW have played a vital role connecting the corporate and education sectors to reinvigorate secondary school subjects and hold a respected annual conference.

On the 25th of November 2014, at the 2014 Professional Teachers' Council NSW Presentation Evening, EBE NSW was presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of EBE's voluntary contributions during the year to quality education, the students of NSW and the teaching profession.

On the subject of awards, we were very proud of EBE NSW Director, Bronwyn Hession, who was awarded a **Fellowship of the Australian College of Educators** at the 2014 Australian College of Educators Annual Conference in Adelaide. This is a most prestigious award which recognises Bronwyn's hard work and passion in the area of education, including professional teacher associations. In addition, at the 2014 Australian College of Educators NSW Wyndam Medal and Awards Dinner on 8 August 2014 at Homebush, Sydney, Bronwyn Hession received an **Outstanding Educator Award** "for her outstanding contribution to the

development of curriculum and professional learning programs across all sectors in the NSW education system”. Congratulations Bronwyn.

I wish to thank our two **office staffmembers**, Annette Davies and Alan Hearle, for their knowledge, skills and support this year. They have shared the vision of the Board and have made significant contributions to all our projects. We are grateful to the NSW Department of Education and Communities for providing us with cost friendly office space at their Ryde premises.

I acknowledge the continued support provided to EBE NSW by **Business Educators Australasia**, as our umbrella national subject association and in particular thank the President of BEA, Bronwyn Hession, for her leadership of the organization and the Executive Officer of BEA, Christine Reid, for all her work. We look forward to continuing to work with BEA in the future.

EBE NSW is in a healthy **financial position** and acknowledges the ongoing support of CPA Australia. We are also grateful to our office staff, Ms Annette Davies and Mr Alan Hearle for their careful attention to the financial matters of the organization. More information about the financial position of the association can be found in the “EBE NSW Financial Statements For The Year Ended 2014.”

The following EBE NSW directors have notified the Board of their intentions to **resign from the Board** this year:

- John Lodewijks
- Stuart Jones
- Pauline Sheppard
- Rhonda Thompson

I thank all the above educators for giving to EBE NSW and sharing their knowledge, skills and passion.

Rhonda Thompson joined the EBE NSW Board in 2001 and completes 13 years of service to EBE NSW. I thank Rhonda for this long time commitment and all her efforts over the years in supporting teachers of the courses we represent. Rhonda’s contribution to EBE was recognized with an Outstanding Professional Service Award at the 2010 Professional Teachers’ Council NSW Annual Presentation Evening.

Pauline Sheppard joined the EBE NSW Board in 2007 and has made significant contributions to the association, including undertaking the role of Company Secretary and presenting at our professional development courses.

Stuart Jones joined the EBE NSW Board in 2011 and has made significant contributions to the association, including undertaking the role of Conference Convenor for our highly successful 2014 Annual Conference this year and presenting at our professional development courses.

John Lodewijks joined the EBE NSW Board in 2012 and has been our tertiary representative during this time. He has made significant contributions to the association, including designing the Economics trial HSC examinations, co-editing “The EBE Journal” and presenting our Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business webinars during the consultation phases of the curriculum.

Despite our many achievements we cannot afford to be complacent as we look to the future. Funding by the government for many significant projects in the area of education continues to decrease, 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 making our views known when appropriate.
- We need to continue to monitor the development of the Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business and Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship in the light of the 2014 Federal Government Review of the Australian Curriculum.
- We need to ensure that our professional development courses are responsive to new emerging teaching and learning strategies and technologies.
- Exciting opportunities await us as the NSW Government “Great Teaching, Inspired Learning – A Blueprint for Action” policy continues to be implemented, including 16.4 (“the profession will be supported to inform and provide registered teacher professional learning”) and as all teachers begin to move to the National Professional Standards for Teachers. This all has potential to build our capacity to provide professional learning opportunities to a wider audience.
- 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.
- We need to continue to pay attention to governance issues and update our constitution.

- 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 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 BOSTES NSW Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Commerce courses. 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 directors and the EBE NSW office staff for their efforts this year and for assisting me in my role as President. I also thank all the EBE NSW members for their support of EBE NSW. I look forward to working together again as we begin a new year.

Joe Alvaro
Economics and Business Educators NSW President
1st December 2014