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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2018 ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS EDUCATORS NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (12 DECEMBER 2018)

It is my pleasure to present the Economics and Business Educators NSW (EBE NSW) President's Report for 2018. Since the last EBE Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December 2017, it has been another exciting, productive and successful 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 successfully implemented 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**. Fifteen educators made up the Board of Directors during the last year:

- Mr Joe Alvaro
- Mr Ben Andersen
- Mr Andrew Athavle
- Ms Cheryl Brennan
- Ms Bernadette Henry
- Mr Nicholas Gliddon **Mr Nicholas Gliddon resigned from the Board of Directors on 14 May 2018.*
- Ms Roset Khair
- Mr Kenson Low
- Mr James Martin



- Ms Wendy Mockler
- Ms Carolyn Muir
- Ms Mai Ni Pham
- Ms Toni Sheehan **Ms Toni Sheehan resigned from the Board of Directors on 28 May 2018.*
- Ms Leith Thompson
- 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. 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. 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).

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 course, Commerce. 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. It has been a year of strong member involvement with regards to our professional development courses. 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 for the first time?
- 2 March 2018*
2. *“ Teaching the Preliminary Course (Year 11) in Economics or Legal Studies for the first time?”
- 7 March 2018*
3. *2018 EBE NSW Annual Conference” – 29 June 2018*
4. *“ 2018 EBE NSW Economics Update Conference” – 24 August 2018*
5. *“Field Trip – Law Day Out for Legal Studies and Commerce Teachers” – 29 August 2018*
6. *“Teaching the HSC Course (Year 12) in Economics or Legal Studies for the First Time?”
– 5 September 2018*
7. *“Teaching the HSC Course (Year 12) in Business Studies for the First Time?”
– 20 September 2018*
8. *“ 2017 EBE NSW Legal Update Conference” – 23 October 2018*
9. *Revamping and Resourcing Commerce – 5 December 2018*

Thank you to all the EBE NSW Board members who convened our professional development courses this year and 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 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 NESA endorsed provider of professional development for the maintenance of accreditation at Proficient, Highly Accomplished and Lead levels, and 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 for course endorsement. Courses that are endorsed are advertised on the NESA website which enable us to benefit from this additional method of promotion.

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

We awarded three professional learning grants this year:

- Two professional learning grants were awarded to two EBE NSW members from remote areas of NSW to attend the 2018 EBE NSW Annual Conference. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances one of the grant recipients was unable to attend the conference.

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 Trial HSC Examinations (Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies). The EBE NSW Trial HSC Examinations give EBE Directors another opportunity to share their expertise and experience with members.

“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.

We continued to run the **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. I thank Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand for judging the NSW finalists and the Commonwealth Bank for their support of the competition.

We were able to recognize the PYOE NSW winners at our annual NSW awards ceremony on 11 October 2018. At the ceremony prizes and certificates were awarded to the NSW student winners and their teachers.



This competition is an excellent way for EBE to interact directly with students of the courses we represent and their parents.

Another way we are interacting directly with students and their parents is through our **HSC student seminars** at the 2018 HSC and Careers Expo and the 2017 Western Sydney Careers Expo (organized by "Resources for Courses"). We provide these seminars free of charge, enabling students and their parents to hear about strategies to maximize their examination marks in the courses we represent and support. EBE NSW Directors Joe Alvaro, James Martin and Kenson Low presented the student seminars this year.

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 resource listings for members.

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. As can be seen in the graphs below the EBE website attracts many visitors.

During September this year the security of the website was upgraded with the addition of an encrypted connection between the web server and the user's browser. This required the installation of a SSL Certificate (Secure Sockets Layer) ensuring that all data passing between the web server and browser remains private. The most visible features of this are seen in the browser web address bar with a closed lock symbol and the website's URL shown as https:// rather than http://. In addition, when logging in to the member section the password box no longer displays a warning that the site is unsafe. The change has been transparent to all users and no change has been required by them.

The statistics below show the transition from the former unsecured connection to the new secure connection depending on the URL entered in to browser or what the browser had saved in its cache from previous visits. There has not been any significant change in the number of user visits or the amount of data downloaded from the website during the past year.



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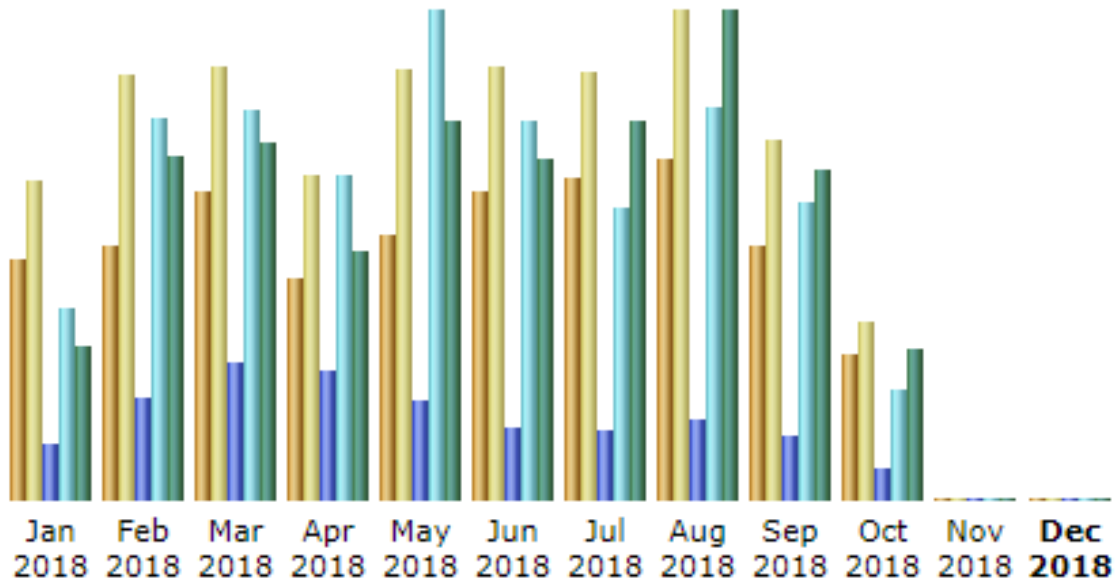
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EBE NSW Website Statistics as at 4 December 2018

January–November 2018

<http://www.ebe.nsw.edu.au>

Monthly history



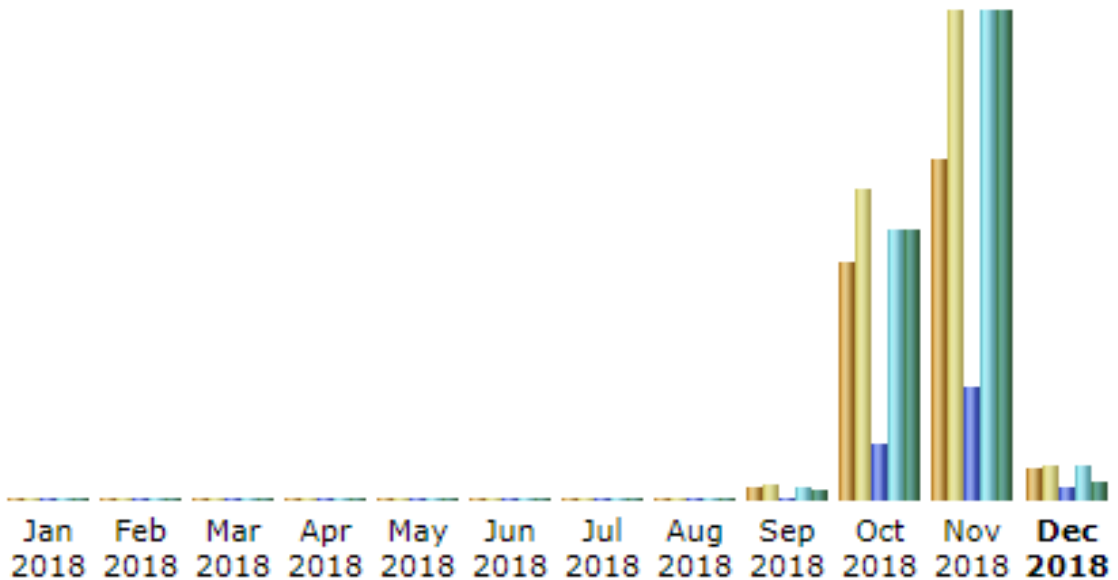
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2018	1,587	2,117	5,439	18,475	1.16 GB
Feb 2018	1,679	2,805	9,778	37,065	2.60 GB
Mar 2018	2,044	2,863	13,222	37,818	2.70 GB
Apr 2018	1,469	2,154	12,516	31,497	1.88 GB
May 2018	1,742	2,840	9,607	47,333	2.85 GB
Jun 2018	2,029	2,864	7,085	36,773	2.58 GB
Jul 2018	2,128	2,826	6,751	28,192	2.86 GB
Aug 2018	2,245	3,232	7,670	37,914	3.69 GB
Sep 2018	1,673	2,382	6,118	28,747	2.50 GB
Oct 2018	955	1,185	3,018	10,645	1.14 GB
Nov 2018	1	1	1	16	34.23 KB
Dec 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17,552	25,269	81,205	314,475	23.97 GB



September–December 2018

<https://www.ebe.nsw.edu.au> (SSL)

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Mar 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Apr 2018	0	0	0	0	0
May 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Jun 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2018	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2018	7	9	23	23	1.01 MB
Sep 2018	59	72	117	696	64.60 MB
Oct 2018	1,131	1,473	3,221	15,407	1.58 GB
Nov 2018	1,620	2,320	6,504	27,917	2.85 GB
Dec 2018	144	165	675	1,874	100.08 MB
Total	2,961	4,039	10,540	45,917	4.60 GB

We have also communicated regularly with members through emails.

We have expanded our **social media** presence. This year we opened an EBE NSW Twitter account which is increasingly attracting followers. We also continued our EBE NSW Facebook page.



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 have been busy consulting with our members about the NESA draft Commerce syllabus (2018). We held an EBE NSW 2018 NESA Draft Commerce Syllabus Consultation Evening on 27 August 2018 where members raised some concerns about the draft Commerce syllabus. These concerns and other matters were raised in our submission to NESA about the draft Commerce syllabus (which is available on the EBE NSW website). A number of EBE NSW Directors participated in meetings with NESA with regards to our submission.

EBE NSW also surveyed members with regards to the 2018 NSW Curriculum Review and made a submission to the Review.

I continue to represent EBE NSW on the **Australian Taxation Office Individuals Stewardship Group**. This is the Australian Taxation Office's peak consultation group for individuals as a means of improving the administration of Australia's tax and super systems in ways that benefit the national interest. Members are drawn from groups that represent or advise individuals, or are individual taxpayers themselves. The members of the group provide advice and experience to the ATO executive, who also may convene smaller ad-hoc groups or one-on-one arrangements to obtain advice on specific matters. Through this group I am able to express the needs and interests of teachers and their students with regards to teaching and learning about taxation related content in the curriculum.

I also continue to represent EBE NSW on the **Reserve Bank of Australia Educators Advisory Panel**. The Educators Advisory Panel 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.

EBE NSW is a member of the **Change Agents Working Together Group of Educators: Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Professional Associations and Tertiary Educators**. I represented EBE NSW at the 18th Annual Meeting of this group in November this year. HSIE professional teaching associations, tertiary educators and curriculum authorities in the area of HSIE came together to discuss the HSIE learning area, learn from each other and discuss ways HSIE professional teaching associations could support HSIE pre-service teachers. Tertiary educators and professional teacher associations such as EBE NSW are an essential link between teachers, schools and the curriculum. EBE NSW 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 NSW. 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.



I acknowledge the continued support provided to EBE NSW by **Business Educators Australasia**, 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 increasingly 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.

Following the Board's decision last year to restructure the EBE NSW Office, we began using the services of the Professional Teachers Council NSW to manage the EBE NSW Office this year. This transition has been successful and I thank all the PTC NSW staff for all their work for our association, in particular Julie Pham for her events management skills. This year we started 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 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. 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 make 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 here in NSW as NESAC considers its response to these curriculum developments.
- 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.
- 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.



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- 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 this 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.

Joe Alvaro
President - Economics and Business Educators NSW
10 December 2018