

# GAINING the **EDGE**

Outcomes, Equity and Innovation

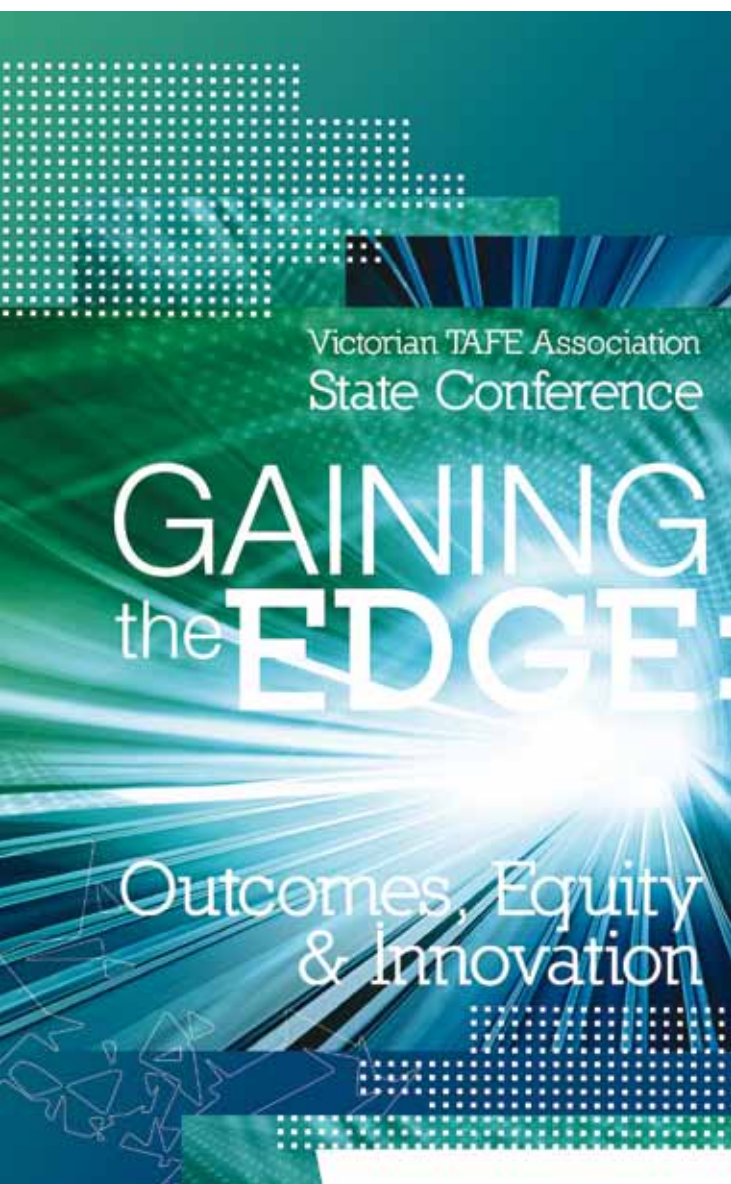
Victorian TAFE Association  
State Conference

Tuesday 3 and  
Wednesday 4 May

2011



Victorian TAFE Association



Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 May 2011

Hilton on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

Tuesday 3 May

4.00pm **AGM and Association Council\***

6.30pm **Welcome cocktails**

7.00pm **Conference Dinner**

*Dinner Speaker:* Graeme Innes AM,  
Race Discrimination Commissioner

*\* Agenda and papers will be forwarded to all  
TAFE Board Chairs and CEOs*



Victorian TAFE Association

Wednesday 4 May

7.30am **Board Chairs' Breakfast**

7.30am **CEOs' Breakfast**

8.45am **Registration**

9.00am **Conference Opening**

9.10am **Welcome Address**

Kym Peake, Deputy Secretary, Skills Victoria

9.30am **Keynote Speaker**

*Equity and Education*

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

10.15am **Morning tea**

10.45am **Keynote Speaker**

*Education for innovation – and for an  
innovation culture*

Professor Mary O'Kane, Mary O'Kane Associates

11.20am **Workshop Changeover**

11.25am – **Workshops**

- 12.25pm
1. *Brokering pathways to employment: newly arrived refugees and migrants*  
Catherine Scarth, General Manager Community & Policy, AMES
  2. *Sharing Stories Across Hemispheres*  
Fiona Knowles, Manager Development and Learning (School for Sustainable Futures), Swinburne University of Technology
  3. *ACE Sector in Australia*  
Sally Thomson, CEO, Adult Learning Australia
  4. *Working in Partnership to Innovate*  
Maria Peters, CEO, Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Malcolm Macpherson, Director – Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Chisholm Institute of TAFE and Carl van Loon, Director/Sales, Powerplants

12.25pm **Lunch**

1.15pm **A Personal Take on TAFE – Student Perspectives**

*Chair:* Win Scott, CEO, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

- Victorian & National Koorie Student of the Year 2010  
Rory Smeaton, Swinburne University of Technology
- Victorian & National Vocational Student of the Year 2010  
Michael Hogan, Holmesglen Institute of TAFE
- Victorian School Based Apprentice of the Year 2010  
Rhylee Deas, Wodonga Institute of TAFE and Rutherglen High School

1.45pm **Keynote Speaker**

*Board Innovation and Outcomes in a Commercial and Competitive Environment*

Deanne Weir, Group Director – Corporate Development, Austar Ltd

2.15pm **Afternoon tea**

2.35pm – **Gaining the Edge: Industry Perspectives**

3.45pm *Chair:* Elizabeth White, Board Chair, Box Hill Institute

1. Andrew Pajic, Operations Training & Development Manager, Bakers Delight
2. Owen Downie, General Manager Power and Industry, Silcar
3. Neil Coulson, CEO, Jayco Australia

3.45pm **Plenary**

4.00pm **Close**





### Graeme Innes AM

Graeme Innes has been Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner since December 2005 and appointed Race Discrimination Commissioner in July 2009. Prior to taking on the role of Race Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme spent three and a half years as Human Rights Commissioner. Graeme has been a member of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal, the NSW Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal as well as Hearing Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Graeme was Chair of the Disability Advisory Council of Australia, and the first Chair of Vision Australia.



### Kym Peake

Kym Peake joined Skills Victoria as Deputy Secretary in early 2010. Prior to this, Kym worked in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for 18 months as the Executive Coordinator, Productivity and Inclusion and as Senior Departmental Advisor, Policy Liaison to the Prime Minister's Office. Kym has extensive experience working at a State and Commonwealth level, leading complex policy, legislation and service delivery reforms. In Victoria, Kym led reforms for at risk children and families. Kym also headed up a public sector governance practice at KPMG advising governments on range of governance and strategy issues.



### The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

When he retired from the High Court of Australia on 2 February 2009, Michael Kirby was Australia's longest serving judge. He was first appointed in 1975 as a Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation & Arbitration Commission. Soon after, he was seconded as inaugural Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission (1975-84) and served thirteen years on the High Court of Australia. Michael has also served on three university governing bodies, on many national and international bodies. Amongst the latter have been service as a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Commission on AIDS; President of the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva; as UN Special Representative Human Rights in Cambodia; a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee; a member of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Judicial Reference Group (2007-) and a member of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights (2004-).

Following his judicial retirement, Michael Kirby was elected President of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia from 2009-2010. He serves as a Board Member of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. In 2010, he was awarded the Gruber Justice Prize. He is also presently a member of the Eminent Persons Group which is investigating the future of the Commonwealth of Nations.



### Mary O'Kane

Professor Mary O'Kane is the NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer and also Executive Chairman of Mary O'Kane & Associates Pty Ltd, providing advice to governments, universities and the private sector. She is Chair of the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy, Chair of the Development Gateway and the Development Gateway International, Chair of the CRC for Spatial Information, a director of PSMA Ltd, Business Events Sydney, and the Australian Business Foundation. She is Fellow and Vice-President of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and Fellow of Engineers Australia.

Professor O'Kane was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, and is a former member of the Australian Research Council, the Co-operative Research Centres (CRC) Committee and the board of the CSIRO. She was a member of the Panel reviewing the National Innovation System in 2008 (the Cutler Review), and is a member of the NSW Innovation Council.



### Catherine Scarth

Cath Scarth is General Manager Community and Policy at AMES. She has over 20 years experience in designing, implementing and evaluating a wide range of innovative social programs and enterprises both in Australia and England. Cath spent 15 years at the Brotherhood of St Laurence leading the development and delivery of a number of award winning, innovative community services and social enterprises. At AMES, Cath Scarth continues to seek innovative ways to partner with employers, Government and the community sector to achieve positive employment and settlement outcomes for newly arrived migrants and refugees. She is also involved in the broader development of social enterprises.



### Fiona Knowles

Fiona Knowles is the Manager of Learning and Development (School for Sustainable Futures) with Swinburne University of Technology (TAFE Division). She has worked closely with Industry to develop innovative training delivery models to help develop the skills of their workforce. She is committed to ensuring quality outcomes for the individuals involved, employers and the community and she has a particular interest in working with indigenous young people to develop the skills required to be able to successfully gain and complete traineeships and apprenticeships. Fiona has implemented cross cultural training for Australian Indigenous trainees with Sunchild Elearning First Nation Students in Canada.



### Sally Thompson

Sally Thompson is the CEO of Adult Learning Australia; the national peak body for adult and community education. Sally began her career as a TAFE adult literacy teacher. She is the former President of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council and a current member of the Victorian Adult Community and Further Education Board. She has worked in management and leadership roles in ACE, TAFE and Higher Education environments and in Indigenous Education.



### Maria Peters

Maria Peters was appointed CEO and Director of Chisholm in April 2010. Maria has had extensive experience in education both locally and internationally and has significant experience in educational leadership and planning. She has held a range of management positions before being appointed to the newly created position of Deputy CEO and Executive Director Programs in 2008. Maria has experience of delivery over a range of industry sectors and is involved in a diverse network of organisations and committees.



### Deanne Weir

Deanne joined AUSTAR in January 2002, and has responsibility for Corporate and Product Strategy, Programming, Corporate Affairs, Growth Initiatives, and Legal Affairs, including as General Counsel and Company Secretary. Deanne holds Honours degrees in Arts and Law from Monash University, as well as a Master of Laws from the University of London. Deanne was appointed to the Board of Screen Australia in 2008 and is a member of the Boards of the Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA), Showtime, and XYZnetworks Pty Ltd. In 2010 Ms Weir became a non-executive director of Access Innovations Holdings Pty Ltd, a social enterprise dedicated to ending the experience of exclusion faced by people with disability.

**Rory Smeaton**

Victorian & National Koorie Student of the Year 2010  
Rory Smeaton, Swinburne University of Technology.

**Michael Hogan**

Victorian & National Vocational Student of the Year 2010  
Michael Hogan, Holmesglen Institute of TAFE

**Rhylee Deas**

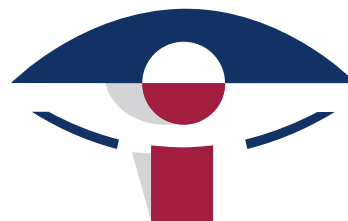
Victorian School Based Apprentice of the Year 2010  
Rhylee Deas, Wodonga Institute of TAFE and Rutherglen High School

**Owen Downie**

Owen Downie commenced as a tradesperson at Australian Paper's Maryvale mill progressing to the position of Manager Pulp mills in 1994 with work roles including maintenance, construction, project management and operations management. During these years, Owen combined shiftwork and study to complete a Mechanical Engineering Diploma and a Mechanical Engineering Degree. In the mid 1990s, Owen drove a substantial change management program as Manufacturing Manager at the Wesleyvale mill (Tasmania) before moving to private consultancy work which included Australian Paper, Visy Tumut and Loy Yang B Gas Turbine construction. In 2002, Owen joined Silcar as Operations Manager Loy Yang A Project, an outsourced maintenance management project. Following several years including assignments in Indonesia, Brazil and China, Owen rejoined Silcar in 2007 as General Manager Power Division.

**Neil Coulson**

Neil Coulson is Chief Executive Officer of the Jayco Group, Australia's largest manufacturer of recreational vehicles, commencing in 2007. Neil was previously CEO of the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) for eight years having spent time in consulting and senior management roles. Past professional appointments and Boards & Advisory Committees include Victorian Learning & Employment Skills Commission, Victorian Economic Environmental and Social Advisory Council, Ministerial Crime Prevention Council, and WorkCover Advisory Committee. Neil was awarded the Centenary of Federation medal in 2003 for service to industry.

**Victorian TAFE Association**

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