

President's report – 16th Biennial conference – National Association of Agricultural Educators

I am very pleased to present my report for the years 2008-2009. To the casual observer, it may seem as though not much happens from conference to conference. The following is a summary of what the executive of the NAAE has undertaken in the past two years.

1. Conference itself – I would like to record my thanks to committee of QATA members who have been responsible for this conference - both in planning and implementation phases. I have been assisted by Tony Heading, Amanda Cox, Warren Franklin, Ron Hall, Jacqui Schiller and Charlie Martin, as well as Erin Pearl from the University of Queensland. Their tireless work has ensured that everything has run smoothly this week.

I would also like to thank our conference sponsors, without whose help things would have been very much more difficult.

- Platinum sponsor – Primary Industries Education Foundation
- Gold sponsors – University of Queensland and Poultry CRC
- Silver Sponsor – Agrifood Skills Australia
- Bronze sponsors – Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation and North Australian Pastoral Company

Finally, I extend my thanks to delegates to the delegates who have come from all over Queensland and interstate, as well as New Zealand and the UK. Your good-natured and generous contributions have all contributed to the sense of fellowship that we have enjoyed this week.

2. PIEF – an on-going involvement in the setting up of this strategic organisation has been a major activity of the NAAE executive over the past two years. I was a founding director of the interim board PIEF until the recent election of the new board of directors. Past president Andrew Cosby was on the selection committee which recommended the new board. NAAE remains committed to supporting the PIEF as it seeks to fulfil its goals of delivering information about agricultural production to teachers and students throughout Australia.
3. We have continued to facilitate communication between the state associations. I am sure that we could have done this better at times; nevertheless, we have new and improved website proposal to speak to during this BGM. I remain convinced that electronic means of communication, especially a website that facilitates communication and sharing of resources, will be a key to the on-going success of our association.

Nigel Grant

14th January, 2010.