PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

Executive Summary

This year has been another extremely busy and productive year for the ascilite Executive, driving ascilite initiatives forward on behalf of the ascilite community. We have several Executive members retiring after making some awesome contributions to ascilite. Professor Mark Brown (ex-Massey), our Treasurer and globally connected digital scholar has now taken on the role of Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning at Dublin City University in Ireland. In addition to Mark's work as Treasurer and Conference Convener for ascilite 2012, he has added a refreshing, creative and global perspective to our work. Associate Professor Shirley Reushle from USQ, played a pivotal leadership role in transforming our Community Mentoring Program and ascilite website. These were both significant tasks that achieved important outcomes for ascilite. Elizabeth Greener from QUT, has championed our ascilite champions, contributed to our website renewal, communication and social media and NATA projects, hosted our face-to-face Executive meetings and contributed passionately toward our strategic direction. It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated Executive team and I sincerely thank our retiring Executive members for rising to the challenge and making a real difference to our ascilite community. We have several new Executive members joining our team post-AGM.

Please take some time to make them welcome and to get to know your Executive and their work at our upcoming conference, 23 – 26 November 2014. Also see http://ascilite.org/about/executive-committee/.

Our 2014 ascilite conference, 'Rhetoric and Reality: Critical perspectives on educational technology' is being hosted by the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic in Dunedin, NZ. It is certainly shaping up to be a 'not-to-be-missed' event. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of the conference convenors and organising team, Bronwyn Hegarty and Jenny McDonald who were supported by Swee Kin Loke, Gala Hesson, Adon Moskal, Sarah Gallagher, Emma Tumilty, Veronique Olin, Raewyn Lesa, Joanne Smith, Candi Young, Nikola Hunt, Richard Zeng, Carole Scott, Ben Daniel, Sally Pairman, Tom Clark and the fabulous event manager, Sally Boult. ascilite 2014 provides a unique, rich opportunity to hear about and discuss contemporary research, practices, critiques and developments in our field; a field that is gaining more attention than ever in a sector that is simultaneously experiencing enormous change and uncertainty.

Ascilite is a vibrant Society that has established itself as a globally recognised community. Certainly, ascilite's 30th birthday was fittingly celebrated at the ascilite2013 conference in Sydney. I extend a huge thank you to the conference convenors and organising team – particularly Helen Carter, John Hedberg, Dominique Parrish, Elaine Huber, Andrew Burrell, Darren Johnson, Maree Gosper, Natalie Spence, Deborah Richards, Matt Bower and Philip Betts.

Looking toward the future, your Executive will be working on key priorities in 2015 that include scaling up our CMALT Australasia and SIG initiatives, listening to you, our members through our biannual survey which will in turn inform future planning, and fine tuning our IT infrastructure and environment for our ascilite website and for AJET (see last section of report for a full list of priorities).

This year your President's report is once again organised around our 2012-2015 strategic plan (see Appendix 1). This structure enables you, our members, to clearly identify the linkages between our goals, activities and outcomes. There are three key areas in our strategic plan, Community and Practice, Research and Sustainability. Your Executive has worked in teams to deliver on the operational plan and thus ensure that our strategic goals and objectives are achieved. In this report, we provide an overview of our 2014 priorities and outcomes and highlight other key or notable developments. Executive member names are bolded to help you identify who is working on these initiatives. You are welcome to follow up with Executive members or our Secretariat, Andre Colbert, if you have any questions or suggestions.

C.H.Steel

Associate Professor Caroline Steel, Ascilite President

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Community & Practice

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Create community-building opportunities that enable ascilite members to lead, connect, and collaborate across a productive professional network.

- Encourage and promote the sharing of future-focused, evidence-based practices in the use of educational technologies.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Invite ascilite members to suggest, lead, contribute to, and participate in ascilite initiatives.

- Create opportunities for members to connect and share professional knowledge, expertise and practice and network in relevant communities of practice.

- Develop strong mechanisms for communication across the community.

- Promote professional recognition of members working in the field of educational technologies across Australasia and internationally.

- Invite highly esteemed practitioners to stimulate ideas, discussion and community knowledge with regards to trends and uses of educational technologies in tertiary education.

ICT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The ascilite Executive Committee with the support of the ICT Sub-committee headed by ascilite Executive **Shirley Reushle**, and supported by **Liz Greener**, commenced work on the redevelopment of the ascilite website in October 2013 and the new website was launched in late June 2014. See http://ascilite.org.

In addition to a new, contemporary look, website content was updated and re-organized to make it more usable to members and visitors. New sections include "Get Involved", "Latest News", "Events Calendar" and easy access to ascilite's social media pages. All past conference proceedings were migrated to the new hosting service which now offers free web space for all future ascilite conference websites. These were previously hosted

elsewhere and moved to ascilite after each conference. As part of the project, ascilite also ramped up its use of social media.

Co-opted Executive Committee member **Liz Coulter**, Director of IT Services at the University of Auckland, has now taken on the lead role in the second stage of our website redevelopment. Particularly, she is helping us ensure a stable, secure and fit-for-purpose back end to the ascilite website. A new membership management system is expected to be operational in 2015 and online "connect" activities are expected to be trialled.

COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA PLAN

Alongside our website renewal, **Liz Greener, Andre Colbert, Liz Coulter, Sue Gregory, and Janet Buchan** have been working on the ascilite Communications & Social Media Plan to improve communications with members and interested parties and to begin exploring ways to use the new media to connect members with each other, new ideas and newsworthy developments.

Following the launch of the new ascilite website, ascilite established its presence across major social media platforms including Facebook, Linkedin, Twitter and YouTube. While Facebook and Twitter are used to disseminate news about ascilite and the AJET journal, YouTube is used for ascilite's webinar and conference videos. Linkedin is being investigated in terms of initiating online discussions as part of acilite's future online "connect" activities. In the year to date, our 'likes' of our Facebook page has risen from 70 to 133 while followers of our Twitter feed rose from 61 to 143. Ascilite's Linkedin account was activated in July 2014 and by October connections grew to over 340. Additionally, the ascilite bulletin continues to serve as a critical communication channel for the Society.

NATA PROJECT

The ascilite NATA (Network of Australasian Tertiary Associations) project was sponsored through the Office of Teaching and Learning (OLT). **Dominique Parrish** and **Liz Greener,** with some input from **Caroline Steel,** have led the project, which aims to produce guidelines to promote best practice in the online community engagement. Our team consulted with NATA members, and conducted 14 interviews with representatives from 5 of the NATA partner associations/organizations; namely, ascilite, HERDSA, ODLAA, CADAD and Netspot. Questions were also posed to ascilite 2013 conference delegates to provide additional data on social media preferences and rationales.

Using the data they collected, and other literature and case studies of relevance, the guidelines will offer design principles and engagement strategies for web-based resources (including social media) to support and extend engagement in professional associations and networks. By articulating effective design principles and engagement strategies, we hope to offer ways of sustaining engagement even as technology affordances evolve. A further outcome of this NATA initiative is that the findings will inform our own communication plan and social media strategy and practices for network engagement.

With the goal of creating opportunities for members to lead, contribute and collaborate across our community, we put out an Expression of Interest to members to use our research data to develop the guide. A team from the University of Adelaide (Edward Palmer, Michelle Picard and Julia Miller) were successful in their EOI and are now developing the guide. The Guidelines will be promoted via NATA and ascilite dissemination channels.

CMALT AUSTRALASIA

CMALT Australasia is a professional accreditation scheme for staff working with learning technologies offered through ascilite in partnership with the UK based Association for Learning Technology (ALT). This scheme provides internationally recognised professional accreditation based on a peer-reviewed portfolio to academics as well as learning and teaching support staff.

In 2014, ascilite Executive member, **Janet Buchan** took over the lead role of the scheme and was recently joined by **Mark Northover** from AUT who was co-opted the Executive in September 2014. The scheme continues to grow and we have now seen our first ascilite CMALT graduates awarded their 'Certified Member' status. Congratulations to our seven current ascilite CMALT holders (as at October 2014): Oriel Kelly, Richard Evans (QUT), Roger Cook (QUT), Kulari Lokuge Dona (Swinburne), Deborah Veness (ANU), Beth Beckman (ANU), and Michelle Salmona (ANU). There are a number of ascilite members currently working on their portfolios with others close to submission or preparing for re-submission.

Our first CMALT Australasia graduates will help us grow the CMALT Australasia community as they can support other ascilite members who wish to participate in the scheme. Janet has also been busy creating awareness about the accreditation scheme through letters to our DVC(A)s and PVCs, through ACODE, via an ODLAA webinar on Professional Accreditation schemes, and ascilite webinar where Janet Buchan was joined by Hennie Yip (Hong Kong) from the CMALT Development Group who outlined some of the finer details of how to create a portfolio. This webinar is now available on ascilite's YouTube channel and can be accessed from the website.

Plans for 2015 include building the profile and recognition of the scheme in the broader tertiary education community with a focus on increasing the number of successful ascilite CMALT holders. Discussions are also underway to investigate a group mentoring process through our CMP program to mentor ascilite participants through the CMALT process.

COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

Sue Gregory took over the reigns from **Shirley Reushle** this year to facilitate another excellent Community Mentoring Program (CMP). Congratulations and well done to our 10 mentees and 9 mentors (Table 1) from our 2014 (CMP). We offered two online synchronous sessions for all participants and our CMP symposium will attract graduates, mentees and interested parties at the 2014 ascilite conference. The symposium provides a venue for mentees and mentors to discuss their projects as well as participate in a panel discussion with the audience. Our CMP owes its success to the outstanding and ongoing contributions of many ascilite members who voluntarily offer to mentor and support their peers. For the second year running, discounts for the annual conference registration have been offered to both mentors (25%) and mentees (50%). In 2014, CMP offered ascilite members the options of; "one on one" mentoring and a "two to many" option with eight mentoring partnerships as below.

Mentees	Mentors	Focus
One-on-One Mentoring		
Alberto Corrias, *National University of Singapore*	Alan Soong, *National University of Singapore*	Writing a collaborative paper for ascilite2014 Conference.
Ann Wilson, *Navitas*	Carol Russell, *University of Western Sydney*	Briefing paper for Navitas, developing resources for website and a joint presentation at ascilite.
Brent Gregory, *University of New England*	Philip Uys, Charles *Sturt University*	Making a significant contribution to research: writing a paper for ascilite.
Carina Bossu, *University of Tasmania*	Trish Andrews, The *University of Queensland*	Publish a journal article, build professional relationship with mentor, develop greater understanding of learning design.
Jenny Swann, *Auckland*	Helen Carter, *Macquarie*	Learn to write a publishable journal article.

University of Technology	University	
Yanika Kowitlawakul , *National University of Singapore*	Gary Williams, *Stenden University Qatar*	Develop tools to evaluate the impact of research methods: e-module being developed, implement measurement tools, develop scholarship of teaching and learning to use ICT.
Ying Jin, *Massey University*	Janet Buchan, *James Cook University*	Develop professional skills using tech in teaching science students, blended learning, shared experiences, building professional relationships.
2-to-Many Collaborative Community Mentoring		
Pauline Roberts, Murdoch University Naomi McGrath, University of New England Shannon Johnston, The University of Western Australia	Helen Farley, University of Southern Queensland Sue Gregory, University of New England	Writing academic journal articles, gain understanding on selecting funding schemes and applying for funding, write collaboratively, form research groups.

Table 1: 2014 ascilite Mentees and Mentors

WEBINARS

Alan Soong took on organising and facilitating our *ascilite Live!* webinar series throughout 2014. Through the generous sponsorship of Blackboard Australia, ascilite was provided a complimentary Blackboard Collaborate account. This year 101 participants attended 5 webinars compared to 127 participants who attended 7 webinars in 2013 (Table 2). **Mark Northover** has now joined the team and plans are afoot to develop an exciting 2015 webinar series. Ascilite webinars videos are made available on the ascilite website and ascilite's YouTube channel although notification of their availability is only made to ascilite members.

2014 Webinar Topic	Presenter(s)	Attendees
CMALT Professional Accreditation	Hennie Yip, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dr Janet Buchan, James Cook University	10

2014 Webinar Topic	Presenter(s)	Attendees
Writing up a storm for ascilite2014	Jennie McDonald, University of Otago	26
Bring your own device to e-Examinations (BYOD)	Dr Matthew Hillier, University of Queensland and Dr Teck Keong, National University of Singapore	33
Gamification: It's potential for Learning	Keith Ng, Gametize	21
Community Mentoring Program	Dr Sue Gregory, University of New England	11
Total participants as of October 2014		**101**

Table 2: 2014 ascilite live! Webinars

ASCILITE AWARDS

Sue Gregory has ensured that the ascilite awards continue to grow in prestige. The achievements of the 2013 recipients reflect positively on the quality of teaching and research within our community. We wish to congratulate the following awardees.

- ascilite Fellow Award: Associate Professor Barney Dalgarno

Awarded in recognition of Barney's outstanding contribution to the ascilite community in relation to his professional leadership and quality research.

- ascilite Innovation and Excellence Award: Dr Helen Farley, Australian Digital Futures Institute, University of Southern Queensland, along with Serco Asia Pacific and Queensland Corrective Services for their project "From Access to Success: Improving the higher education learning experience for students without Internet access".

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Caroline Steel established a Special Interest Group (SIG) initiative for the ascilite community was established in 2014. The aim of the initiative is to give ascilite members the opportunity to lead and generate community activities whilst creating a buzz around specific topics of interest through our social media tools. ascilite members were invited to submit proposals to form SIGs as per our SIG Policy & Procedures documents. Thanks to ALT in the UK for

sharing their documentation to help shape our own. So far, two SIG were approved and will be launched at ascilite2014. Sessions for both SIGs are incorporated into the ascilite2014 program. SIG leaders will outline and shape some of their plans for 2015. SIG leaders must be ascilite members, although non-members are very welcome to participate in our SIG activities.

The first SIG is around Learning Analytics and is led by Assoc. Prof Shane Dawson from the University of South Australia; Adjunct Professor Grace Lynch from the University of New England; and Dr Negin Mirriahi from the University of NSW. The LA-SIG will promote and develop awareness and resources surrounding learning analytics and its application to the learning and teaching space. The SIG will also be aligned with and supported by the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR) and will guide and inform recently initiated state-wide LA working groups.

The second SIG, is the well established e-Assessment SIG led by Dr Matthew Hillier from the University of Queensland and Professor Geoffrey Crisp from RMIT. The strong demand and success of the Transforming Assessment series has demonstrated a need in the tertiary community for a mechanism to share and discuss issues around e-assessment. The ascilite community is an ideal base for such discussion and to disseminate and share knowledge on e-assessment.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Caroline Steel and **Dom Parrish** worked together to forge important strategic alliances for ascilite. ascilite endorsed the EduTECH conference again this year and the ascilite President has been invited onto the EduTECH Advisory Board for 2015. We continue to work closely with ALT (Association of Learning Technologies) in the UK through our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Particularly, sharing practices, policies, and initiatives around research and practice in the spirit of openness and collaboration. This continues to be a valuable and highly productive relationship for both societies. CMALT Australasia is a specific example of our collaborations.

Janet Buchan worked closely with CMALT (UK) representatives to enhance communications and procedures between the two organisations to ensure our members receive a high level of support. We have also secured a commitment from ALT to reduce the group CMALT registration rates available to ascilite members.

ascilite is currently reviewing its MOU with ACODE and we are exploring the possibilities of developing mutually beneficial relationships with DEANZ, SoLAR and CAUDIT.

MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

Andre Colbert keeps track of our membership trends. As of 20 October 2014, ascilite has 561 members in total, 547 of whom are paid members. This number is a slight increase from a total of 550 members at this time last year. The most significant change is the increase in individuals who are included in institutional memberships and this number has gone from 169 last year to 216 individuals in 2014. The shift from individual memberships towards institutional membership was already visible in 2013 and this year it has gained further momentum (Table 3). A complete list of institutional members is shown in Table 4.

Overall, the individual count is down slightly from 335 to 309 (down by 26) while the institutional member count is up from 169 to 216 (up by 47).

As with last year, student numbers are not well represented and we need to find ways to encourage growth in this area.

MEMBERS BY CATEGORY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Members	471	474	479	523	550	561
Individuals	379	386	383	397	335	309
Institutional Memberships	50	50	68	90	169	216
Students	13	13	11	17	25	14
Life Members*	5	8	9	10	10	10
Fellows*	4	4	5	6	7	8
Affiliates	20	13	3	3	4	4

Ascilite Fellow and Life Member numbers as at October 2014 do not reflect awards bestowed at ascilite2014.

Table 3: members by category

Institutional Memberships

This year, the number of institutional memberships has doubled from 10 to 18 with a total of 216 individuals, up from 169 individuals last year (Table 4). The current total is due to reach approximately 234 by mid November once several new (paid) institutions provide a list of member names. Only two "one-time" institutions were unable to renew last year's membership during the current year.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	2012	2013	2014
Manukau Institute of Technology	18		10
Australian National University		52	
Universiti Sains Malaysia		10	
Charles Darwin University	10	10	10
Macquarie University	19	19	20
University of Southern Queensland	11	11	20
Massey University	21	21	19
Queensland University of Technology	10	10	10
Open Universities Australia	10	10	8
University of Wollongong (SMAH)		20	20
University of Wollongong (FSS)		10	10
Deakin University			10
Open Polytechnic of New Zealand			10
UTS Insearch			10
Monash University			9
Curtin University			10
University of New England			20
Otago Polytechnic			28
Notre Dame University			0*
La Trobe University			2*
TOTALS	**99**	**173**	**216***

These institutions joined ascilite in Sept - Oct 2014 and as of 20 October 2014 had not submitted a list of names.

Table 4: Institutional members

In the Members by Country table (Table 5), the numbers in most regions remain similar to 2013 with the exception of New Zealand where numbers have risen somewhat.

MEMBERS BY COUNTRY	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Australia	325	317	375	383	418	424
New Zealand	101	106	84	97	96	115
Asia	14	20	18	19	18	10
USA & Canada	7	7	5	2	5	2
Africa	2	2	2	3	0	0
Europe & UK	14	17	6	11	7	9
Middle East	2	2	1	2	1	1
South America				1	0	0

Table 5: Members by Country

Research

STRATEGIC GOAL

- Develop opportunities for ascilite members to contribute toward the advancement of research in educational technologies in tertiary education.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Extend research capability across and beyond the ascilite research community.
- Ensure a globally recognized journal of educational technology research in tertiary education.
- Maintain an annual conference of high international standing.

AJET

The Editorial team of the Australasian Journal of Educational Technology (AJET) focused on bedding down their new editorial practices, ensuring quality reviewers, and maintaining editorial quality during 2014. Nevertheless, there were some changes to the editorial team, a change to the hosting arrangements and a new special issue initiated in 2014 as detailed below.

Editorial team

There have been a number of changes to the makeup of the AJET editorial team since 2013. Firstly, Associate Editors, Professor **Lori Lockyer** of Macquarie University, Professor **Robert Fitzgerald** of the University of Canberra and Dr **Terry Judd** of the University of Melbourne decided not to continue as Associate Editors, having served ascilite since mid 2012. Additionally, Professor **Gregor Kennedy**, due to substantially increased responsibilities as Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne is stepping down from his Lead Editor role from the beginning of 2015. Associate Editor Dr **Michael Henderson** of Monash University has agreed to take on Professor Kennedy's Lead Editor role alongside Professor **Barney Dalgarno** and Associate Professor **Sue Bennett**. One of the benefits of having a team of Lead and Associate Editors is that having some Editors transition out of their roles and having new editors transition in can be handled with minimal disruption to the work of the journal. I'd like to formally thank the outgoing Lead and Associate Editors for their high

quality editorial work that has in turn contributed toward our excellent and highly regarded ascilite journal AJET.

The management committee, consisting of ascilite president Associate Professor **Caroline Steel** of La Trobe University, ascilite treasurer **Mark Brown** of Dublin City University, and the three lead editors met online regularly throughout 2014. Professor **Barney Dalgarno** also represented the AJET Editorial team on ascilite executive.

Finally, we are pleased to announce a refreshed AJET Editorial Board that includes many leading Educational Technology researchers and leaders internationally:

- Chen Chwen Jen, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

- Grainne Conole, University of Leicester, United Kingdom

- Laura Czerniewicz, University of Cape Town, South Africa

- Robert Fitzgerald, University of Canberra, Australia

- Cathy Gunn, University of Auckland, New Zealand

- John Hedberg, Macquarie University, Australia

- Jan Herrington, Murdoch University, Australia

- Paul Kirschner, Open University of the Netherlands

- Allison Littlejohn, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom

- Lori Lockyer, Macquarie University, Australia

- Stephen Marshall, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

- Martin Oliver, Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom

- Meg O'Reilly, Southern Cross University, Australia

- Thomas Reeves, University of Georgia, USA

- Neil Selwyn, Monash University, Australia

- Gail Wilson, Southern Cross University, Australia

- Allan H.K. Yuen, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

System changes

A decision was made in early 2014 to move AJET's online journal management system to a new OJS (Open Journal System) specialist hosting company, PKP Publishing. This move is intended to provide a stable and easily updatable platform for AJET. With the assistance of

Liz Coulter, co-opted ascilite executive member from the University Auckland, the team undertook initial planning prior to a test transfer of the system to PKP Publishing and hope to schedule the live transfer for late 2014. As part of the changeover it is intended that the articles published on the AJET website prior to the move to OJS in 2012 will be brought into the OJS system and the old website will be removed. A recent subscription to the Cross Ref Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) provider will mean that all articles are assigned a DOI once the system has been moved across to the new host.

Special issue

Following a call for Expressions of Interest for an editorial team for a special issue of AJET, five submissions were received. Our refreshed Editorial Board and the Lead Editors provisionally accepted an expression of interest from Theodore Kopcha of the University of Georgia, Matthew Schmidt of the University of Hawaii, and Susan McKenney of the Open University of the Netherlands and Twente University. The special issue will focus on Educational Design Research. The call for papers for this special issue is expected to be open in late 2014.

AJET Bibliometrics

In order to provide a complete annual picture, bibliometrics for 2013 rather than 2014 have been provided in comparison to 2012 figures (Table 6). There was a substantial increase in submission rates from 2012 to 2013, which reflects the strong standing of the journal. This high volume has continued in 2014, with 360 submissions to September. Note also that the noticeable increase in articles declined at editorial screening in 2013 was largely due to the decision, following the review of the journal, to exclude school sector articles. Thus many of these editorial rejections were due to this change. The number of school sector submissions has gradually reduced in 2014.

2013 AJET Bibliometrics	2012	2013
Total submissions	380	469
Declined at editorial screening	162 (43%)	370 (79%)
Peer reviewed	218 (57%)	99 (21%)
Declined at peer review (as a percentage of peer reviewed)	143 (66%)	52 (53%)
Accepted (as a percentage of peer reviewed)	75 (34%)	36 (36%)

Declined (either at editorial screening or following peer review as a percentage of total submissions)	305 (80%)	409 (87%)
Accepted (as a percentage of total submissions)	75 (20%)	36 (8%)*
JCR 5 year Impact Factor	1.540	1.198
JCR journal ranking in Education category based on 5 year Impact Factor	41/219	80/219
Google Scholar h5 index	**	30
Google Scholar h5 ranking within Educational Technology category	**	8/20
Views to date of articles published during given year	***	114,093

* Note that 11 articles (5%) are still under review due to substantial author delays in submission of a revised manuscript
** New bibliometric not available in 2012
*** View statistics not available for 2012 because articles published on old website rather than in OJS

Table 6: AJET Bibliometrics for 2012 and 2013

ASCILITE CONFERENCES

Ascilite 2013

The 30th ascilite Conference, 'Electric Dreams', was held at Macquarie University, 1 – 4 December 2013. We cast our eyes back on our origins and forward into the future, through the subthemes 'Learning from the Past', 'Understanding the Present', and 'Imagining the Future'. The conference comprised close to 400 delegates who presented nearly 200 papers, posters and symposia, with all papers later made available in the online proceedings.

After Sunday's workshops and a welcome reception in Macquarie's new library, the conference kicked off with a timely debate: "that the dream of technology-assisted learning has been realized." The affirmative, led by Shirley Alexander, was optimistic regarding our achievements, and offered creative ways of representing the perspectives of different stakeholders (using *literal* hats!) However, it was not quite enough to overcome the audience's (perhaps natural) scepticism, with Gregor Kennedy's team convincingly arguing we're not there yet.

The keynote speakers Kay O'Halloran, Gregor Kennedy, Mark Pesce, Sorel Reisman and Pare Keiha provided stimulating, and at times challenging lenses through which to examine our own practices, framing the conference and the papers within. It was particularly delightful to

hear from Gregor, a well-known member of the ascilite community, whose analysis of the current state of the sector was very highly regarded.

Conference papers and presentations were of a high standard. The digital posters session provided another conference highlight, with excellent feedback and a real energy about the room as bands of roving delegates discussed the dynamic displays. Best paper and poster awards are summarised below:

Title	Author	Affiliation Lead Author	Category
Reviewing the past to imagine the future of elearning	Cathy Gunn	The University of Auckland	'Learning from the Past'
Dynamic digital posters: Making the most of collaborative learning spaces	Paul Fenn, Roger Cook	Queensland University of Technology	'Understanding the Present'
Cross-institutional development of an online open course for educators: confronting current challenges and imagining future possibilities	Keith Smyth, Panos Vlachopoulos, David Walker, Anne Wheeler	Edinburgh Napier University	'Imagining the Future'
Practices and perceptions of online assignment submission, marking and feedback: what's changed?	Elaine Huber, Alex Thackray, Rebecca Ritchie	Macquarie University	Best Poster
Blended synchronous learning: Patterns and principles for simultaneously engaging co-located and distributed learners	Matt Bower, Jacqueline Kenney, Barney Dalgarno, Mark J. W. Lee, Gregor Kennedy	Macquarie University	Best Full Paper

Table 7: Best Paper & Poster awards

And of course, a standout experience was, as might be expected, Tuesday night's 'Awesome Eighties' dinner at the stunning Curzon Hall, a baronial-style estate built in the 1890s. The 1890s were inverted to become the 1980s, with the dance floor taken over by a fluoro-clad, crimp-haired, eye-shadowed horde (which even featured a special guest appearance from KISS!)

The ascilite Executive and the organizers would like to thank everyone who made the conference possible, especially the delegates who travelled from places afar to attend.

ASCILITE 2014

Conference Organizing Committee

The ascilite2014 conference organizing committee has been led by Bronwyn Hegarty and Jenny McDonald with the support of their event manager, Sally Boult and an extensive team of staff from Otago University and Otago Polytechnic comprising Swee-Kin Loke, Gala Hesson, Adon Moskal, Sarah Gallagher, Emma Tumilty, Veronique Olin, Raewyn Lesa, Joanne Smith, Candi Young, Nikola Hunt, Richard Zeng, Carole Scott, Ben Daniel, Sally Pairman and Tom Clark. Executive members **Mark Nichols**, **Dominique Parrish** and **Caroline Steel** also contributed. Ascilite extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in organizing ascilite2014.

Paper Submissions

Similarly to 2012, seventy full papers were submitted for review this year which is is an increase over 2013 (62). The number of concise papers submitted was higher than the last two years at 127 (c.f. 2013: 123 & 2012: 70). A combined total of 123 full and concise papers, and twenty-five Sharing Practice sessions (a new stream) were accepted this year. A total of 193 presentations are being scheduled accepted including posters and workshops. The Open Conference System (OCS) was also tested.

A summary of paper submissions, acceptances and rejections is given in Table 8. Please note these numbers are provisional and that we are in the final stages of acceptance at the time of writing. The acceptance rate is thus indicative only at this stage.

We expect to run six parallel streams over three days (six themed streams including symposia) in accordance with recommendations from the 2013 conference organizers.

Type	Sub	Accept	Reject	Notes
Full	70	39 (c.f. 35:2013)	31 (c.f.29:2013)	13 to concise, 6 to poster -includes 5 withdrawn
Concise	127	84 (c.f. 94:2013)	43 (c.f. 17:2013)	Includes one distance presentation.
Poster	51	39 (c.f. 26:2013)	22 (c.f.2:2013)	Includes one digital session.
Shared Practice	36	25	11	Includes five sponsored sessions and one distance speaker.
Workshops	21	6 (c.f. 9:2013)	15 (c.f. 6: 2013)	Includes two invited workshops (x1 keynote, x1 invited speaker.)
TOTALS	**305**	**193**	**122**	**63% acceptance rate c.f. 77% 2013**

Table 8: Summary of paper submissions and acceptances

Symposium sessions include AJET editors' sessions, a CMP session, two Special Interest Group sessions (learning analytics and e-assessment) and a panel session about the Open Education Resource Institute (OERu).

An interesting and scholarly range of papers have been received and are distributed across the conference themes. The variety of presentations should be of great interest to the conference delegates. The tentative allocation of full and concise papers and Sharing Practice presentations within the conference themes is shown in Table 9.

Theme	Concise Papers	Full Papers	Sharing Practice	Total
Emerging technology practices	25	6	11	42
Institution-wide technology integration	14	11	4	29
Technology-enhanced learning design	19	9	7	35
Learning analytics	7	2	3	12
Educational technology and society, Role of learning theories	9	4	0	13
Research*	10	7	0	17
TOTALS	**84**	**39**	**25**	**148**

Note: Research indicates papers with a strong research focus, and others that did not fit any other themes specifically.

Table 9: Allocation of papers in conference themes

Sponsors

This year, Sally Boult from the events management company, Events4You organised sponsorship in collaboration with the conference organising committee. A mix of regular and new sponsors was achieved. Confirmed sponsorship and exhibition revenue reached NZD$58,225 at the time of writing (Table 10).

Sponsor	Type
Echo 360	Gold Sponsor (including Barrista)
Ako Aotearoa	Silver Sponsor (including writing materials)
ADI Instruments	Silver Sponsor
JPL Media	Silver Sponsor (Still to confirm)
Blackboard & Netspot	Trade Exhibition & Advert

Canvas by Instructure	Trade Exhibitor
Oceanbrowser	Trade Exhibitor
Desire2Learn	Trade Exhibitor
Pearson	Trade Exhibitor (2 booths)
PebblePad	Trade Exhibitor
Curtin University	ascilite2015 Exhibitor

Table 10: 2014 conference sponsors & exhibitors

Registration

As of 8 October, registrations for ascilite2014 have been on a par with past years, with 274 registrations received. Registrations are expected to increase once all authors of revised papers are notified and the draft programme is released. Marketing continued via the ascilite bulletin, twitter and other professional networks continues.

Budget

Given the steady stream of registrations and the level of confirmed sponsorship we are hopeful of returning a healthy profit to ascilite in early 2015 once the conference accounts have been reconciled.

ASCILITE 2015

Curtin University is proud to host the 32nd Ascilite 2015 conference in Perth, Western Australia between 29 November and 2 December 2015.

We are pleased to see our conference return to Perth in 2015. Our last conference in Perth was over a decade ago in 2004. Curtin University will host the 32nd Ascilite 2015 conference between 29 November and 2 December 2015. The conference committee is being led by Dr Torsten Reiners and Associate Professor David Gibson. The ascilite2015 conference themes will be revealed at the conference handover in Dunedin.

Sustainability

STRATEGIC GOAL

- Ensure ascilite's future sustainability.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Maintain best practices and procedures in the area of financial and administrative management of the Society.

- Maintain a strong financial position and outlook for the Society.

- Maintain transparent financial records.

- Conduct the business of the Society in accordance with the ascilite Constitution.

Mark Brown worked closely with **Mark Nichols** this year to prepare for the handover of the ascilite Treasurer role in 2015. This strategy was designed to ensure that a relatively new Executive member was properly mentored in to the role since Mark Nichols only joined the Executive in Dec 2013. As Mark Nichols has gradually taken on more of the role through the year he has demonstrated a natural ability for the role and a great deal of leadership. I thank him sincerely for taking on our Treasurer role (under peer pressure!) and contributing a great deal to the Senior Executive.

FINANCIAL POSITION

In the financial year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, ascilite operated with a profit of $83,170 on an income of $173,555. This is in comparison to the previous year's result when ascilite had an operating loss of $348 on income of $74,756. This difference can largely be explained by the conference surplus of $49,111 received for the 2013 conference and $33,274 received for the 2012 conference, a combined total of $82,385.

ascilite's total net assets at 30 June 2014 were $294,300, up from $206,489 the previous year. The surplus is a welcome outcome given our forecast budget deficit of $51,000 for the 18 months ending December 2014. This outcome can be explained by higher than forecasted institutional membership income, a higher overall conference return and projects all coming under budget (some significantly). The 18 month budget approved at the 2013 AGM also

included items of expenditure that will be incurred toward the end of the calendar year, rather than within the actual financial year.

Membership subscriptions have increased, mainly because of a significant improvement in institutional membership income. Other items of revenue included the NATA project ($10,000) and Copyright Licence Fees. Interest income has improved by $859 to $6,676 and will improve again in 2015 following a recent decision to place a larger sum in an interest bearing term deposit.

Major core expenditure in 2014 were for Secretariat costs ($45,589) and Travel Expenses related to executive meeting expenses ($9,895). The Secretariat provides critical operational support for the Society and the amount spent on these services has progressively decreased from $61,780 in 2011.

AJET journal expenses and ICT Project Expenditure are the two prominent expense categories incurred during 2013. Both are representative of dedicated projects that have seen the journal transition into the OJS application and the renewal of the ascilite website. Recurring annual expenditure for AJET is now estimated at $12,424 p.a. for costs including copy editing and an annual website hosting fee.

The accounts have been audited, and the audit documents are available for member viewing. A copy of the auditor's report is distributed to all members along with this report.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PRACTICES & PROCEDURES

The Sustainability team, **Dominique Parrish, Mark Brown and Allan Christie,** together with the **Caroline Steel** (President) and later **Mark Nichols** have been reviewing our need for an annual financial audit. Changes are proposed to the ascilite Constitution to remove the necessity of an annual audit which is not legally required, in favour of making robust financial practices a constitutional requirement. The amendments to the Constitution will save ascilite $1,200 per year without removing the transparency and systematic rigour required for financial accountability.

The 2014 AGM will also finalise the move toward 12 month, calendar year budgeting. The budget reflects the 'steady state' of ascilite, along with consideration of AJET's new infrastructure.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The work of the ascilite Secretariat is overseen by the Executive Officer (**Dominique Parrish**) and the current Secretariat, **Andre Colbert**, has held the position of Secretariat since May 2012. This year, Andre worked to improve the many systems and procedures that comprise the role, particularly as they relate to the use of technology for administrative purposes. He has been instrumental in working behind the scenes to upgrade ascilite's IT infrastructure and to further develop the website beyond the initial project.

As a result of activities driven by the ascilite Strategic Plan, the role of Secretariat now includes a regular commitment of time to update ascilite's social media presence and new website with the aim of putting ascilite in better touch with members and the broader community.

In 2014, Andre undertook the following activities which continue to define the Secretariat's role:

- Established Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and Youtube accounts and commenced regular updating of each one, including the monitoring of key metrics

- Performed web development work that saved the Society additional project expenses beyond the core project fee paid to an external developer

- Further improved the administrative systems used to manage ascilite webinars by producing a procedural "Guide for Presenters" and an automated online webinar registration system

- Set-up a conference sub-domain system that can be used to host future conferences at no cost by using ascilite's existing web host

- Responded to on-going individual and institutional membership enquiries by email and phone and established new proformas for membership and online payments

- Received and processed membership dues and other payments and processed these in MYOB, updating member profiles accordingly.

- Developed and introduced a new interim online payment system for member payments.

- Managed and reconciled the ascilite accounts in MYOB and produced BAS statements and financial reports

- Managed ascilite budget related reporting through monthly updates of ascilite's Profit & Loss statements.

- Supported the ascilite Executive Committee by administering and coordinating online executive and senior executive meetings

- Organized documentation and distributed executive and senior executive meeting agendas and pre-meeting documentation.

- Produced reports and minutes for the Executive and supported the various executive portfolios and action list system.

- Produced and disseminated ascilite fortnightly bulletins and special announcements.

- Worked collaboratively with the Executive to implement strategic and operational plans.

- Managed Constitution requirements in regard to the Annual General Meeting, auditing of financial records and election of executive members.

- Worked collaboratively with the AJET editorial team in responding to author and reviewer enquiries and to resolve technical issues.

KEY PRIORITIES 2015

There is certainly no rest planned for the Executive in 2015. As this report details, we have several large projects and initiatives underway that are guided by our objectives in our strategic plan (Appendix 1). Some of our key priorities for 2015 are as follows:

- Conduct, analyse and report on our biannual membership survey to provide us with guidance from members on our work and initiatives and member needs going forward.

- Complete the redevelopment of our back-end IT infrastructure and the migration of the AJET website to its new host

- Promote, monitor and evaluate the value proposition of our institutional membership scheme

- Promote, monitor and evaluate our CMALT Australasia accreditation scheme

- Establish, promote and evaluate our ascilite SIGs and their activities

- Develop a practical and pedagogical resource for ascilite webinar presenters and continue to build the webinar series for researchers and practitioners

- Identify opportunities to forge mutually productive relationships with other professional organisations that are relevant to our field

- Work with the AJET Lead Editors to ensure the quality, value and sustainability of the ascilite journal

- Work with the ascilite 2015 conference team toward a high quality and financially viable ascilite conference

- Continue to consider and review the methods by which ascilite can remain a sustainable Society

Appendix 1: ascilite strategic plan 2012-2015

VISION STATEMENT

ascilite's vision is to be a globally recognised, professionally connected and vibrant community enhancing learning and teaching through the educational use of technologies in the tertiary sector.

MISSION

ascilite's mission is to be Australasia's leading networked community fostering research, innovation and evidence–based practice in the effective use of educational technologies for learning and teaching in the tertiary sector.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Community & Practice

- Create community-building opportunities that enable ascilite members to lead, connect, and collaborate across a productive professional network.

- Encourage and promote the sharing of future-focused, evidence-based practices in the use of educational technologies.

Research

- Develop opportunities for ascilite members to contribute toward the advancement of research in educational technologies in tertiary education.

Sustainability

- Ensure the future sustainability of ascilite.

COMMUNITY & PRACTICE

Strategic Goals

- Create community-building opportunities that enable ascilite members to lead, connect, and collaborate across a productive professional network.

- Encourage and promote the sharing of future-focused, evidence-based practices in the use of educational technologies.

Strategic Objectives

- Invite ascilite members to suggest, lead, contribute to, and participate in ascilite initiatives.

- Create opportunities for members to connect and share professional knowledge, expertise and practice and network in relevant communities of practice.

- Develop strong mechanisms for communication across the community.

- Promote professional recognition of members working in the field of educational technologies across Australasia and internationally.

- Invite highly esteemed practitioners to stimulate ideas, discussion and community knowledge with regards to trends and uses of educational technologies in tertiary education.

RESEARCH

Strategic Goal

- Develop opportunities for ascilite members to contribute toward the advancement of research in educational technologies in tertiary education.

Strategic Objectives

- Extend research capability across and beyond the ascilite research community.

- Ensure a globally recognized journal of educational technology research in tertiary education.

- Maintain an annual conference of high international standing.

- Determine and articulate an ascilite research impact position statement.

SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Goal

- Ensure the future sustainability of ascilite.

Strategic Objectives

- Maintain best practices and procedures in the area of financial and administrative management of the Society.

- Maintain a strong financial position and outlook for the Society.

- Maintain transparent financial records.

- Conduct the business of the Society in accordance with the ascilite Constitution.