



# **Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of Action Learning, Action Research Association Inc**

**ALARA Management Committee**

# Report Structure

**Part 1:**  
**Overview of strategic achievements**  
ALARA Strategic Plan 2015-2020

**Part 2:**  
**Presidents Report**

2a) Presidents report

2b) Australasian Vice President

2c) International Vice President

**Part 3**  
**Working Groups**

3a) Web Services

3b) Publications

3c) Membership & Marketing

**Part 4:**  
**Treasurers Report**

3d) Streams

# PART 1: OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Status report on ALARA Strategic  
Plan 2015-2020

## ➤ Strategic Planning Process

Strategic planning conducted during 2014, with limited, but important, input from members

The outcome was a Strategic Directions paper with three key themes:

- 1) ALARA identifies one or more significant financial benefactors, who are willing to engage in strategic alliances or joint ventures to further ALARA's aims and grow its recognition and membership base within the AL / AR community
- 2) ALARA allows organisations with Action Learning / Action Research interests to utilise ALARA's reputation to develop new ideas, new activities and potentially increase membership and the recognition of ALARA
- 3) The Management Committee provides guidance on how an organisation might propose a strategic alliance.

## ➤ Strategic Plan Progress

The Management Committee has commenced discussions with several organisations towards the goal of arranging alliances

- 1) The 2015 World Congress, scheduled for 4 – 7 November, is a result of an agreement with North West University and National Research Foundation in South Africa
- 2) ALARA is in consultation with two private universities and another organisation for future major events, at least one of which should be announced soon
- 3) ALARA is in discussions with CARN and ARNA about possible connections and joint events
- 4) The Management Committee has released a document as a guidance on how an organisation might propose a strategic alliance
- 5) ALARA is sounding out other possible alliances, and welcomes proposals

# PART 2: PRESIDENTS REPORT



This part includes the reports of the President, Colin Bradley, Australasian Vice President, Vicki Vaartjes and International Vice President, Emmanuel Tetteh



## 2a) President's Report

### Goals for This Year

- **Complete the Strategic Planning process**  
Strategic Plan completed; ALARA now working towards growing the number and type of alliances, and, as a consequence, grow awareness and involvement in ALARA
- **Conduct the Australasian Conference – Canberra 2014**  
A small but very well received conference
- **Improve the Website and increase social media content**  
More functionality than the old site, but with problems – see Web Services report
- **Reinforce Financial Stability**  
Result is a loss of over \$6,000 (mainly from lack of profit from conference) – see Financial report
- **Prepare for next World Congress**  
South Africa 2015 could be a very big event, with nearly 200 submissions for presentations, etc.
- **Grow membership**  
Not successful, and continues to be an area of concern to Management Committee

## 2b) Australasian VP's Report

### ➤ 2014 Australasian Conference

- Successfully delivered from 7-12 November in Canberra at a Silver Wattle Quaker Centre on the shores of Weereewa, otherwise known as Lake George, in partnership with CultureShift Pty Ltd
  - Theme: *Starting from Here: Self Determination as Functional Reform*
- The event was conducted in two separate but complimentary parts: Event 1: Self Determination and Event 2: Functional Reform
- The style of conference was based on a Conference Intensive model developed by CultureShift, and offered an opportunity for development targeting key aspects of Action Research practice.
- Participants included ALARA members, representatives from Research@EastZone, Temasek Junior College in Singapore, researchers and academics from universities in Australia, South Africa and the UK, and practitioners from public sector and consultancies in New Zealand and throughout Australia. A total of 29 people participated across the two events.



## 2b) Australasian VP's Report

### ➤ 2014 Australasian Conference...continued

- The conference developed an approach of 'facilitation by design', enabling minimal intervention and maximum engagement by participants to explore their theories of practice, using dialogue, group work and role-play in scenarios that were crafted based on pre conference submissions by some of the participants.
- Particular recognition and appreciation is offered to Susan Goff, Wolgulu Nation Senior Elder Shane Mortimer, and members of the co-design teams: Mark Spain, Shawn Wilson and Rachel Shields for Event 1, and Bob Dick, Ross Colliver and Riripeti Reedy for Event 2.
  - A report of the conference has been prepared and is available on the ALARA web site.
  - The conference resulted in a small loss to ALARA of AU\$771.00 due to lower than expected registrations.
  - Total Income: \$10,945.46 Total Expenditure: \$12,487.45 (ALARA and CultureShift shared the loss)

## 2b) Australasian VP's Report

### Learning from experience...

- **ALARA's approach to Conference Management**
- Consistent with an Action research approach, a small working group has been formed to:
  - Review past and current conference experiences and draw out key learning's relating to the practical aspects of partnering, logistics, conference planning, management, reporting and accountability, and;
  - Bring together the range of conference-related ALARA documents to create an integrated "ALARA approach" to conference management and delivery.
- The outcome from this work will be a document and accompanying tools that will form the basis of future conference events, including those undertaken in partnership with others.
- The group includes Pamela Kruse, Colin Bradley and Vicki Vaartjes, and the drafting process is underway.

## 2b) Australasian VP's Report

### ➤ Coming up...ALARA World Congress 2015

- The ALARA 9th Action Learning, Action Research and 13th Participatory Action Research World Congress, will be delivered in St. George Hotel and Conference Centre, Centurion, Pretoria, South Africa from 4 – 7 November 2015
  - Theme: *Collaborative and Sustainable Learning for a Fairer World: Rhetoric or Reality?*
- The conference is being delivered in partnership with Professor Lesley Wood and the Faculty of Education Sciences, North-West University in South Africa.
- Almost 200 submissions have been received to create a comprehensive program with 5 strands including papers, symposiums, workshops, poster presentations and artistic displays:
  1. Education
  2. Organisational development/ Workplace
  3. Community
  4. Innovations in AR/AL
  5. Conserving the environment and sustainability
- ALARA members and Management Committee have supported many aspects of the delivery to date, including representation in the conference organising group, and participation in stream review committees

## 2c) International VP's Report

- **Establishing international connections for ALARA**
- **The following outlines the provision of support for marketing planning, policies and processes made by Dr Emmanuel Tetteh**
  - Based on the approved future strategic directions for 2014 – 2020, I sent official invitations to Dr Rosemarie Pelletier of Norwich University, Dr Brian Jennings of Ghana Christian University College, and Dr John Darland and Dr Jamie Barron of Capella University, USA for strategic alliances with ALARA
  - 15 – 19 June 2014, I met with Dr Rosemarie Pelletier about the logics and plans for starting ALARA Chapter at Norwich University
  - I am engaging in an ongoing discussion with Dr Pelletier and Dean's approval for Norwich University to host the ALARA 2018 World Congress in June
  - To advance ALARA's marketing efforts and activities, I am engaging in an ongoing discussion with Dr Brian Jennings of Ghana Christian University College (GCUC) and one of my doctoral mentees for possible local ALARA activities, postponed until further notice (e.g., workshop, professional events, ALAR coaching, facilitator training, program endorsement, support for ALAR certification prospects, etc.) in Ghana, West Africa

## 2c) International VP's Report

### ➤ **Establishing international connections for ALARA...continued**

- 10 July 2015 met with and still working with Colin, John, and Gina on proposals for ALAR Journal classification direction. Subsequently I am developing preliminary draft proposals for ALAR Journal classifications
- Initiating and promoting marketing strategies for recruitment of prospective ALARA members across Tertiary institutions in the USA
- Initiating and advancing marketing strategies to increase faculty and students participation in ALARA Tertiary Education Community on LinkedIn
- Initiating and promoting the interests and increased participations of faculty, students, ALAR practitioners across the USA and Ghana in the upcoming ALARA 2015 World Congress in South Africa



# PART 3: WORKING GROUPS



Includes:

3a) Web Services

3b) Publications

3c) Membership and Marketing

3d) Streams





## 3a) Web Services

[www.alarassociation.org](http://www.alarassociation.org)

**ALARA on Facebook, Twitter,  
LinkedIn, Google+ and YouTube**

### Achievements

- GroupSpaces site has many additional features not available in old site
- Greatly improved communications to members about activities in AL / AR community
- Facebook group grows – nearly 400 members by end of March 2015
- Twitter account created and 40 members by March
- Since March, Google+ and YouTube accounts also created
- Student LinkedIn group – Tertiary Education Community – continues to grow – over 150 members
- Journal on Open Journal System allowing member access to full articles, and community access to abstracts

### Challenges

- Lack of help function from GroupSpaces company a major risk for ALARA; evident at times when site is locked
- Management Committee has concluded that a new site is required to eliminate this risk
- Social media sites created require involvement by members and others in AL / AR community

## 3b) Publications

### World Congress Proceedings

- Available electronic and print-on-demand

### Journals

- Volume 20, Nos 1 and 2 published, and Vol 21 planned – but new Managing Editor required

### EBSCO and Informit

- Journals available, with access to Informit via website

### Editorial Panels

- Growing, but more volunteers welcomed

### Fortnightly

### Emails

- Sent 25 times, with 10+ items of news from ALARA and other organisations

### Monographs

- Editor seeking submissions

### Print-on-Demand through Sydney Uni Press

- Journals, Monographs and World Congress Proceedings

[editor@alarassociation.org](mailto:editor@alarassociation.org)

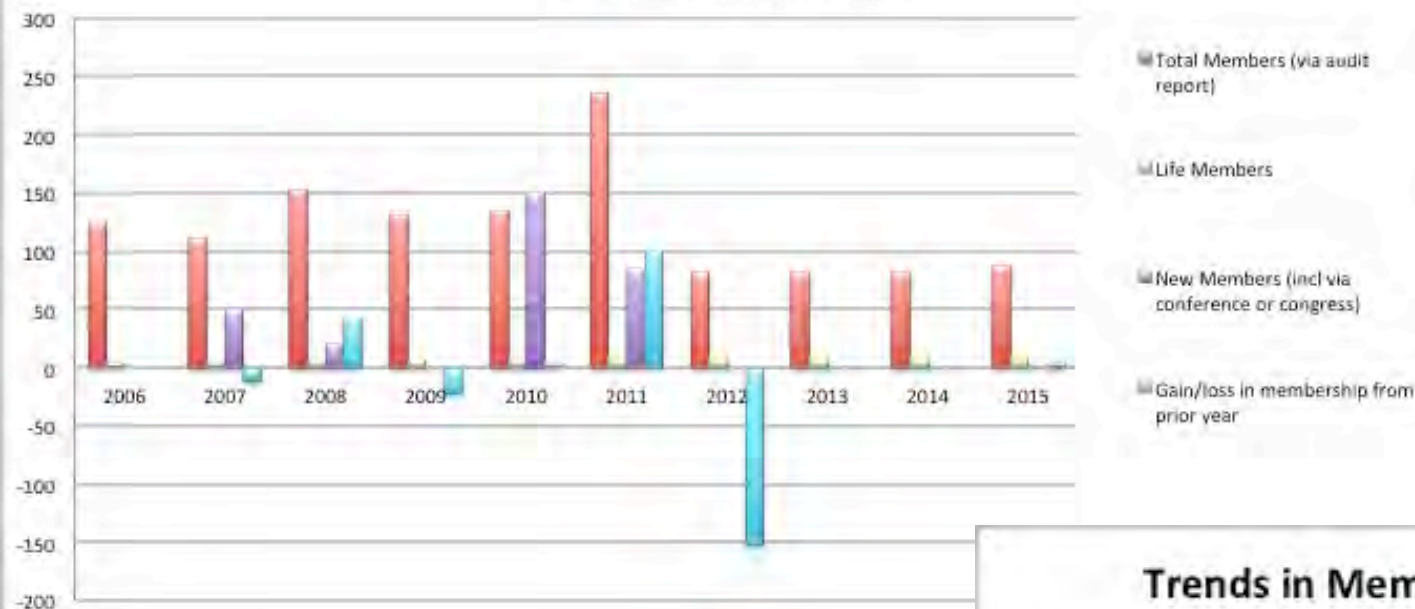
<http://www.alarassociation.org/publications>

## 3b) Publications

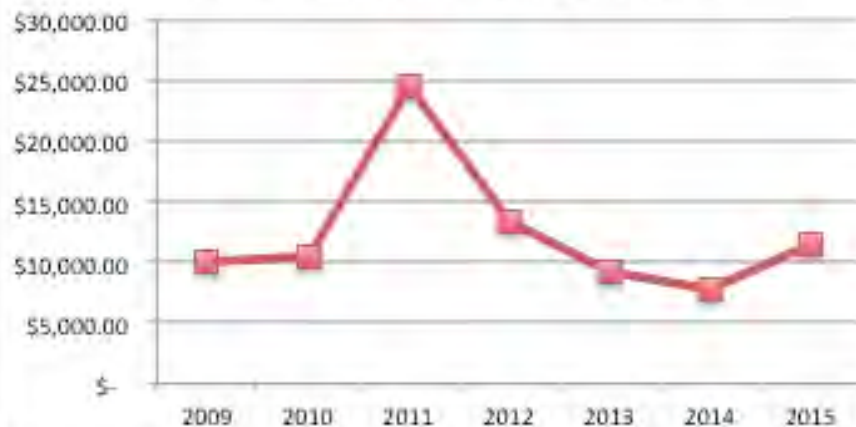
- ▶ Additional activities undertaken by Gina Blackberry as publications coordinator
  - Shadowing Susan Goff, Editor of the ALARA journal
  - Peer review of journal submissions
  - Advertisements for the position of Journal Editor
  - Communications with potential World Congress sponsors
  - Development of a proposal to investigate new possibilities and sections for a revamped journal focused on gaining a ranking
  - Member of sub committee to investigate new journal proposal

# 3c) Membership and Marketing

**Membership Trends**



**Trends in Membership Income**





- **Melbourne Action Learning and Action Research** contact details: Jill Sanguinetti, [Jill.Sanguinetti@vu.edu.au](mailto:Jill.Sanguinetti@vu.edu.au)
- **Sydney** ALARA network contact details: Susan Goff, [susan.g@cultureshift.com.au](mailto:susan.g@cultureshift.com.au)
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# PART 4: Treasurers Report



- 4a) Statement of income and expenditure
- 4b) Balance sheet as at 31 March 2015
- 4c) Balance sheet history 2005 to 2015
- 4d) Balance sheet history, Income & Expenditure comparison
- 4e) Balance sheet history, Income and Expenditure totals





## Treasurer's Report

### Statement of Income and Expenditure Year ending 31 March 2015

<b>*Conferences, seminars</b>		<b>2015</b>
2014 conference Income		10,945.46
2014 conference Expenses		12,487.45
Deficit		1,541.99
Shared loss 50%		770.99

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Conferences* net income	12,885.06	-770.99
World Congress	0.00	0.00
Interest	1,841.41	1,951.33
Membership Fees	7,738.46	11,424.04
Local events	760.60	697.10
Other	165.31	200.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,390.84</b>	<b>13,501.54</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
ALAR Journal	1,334.30	2,261.46
Administration	11,157.83	12,968.44
Email/internet account	27.27	242.74
Audit Fees	875.00	910.00
Bank and PayPal fees	418.09	286.57
Equipment	0.00	85.45
Monograph series	442.37	0.00
Insurance	1,743.65	1,763.65
Mgt Committee costs	281.82	0.00
Printing, postage, stationary	78.10	7.09
PO Box / mail fward / courier	254.63	248.25
Registration / licences	45.00	48.25
Advertising	0.00	414.32
World Congress Journal	195.09	0.00
Group Spaces	0.00	241.45
Web maintenance	225.00	275.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,078.15</b>	<b>19,752.67</b>
<b>Net Deficit / Surplus</b>	<b>6,312.69</b>	<b>-6,251.13</b>



# Treasurer's Report

## Balance Sheet

### as at 31 March 2015

	2014	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	7,950.00	4,733.81
Term Deposit	57,742.26	54,041.34
Accounts receivable	0.00	15.75
Venue deposits	0.00	2,314.69
GST and BAS Refundable	161.00	252.08
<b>Total Current</b>	65,853.26	61,357.67
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Office Equipment	807.97	0.00
less Accum Depreciation	807.97	0.00
Total non-current	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	65,853.26	61,357.67
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade Creditors	1,949.65	4,933.02
GST Payable	0.00	0.00
Unspent grants	0.00	0.00
BAS payable	71.00	249.00
Conference SA profit share	1,164.93	1,164.93
Prepayments-M'ship, conf	2,950.83	1,545.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	6,136.41	7,891.95
<b>Net Assets</b>	59,716.85	53,465.72
<b>Members funds</b>		
Opening Accum Funds	53,404.16	59,716.85
Add Deficit / Surplus	6,312.69	-6,251.13
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	59,716.85	53,465.72



# Treasurer's Report

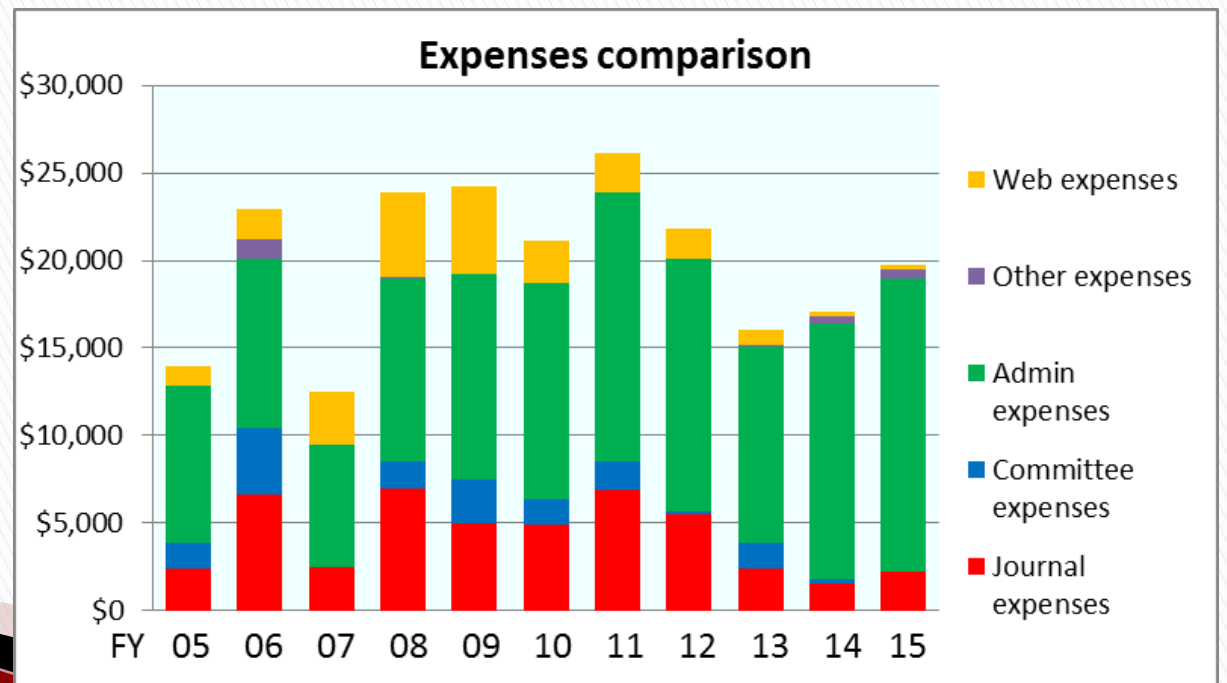
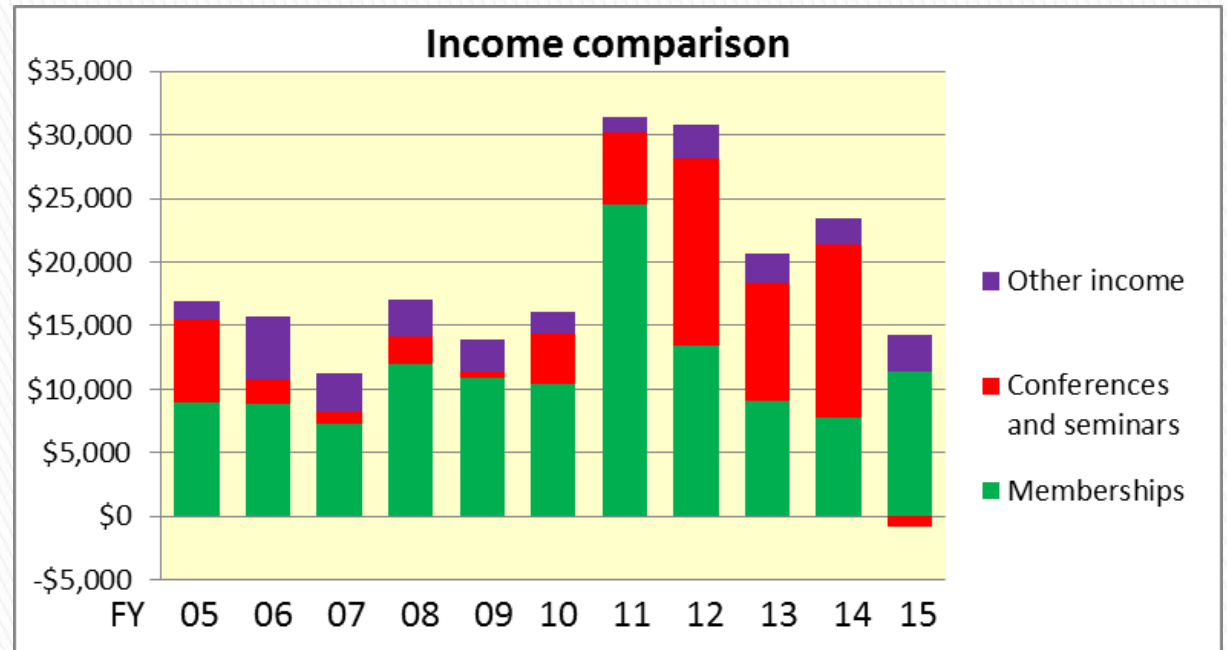
## Balance sheet history

### 2005 to 2015

ALARA	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Memberships	8,945	8,812	7,278	12,035	10,920	10,451	24,510	13,399	9,134	7,738	11,424
Conferences and seminars	6,585	1,936	1,005	2,126	500	3,893	5,637	14,736	9,243	13,645	-771
Other income	1,357	4,947	2,982	2,867	2,485	1,793	1,257	2,656	2,287	2,007	2,848
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16,887</b>	<b>15,695</b>	<b>11,265</b>	<b>17,028</b>	<b>13,905</b>	<b>16,137</b>	<b>31,404</b>	<b>30,791</b>	<b>20,664</b>	<b>23,390</b>	<b>13,501</b>
Journal expenses	2,416	6,614	2,476	6,997	5,000	4,918	6,889	5,465	2,367	1,529	12,261
Committee expenses	1,472	3,820	0	1,519	2,500	1,445	1,612	246	1,494	281	0
Admin expenses	8,965	9,648	6,980	10,483	11,745	12,306	15,363	14,367	11,222	14,574	16,717
Other expenses	0	1,152	0	58	0	0	0	0	108	442	499
Web expenses	1,143	1,747	3,012	4,852	5,000	2,498	2,235	1,715	884	252	275
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,996</b>	<b>22,981</b>	<b>12,468</b>	<b>23,909</b>	<b>24,245</b>	<b>21,167</b>	<b>26,099</b>	<b>21,793</b>	<b>16,075</b>	<b>17,078</b>	<b>19,752</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>-7,286</b>	<b>-1,203</b>	<b>-6,881</b>	<b>-10,340</b>	<b>-5,030</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>8,998</b>	<b>4,589</b>	<b>6,312</b>	<b>-6,251</b>

# Treasurer's Report

## Balance sheet history 2005 to 2015



# Treasurer's Report

Balance sheet history

2005 to 2015

