

SPERA President's Message

Welcome to the second issue of *Education in Rural Australia* for 2008. While SPERA is a relatively small organisation its work in highlighting and addressing the many challenges associated with rural and remote education in Australia is significant. However, *Education in Rural Australia* goes beyond the Australian scene exploring in-depth the issues and challenges facing rural education within the international context.

2009 will welcome the establishment of a new team to coordinate and oversee the production of the journal. The team comprises:

Editors

- Dr Graeme Lock (Edith Cowan University)
- Dr Simone White (Deakin University)
- Associate Professor Maxine Cooper (University of Ballarat)
- Wendy Hastings (Sub Dean of Professional Experience Faculty of Education, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst).
- Dr Colin Boylan (Charles Sturt University) Business Management / Sponsorship

The SPERA Executive and membership fully appreciates the dedication and commitment of the work of editors Will Letts and Tracey Simpson and others including Myra Dunn and Don Squires in putting together the Journal, *Education in Rural Australia* and achieving such excellent outcomes. In particular, Will and Tracey have managed the journal over the past seven years has been well appreciated.

The professionalism of the editorial team has resulted in the production of a journal that is highly regarded both nationally and internationally. When one considers that such a journal is produced on a voluntary basis it is truly a remarkable achievement. SPERA farewells Will and Tracey as Volume 18 Number 1, 2008 was their last.

I thank all colleagues and educators who have worked tirelessly in reviewing the articles that appear in our journal. A special thank you to Kim Booby for her work in the production process and the support provided by Professor Jo-Anne Reid (Charles Sturt University) is acknowledged.

In conclusion, I encourage you to reflect on the articles within this edition and encourage you to continue your valuable commitment to rural education.

Emmy Terry
President