

# HISTORY OF VAESA



## DATE ASSOCIATION COMMENCED

The Visual Arts Educators South Australia association (VAESA) was formed in 2010.

## KEY PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

VAESA is the professional association of Visual Arts and Design educators in South Australia, who are committed to the growth and development of the Visual Arts through scholarly exploration and promotion of best practice in art education in R–12, tertiary sectors, and educational cultural institutions.

## MAIN FOCUS AREAS

- VAESA supports teachers and preservice teachers to build their confidence in innovative, inclusive, and sustainable approaches to Arts education, through regular professional development and practical training to broaden and strengthen skills in artmaking and design.
- We connect our members with high-quality teaching and learning resources and networks including fellow teachers, practicing artists and local Arts organisations.
- We advocate for quality Visual Arts education in South Australia and communicate to members about updates to curriculum, education policy, and education strategies for the benefit of Visual Arts teachers and leaders across school sectors.
- We value the active engagement of our members, including those in rural areas.

## LEVELS OF CARE AND EDUCATION

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary (preservice teachers)

## KEY EVENTS

- VAESA Annual Conference
- Network Meetings (Primary, Secondary, Preservice Teachers)
- VAESA Member's Exhibition

## **HISTORY**

The first VAESA committee was formed in 2010 to fulfil the need for a voice for SA Visual Arts educators at state and national level, particularly in response to the emerging national curriculum. The association garnered support from key community organisations, including Flinders University and UniSA, the Art Gallery of South Australia, Samstag Gallery, Adelaide College of the Arts, and the Adelaide Central School of Art, and these strong relationships, along with many more, continue today.

Within two months of its inception, VAESA had successfully advocated for senior-secondary teachers to gain immediate access to professional development in teaching and assessing the SACE Visual Arts Stage 2 Visual Study.

The committee sought feedback from teachers to design its first calendar of events, which included the inaugural conference, a forum on the Australian Curriculum, and a visit to an artists' home. From the outset, VAESA communicated their priority in supporting teachers in rural and remote areas, ensuring the availability of video conferencing, and the provision of local workshops.

Since then, VAESA has maintained the well-loved annual conference as a highlight of the association's calendar, along with well-established and highly valued primary, secondary and tertiary network meetings, and member's exhibitions.

## **PLANNED FOR 2024**

- VAESA Annual Conference
- VAESA member's exhibition
- Primary network meetings
- Secondary network meetings
- Preservice teacher network meetings
- VAESA newsletter
- Curriculum advocacy – SACE
- Professional Learning: Supercharge Year 12

## **2023**

- VAESA Annual Conference (Keynote speaker: Dr Nick Jackson)
- Primary network meetings
- Secondary network meetings
- Preservice teacher network meetings
- Website and membership revamp

## **2022**

- Breath: Visual Art Educators Members Exhibition.
- SACE Teachers of Visual Art and Design Webinar.

## **2021**

- VAESA Annual Conference
- Teacher workshop: Katie Sandison Australian Animals and Birds
- Early career and pre-service teacher lesson planning
- SACE teachers: Visual Arts / Design and Creative Arts (VAESA members share experience)
- Starting your Art teaching career

## **2020**

- Secondary Visual Art Teachers South Australia Network
- Dealing with Artists: Our Digital Practice online discussion
- Marking the past – Reviewing past exemplars of the Visual Study
- Kickstart the Visual Study (Art Gallery of South Australia and Luke Thurgate from Adelaide Central School of Art)

## **2019**

- VAESA Annual Conference (Keynote speaker: Rhana Devenport)
- Masters, Mentors and Media: Visual Art Educators Members Exhibition
- The Art of OzAsia Educator Event
- Arts Inspire 2019 (Visual Arts Educators South Australia, Drama South Australia, Australian Society for Music Education (ASME) and South Australian Association for Media Education)
- ACE Visual Study marking workshop
- SACE Visual Study Forum
- Year 12 Art and Design Forum
- Primary Network Meeting

## 2018

- VAESA Annual Conference (Speakers: Lisa Slade, Carly Grace, Anna Hodge, Penny Griggs, Clare Belfrage)
- VAESA Members end of year Drawing and Picnic Event (led by artist Luke Thurgate)
- Drawing in the Gallery with Luke Thurgate (Art Gallery of South Australia)
- Australian Project Based Learning 101 – A high tech high experience (presented with Educators SA, led by Katrina Axford)
- The Art of OzAsia Educators event
- Primary Network meeting
- Year 12 Visual Art and Design Forum

## 2017

- VAESA Winter Solstice Conference (Keynote speaker: Professor Martin Westwell)
- VAESA 2-day oil painting workshop with Jessica Mara
- Viewing of Loving Vincent
- Primary Network meeting
- Creating in 3D with clay - teacher workshop (Robyn Carmody)

## 2016

- VAESA / CEASA Combined Arts Conference (Keynote speaker: Katie Dawson)
- VAESA Winter Conference (Keynote speaker: Associate Professor Christopher Orchard)
- Primary School Teacher's Network developed
- The Members Only area added to the VAESA website to further support members in their teaching and artmaking practice
- VAESA / Fringe Festival combined launch in the State Library
- Revamp of the Ministers Arts Awards
- Workshops held throughout the year
- SACE student forum including presentations by recent graduates
- Student drawing workshops (Art Gallery of South Australia)
- 2016 VAESA launch (promoting Art Gallery of South Australia, State Library of South Australia and Fringe Festival)

## **2015**

- VAESA Winter Conference (Keynote speaker: Amy Hamilton)
- First member's exhibition
- First Come Out project
- VAESA representatives on the Curriculum Leaders Group (SACE)
- Increased art workshops in regional areas
- Increase professional development to support teachers in using the Australian Curriculum, the Arts
- Regular advocacy opportunities through consultations by DECD and SACE

## **2014**

- VAESA / CEASA Combined Arts Conference
- VAESA Winter Solstice Conference
- VAESA Members exhibition
- VAESA launch @ SAMSTAG Museum of Art (curator Richard Grayson)
- SACE student forum continuing and format refined
- President of VAESA invited to attend Government House to meet the Governor
- Meetings between all Arts associations led to a letter and then a meeting with the Minister of Education, Jennifer Rankin – advocating for improved quality and consistency of teacher professional development in the Australian Curriculum, and greater connection with the Department

## **2013**

- VAESA Winter Conference (Keynote: Sarah White)
- “Landmark” combined conference - developed as a collaboration between all Arts associations, to address a need for teacher professional development in the Australian Curriculum
- Workshops delivered throughout the year in metro and regional areas
- Year 12 Visual Art Forum
- Website developed
- Facebook pages developed

## 2012

- VAESA Winter Solstice Conference (Keynote: Professor Kay Lawrence, Director of South Australian School of Art)
- VAESA represented at the National Advocates for the Arts meeting with Federal Education Minister Peter Garrett and Primary Minister Julia Gillard to discuss the Arts Australian Curriculum
- Tour of new Central School of Art Glenside
- Visual Arts Studies Student Forum launched with the Art Gallery of South Australia
- Members' student exhibition
- Member newsletters developed
- VAESA logo developed

## 2011

- Inaugural VAESA winter conference
- Networking events
- Forum on Australian Curriculum with John O'Toole, Lead Writer, Shape of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts - contributions made by committee and VAESA members
- SACE Visual Art Stage 2 Visual Study clarifying forum launched

## 2010

- VAESA formed in November.

## KEY PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS

**Graham Cox**, manager of Curriculum – The Arts at the Department for Education and Child Services, was instrumental in forging the VAESA association, as he recognised a gap in the voice of and support for Visual Arts teachers in South Australia.

**The following key contributors to VAESA have been recognised with life membership:**

Ian Corbett

Mark Fischer

Ruth Flaherty

Anna-Maria Zupancic

## **STARTERS, DRIVERS, CHANGERS**

### **VAESA's first Committee (2010):**

President: Ruth Flaherty

Vice President: Moira Simpson

Secretary: Amy Hamilton

PR and Events Officer: Ian Corbett

Treasurer: Lauren Tomszac

Membership Secretary: Ann Johnson

## **WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF VAESA, BECAUSE...**

We are passionate about contributing to a vibrant Visual Arts community. We are keen to continue supporting and advocating for Visual Arts and Design teachers as changemakers in Arts education.



### **GET IN TOUCH WITH US!**

[hello.vaesa@gmail.com](mailto:hello.vaesa@gmail.com)

[vaesa.com.au](http://vaesa.com.au)