



#### Issue 4

RAVE News

*http://federation.edu.au/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-education-and-arts/education-and-arts/research/rave-researching-adult-and-vocational-education*

**Winter 2015**

**Welcome**

Professor Erica Smith, RAVE Acting Convenor

RAVE is an active group that undertakes research that informs many national and international developments, as well as smaller-scale research that is of direct interest and utility to VET teachers and trainers in their daily work.

As the VE sector continues to evolve and change rapidly, research evidence continues to be of major importance.

In this newsletter we report on activities since December 2014. Further information about most of these activities is available on our web site (URL above). Do not hesitate to email RAVE for more details about any items: rave.research@federation.edu.au

Federation University will be hosting the sixth international conference of INAP (the International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship) on 1st-2nd September 2015. More details are provided on this page. Please come along for this rare opportunity to see international speakers in what promises to be a major event in the Australian VET calendar, at a very reasonable cost. We have secured sponsorship from the Department of Education and Training, and Senator Simon Birmingham will address the conference on the first day.

This will be RAVE”s OctoberVET event for 2015. RAVE members have been assisting authors with their English language and will be officiating in a number or ways during the event

A separate flyer is sent with this newsletter.



Following the success of our PhD masterclass for senior VET managers, Federation University Australia is offering a similar program, for senior practitioners to undertake a Masters by Research. The program will be highly structured over a two-year period, commencing July or August 2015, and will include four to six workshops in Melbourne and/or Ballarat. Successful completion may provide entry into, and quicker completion of, a PhD.

The program has special entry provisions and is suitable for those who already have an undergraduate degree and a coursework Masters qualification or, in some cases, a Graduate Diploma with good grades.

The program will be facilitated by Erica Smith and other RAVE researchers and needs minimum numbers to commence. To register your interest, please contact Erica on 03-5327 9665 or e.smith@federation.edu.au

**6th International INAP Conference: Architectures for apprenticeship: Achieving economic and social goals.**

During September 1st and 2nd , RAVE in conjunction with AVETRA, Federation University Australia, Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET), TVET Research Group, University of Bremen and University of Zurich, will host the sixth International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) conference, in Ballarat. This is the first time INAP has been in Australia, and it is hosted by co-chair of INAP, Professor Erica Smith and includes keynote speeches from Dr Raymond Patel (MERSETA); Dr Paul Comyn (International Labor Organisation) and Professor Stephen Billett (Griffith University). The conference has been sponsored by the Department of Education and Training and the NCVER; and has attracted world leading apprenticeship researchers to present in this conference, with around 35 papers to be presented. There is also a panel of Worldskills finalists and Australian Apprenticeships Ambassadors.

Information for the event, and a link to registration, can be found at [www.federation.edu.au/inap](https://outlook.uob.ballarat.edu.au/owa/redir.aspx?C=xSHUWZxjwE2TTwoiN55oq8MzEqArZtIIYaf_ncmDcuRgm31eLivJOyY-1S3eY_JxRsMLVQ9Fl6c.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.federation.edu.au%2finap) and any enquiries can be directed to [INAP2015@federation.edu.au](https://outlook.uob.ballarat.edu.au/owa/redir.aspx?C=xSHUWZxjwE2TTwoiN55oq8MzEqArZtIIYaf_ncmDcuRgm31eLivJOyY-1S3eY_JxRsMLVQ9Fl6c.&URL=mailto%3aINAP2015%40federation.edu.au). Registration costs for the event is $200 for the full event or $100 per day.

**Retirement of RAVE members Professor Barry Golding and Professor Lawrie Angus**

RAVE members would like to extend a warm and sincere thank you to members Barry Golding and Lawrie Angus for their many years of academic service. Barry and Lawrie retired in March 2015, with the occasion marked by an event hosted by senior Fed Uni managers and attracting many current and former staff members. Lawrie and Barry have been a part of the University of Ballarat/ Federation University of Australia for many years, and strong contributors to RAVE.

**Barry Golding** came to University of Ballarat from Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE to take up a Senior Lecturer Position in the School of Education, later coordinating the Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Technology course. Barry's main areas of research gradually shifted from equity and access in vocational education and training to adult and community education, with a focus in the past decade on men's informal learning through community organisations. Aside from being promoted to Professor four years ago, his main recent achievement was completion of an edited international book, 'Men learning through life' with Rob Mark and Annette Foley, and his forthcoming 'Men's Shed Movement: The Company of Men' book due for launch in October 2015, published by Common Ground in the US. He has completed a wide range of major research projects over the past two decades, and published widely internationally. He regards his most satisfying teaching contribution in research methodology, Australian education and Indigenous education. Barry’s work and academic interests can be further explored at <http://barrygoanna.com/>.

Details about **Lawrie Angus** will feature in a future edition of RAVE News.

Lawrie and Barry have been appointed as Adjunct Professors for a period of three years. They will continue to work with us on a range of research and writing projects. Their expertise and experience is greatly valued and we appreciate their ongoing commitment to Federation University and the Faculty of Education and Arts.

**Excellence in Research Australia exercise**

RAVE members’ publications and grants formed a significant component of Federation University’s Education submission for the 2015 Excellence in Research Australia exercise, run by the Australian Research Council. Each university ‘Field of Research’ that reaches a minimum number of outputs is submitted for evaluation. We are hoping that Education at Fed Uni will reach a grade 3, (‘World standard’) this time, with four fields of research submitted for evaluation in Education. We will be able to report on the outcome in the next RAVE News.

**Congratulations to RAVE HDR students James Cannan, Barry Wright and Azusa Umemoto**

Congratulations to James Cannan, a RAVE PhD student, whose paper was accepted for the 6th International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) conference to be held in Ballarat on September 1st-2nd 2015. James will be presenting findings from his PhD thesis, on *work-based learning as part of apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in New Zealand.* James’s supervisors are Erica Smith and Annette Foley.

Barry Wright, RAVE PhD student (who is also the Executive Director of Fed Uni TAFE), has won a bursary to present his project on fully on-the-job learning in construction apprenticeships at the Journal of VET conference in Oxford in early July. Barry’s supervisory team is Erica Smith and Carolyn Johnstone. The Journal of VET Conference is held biennially and is the leading international conference in the VET discipline. Congratulations to Barry!

# Azusa Umemoto’s NCVER-funded Postgraduate Student project ‘Early school leavers’ motivation and challenges in engaging in education and training’ has been finalised and published in the ‘VOCED Plus’ Postgraduate compendium, at <http://www.voced.edu.au/content/ngv%3A68266>Well done, Azusa! Azusa’s supervisors are Erica Smith and Annette Foley.

**‘Recognising the skill in jobs traditionally considered unskilled’ project concludes**



Erica Smith recently concluded an Australian Research Council-funded ‘Linkage’ project, along with RAVE associate member Andy Smith and two researchers from the University of New South Wales, Ian Hampson and Anne Junor. Our industry partners were Manufacturing Skills Australia, Service Sills Australia and the trade union United Voice. The project aimed to collect research evidence that would help to improve the status of, and training for, jobs considered unskilled. In February the findings were presented to a group of 20 major national stakeholders from industry, the VET sector and government, in Melbourne, and the report has now been sent to seven leading international academics in the field for comment. This exercise is aimed at increasing impact particularly in the policy field.

One of the nine occupations studied was that of retail assistant, and Erica is pictured in the shopping mall in Ballarat.
More details can be found on the RAVE web site at

<https://federation.edu.au/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-education-and-arts/research/fea-research-groups/rave-researching-adult-and-vocational-education/current-research>

**RAVE members’ publications since RAVE News 3 (Spring 2014)**

*(RAVE members’ names are bolded)*

Book Chapters

**Golding, B**. (2015) English corrector for Oustrouch-Kaminska, J.  & Vieira, C.  (Eds.) *Private world(s): Gender and informal learning of adults*, ESREA Series: Research on the education and learning of adults. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.

**Golding, B**. & Carragher, L. (2015) Community men’s sheds and informal learning: An exploration of their gendered roles, Chapter 8 in J. Oustrouch-Kaminska & C. Vieira (Eds.) *Private world(s): Gender and informal learning of adults*, ESREA Series: Research on the education and learning of adults. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, pp. 103-118.

**Golding, B**.  (2014). Older men’s learning and conviviality, Chapter 3 in *Learning across generations: Contemporary issues in older adult education*, B. Schmidt-Hertha, S. Jelenc Krasovek & M. Formosa, (Eds.), Sense, pp. 23-34.

Peer-reviewed journal papers

**Smith, E**., Smith, A., Hampson, I. & Junor, A. (in press, 2015).*How closely do Australian Training Package qualifications reflect the skills in occupations? An empirical investigation of seven qualifications.* International Journal of Training Research. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14480220.2015.1051351>

Refereed conference papers

**Golding, B**. & McDonald, J. (2014) Researching older men’s self-directed learning in Australian community contexts: Methods, framework and results, Paper to Symposium of Self-Directed Learning as part of the 8th Congress in Self-Learning, Strasbourg, France, 29-31 Oct 2013.

**Golding, B**. (2014) Men learning later in life: floating the idea of *shedagogy*, Keynote paper to ELOA Conference ‘i*nnovations in lifelong learning*, Valletta, Malta, 22-24 October 2014.

**Smith, E.,** Smith. A., Walker, A. & Costa, B. (2015). Enterprise RTOs in Australia: An overview from research data.*Walking the Tightrope:* ***18th*** *annual AVETRA Conference,* Melbourne, 9-10 April.

Non-refereed publications

Other conferences, public addresses etc

Atkins, L. & **Johnstone, C**. (2014) Collaboration in tertiary education: Going further and higher together. *Learning and Teaching Conference, 2014: Collaborations*. 3-4 July, Ballarat.

**Golding, B**.  & Thompson, S. (2014) Literacy and language policies in Australia, Paper to International Conference on The Methods and Applications of Research on Literacy Yeouido, Seoul, South Korea, 26 November 2014, National Institute for Korean Languages, published [in English and Korean] in Proceedings, T*he methods and applications of research in literacy*, The National Institute of the Korean Language, Seoul, pp. 65-77 in Korean, pp. 78-94 in English.

**Golding, B**. (2014)  Men’s sheds: What have they got to do with aging, learning and wellbeing? Presentation to Conference on Aging and Society, Manchester, England, 7-8 Nov 2014.

**Awards and other recognition for RAVE members**

Erica Smith appointed member of the VET FEE-HELP Reform Working Group

Erica Smith was appointed as a member of the VET FEE-HELP Reform Working Group by Minister Simon Birmingham, Federal Assistant Minister for Education and Training, in April 2015. This working group is advising on the implementation of the reform measures announced by Minister Birmingham in March this year. Erica has undertaken previous research in the VET FEE-HELP area and is the only academic on the working party. The group is meeting monthly until all of the reforms are implemented.

Award for Barry Golding

The Community Educator Award for 2015 was awarded to Barry Golding. This is an award of the Australian College of Educators Ballarat branch, and was presented by John Phillips, the Mayor of the City of Ballarat

Impact for book on apprenticeship

A book performance report for 2014 for Felix Rauner and **Erica Smith’s** edited book ‘Rediscovering Apprenticeship’ showed some very promising results. Since publication in 2009 the total number of chapter downloads from SpringerLink was 4,210. The results showed 2,084 chapter downloads in 2014. This book was a product of the INAP apprenticeship network.

VET sector invited addresses

**Erica Smith** was invited as a plenary speaker at some VET-sector events earlier this year.

* Australian Education Union National TAFE Council AGM, 18 April
* WAVE (Women in Adult and Vocational Education) conference, 8 April.
* Graduation of VET Development Centre Teaching Fellows, February.



**Major international conference on apprenticeship**

**6th Annual INAP conference
The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP)**www.inap.uni-bremen.de
**Architectures for apprenticeship:
Achieving economic and social goals
September 1st – 2nd 2015, Ballarat, Australia**

Sponsored by the Department of Education and Training, and Federation University Australia

in cooperation with [Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET)](http://vetnet.mixxt.org/), [TVET Research Group (I:BB), University of Bremen, Germany](http://www.ibb.uni-bremen.de/) and [University of Zurich, Switzerland](http://www.uzh.ch/index_en.html).

Keynote speaker sessions

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| Dr Paul Comyn,ILO, Geneva | Dr Raymond PatelMERSETA, South Africa | Professor Stephen Billett, Griffith University, Brisbane |

Plus a panel session of WorldSkills participants and Australian Apprenticeships Ambassadors

**Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Assistant Minister for Education and Training, will address the conference on the first day.**

Speakers from 14 countries will be presenting.

Attendees will receive conference proceedings including full papers.

**Information and a link to registration is available at** [**www.federation.edu.au/inap**](http://www.federation.edu.au/inap)

The registration fee is kept low to allow for broad participation.

**Enquiries to** **inap2015@federation.edu.au**

INAP 2015 will take place at Federation University Australia’s Mt Helen Campus in Ballarat, Victoria. Ballarat is the home of technical education in the State of Victoria, and the University incorporates a TAFE (Technical and Further Education) Institute.