**Welcome** *Professor Erica Smith, RAVE convenor*

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter (apologies for the late distribution). You’ll find news about our current research and our publications. It is especially great to see the contributions from our several ‘retired’ but very active researchers.

It was wonderful to be able to hold OctoberVET face to face again recently, and we would like to thank those who attended.

Just before the end of 2022, I was invited by the Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, to participate in the VET Workforce Blueprint Steering Group, established to provide expert guidance to support the development of a blueprint for the vocational education and Training (VET) workforce. The Steering Group is tasked with developing strategies to grow the VET workforce, attract high quality workers, identify effective retention strategies, map career pathways and support the sector in the context of an aging workforce. I will be joining representatives from the Commonwealth, State Governments, VET stakeholders, and employer and union peak bodies.

We would like to congratulate RAVE member Annette Foley on her recent and well-deserved academic promotion to Professor.

Our Associate Degree of Vocational Education and Training continues to grow, and in December an external panel complimented the program. Details of the program are at <https://study.federation.edu.au/course/DTV3>

This will be my final newsletter as convenor, as I am handing over both the coordination of the Associate Degree of VET and the role of convenor of RAVE to Annette Foley due to my retirement in April. RAVE was originally founded by Barry Golding, and I took over following Barry’s retirement. I will continue to be active in RAVE, and am already looking forward to OctoberVET 2023!

Any queries about RAVE and requests to join the mailing list can be sent to [vet.research@federation.edu.au](mailto:vet.research@federation.edu.au)

**OctoberVET 2022**

The RAVE (Researching Adult and Vocational Education) research group held a successful OctoberVET event on Wednesday 23rd November at Ballarat Tech School. There were over 30 attendees, including several current and past students of our Associate Degree of VET as well as VET practitioners and managers from across Victoria. This was the 15th annual OctoberVET event in Ballarat. OctoberVET is an initiative of the Australasian VET Research Assn., AVETRA.

Our keynote speaker was **Professor Robin Shreeve**, an Adjunct Professor affiliated with RAVE. Professor Shreeve is a very well-known former senior executive in VET nationally and internationally, and a former President of AVETRA. Robin provided us with an outstanding overview of several decades of developments and trends in VET policy and practice: ‘Future VET priorities for the workforce of tomorrow - what should VET deliver, and how do we know?’

Research-based presentations all around the theme of inclusivity were given by Fed Uni staff **Anthony Pearce**, **Cheree Macdonald**, **Erica Smith** and **Andy Smith**, and **Annette Foley** with Trace Ollis from Deakin University.Erica also gave an update on the revisions to the VET-sector qualifications in VET teaching, approved by Ministers a few days prior, which she had helped develop. Excellent support for OctoberVET was provided by staff of Ballarat Tech School.



**List of Fed Uni staff’s OctoberVET papers:**

*(photos in same order above)*

**Foley, A** & Ollis, T (*Deakin Uni*) (2022). Inclusive ACE pedagogies: Capabilities for work, skills and life.

**Pearce, A.** (2022). Opportunities and challenges: Applied learning reform in Victoria.

**Macdonald, C.** (2022). The impacts of Work Based Learning for vulnerable youth.

**Smith, E. & Smith, A**. (2022). Career practitioners’ views of careers in retail and hospitality.

**Smith, E** (2022). Brief update on the TAE (Training and Education) Training Package review.

All presentations, including one prepared by Lizzie Knight of Victoria Uni (who was unfortunately able to attend due to illness), can be viewed on the ‘VET research events’ page, via the main RAVE website.

**Prof. Annette Foley Receives Honorary Doctorate**

Prof. **Annette Foley** has been recognised internationally for her leadership in adult and vocational education and lifelong learning, through conferral of an Honorary Doctorate in Education Leadership at the University of Cyberjaya in Malaysia – an international collaborator with Federation University Australia. The award recognises her leadership in adult education, extensive publication history, and engagement with government to research and produce commissioned reports on the value of adult and vocational education.

**New funded RAVE research projects**

**Six Peaks - Barry Golding**

‘Six Peaks Speak’ is a research and writing project Barry Golding is undertaking as a State Library Victoria (SLV) Creative Fellow in 2023. This SLV Fellowship was announced at an event in Melbourne on 22 November 2022. The Fellowship generously provides Barry with a shared office space within SLV in Melbourne and well as library search and financial support during 2023. This will give him time, space, advice and resources to research and write stories about six of the peaks visible from his home in southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

The six peaks are Mounts Kooroocheang, Beckworth, Greenock, Tarrengower, Alexander / Leanganook and Franklin/Larni barramul. These peaks are located in a broad oval enclosing and overlooking some the richest and previously most densely populated Aboriginal grasslands in Australia. The peaks tower above the surrounding plains and forests, keeping watch over and bearing seldom-told witness to significant change.

Barry’s research for each mountain will focus on ‘Incursions’, ‘Resistances’ and ‘Opportunities’, combining insights from a wide range of SLV and other sources and fields (First Nations, spatial, geological, historical, ecological, artistic, environmental), aiming to throw a new light on how the peaks were shaped, and how human contact has continued to define and shape their destinies, after two centuries of mapping, exploitation, public management, visitation and use.

More information about this and other SLV Creative Fellow projects is available at: <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships/fellowship-2023>

**Continuing funded research**

**Careers in Everyday Industries Project**

This project, funded by the National Careers Institute, is in the final stages. We have now completed company case studies, each involving interviews with senior management and staff at two operational sites in retail, fast food and hospitality companies. 73 interviews altogether were carried out. We have undertaken focus groups involving students from three universities, two of which are dual-sectors. (Post-COVID school system rules unfortunately prevented planned focus groups in schools.) The national survey of Career Practitioners was completed, and what we called a ‘General Public’ survey was carried with staff at two dual-sector universities. Coincidentally, 54 responses were received to each survey. Two members of the project team visited Europe and spoke to stakeholders in Germany and Switzerland, finding some similarities and some differences in the ways in which retail and hospitality careers are viewed, and some innovative ‘marketing’ of careers in the industries. We have been extracting ‘career stories’ from the project’s interviews. The final analysis of the project data, and project outputs to the National Careers Institute will be completed in the coming weeks. The project web site is at <https://federation.edu.au/research-everyday-careers>

RAVE researchers: **Erica Smith and Andy Smith**. Research assistant**: Adrian Marshall.**

**New unfunded research**

**Applied research by vocational education and training practitioners: Students’ reflections**

This project by **Erica Smith** investigates the benefits and challenges of TAFE teachers undertaking research projects. The VET sector has been discussing for many years the desirability of its teachers undertaking research, but there is now, due to the Victorian TAFE Teaching Staff industrial agreement, an incentive for teachers to undertake research projects as part of qualifications. Well over 200 students have already undertaken Federation University’s VET research subject. This provides an important opportunity to examine their experiences and to be able to identify challenges that could be overcome in the future.

The research analyses 2022 students’ reflections on the research process, taken from an assignment in the Fed Uni subject *Applied research and reflective practice in VET.* Nearly half of the cohort have kindly consented for their assignments to be analysed.

**Research impact and engagement**

**Erica Smith** was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Melbourne Polytechnic teaching and learning conference in September.

Reference: Smith, E. (2022). The heart of the matter: The centrality of teachers in vocational education. *High Impact Learning Conference*, Melbourne Polytechnic, Preston, Melbourne, 16 Sept.

**RAVE Members’ Achievements**

**RAVE members’ publications and achievements since RAVE News 14 (June, 2022)**

**Books and Reports**

**Smith, E**. (2022). *Improving the attractiveness and social perception of apprenticeships.* Geneva: International Labour Organization (ILO). ISBN 9789220377086. PDF at <https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_861713.pdf>

**Book chapters**

**Smith, E**. (2022) Thirty years of competency-based training: How Australia painted itself into a curriculum corner*.* In *International Encyclopedia of Education* 4th edition, 2022, ed. R. Tierney, F. Rizvi, K. Ercikan & G. Smith. Elsevier. [https://www.sciencedirect.com/referencework/9780128186299/international-encyclopedia-of-education](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/mZ-4COMKlwulvYL1hEXB1w?domain=sciencedirect.com)

**Smith, E**. (2022). Australian TVET teacher training – once flourishing but now neglected, in F. Bunning, G. Spottl & H. Stolte (eds.), *TVET teacher education and training in international and developmental co-operation – models, approaches and trends*. Springer series: Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Issues, Concerns and Prospects. Vol 34, 435-452. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-6474-8_26>

**Journal Articles**

Prayag, G., Aquino, R. S., Hall, C. M., Chen, N., & **Fieger, P.** (2022). Is Gen Z really that different? Environmental attitudes, travel behaviours and sustainability practices of international tourists to Canterbury, New Zealand. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 1-22.

McDonough, S., **Foley, A**., Weadon, H., & Taylor, R. (2022). Ties that bind or exclude? Knitting and craft groups as contested spaces of inclusion and exclusion. *Textiles: Cloth and culture* <https://doi.org/10.1080/14759756.2022.2102725>

**Foley, A., Golding, B**., & Weadon, H., (2022), Respite, renewal, retirement and tensions: Australian Men’s Sheds and the impact on significant others. *Ageing & Society*, 1-22.

Carragher, L., **Golding, B**. & **Foley, A**. (2022) Shedding light: A qualitative study of women’s views on Men’s Sheds in Ireland and Australia, *Health and Social Care in the Community* *30* (6), pp. e4355-e4362, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/hsc.13828>

**Golding, B**. (2022) Sheds: Australia's gift to the world, *PIMA* [Promoting, Interrogating & Mobilising Adult Learning and Education] *Bulletin 43,* B. Findsen & D. Amundsen (eds.), 52-55.

Pascoe, R., McPherson, R., & **Golding, B**.  (2022) 'First Nations Australians in the Nineteenth Century imaginary', *Australian Historical Studies 53* (4).

**Kemmis, S**. (2022). Facing the world: Pedagogical praxis through a post-pandemic prism. Journal of Praxis in Higher Education, 4(3).

**Kemmis, S.** and Hopwood, N. (2022). Connective enactment and collective accomplishment in professional practices. Professions and Professionalism, 12(3), <https://doi.org/10.7577/pp.4780>

**Smith, E**. (2022). Protecting us from the pandemic? Reframing the work of security officers in quarantine hotels in Australia. *Labour and Industry.* <https://doi.org/10.1080/10301763.2022.2120349>

**Smith, E.** (2022). Expanding or restricting access to tertiary education? A tale of two sectors and two countries. *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*. 27:3, pp 500-523. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13596748.2022.2076059>

**Smith, E**. (2022). Apprenticeships: The problem of attractiveness and the hindrance of heterogeneity. *International Journal of Training and Development.* Published on-line 27.8.22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijtd.12281>

**Conference papers**

Ollis, T & **Foley, A**. (2022) Neighbourhood Houses and Mens’ Sheds: Adult Learning in Community Spaces. AARE conference, Adelaide. Nov 28-Dec 1.

Schlagloth, R., **Golding, B.**, Kentish, B., McGinnis, G.,  Clark, I. D.,  Cadman, T., Cahir, F., &  Santamaria, F. (2022)  Koalas: Agents for change: A case study from regional Victoria, *Journal of Sustainability Education*, <http://www.susted.com/wordpress/content/koalas-agents-for-change-a-case-study-from-regional-victoria_2022_01/>

**Smith, E**. (2022). VET teachers’ reflections on the practicum component of their Diploma of VET and university VET studies. *A new focus on VET teachers: Eighth Annual ACDEVEG conference on VET teaching and VET teacher-education*, online, December 8th. <https://www.acde.edu.au/networks-and-partnerships/acde-vocational-group/>

**Smith, E**. (2022). The role of formal teaching practice as a catalyst for TAFE teacher learning. *Courage, change and challenge: The future of TAFE, TDA Convention, 2022.* Hilton, Adelaide, 15-17 November.

**Smith, E. & Smith, A.** (2022). Informal training and learning in Australian firms: An empirical commentary. *Informal Learning in Vocational Education and Training* conference, German Research Centre for Comparative Vocational Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), Koln, Germany, 28-30 September. *Selected as a plenary session.*

**Smith, E** & South, D (2022). **VET teaching during 2020: COVID and beyond.** *31st  National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference ‘No Frills’*,VET’s role in transforming the future, online 6-8 July 2022.<https://www.voced.edu.au/content/ngv:94329>

**Smith, E** (2022). Understanding recent developments in VET and higher education: Australia and U.K. *31st  National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference ‘No Frills’*, reference as above.

**Other Achievements**

**Carolyn Johnstone** joined the Editorial Board of Humanities & Social Sciences Communications.’ HSS Comms’ is in the Springer Nature stable and is a fully open access journal in the areas of humanities, social and behavioural sciences, and interdisciplinary work.

**Robin Shreeve** made an individual submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Employment and Training inquiry and report into the perceptions and status of vocational education and training. The submission can be seen at <https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Employment_Education_and_Training/VETInquiry/Submissions>

**Robin Shreeve** has reviewed two submissions by Tom Karmel for the Mackenzie Research Institute at Holmesglen Institute, prepared for the Productivity Commission Reports on Education.

The review of the Training and Education Training Package was successfully completed in November 2022. **Erica Smith** has been a member of the Education Industry Reference Committee for several years and was fully involved in the revisions to the Training Package. The new Training Package can be seen at: <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/TAE>

**Erica Smith** met with senior DEWR staff, December 2022 for the ‘Australian Apprenticeship Services and Supports’ discussion paper.

**Erica Smith** met with the Productivity Commission November 2022, with ACDEVEG colleagues, for the ‘From learning to growth’ inquiry.

**Erica Smith,** with Daryl South of Charles Sturt University, met with Justine Evesson, VET adviser to Brendan O’Connor, Minister for Skills and Training, with ACDEVEG colleagues, in Canberra on July 9th 2022. We followed up in August with a list of suggested immediate and longer term actions that could be taken. (Paper is available on request to Erica Smith at [e.smith@federation.edu.au](mailto:e.smith@federation.edu.au))

**Erica Smith** was invited to be a critical friend for the ACER-VET Development Centre project ‘The Future of the VET Workforce’ commissioned by the Victorian Skills Authority, September 2022.

**Erica Smith** was invited to address the Victorian Community Services Validation and Moderation Network meeting about practicum, August 2022.

**Erica Smith** was invited to present a virtual ‘guest lecture’ at Ohio State University in a PhD student course on international comparative workforce development and education policy, August 2022.

**Erica Smith** was invited to be an external assessor for two professorial promotions rounds, for universities in Malaysia and Hong Kong.

**Erica Smith** continues to serve on the Advisory Board of the National Career Institute.

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| **AVETRA Conference 2023**  [AVETRA's](https://www.avetra.org.au/) 25th Annual Conference ‘**VET + Challenging times, Challenges of our time and Challenges that lie ahead"**will be held at the Citadines Hotel, Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria on 27 & 28 April 2023, with a half day of pre-conference workshops and a welcome reception on April 26th  More information at the conference is at <https://dg.eventsair.com/avetra-2023-conference>  Don’t miss the chance to attend a real live face to face conference! |