

## International Accreditation and Recognition Council Newsletter

November 2009

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### 1. Welcome to Our New Members

Over the past 12 months, IARC has received an increasing number of new member applications. IARC's reputation as a professional, high calibre recognition and accreditation council continues to grow with each new member.

We would like to congratulate and welcome the following new members on completion of their successful applications.



#### **Australian College QED**

Visit them at [www.australiancollege.edu.au](http://www.australiancollege.edu.au)

Our warmest congratulations go to Australian College QED, Principal Julia Buxton and staff, on winning the 2009 Business Achiever Award.



#### **The Northern Ireland Institute of Business and Technology (NIIBT)**

Visit them at [www.niibt.org.uk](http://www.niibt.org.uk)

#### **Intracomnet Computer Information Systems and Services Training**

Website currently under construction



d y n a m i c  
training centre

#### **The Dynamic Training Centre**

Visit them at [www.dynamictrainingcentre.com.au](http://www.dynamictrainingcentre.com.au)



#### **Style Design College**

Visit them at [www.styledesigncollege.co.za](http://www.styledesigncollege.co.za)



#### **British College of Interior Design**

Visit the at [www.britishcollegeofinteriordesign.com](http://www.britishcollegeofinteriordesign.com)

## Timothy Bible College

Visit them at [www.timothybiblecollege.com](http://www.timothybiblecollege.com)



## Australian College of Professional Styling

Visit them at [www.australiancollegeofprofessionalstyling.com](http://www.australiancollegeofprofessionalstyling.com)



## British College of Professional Styling

Visit them at [www.britishcollegeofprofessionalstyling.com](http://www.britishcollegeofprofessionalstyling.com)

You find more information about each of these institutes and all of our members at [www.iarcedu.com](http://www.iarcedu.com) – IARC Members.

If you are currently a member and would like to advertise any information or articles about your school, college, institute, please feel free to contact [admin@iarcedu.com](mailto:admin@iarcedu.com). We would gladly include any relevant new information on our website or in our future newsletters!

## 2. IARC United Kingdom Company Registration

The International Accreditation and Recognition Council is now a registered viable company in the United Kingdom. Being a registered company in the UK benefits all those involved with IARC by raising the profile and reputation of IARC and further solidifying our international status.



IARC's registration in United Kingdom paves the way for further success and growth for all involved, including its members and affiliates as the public becomes increasing familiar with IARC, our values and thus our member's high standards of educational courses and training programs.

## 3. 'Is the Course Recognised?' by John Mason, IARC President



This is a common question for students and colleges, but it is not always so simple to answer.

If you look at dictionary definitions of recognition, you see phrases such as "being acknowledged", "a growing realisation", "the acceptance of something being true" or even "understanding".

Recognition of education is in fact a complex and multi-faceted property. Recognition of education is made up of a number of components which means education can be recognised in one way, but is not necessarily recognised in other ways.

### What are some of the components of recognition?

Usefulness – What is the purpose of the course and how well does it serve that purpose. What are the capabilities of graduates a year or two after graduating? A course that passes students is only useful if the students do not forget what they have learned after graduating. Some courses can instil temporary skills and knowledge, while others can embed more permanent skills

Understanding - Is there a clear understanding of what the course involves. If the course outlines and documentation are unclear or scant; there can often be uncertainty about whether understanding is strong.

Visibility – How visible is the course? Which people are aware of its existence, and where are those people? Are they locals only, or spread around the world in a global setting?

Acknowledgement – Who acknowledges the course? Who endorses it, not only formally but informally? Also who criticises it? While courses might be supported by some, they can also be criticised by others. If you only become aware of one group e.g. employers, academics, professional bodies, government bureaucrats, you cannot form a balanced understanding of it's worth.

How well does someone understand this question when they ask it?

When people ask the question 'Is it recognised?' they could in fact be asking for clarification on any one of a multitude of different things. For some, recognition is about "endorsement", for others it is to do with "credibility", and yet for others, they may be asking "how useful the course might be in the future".

Over 40 years of involvement in and contribution to post secondary education, I have come to conclude that some people don't actually understand what this means, why it's important to them and why they are asking it. Most people have a sub-conscious desire to feel that a course they enter is safe and appropriate, and are looking for a yes or no answer.

At the end of the day if someone wants to accurately and clearly say that a course is or is not recognised they must first consider all aspects outlined above and qualifying the answer. To be ethical and honest, people should say such things as who it is and is not acknowledged by, and how well the course is both understood and visible by the world at large.

What Are People Looking For?

In my experience; despite the complexity of the "recognition" question; most people only want one thing; and that is an assurance that the course is credible; or to be more basic, that they are not going to be "exploited" by an unscrupulous diploma mill thus receive a fake qualification, be out of pocket and be no further forward on their career pathway.

#### **4. Looking Ahead and Taking IARC Forward**

We have some aims for IARC over the next 12 months all of which are designed to raise our profile, encourage new memberships and increase our fantastic reputation in education recognition. Our plans include:



- A major refurbishment of our website. The IARC Committee has allocated substantial funding to dramatically improve, not only the look, but also the content of our website, with more up-to-date information on our members and their courses. This work will be taking place over the next few months with the help and guidance of our team of IT professionals.

- We hope next years Annual General Meeting will be attended by a higher number of members and potential members to act a platform for opinions and concerns to be raised. All IARC members automatically become members of the council which means we would openly welcome their views/comments and the AGM is the perfect opportunity for them to do so. We want to encourage increased communication with our members to work together to find ways of improving our practices and our business. Next year we aim to advertise our AGM earlier and make arrangements for a dinner or buffet style meal with a prominent guest speaker at the event to talk about current issues which affect all involved in education. Those who cannot attend in person should be able to link to the meeting via online conference calling.
- Raising the profile of IARC is our priority; we hope to be seen at careers expos and similar shows throughout the east of Australia. Based on our success at such events, who knows where we may turn up. The purpose of this is again raising our profile, getting out and meeting people interested in studying with one our of members or meeting potential members themselves.

## 5. 'Become Career Savvy' by Jade Pollock

In every corner of the globe people have been and still continue to be affected by the ever changing economic climate. We have witnessed hundreds of thousands of people become unemployed in recent months and many thousands of people still face uncertainty regarding their future careers; they may face the ongoing threat to their job security or little or no chance for promotion or lateral movement within organisations. Yes, unemployment is a somewhat unsettling subject, but the reality of it is a very real challenge facing so many 'employable' people. The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development in the UK have reported that as many as 30% of employed people are worried about work in relation to the threat to employment as a result of the economic climate.



Some people may have been in a somewhat fortunate position to opt for early retirement or voluntary redundancy, but for many, the real prospect of being unemployed in an intensely competitive job market today, means they need to make themselves as employable as possible. People cling to what they know during times of uncertainty, but now is the time to change core attitudes in line with employer's demands. Employer's needs have changed over recent times and the calls for transferable and current skills are essential, not simply desirable attributes. There will always be a demand for up-to-date skills that's not new, but it is the up-to-date skills themselves which are changing now.

Long gone are they days when young people left school, found a job and saw it through for 30 or 40 years. Yes, we already know it – the job market will never be like that again. Today people need to be a career chameleon. We have accepted the need to update our skills and knowledge, but possibly not everyone has yet embraced it. People should try to strive for improved work practices should they wish to have a place in the competitive job market which now exists. In reality this situation may remain like this for a very long time, like already mentioned, days of job security are gone and they are gone for good. Even public sector workers, those people in schools and hospitals for example, may face losing their jobs as national governments make financial cuts. No-one is free from the threat of becoming unemployed. That said everyone is free from the risk of becoming unemployable.

People tend to wait until they are unemployed to do something about the situation. It makes more sense to be proactive and control career destiny, than sit back and let the inevitable happen becoming swept into a spiral of job applications and interviews in a market place which currently saturated with many skilful and experienced workers chasing that same precious job. It's time to wise up to get career savvy. It's tempting to avoid dealing with pressures, hoping they might pass by, but avoidance tactics don't work.

So what can be people do to ensure they have a secure career in times ahead? Plan for the future, recognise trends and get prepared. Do research into what education and training programs are available in the local area or via home study. Gaining or adding to qualifications and continuing professional development on any level, are sure ways to increase employability. Unfortunately, there is never going to be a sure fire way to avoid job loss, but planning the future by gaining new skills and knowledge is the first step in decreasing how the current climate may affect them. It is quite simple, people should decide on something they enjoy – they will be motivated to learn about it and passion will for it come through without even trying. Motivation and passion lead to success. Obviously someone should not train to be an Expedition Tour Guide if the thought of trekking through the Amazon rainforest scares the life of them. They should keep it realistic, what is within their means and what is realistic for them? What is affordable financially? What are the benefits? Importantly, how transferable is the knowledge?

People should chase their career wisely, be open to change and strive for progression. Take practical steps to protect their career and their future before it's too late.

## **6. Annual General Meeting July 2009**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. All members were invited to attend.

In attendance were the full committee John Mason, ACS Distance Education Australia; Carmel Thompson, Southern Cross Connection; Stephen Eddey, Health Schools Australia; Jade Pollock, ACS Distance Education UK and Richard Martin, Warnborough College Worldwide.

Apologies for being unable to attend were received from Ms Robyn Burrows, Lifestyle Learning Direct and Ms Julia Buxton, Australian College QED.

Proxies to John Mason were received from Vahini Panda, Health Academy Australia; Belinda Sharp, The Interior Design Academy; Faye Chamoun, Floral Art School and Matthew Smith, Australian Massage Schools.

The following motions were passed unanimously:

- That the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted;
- That the financial report showing the IARC bank balance at end of June 2009 to be accepted;
- That the auditor's report be accepted;
- That the President's report be accepted;
- IARC Secretariat changes from Nicole Steel to Jade Pollock due to Nicole being on maternity leave;
- New member applications approved

## 7. Meet IARC's Executive Committee



### IARC President and Committee Chairman Mr John Mason:

John Mason is one of the co-founders of IARC. He currently lives on the Gold Coast, Queensland and enjoys dividing his time between his role as President of IARC and his role as Principal of ACS Distance Education which he founded 30 years ago.

John is a well respected member of many professional associations, and author of over thirty five books and of over two thousand magazine articles. Even today, John continues to write books for various publishers including Simon and Shuster, and Landlinks Press (CSIRO Publishing).



### Treasurer Ms Carmel Thompson:

Carmel Thompson joined IARC Committee as Treasurer some time ago. She is currently a member of many professional bodies in Australia and divides her time between those differing roles and working as Managing Director of her International consultancy practice under the name of The Southern Cross Connection.

Carmel is a qualified Accountant who possesses a skill for getting the job done through the medium of collaboration and communication. She has had considerable experience in the international marketplace. This has resulted in the building of strong relationships with other leaders in this industry.

### Officer Rev Richard Martin:

Rev Martin is currently the Archbishop's Chaplain and spokesman for Warnborough Worldwide. Warnborough College is a UK based college which is highly regarded in the UK with affiliates over the globe in India and Australia.

Rev Martin has travelled immensely over the years and has great knowledge of educational practice in a variety of settings. He is based in Brisbane, Australia at present but continues to travel to the UK on a regular basis.



### Officer Mr Stephen Eddey:

Stephen Eddey took on the role of executive committee member 6 years ago after the retirement of Peter Derrig who was a co-founder of IARC back in 1998.

Currently, Stephen is completing a PhD in Nutritional Medicine. He is also the Principal and CEO of Health Schools Australia (The International College of Complementary Medicine), where he oversees seminar programs, course structures and the college administration. He is still the Principal and CEO to this day.



### Acting Secretary Ms Jade Pollock:

Currently based in the UK, Ms Pollock has most recently been working in education as a Secondary School Teacher of Science and Biology and continues to be a part-time tutor for students of ACS Distance Education. She is the former Business Coordinator for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and has

experience in recruitment as a Recruitment Consultant. Throughout her long term visit to Australia during 2008-2009 she was a Senior Supervisor (Youth Welfare).

## **8. Become an IARC Member**

If you would like further information on becoming an IARC member, please contact [admin@iarcedu.com](mailto:admin@iarcedu.com) or check out our website at [www.iacredu.com](http://www.iacredu.com) and click on '**Join IARC**'.

There is a straightforward application process and a \$200 AUD fee charged which covers administrations costs and the covers your membership until 30<sup>th</sup> June in the year (or year following) membership commencing. For example if you join in November 2009, membership is valid until June 2010 or if you join in January 2010 your membership is paid for until June 2010.

We have genuinely helpful and friendly staff who can happily answer any questions you have relating to membership or the application process. Normally applications are processed in the office within 2-4 weeks and sent to and returned from the Committee (hopefully approved) within 5-10 days after that. The majority of applications are quick and simple. Come join us and become part of it...