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Editorial

Lesley Firth and Catherine Walster

Welcome to TESOL Links, November 2009. We hope you enjoy reading this final issue of the year. Once again, we are indebted to our contributors for the time and effort they have put into producing such stimulating articles. WATESOL thanks them for their valuable contributions.

In this issue we have a number of reports on various conferences and seminars across the country and beyond. The reports capture the essence of the conferences and give excellent summaries of the diverse presentations made by Australian and international speakers.

Paul Wiseman attended the Regional Language Seminar in Singapore. The theme was *The Impact of Technology on Language Learning and Teaching: What, How and Why*. He provides stimulating reviews of the presentations, encouraging the reader to reflect upon the current role of technology in education and possibilities for the future.

Earlier this year, Tessa Burrows attended the Victorian ESL Conference. Her detailed summary provides much food for ESL thought, covering topics which relate directly to the classroom as well as current educational methodology. Topics range from working with students to develop deep conceptual understandings, to providing the skills to learn in the 'challenge zone'.

The World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE) was held in Melbourne last year. The conference was entitled, *Indigenous Education in the 21st Century, Respecting Tradition, Shaping the Future*. The reflection offers an informative summary of the current issues affecting Indigenous education today.

The WATESOL Association has been very

active this year. Sam Vanderford's 'Collegiality and Collaboration: The Story Behind WATESOL's New Website', gives an exciting account of the journey taken to create this masterpiece. The website will indeed be a valuable communication tool for the association. Be sure to check it out at www.watesol.org.au!

In this edition there are also two literature reviews by post-graduate students, Jenny Battig and Alice Lee from Edith Cowan University. Jenny Battig's article, 'The Role of Method in Language Learning, Theory, Research and Practice,' traces the evolving concept of method by referring to publications in the fields of ESL, EFL and EIL. Her article concludes with a discussion of its current place in language teaching and research.

Alice's Li's article, 'Learner Beliefs: A Literature Review,' focuses on the relationship between what students believe and their learning outcomes. She notes that there is growing evidence that learner beliefs can, and do, influence language proficiency and that evidence also points towards disparity between the beliefs that teachers and learners bring to the classroom. She outlines the implications of this for teachers and the subsequent ways in which this can be addressed within the classroom.

Finally, a reminder that TESOL Links is only as good as its contributors. We invite readers to submit articles, letters, reviews and news items for inclusion in the next issue. We also encourage readers to share their knowledge of resources that they have found useful. The articles in this issue were written by a range of practitioners from diverse fields of education. Please start writing if you have any research findings, programs, reviews, reflections or classroom experiences that you wish to share! We wish you all the best for the summer holiday and the new year.