

ABA Australia Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Welcome to our First Issue

We are very excited to present our first newsletter to you. Our aim is to keep you informed on what ABA Australia is up to in this semi-annual publication. Each issue will provide updates on ABA Australia's past and future events, committee updates as well as insights into the current climate of the Australian behaviour analytic community. We're also looking to engage directly with readers through a members' questions section and a "Member Spotlight", highlighting a different ABA Australia member each issue. Continue to check www.auaba.com.au for future updates and events.

Currently, the Board is in the process of updating our membership management system. We look forward to a fresh, new website portal service for members to use for managing ABA Australia related events, on-going CEUs, and user friendly membership reminders and renewals. Members will be notified about the new web-portal benefits soon and we encourage everyone to join (or renew memberships).

We hope that you enjoy reading each issue of the ABA Australia Newsletter. This publication is for you and your comments and critiques are welcome and necessary in order to ensure this newsletter serves the audience in the best way possible. Do check out the "Name this Newsletter" section on page 4. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and contacts who may be interested in the information provided.

Thank you!

Alayna Haberlin



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
ABAA

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Inaugural Conference Summary

By Paul Harris

September saw the culmination of several months of hard work by the Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia (ABA Australia) when they held their first conference in Melbourne. An event such as this sets the tone for what is possible within the behaviour analytic community and what ABA Australia members can expect from the association in the future. And by all accounts this event was a success.

We were so fortunate to have such highly regarded keynote speakers, Dr. William Heward and Dr. Neil Martin, participate in the event. Their keynote addresses reminded us to think about who we are as a community, our part in the international behaviour analytic scene and what we seek to achieve in order to make the world a better place to live in. The excitement for their presence was obvious by the numerous photo opportunities they graciously provided our eager attendees.

The theme for the conference was 'Behaviour Analysis: Diverse and Relevant'. The presenters embraced and reflected this theme through sharing their work and thoughts over the two-day event. This conference had it all with presenters discussing various topics such as early intervention, gambling and even ethical training of horses and

elephants. The panel discussion gave an opportunity for the attendees to interact with one another over the issues that affect the field at a national level. In speaking to several conference attendees, the conference was a thought-provoking catalyst for exploring the potential for behaviour analysis wherever problems requiring solutions can be found.

Beyond the content, are the people who attended the conference. Attendees came from across the country, across the ditch and even further afield. By international standards we are a small group that is spread thin across the country. However, the conference gave us all a tangible sense of community by allowing people who share a common dialect and passion for behaviour analysis to be in each other's presence. Conversations between attendees were energetic as connections were made, shared histories reminisced and the groundwork for future collaborations were laid.

While Australia has not fully embraced behaviour analysis yet, it is events such as this that

will allow it to be common place one day. By creating a strong, supportive and coordinated network the benefits of behaviour analysis can be shared throughout the country. So, thank you to everyone who made the conference the great event it was. And to all those who have been asking if there will be another, I can unequivocally say, "Absolutely!"



Member Spotlight

By Karen Wong

We loved seeing so many familiar faces and meeting new people at the conference in September! We want to continue to get to know our members, so each issue we'll feature one of our members in our humble newsletter!

What better way to kick this off, than by introducing the winner of the *Most Remotely Located* delegate of the inaugural ABAA Conference;

Ms Alana Michell!

Travelling from Darwin, in the Northern Territory, Alana received a copy of Sundberg's *Verbal Behavior - Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB- MAPP)* for her efforts, as well as revisiting her alma mater (Monash University) and satisfying her taste-buds honed from her years spent in Melbourne!

Back home, Alana spends time with her husband and their fur baby, Coco. They live near the beach, watch beautiful sunsets each night, experience cultural diversity and enjoy the freshest seafood on offer! They also live by a rule all Darwinians are aware of and avoid getting their toes wet, "I won't swim though, because there are crocs and jelly-fish everywhere!"

Alana manages the Complex Behaviour Unit for the Northern Territory Correctional Services, working with adult residents with cognitive impairments and or mental health conditions. Her role involves implementing policies and procedures to ensure a therapeutic focus is followed in the day to day running of the facility. When asked about a typical day, Alana shared the mammoth



Chloe Hopkins (left) Bill Heward, Alana Michell (right)

task of just gaining entry into the facility! This involves going through metal detectors, eye scanners, swipe cards and fingerprint scanners. Once she has cleared security, Alana finds that her current studies are particularly helpful when conferencing with health and disability services and developing behaviour support plans. A sound understanding of behaviour analysis allows residents to be supported by functional plans; and using Behavioural Skills Training, correctional staff are learning practical skills and strategies.

Alana's ABA journey started in her own home, more than ten years ago. She became an ABA therapist for her brother, who received an intensive home based program delivered by the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (now known as The Learning Clinic). Being remotely supervised, this close knit team relied on each other as they learned how to become effective teachers, communicators and friends to a cheeky little boy! Their hard work ignited a growing awareness of ABA in the Northern Territory, and more personally, Alana describes that,

"ABA changed my life- it gave our family strategies that worked to help my brother communicate, learn skills, and cope in the world. I love ABA!"

While ABA landed, literally on her doorstep, Alana continued to fuel her passion for behaviour analysis by undertaking further study in the field. After completing her bachelors and honours degrees in psychology (conferred by Monash and Charles Darwin University, respectively), Alana searched for local courses in behaviour analysis. The sad truth is that no Australian institutions offer such a strand of study. Alana tells us, "It has been extremely difficult. I would have preferred to study in Australia, but decided to bite the bullet and just enrol in an international course." Alana is now completing a Masters in Applied Psychology (Behaviour Analysis) through the University of Waikato, in New Zealand. Her plan to become a BCBA is well and truly underway!

Alana has practiced behaviour analysis in and out of the home! Her advice to people wanting to learn more is to network and create relationships with professionals in the field. Talk to your lecturers, contact the association, and keep asking questions! It's also very gratifying to hear Alana's experience with this, that, "the majority of people I have spoken to have been extremely generous with their time and happy to make links with people who are interested in ABA".

Facebook Campaign

Help us reach 500 likes on our Facebook page! We are at 321 likes and want to reach 500 by the end of the 2016!

Members' Questions

In this section we will be responding to interesting questions we get from members or the public. If you have a question, please email admin@auaba.com.au and we will try our best to get it into the newsletter.

Question of the Newsletter:

Are there any ABA university programs in Australia?

Answer:

As of right now, there are no Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BACB) approved university courses in Australia. ABA Australia views accreditation by the BACB as the industry standard for a university course that teaches practitioners to use ABA. There may be some courses that discuss behavioural principles or technology but no university currently has an approved course sequence that meets the university requirements to become a BCaBA/BCBA. There has been some recent news that two universities are looking into starting courses that will fulfil the coursework requirement for BACB certification. We will keep members posted when we receive official word that Australia will have university courses that can produce BCBA/BCaBAs.

Name this Newsletter

We are looking for a unique, fun, behaviour analytic themed name for our newsletter. If you have a suggestion, please email your suggestion to admin@auaba.com.au **by 31/12/16**. There is no limit on the number of suggestions you can submit. The board will then present a short list for members to vote on in January 2017.

Committee News

By Alex Brown

Conference Committee

ABA Australia would like to thank the Conference Committee for their amazing job planning and running our inaugural conference. It was a wonderful event and we hope to have many more in the years to come. I will be following up soon with the committee to develop resources that will help us plan future conferences.

If you are interested in being part of the next conference committee, please email me: alex@beei.com.au. Dates for the 2017 conference will be sent out soon.

Other Committees

If you are a member of another existing committee, please email me to remain part of these groups. Following the conference, we have had a number of excellent suggestions and nominations for new committees and interest groups. Going forward, most committees/groups will be assigned a leader who will report back to the board on a regular basis.

Our existing formal committees are the conference committee, NDIS committee and

Medicare committee. Following the conference, it may be worth having sub-committees under an NDIS umbrella who are working together on specific goals. We are aware that there are lots of members interested in working together in this domain!

Our less formal committees, or interest groups, are looking to be socially oriented. Suggestions involved social get togethers for professionals, as well as groups for families and junior therapists/technicians. A number of people have already volunteered to head up these groups within their state. It would be wonderful to have a few more hands on deck so we can get these groups up and running.

Other suggestions were around groups that are geared at the promotion of ABA in our community. This may overlap somewhat with the NDIS committee(s) so we will need to work closely together. However, the conference highlighted a clear need to promote ABA within the wider community. Following the senate enquiry that Alayna and I spoke at last year, it appears that contacting state government is the next step. There are members who are planning to work closely with Neil Martin regarding how to best do this with the government and other areas, such as schools and universities.

If you have other suggestions we would love to hear about those too!

Email any interest and suggestions to alex@beei.com.au



**JOIN A
COMMITTEE**

Sustainable World Research Award

Title: The Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia's Behaviour Change for a Sustainable World Research Award

Purpose: To support research using behaviour analysis concepts and principles to promote sustainable practices/environmentally friendly behaviour change. Any applied, basic, or translational study with a primary goal of increasing understanding of human behaviour and environmental preservation/enhancement is eligible for consideration.

Amount: \$500

Eligibility: any member of ABA Australia

Application: a simple, 3-page maximum application including: background for study; purpose/importance; research question to be addressed; outline of method; commitment to present results at a future ABA Australia conference and (should results warrant) to submit an article for publication based on the study.

Application deadline: 15 January 2017

Selection of awardee: Committee appointed by ABA Australia's Board of Directors will review applications and select recipient.

Suggested readings:

Heward, W. L. (2013). Behavior change for a sustainable world: Ultimate challenge and opportunity for behavior analysts. *Inside Behavior Analysis*, 5(1), (6-8).

Heward, W. L., & Chance, P. (Guest Eds.). (2010) Special section: The human response to climate change: Ideas from behavior analysis. *The Behavior Analyst*, 33, 145-206.

Heward, W. L., & Kimball, J. W. (2013, Spring/Summer). Sustaining sustainability with clueless contingencies. *Sustain Magazine*, 28, 4-15.

Heward, W. L., & Kimball, J. W. (2013, Spring/Summer). Sustaining sustainability with clueless contingencies. *Sustain Magazine*, 28, 4-15. tba-climate-change-reprint

To apply visit our website

<http://auaba.com.au/abaa2016/sustainable-world-research-award/>



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
— ABAA —

BACB Certification State-By-State

South Australia

Nina Ahlgren Berg BCBA
Joey Lim BCaBA
Susan Petrie BCBA

Victoria

Angelika Anderson BCBA-D
Halley Demesne BCBA
Mary Gerbert BCBA
Erin Leif BCBA-D
Dennis Moore BCBA
Lisa O'Brien BCBA
Felicia Pearse BCaBA
Siebel Tineke BCBA
Elyssa Whorley McKee BCBA

New South Wales

Michelle Backley BCaBA
Kristin Bayley BCBA
Nathan Beehag BCaBA
Megan Borlase BCBA-D
Alexandra Brown BCBA
Silvia Cannistraro BCBA
Lauren Chapman BCBA
Nekia Dalley BCaBA
Sonja de Boer BCBA-D
Madhura Deshpande BCaBA
Cathy Fagan BCBA
Rhiannon Gaffney BCaBA
Alayna Haberlin BCBA-D
Jill Hellemans BCBA
Elizabeth Kirkman BCaBA
Karen Lyth BCBA
Jacqueline Murphy BCaBA
Micaela Rafferty BCBA
Melissa Ragaio BCBA
Elizabeth Rombough BCBA
Alanna Saunders BCBA

Jacqueline Tritt BCBA
Dianne Verstappen BCBA
Lillie Wilson BCBA
Yuen Man Yam BCBA

Queensland

Rachel Briffa BCBA
Ronnie Brooks BCBA
Sarah Clark BCBA
Ian Cronin BCBA
Diane Keating BCBA
Leslie McGahan BCBA
Sinead Raftery BCBA
Rajesh Sharma BCBA
Nina Valentine BCBA
Maria Zaldivar BCaBA

Western Australia

Katherine Doud BCBA
Brent Max Jones BCBA-D
Wan-Yu Lin BCBA
Amanda Mason BCBA
Allison Maxwell BCBA
Sarah O'Prey BCBA
John Schad BCBA
Natalie Storer BCaBA
Charlotte Tang BCaBA
Tessa Taylor BCBA-D

Tasmania

Michelle Furminger BCaBA

Welcome to the Club!

We want to celebrate the wonderful achievement of newly certified practitioners in the field in Australia. This section will be dedicated to giving a shout out to any

newly certified behaviour analysts in Australia. The association will check the BACB registry and email you to see if you would like to be in the newsletter. Likewise, if you are a BCBA who has moved here, please let us know so we can introduce you to our members.

Meet the Board

Karen Wong

Inaugural President

As co-owner of The Learning Clinic, she shares her day with clients in therapy and play, supporting families and spreading the ABA word to educators across town!

Alayna Haberlin

President Elect

Originally from the USA, Alayna has been living and working in Sydney for the past 6 years. Alayna is a BCBA-D and her interests in ABA are in assessment and treatment of challenging behaviour, staff training, and dissemination of ABA. One of Alayna's favourite sayings is "I love data!"

Alex Brown

Head of Committees

Alex is a BCBA and Psychologist who works in private practice with children

and adolescents. She is passionate about helping parents and teachers to implement ABA strategies into their everyday lives. When her head isn't in the White Book, you'll find her snowboarding down a mountain or at the beach with a headstrong toddler.

Michelle Furminger

Secretary

Michelle is a BCaBA and has a background in psychology and inclusive education. She has been in the field of early intervention for 18 years working with children with special needs. Michelle is based in Hobart, where she is the clinical director of Leaps Ahead Early Intervention that provides services to families throughout Tasmania, as well as a number of other states. She loves spreading the benefits of the principles and techniques of behaviour analysis throughout Australia as well as working on her Tassie tan!

Karen Lyth

Treasurer

Karen is a BCBA and psychologist who has been practicing in the field for over 23 years. She is passionate about making a difference. When not working, she loves to hang out with her son and husband. They enjoy bike riding, cooking and traveling

Annual General Meeting

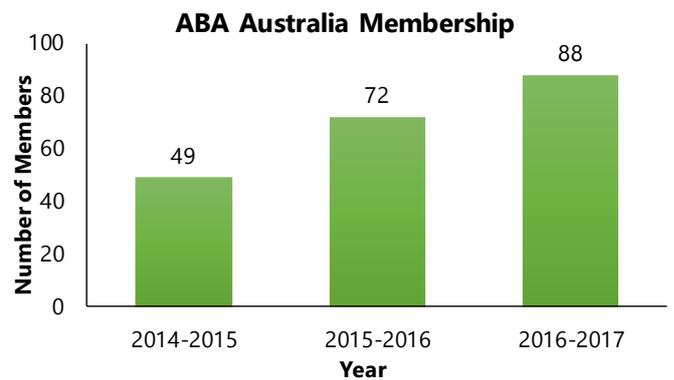
We thank all ABA Australia members and non-members who attended the 2015-2016 Annual General Meeting at the ABA Australia Conference in Melbourne this past September. As a board we are constantly seeking ways to improve how we relate to our members in forums such as the AGM. We thank everyone for their contributions during the meeting and we look forward to taking your

ideas and putting them into action this year.

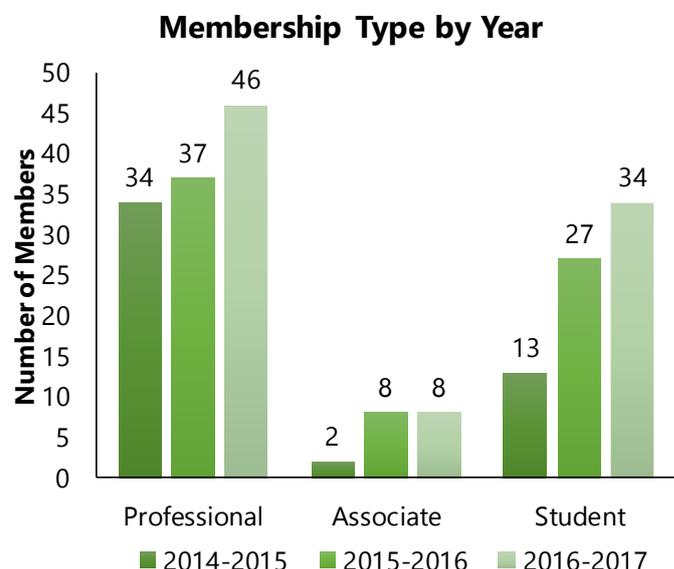
Do you have something the board might be interested in? If so please send an email to admin@auab.com.au for the Board's consideration.

Membership by the Numbers

Our membership list continues to grow, and at this time we have 88 members. But we need more!



We know there are more behaviour analysts out there, and we want you to be a part of this organization. We need to come together as a group of behaviour analysts to support initiatives that are important to us! Please spread the word that there is an ABA association in Australia. Forward this newsletter to anyone interested in ABA, works in the ABA field, or is interested in changing human behaviour.



Word Search

By Karen Lyth

R	D	W	B	X	B	K	H	E	K	P	B	X	D	F	T	T	L	L	L
K	A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S	A	S	N	L	Q	C	B	T	L	M	A
Y	R	E	C	N	A	N	E	T	N	I	A	M	V	Z	N	M	S	J	B
I	E	C	H	O	I	C	Y	Y	I	V	P	G	J	E	K	W	P	N	R
G	U	P	G	I	X	C	X	L	P	U	G	L	D	O	D	R	G	F	E
N	N	A	I	R	R	U	O	I	V	A	H	E	B	D	E	E	X	E	V
C	O	I	X	W	I	H	C	Q	W	Z	C	L	Q	F	N	O	V	A	A
R	E	I	N	F	O	R	C	E	M	E	N	T	E	E	Q	I	N	H	R
E	G	G	T	I	K	L	R	E	T	E	J	R	R	L	T	P	V	N	T
S	C	X	F	A	A	Y	Z	N	P	P	E	A	N	A	H	R	P	Z	N
M	P	N	A	D	S	H	A	Z	O	N	L	T	N	N	C	O	U	A	I
N	Y	U	E	K	N	I	C	O	C	I	N	I	P	O	D	M	N	P	V
W	Q	S	I	U	M	A	L	E	S	E	M	U	F	I	T	P	I	P	Z
B	M	H	X	D	Q	R	M	A	M	I	I	N	H	T	A	T	S	L	X
A	Y	N	Z	T	P	E	T	S	R	U	J	H	D	C	C	I	H	I	X
V	I	Y	U	R	G	I	S	C	O	E	P	G	X	N	T	Z	M	E	D
L	Y	Q	J	O	O	E	S	N	T	H	N	W	O	I	S	M	E	D	V
W	V	P	J	N	S	I	Y	J	O	N	N	E	J	T	L	L	N	Q	Y
C	F	B	B	S	D	Q	H	S	R	C	N	A	G	X	J	Q	T	Y	L
T	J	N	A	B	S	U	L	U	M	I	T	S	C	E	C	Y	V	F	Z

ANALYSIS	ANTECEDENT	APPLIED
ASSESSMENT	BEHAVIOUR	CHAINING
CONSEQUENCE	DISCRIMINATIVE	ECHOIC
EXTINCTION	GENERALISATION	INTRAVERBAL
MAINTENANCE	MAND	PROMPT
PUNISHMENT	PREFERENCE	REINFORCEMENT
STIMULUS	SD	TACT



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
— ABAA —

Events Calendar

11th Annual Autism Conference

January 31–February 2, 2017
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Women in Behavior Analysis Conference

March 9-10, 2017
Nashville, Tennessee

7th Annual APBA Convention

March 23-25 2017
New Orleans, Louisiana

43rd Annual Convention of ABAI

May 25–29, 2017
Denver, Colorado

New Zealand ABA Annual Conference

August or September 2017

ABA Australia Conference

September 2017
Sydney

Ninth International Conference

November 14–15, 2017
Paris, France

Thank you for reading our newsletter and remember to forward this newsletter and encourage colleagues to join our growing association!

About ABA Australia

The Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia is a professional organisation that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behaviour analysis within Australia through research, education, and dissemination of information.

The mission of ABAA is to promote the science and practical application of behaviour analysis within Australia and to serve as a platform for dissemination of current behaviour analytic research.