



Now that International Arts Education Week 2021 finishes, it is time for me to step away from the WAAE Executive Forum and the role of Chair. As we decided in 2020, the position of Chair moves to ISME. In 2020, as Emily was joining the Executive Forum I agreed to stay in the role of Chair until May 2021 and now hand the role to Emily. 2021 also sees Sanja joining the WAAE Executive Forum in her role as IDEA President.

In handing on my roles, I take a moment to reflect on WAAE since I joined the Executive Forum in 2013. This phase has built on the WAAE Summit in Rovaniemi, Finland, in 2012, which was a significant step forward, formalising the current agreement under which the Alliance operates. In Rovaniemi, the four associations signed the current Memorandum of Agreement. (I have the original of that signed memorandum, passed to me by Patrice Baldwin; and, need to pass it on to others).

Born of necessity from the first UNESCO World Summit in Lisbon, Portugal in 2006, the WAAE has been a significant force in international arts education. I pay tribute to the founders and particularly Dan Baron Cohen for the vision he provided and his continued commitment to arts education.

I thank and acknowledge the current members of the WAAE Executive Committee: Teresa Eca, Emily Achieng Akuno and Ralph Buck (and Sanja K. Tasic). Not forgetting Rita Irwin, Margaret Barrett and Susie O'Neill who were also part of this journey. Everyone has brought to the table their focus, commitment and dedication. It was a pleasure to work with everyone (and Ralph and I first worked together in 1992 on national curriculum, so we have a long partnership in arts education).

The agreement with Jeff Poulin and Creative Generation in 2020 represents a significant consolidation of operations. It is important that we celebrate the summits that have been held, the advocacy that has been promoted and the communication shared. It is important to also acknowledge our partnership with UNESCO and continue to develop it.

There are many shared memories and take a moment to remember some of them with a few images.  
Hong Kong in 2007 and later. Newcastle in 2009. The pivotal role of the WAAE in the development of the Seoul Declaration on Arts Education in 2010.  
Collaborations with INRAE, Munich and Wildbad Kreuth.  
Who can forget the keynote in the blackout in Brisbane in 2014?  
The Summit in Hangzhou in 2016.  
Auckland 2017.  
Luxor in 2019.  
So many more.  
So many collaborators to thank. I particularly acknowledge and thank Joachim Reiss for bringing us together in 2019 for the *Frankfurt Declaration on Arts Education*.



Rovaniemi, Finland 2012



Dan Baron Cohen Auckland 2017



Wildbad Kreuth 2013



Brisbane 2014  
Margaret Barrett, Rita Irwin, Ralph Buck

The record of International Arts Education Weeks sends ongoing messages to the wider world of the importance of Arts Education for all.

It has been a wonderful gift personally and professionally to have contributed.

Looking forward

There are so many changes in our world driven by pandemic, politics and people that it is valuable to stop and ask ourselves questions about arts education.

When will arts education move beyond the ebb and flow of fashion?

When will we stop re-inventing the wheel of arts curriculum and move to implementing deeply satisfying arts education for all young people?

When will we see past the lenses of geography, place and culture to consolidate a true entitlement for arts education for all?

I look forward to the WAAE continuing to ask (and answer) these questions.

I send best wishes to all for the ongoing development of the World Alliance for Arts Education.



Robin Pascoe  
May 31, 2021



Hangzhou 2016  
Robin Pascoe, Rita Irwin, Margaret Barret, Ralph Buck



Auckland 2017



Luxor 2019  
Robin Pascoe, Susie O'Neill, Samia ELsheikh, Ralph Buck, Rita Irwin



Frankfurt 2019  
Joachim Reiss, Aud Saebo, Smaro Chrysos, Tintti Karpinnen, Ralph Buck, Teresa Eca, Robin Pascoe