

2017 AEU ACT BRANCH EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

While the Branch Council is the supreme decision-making body, the Branch Executive conducts our union's strategic affairs. Of the 15 members on the Branch Executive, this election is for the eight school teacher or school psychologist members for a two-year term. For these eight positions, we have received eleven applications. Read on to find out about the candidates!

If you are a school teacher or psychologist, and were a financial member on 13th March when the roll closed, a ballot will be sent to your home address. The ballot opens on Monday, 1st May and closes on Monday, 22nd May. **Every AEU Member is invited to hear the candidates speak at our Council on Saturday, 13th May.**

We did not receive a nomination for the School Assistant member, the School Assistant alternate member or the TAFE member. We will run another election to fill these positions. If you are interested or would like to find out more, contact Vince at Vince.McDevitt@aeuact.org.au.



Don Bemrose



Tania Blak

It would be an honour to continue to serve on the ACT Branch Executive. I have enjoyed the past twelve months knowing how the AEU supports teaching and school staff and empowers each worksite. As a new educator at Yarralumla PS who has previously worked as an Aboriginal Education Officer and within the Education Support Office I offer a unique perspective. I believe we are best represented when we are proactive in our worksites and bring motions up through our sub-branches to school management. With the knowledge I have gained and skills I have developed whilst serving on the current board I am a great candidate to continue to serve you.

I am thrilled and honoured to stand for a position on the Executive for the AEU ACT Branch. I am currently one of the Vice Presidents of the AEU ACT Branch and have enjoyed this role immensely. The opportunity to work for and with dedicated, professional and enthusiastic change agents has been both an adventure and an enlightening experience. I strongly believe together we can achieve wonderful things for our members. I have been involved in the union movement for my entire working career and am proud to put my name forward for consideration by the AEU ACT members.



Cherie Connors

Passionate and instrumental in driving a reform agenda that will improve outcomes for ALL students. Extremely passionate about enabling educators to focus on our core business, 'the student and how they learn.' I believe that we need more staff supporting teachers with administrative tasks so we can focus on what we love to do. Plan amazing learning experiences for our wonderful learners. I believe all leaders need to be supported with time to reflect on their leadership and network to enable them to grow high performing teams.



Emma Cox

If re-elected as a member of AEU ACT Branch Executive I will continue to be an active representative, advocating for primary school members and mental health. I completed my Rosemary Richards Scholarship project on parenting leave, return to work transitions and women's mental health to encourage greater discussion of these issues. As a teacher librarian in training, I am passionate about ACT schools having the expert and qualified library staff they need to support equitable teaching and learning in all schools. I think strategically and am interested in practical improvements to AEU operations, communication and member engagement for the benefit of all members.



Peter Curtis

Insist on our duty to put children first. Being an active part of the solution means we care and advocate for our students and each other as teachers and LSAs. Every primary school a library, art and music teacher; no more millions wasted on NAPLAN. GONSKI is only the beginning. Active sub-branches make schools safe: Silenced workplaces are harmful. Quality teachers deserve quality conditions - The time to think. Name the sources of our stress - Occupational violence and workloads, and too many hours face-to-face. Social Equality. Scrappy lunches, trauma and fear; disadvantage has a high attendance rate in our classrooms.



Holly Godfree

Public education is under siege. The role of unions in education and in broader society has never been more important. Want a reduced workload? Want a better education system? The key to achieve these changes is a strong, well organised union. I've been a primary and college teacher in Canberra for 17 years. I've been a Sub-Branch President and Councillor, and I've been at the front line trying to save our libraries and to support Gonski. I've got good ideas, and I'll bring experience, passion and an eagerness to learn to the role of Branch Executive. I'd appreciate your vote - you won't be disappointed. Vote 1 Holly!



Ben Godwin

I am a strong supporter of public education in the ACT. I believe public education is the bedrock of society and it needs to be funded properly. I completed a Dip Ed in 2012 after deciding to make a career shift and I have not regretted it since. I am teacher in the Humanities faculty at Dickson College and teach history, economics and business. I am currently the Sub-Branch President and Branch Councillor and have gained experience in other roles since 2013. I am seeking election to Branch Executive to support the work of the union and to help support public schools and our teachers.



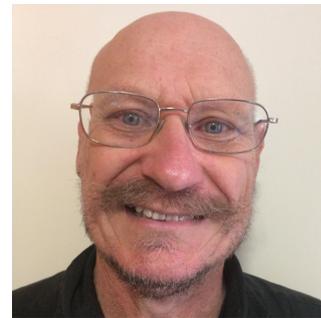
Shane Gorman

I am committed to public education. The values I hold strong are the values that inspire and maintain this commitment. They are the values I adhere to in my leadership role and through my role on AEU ACT Branch Executive and as Chair of the AEU National Principal's Committee. In particular these values are about equity, embracing diversity and public education as the foundation for our democratic society. I believe all levels of teachers and support staff should be members of and represented at all levels of OUR union. Together we can and will make a difference to our working conditions and therefore to the outcomes of all students.



Ian Marshall

I am a proud union member and teacher and have been for over 30 years in the ACT and NSW public education systems. I am passionate about ensuring improved conditions for all AEU members in schools at all levels. I teach English at Lake Tuggeranong College and have been the Sub-Branch Secretary since 2013. I am an involved member of Council and I am responsive to your interests as we work to achieve and maintain quality working conditions and a Union that responds to the needs and requirements of all members. I seek your support to be elected to AEU Executive.



Karl-Erik Paasonen

I am Sub-Branch President and Councillor at Telopea, while teaching EALD; I was awarded UnionsACT workplace delegate of the year last year. I went to pretty rough public schools in Brisbane, but still made it through. My daughter is in a public school here. I have wide experience in the peace and environmental movements, as well as having worked as an organiser with several unions. My interest in Executive is in helping shape the upcoming EA claim, and strengthening alliances with other movements. I was appointed to Executive for some months in 2014, so have some experience in the role.



Katie Slater

I'm a beginning primary teacher at Kingsford Smith School. I have come from a family where both parents are teachers and, within my short time of teaching, I have already seen how our union has the power to improve the workplace conditions, pay and job security of those employed in today's public school system. I represent a large portion of public school teachers in the ACT: young, female, beginning teachers. I have a good understanding of some of the issues this demographic of teachers face on a daily basis. I am passionate about the union and its members and believe I would be an asset and fresh voice, so vote for me!



Anne Brown

Anne has been a science and biology teacher for 35 years and is currently a CIT Head of Department. At CIT, she was a casual teacher for 13 years before receiving permanency. Anne is a passionate advocate for public vocational education, environmentalism and social justice. She has represented CIT members on Branch Council, National TAFE Council and at National Conference.

Anne has been elected unopposed as the TAFE alternate member on Executive.

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