

2016 AEU NT Branch elections – candidate statements

BRANCH PRESIDENT

Jarvis Ryan

I am seeking your support for a second term as Branch President.

As part of the leadership team with Branch Secretary Anita Jonsberg over the past two years, I have:

- Restored the union’s credibility with members and the public
- Led a visible school funding campaign, holding the CLP Government to account for its vicious cuts to schools
- Campaigned against the DoE’s plan to abolish remote secondary schooling
- Secured an election commitment from the ALP to restore 160 teaching positions
- Finalised the EBA without a loss of conditions, ensuring teachers received 12% increases in salaries in the current agreement
- Ensured the union’s primary focus is the provision of support and advice to individual members
- Fought for the Department to keep its promise to offer more permanent positions – we are finally seeing results
- Supported members including with visits to dozens of workplaces across all regions.

I would welcome the opportunity to lead the union in a new political environment where the AEU will have the opportunity to shape education policy. With our next round of enterprise bargaining approaching, I will lead a strong and united campaign to secure improvements for you, in particular addressing crushing workload burdens.

I will hold the Gunner Government to account and make sure it keeps its promises and fights for a better funding deal for the NT.

I will focus on growing our membership to make sure our union gets stronger and is better able to support members, especially in remote areas.



Neil Gibson

I’ve been a member of the AEUNT for nearly 28 years and I’ve been with the NT DoE for the same period of time. I have worked in one

teacher remote schools, large remote schools, in Katherine and in Darwin. I have worked as a classroom teacher and as a Principal.

I’ve been quietly active over these 28 years and have nominated for positions only once before. However, I feel it’s time for an experienced NT voice to support our educators deal with our new NT Government with their ‘new’ policies / promises.

As President of the AEUNT I believe I have the skills and local knowledge to represent the views of AEUNT members, I believe I can support, discuss, question, debate or argue to obtain the best outcomes for NT educators.

The word is that the new NT Government will continue with Global budgeting, I have a few concerns about the effects of Global Budgeting both in the short term but particularly in the next two or three years.

I want to be elected as President of the AEU because I feel that our conditions are being slowly wiped away by policies that challenge our schools ability to recruit and retain our best and more experienced teachers. Our ability as educators to transfer or apply for positions may be hindered by our classification / cost to schools. As more and more NT schools begin eating into their “reserve” funds their “flexibility” with recruitment becomes as flexible as a brick, and if you’re a CT 9 do you become unaffordable?? Our AEU again needs to ask the “right” questions I promise I’ll certainly be asking the “right” questions for all NT educators.



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TREASURER

Adam Lampe

As former Secretary of the AEU-NT and Unions NT, I had oversight of all aspects of both organisations' financial



management. I worked closely with the members of the Unions' Executive Committee of Management to safeguard those organisations' finances. During my time as Secretary both Unions NT and the AEU-NT experienced periods of financial growth and healthy membership.

As Treasurer I will ensure that effective financial systems and procedures have been established and are consistently followed in line with best practice and legal requirements. In my former role as Secretary I liaised with designated staff about financial matters and made sure that record-keeping and accounts met the conditions of statutory bodies and complied with the relevant legislation.

I made sure that accurate financial reports were delivered regularly to Executive, and that they were suitably prepared for the annual audit. At no stage were there any financial irregularities while I was Secretary. I also made sure that the Unions' finances were only used to advance the interests of members and that the financial reports were available to members at all times.

I have a distinguished record of financial management in Unions over a significant period of time, including the AEU-NT.

Consequently, I'm asking for your vote as Treasurer.

Julie Danvers

I have been an accounting and business teacher at a senior school over the past seven years. I also teach



bookkeeping at adult night classes when required. At the previous school where I taught IT, I was sub-branch secretary for a few years.

I have been on the Australian Education Union, NT, Executive for six years and as Treasurer for the last four.

I have a Bachelor of Business majoring in accounting and am thoroughly familiar with computerised accounting programs and accounting process. I have an excellent understanding and expertise in financial record keeping, book-keeping, budgets and interpreting financial reports etc.

Over many years I have been an honorary treasurer for school committees and non-profit organisations. Currently I provide all book-keeping services: pay all bills, banking and generate financial reports for a long standing organisations out of school hours.

I am mindful that it is only through the member's fees that the Union is able to operate and provide the services that it does. Therefore as the Treasurer I acknowledge fully, that the Executive has complete responsibility to manage those funds wisely in order to provide essential support and services to its members.

I enjoy the challenge of holding this responsible position and feel happy and confident to continue in the role if re-elected.

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WOMEN’S OFFICER

Rachel Webb

I was born and raised in Darwin, and I completed my schooling here. I began teaching in 2008 and have taught in both the Northern Territory and New South Wales. I’m currently employed at Wanguri Primary School in Darwin. I have been a union member since I started working and also worked for a union in my pre-teaching years.



I believe that it is important to have a transparent and cohesive Union in order to work in the best interest of members’ rights. Ensuring that students needs are met is paramount and therefore it is equally important also to ensure a fair and equitable workplace for those at the forefront of providing these educational outcomes. Educators of all backgrounds and situations are entitled to feel safe and supported at work.

Contrary to popular belief, our working hours do not simply begin at 820 and finish at 1440. Cuts to funding for schools have increased the pressure on all school staff, teachers and support workers alike.

The expectations placed on teachers increase each year and many of us spend our spare time and money to ensure our students get the best education possible. I would like to be part of a team that supports teachers to continue to provide the excellent services for their students and ensure that we get a fair go in the process.

Julie Danvers

I have lived and worked in the NT for 27 years. Whilst raising my own family I have enjoyed working in many areas of the community: when my children were small, I successfully set up and ran a three year old kindergarten with a grant from the Department of Defence and fundraising.



Over the years I have held positions on a number of school councils, both in Darwin, remote and overseas. I have also been COGSO rep for a Darwin primary school. I bring a wealth of life experiences with me having served and supported these many agencies and committees over the years. I am a strong supporter of public education. My children were educated in the NT, attended public schools and/or accessed distance education.

The NT covers 1.4 million square kilometres and the AEU NT has around 75% female membership. This creates a significant challenge for women working in education, in many cases quite isolated, in rural and remote areas, to connect and support each other. In these circumstances I recognise the absolute need for greater assistance. There are many issues faced by women in the education sector and I believe in equal opportunity, equity and support for all members.

I can identify with women and the issues they face across the territory. I have raised a family here, lived and worked in both remote and urban settings. I believe in the role of unions in the workplace and a union serving its members. I support the Union and should I be successful as the women’s officer I will endeavour to: ***forge a connection and support network between women working in education across the Northern Territory.***

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INDIGENOUS OFFICER

Cassandra Brown
Comrades

Hi, I'm Cassandra Brown my clan group is Traibelang-Bunda on my dad's side and Kungangi



on my mother's side. I am a proud Murri. This is where I draw on my connection to country and strong ties with my culture. I have lived and worked in the Northern Territory for 17 years. My heart belongs here.

I tend to ask the difficult questions to get answers that support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander members here in the Northern Territory.

Can I handle this role? Simple answer, YES!

Do I speak out for my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island members across all fields that work in the city, rural and remote? HELL YEAH!

Am I available to listen to your concerns? YES!

If you want a YES MAN, I am not your person. I am the person who isn't afraid to step on toes to get my point across and support your issues and fight for your rights as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Unionists.

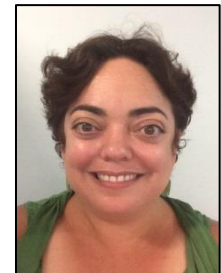
My passion is supporting my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members' rights. I may not be politically correct or eloquent at times. My fight comes within and it is with that strength and determination I draw on to keep our voices at the table in every executive meeting. For this to occur we have to work alongside our non-Indigenous members and support each other. The fight isn't over!

If you trust me vote for me.

Yours in Solidarity

Kym Tucker

I am a proud Aboriginal woman who was born in Darwin in the early 1970s. My Nanna was a survivor of the Stolen Generation and she was born in Borroloola. I am also connected to the Larrakia on my Grandfather's side.



As a high school and middle school teacher since the year 2000 in outback QLD and in Darwin, my goal has been to improve the educational outcomes and employment pathways for young people. Whilst I was trained as a high school English teacher, my passion has been to engage young people from many different social and cultural backgrounds in the great value of Indigenous Languages and Cultures.

I have been a formal and informal mentor and coach of many teachers and more recently (gratefully) of Indigenous teachers.

I have served as the Chairperson of the Sanderson Middle School Union Sub-branch during the introduction of Middle Schools and I served as the Secretary of the Sub-branch during the recent staff cuts and funding cuts.

I have a first-hand knowledge of the hardships that teachers and their students can face and the difficulty that can sometimes occur when trying to communicate through, at times, diametrically opposed cultural perspectives.