Grant Webb has been a member of the Australian Reading Association/Australian Literacy Educators Association since 1986 and over this time has shown dedicated service to local, state, national and international literacy education programs. Grant has taken a leadership role for over 25 years at all levels of the organisation including being a member of a number of Local Council Executives, Local Council President, State Director and National Vice President. He has participated in and facilitated leadership programs including Local Council Leadership programs, International Reading Association (IRA) Leadership Forums and has taken an active role in mentoring individuals interested in beginning or re-invigorating Local Councils.

Grant has published numerous works for ALEA including journal articles (Australian Journal of Language and Literacy) and newsletter articles (ALEA Today) as well as writing for state and local newsletters. He has undertaken reviews of a number of texts for the ALEA bookshop and made a significant contribution to the development of promotional materials for ALEA members such as fridge magnets, bookmarks and educational posters. Grant has also mentored many beginning writers and has edited and reviewed texts for a number of colleagues.

During his time with ALEA, Grant has been responsible for the smooth financial and administrative management of Local Council and State Director portfolios. He undertook a significant national review of administrative procedures relating to the running of State Director and Local Council funds and developed a handbook of administrative practices to ensure consistency in the management of Local Councils especially in relation to the operation of bank accounts.

Grant has overseen local, state and national initiatives such as Books for Babies, University Awards, Writer’s Camps and International Literacy Day Activities. He currently serves on the 2013 National ALEA/AATE Conference's educational program sub-committee. While National Vice President, Grant represented ALEA on the National Education Forum and at a number of inaugural forums on Literacy/English National Standards and has coordinated a number of ALEA responses to state and national government proposals and policies. At the State Level, Grant has represented ALEA at a variety of government and community forums and had significant involvement in the Joint Council of Teacher Associations of Queensland (JCQTA). He has continuously strived to form greater links between ALEA and educational systems to ensure the maximum number of teachers are benefiting from their exposure to ALEA professional development and are aware of what ALEA can do to support their professional growth. He has presented workshops at numerous forums and conferences across Queensland and presented workshops at ALEA National Conferences. At the 2013 National Conference Grant will Chair a Forum investigating Orthographic Advantage Theory. In his current role as Director within Education Queensland he continues to support his Local Council by co-sponsoring a number of professional development opportunities.

Grant has represented ALEA in a number of international forums including the International Development Committee (IDOC) as both Chair and member of the Committee. While on the IDOC committee he initiated and developed programs such as Writing Information Texts in Vernacular workshops; Book Clubs for Teachers; Informal Reading Councils; Resources appropriate to local contexts; and Friends of Oceania. While working in the Middle East, Grant became involved with the Qatar Reading Association.

More recently Grant has been part of a number of IRA projects in developing countries. He is currently working as the External Evaluator of the Active Teaching and Learning Approaches in Schools (ATLAS) in Post-Conflict Batticaloa (Sri Lanka) and will travel to Sri Lanka again in September to finalise evaluation. This program is a significant IRA program which aims to build the professional capacity of classroom teachers and school administrators to enhance their abilities to support high levels of literacy teaching and learning across continents. During all of this work, Grant has taken a strong mentoring role to ensure that there is capability building within the local context.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that ALEA recognises Grant Webb’s outstanding contribution to the Association and to the literacy community with Life Membership of the Association.

Robyn Ewing
President