Bette Triglone is a passionate educator who has supported many teachers in deepening their understanding of effective literacy practices. She has held a variety of roles within the ACT Local Council, including president and secretary, over the past nineteen years. Her leadership stance in these formal roles, and as a mentor to many, is to ensure teachers are not followers of fads but critical and creative thinkers. Bette supports teachers to grapple with research and connect to practice so that they adjust, modify, adapt and invent based on their beliefs about quality literacy learning and teaching. This approach ensures that the support for the teacher is at point of need and encourages them to reach inside themselves to ensure there is alignment between vision and beliefs and their practice. The result of this approach is teachers who do not simply replicate or emulate but consciously teach students with deep understanding.

Bette has worked tirelessly for ALEA at both a state and national level. She has organised many professional learning events in the ACT that have resulted in increased and sustained membership. Bette’s knowledge of and commitment to best practice in all learning areas has seen the ACT accessing professional learning that supports and challenges teachers. At a national level Bette was a vital member of committees for the 2000 and 2007 AATE/ALEA National Conferences. Bette has attended national ALEA leadership workshops and contributed feedback for national work related to standards, curriculum and the Literacy Inquiry. Bette models teacher inquiry as a way to own one’s own professional learning. She is widely read and shares her learning with others. Bette is a “teachers’ teacher” and has mentored many educators who have gone on to system and national leadership. She has been a key person who has built the positive learning culture that is firmly in place within the ALEA ACT Local Council community. Bette continually models care, consideration, respect, passion and demonstrates a commitment to the principles of social justice.

Bette’s enthusiasm for literacy is evident in the wide range of facilitation roles she has engaged in. As a presenter at two national conferences she has ensured that educators are able to access current research in practical ways. Bette was one of only three ACT representatives to be selected as an Early Literacy Program Facilitator based on the 100 Children Go to School Longitudinal Study by Dr Barbara Comber. Her knowledge and engagement with research ensures that she remains responsive to changes in the literacy field while embedding quality teaching practices. In 2005 Bette was invited to contribute to development of the Standards for Teachers of English Language and Literacy in Australia (STELLA) through writing about aspects of her literacy teaching for ‘stories of accomplished practices by Australian teachers’. Her recognition at a national level is evident. Bette has also given feedback on many contemporary literacy issues such as the Australian Curriculum: English.

As a member of ALEA’s editorial committee, Bette’s high level organisational skills and theoretical perspectives were utilised for the benefit of all members. She has been at the fore of many professional learning events in the ACT, ensuring that transfer is mediated into each teacher’s setting. Bette has established systems and processes to ensure the sustained commitment to several key initiatives such as Classroom Chats and Books for Babies. Bette articulates the purpose of each project by linking to ALEA’s vision and purpose, shares organisational processes, and gradually releases responsibility to the new team. Her approach in building the capacity of ALEA ACT Local Council members has allowed these initiatives to continue regardless of changes in roles within the team.

It is therefore with great pleasure that ALEA honours Bette Triglone with a Special Services Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to ALEA over many years.