

KABAAM!

Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia Newsletter

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Spring Into Behaviour Analysis!

Spring is here and we can start to look forward to longer days and spending time outdoors over the coming months. It has been 6 months since our last newsletter and ABA Australia has seen a number of important developments. We held our 3rd annual conference in Brisbane this past July, which was a fantastic weekend of learning and sunshine. Don't worry if you missed out, we have a conference summary in this newsletter.



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
— ABAA —

This newsletter is jammed packed with new information relating to ABA Australia. We'll tell you what our membership committee and social media committee are doing to provide better connection with our members and the interested public. As always, we are delighted to be highlighting one of our members Dr. Tim Edwards in our member spotlight section, trust me you don't want to miss this article. There is so much happening right now with behaviour analysis that we hope you enjoy reading about how behaviour analysis is growing in Australia and New Zealand!

None of this is possible without the dedicated volunteers and our loyal members of ABA Australia. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your on-going support and contributions.

Alayna Haberlin, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President

Welcome to the Club!

Congratulations to all the newly minted recipients of BACB certification in Australia, between April 2018 and August 2018! Fantastic job passing the exams!

RBTs:

Jean De Souza, Gary Gribben, Olivia Hutchison, Samhitha Joshi, Christina Luongo, Manthi Mallikarachchi, Taylor Pitson, Emily Tilt, Meredith Vale, Shauna Whiteford, Dan Ping Qu and Tatiana Zhdanova

BCaBAs:

Katherine Pan, Lucy Smerdon and Angie Soleman

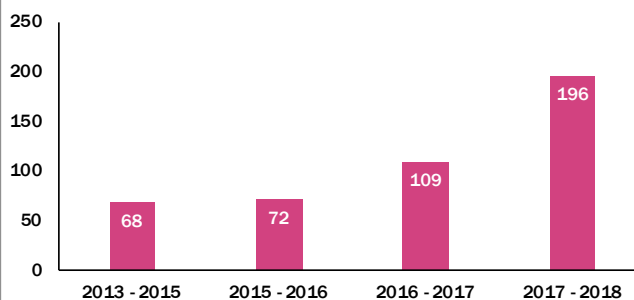
BCBAs:

Minal Buch, Lauren Cowled, Danielle Higgins, Irina Risteska and Seher Suhail

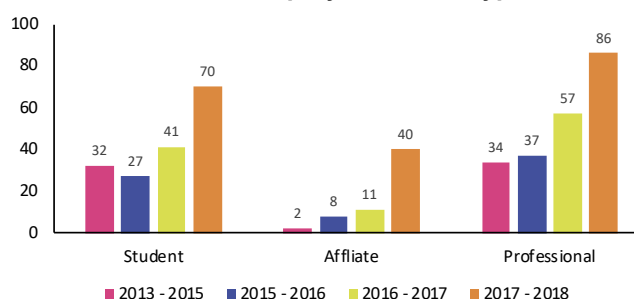
Thank you for contributing to the ever-rapid growth of behaviour analysis down under. We look forward to hearing about your futures in the field.

Memberships by the Numbers

Total Membership by Financial Year

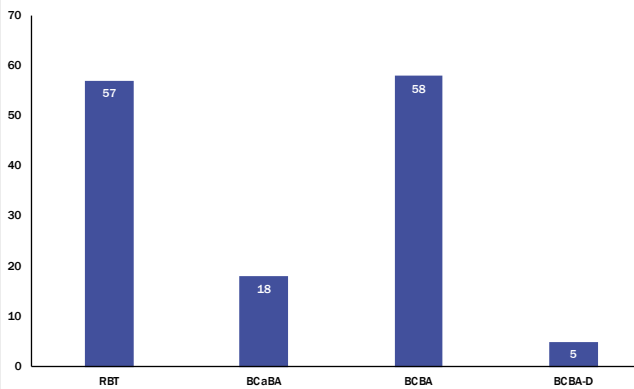


Membership by Year and Type



BACB Certification in Australia

BACB Certificants (August 2018)





2018 Conference Summary

As the 2018 conference came to an end, we thought, wow, what an amazing weekend! As a conference committee member, you spend so many hours thinking about, planning for, and working on the conference that you sometimes forget to be in the moment and enjoy the fruits of your labour. But as the conference unfolded before us we were finally able to leave the planning behind and partake in everything that was happening. We met people not only from every state or territory but also some who made the trip over from New Zealand. Every presentation we sat in on was both informative and engaging. The diversity of presentations kept us entertained and I dare say on the edge of our seats, but that might have also had something to do with the amazing coffee!

We have to congratulate our keynotes and invited speaker for exposing us to areas of behaviour analysis that we might have otherwise not experienced and for helping us achieve some serious 'nerding out' moments. As **Willie DeLeon** talked about behavioural economics, how could you not think about how a demand curve is affecting our everyday application of behaviour analysis and that this view may help to shed some light on why fading reinforcement is so challenging. Then **Neil Martin** helped us understand what the BACB is doing around the world to expand our profession. Knowing there are over 75,000 of us (BCBA-Ds, BCBAAs, BCaBAAs, and RBTs) makes you begin to think that, Yes, we will take over the world with behaviour analysis! You can't quiet 75,000 voices saying

"reinforcement works!" Then **Darin Cairns** took us through a whirlwind explanation of relational frame theory, with a look at how to use it in our clinical work. He took a complex topic and made it easy to understand and demonstrated how it would be great to incorporate into service delivery models or even use it for yourself on a daily basis.

We had a great line up of presenters showing us the ever-diverse nature of behaviour analysis over the weekend. **Tessa Taylor** demonstrated a method to teach a teenage girl with typical development to eat new foods. **Megan Borlase** extended the line of research on the use of precursor behaviours in functional analysis (FA) to show that a variation of FAs can be done with severe challenging behaviour. **Steven Provost** discussed using delay and probability discounting to examine impulsivity in recreational gambling and that this line of research will now lead his team to use these methods to look at choices medical practitioners make.

We keep thinking back to **Tim Edwards'** views on motivating operations and how antecedents deserve inclusion in our description to provide a more accurate account for how motivating operations influence behaviour. And how can we forget the entertaining role-plays on tolerance training by **Angela Arnold-Saritepe** and **Katrina Phillips**! They brought their research to life in

2018 Conference Summary cont.

front of our eyes and we look forward to reading their recently published article. I think we were all in awe and astonished at the amazing work of all those involved with the **BCBA Pilot Project** in Victoria. This is truly a group of dedicated individuals who travel great distances to make significant behaviour change in the schools of Victoria.

And what parent wouldn't want **Neville Blampied** and his team helping out with their kid's sleep!?! Let's not forget **Karen Tait** looking at better ways to assess speech-generating devices and **Lauren Chapman** describing Woodbury's system to move children with ASD from one-on-one to group settings. Also, what about our presenters on staff training? We had the privilege of two great presentations where **Artika Singh** described ways to train staff to use NET and **Alana Michell** described a technology-based data collection training.

Who didn't enjoy everything that Brisbane had to offer? Amazing weather, wonderful eateries and pubs, and beautiful sights kept everyone in great spirits throughout the weekend.

In our post reinforcement pause, we can reflect on and appreciate our time over that weekend. But we can't pause too long as the conference committee has a lot to live up in making next year's conference as memorable as this one. Looking forward to seeing you all again in Melbourne 2019!

Alayna Haberlin and Michelle Furminger
Conference Committee Co-Chairs



Member Spotlight: Dr. Timothy Edwards

By Karen Wong

Earlier this year, our third annual ABA Australia conference was held in balmy Brisbane with the theme, *Behaviour Analysis in Australia: Diverse and Relevant*. Our illustrious keynote speakers, presenters, poster presentations and you, our delegates, definitely embodied this theme. However, one man and his dog caught our attention!

Dr. Timothy Edwards, a doctoral-level Board Certified Behavior Analyst by trade and musician (a guitar and drums man) by leisure. His academic career was sparked by an interest in "understand[ing] more about why people do the strange things they do." However, his studies didn't quite answer this age-old question until he took a class in behaviour analysis by Dr. Carl Cheney (co-author of *Behavior Analysis and Learning: A Biobehavioral Approach*, Sixth Edition). The discovery of an approach that was both scientific and practical, "was exactly what I was looking for." Dr. Edwards volunteered to teach at a behavioural rat lab and completed a BACB verified course sequence at Western Michigan University before conducting behavioural research, using the African Giant Pouched Rat as scent detection animals to sniff out tuberculosis-positive human sputum samples in Tanzania.

Following a move to Hamilton, New Zealand, Dr. Edwards accepted a position at the University of Waikato as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology where he currently teaches in behaviour analysis, as well as conducts and supervises research in scent detection, motivating operations, and verbal behaviour. His approach to teaching future BCBA's was inspired by hearing Dr. Bill Heward speak at ABA Australia's first conference in 2016. During his keynote, Dr. Heward showed a picture of an operant chamber superimposed onto a classroom scene,

Member Spotlight cont.

where students were the pigeon and the teacher was the response panel. Similar to the pigeon's active learning environment, Dr. Edwards endeavours to "turn the classroom into an operant chamber and give students opportunities to behave!" Raise your hand if you'd prefer this style over the traditional lectures you've endured!



A typical day for Dr. Edwards doesn't just involve teaching. He gets to hang out with one of his best mates, Tui, a Kelpie/Huntaway/Collie cross - he's the cutie pictured with Dr. Edwards! Tui also helps Dr. Edwards in his current research in scent detection of lung cancer, which came about from his previous work with TB-detection rats.

In true applied behaviour analytic form, Dr. Edwards and his colleagues, Cat Chung and Michael Jameson (Waikato Hospital), and Clare Browne (University of Waikato) are applying the principles of behaviour to issues of social importance. In May, Dr. Edwards secured a research grant of approximately 300,000 NZD from the Waikato Medical Research foundation, the Health Research Council of New Zealand and the University of Waikato to research the ability of dogs to identify individuals with lung cancer. Lung

cancer is extremely expensive and difficult to detect early enough for treatment to be sought, with many individuals living only a year or so after receiving a diagnosis. This research concerns itself with developing methods that can detect lung cancer based on its identified odour profile. Early and accurate diagnosis may lead to increased detection and a decrease in mortality of those diagnosed with the disease. In response to the grant announcement, Dr. Edwards explained that, "an operationally viable detection system for lung cancer would have significant health and economic benefits in New Zealand and internationally." I am sure the ABA Australia community will be following Dr Edwards's research in this vital area!

As always, I like to ask for parting advice from Member Spotlights, and Dr. Edward's advice is sound and simple, "If you're interested in behaviour analysis, read about it; I'd start with *Don't Shoot the Dog*. Get involved in some relevant work. The RBT qualification is a great way to get your feet wet."



Question of the Newsletter

In this section we will answer a popular question we get from members or the public. If you have a question, please email admin@auaba.com.au.

Question:

How do I advertise with ABA Australia?

Answer:

ABA Australia is excited to become a platform for members and non-members alike to promote workshops, services, along with other ABA-related events across Australia. You may be interested in advertising with us for your:

- ✦ CEU/PD events
- ✦ BCBA/BCaBA/RBT Supervision
- ✦ Job Opportunities
- ✦ Research Opportunities
- ✦ Services
- ✦ Other

Currently we have a number of media platforms to help you and your company get the word out, including:

- ✦ ABA Australia website (auaba.com.au)
- ✦ ABA Australia Newsletter (KABAAM!)
- ✦ Social Media (@auaba2014)



There are a number of marketing packages available to choose from to suit you and your organisation's individual needs, so please see our Advertising Guidelines (<https://auaba.com.au/advertising>) and website for more details.

Additionally, please be sure to read our terms and conditions carefully before choosing to promote with us.

Feel free to contact us at advertising@auaba.com.au if you have any questions. We look forward to helping you get your message out there!

Membership Survey Responses

ABA Australia recently sent out a survey to our members to get a better idea of what everyone was looking for from us. Thank you to everyone who participated!

We had 47 responses across the three membership categories. The survey asked for respondents to answer questions on a range of topics. These included CEU events, benefits to be made available through the member's only section of the website, advertising, newsletter content, and communication from the association.

Based on your feedback we have been working on a few different projects to improve your experience as a member of ABA Australia and to improve our communication with our membership.

We are in the process of increasing our suite of member benefits including exploring options for getting members access to discounted travel, accommodation, and resources.

We now have a dedicated team monitoring and regularly updating our social media platforms and have added Instagram to our social media suite so keep an eye on these for resources and regular updates from the association and our committees. We will also be posting updates from the NDIS and BACB as they come out so don't forget to check it out.

Newsletters will now be released twice a year. We hope to increase the frequency of newsletters in the future as we find more content to add. If anyone has ideas for content or would like to write for the newsletter please get in touch as we're always open to new ideas and fresh material.

We are looking into options for increasing CEU opportunities for local BCBA's and BCaBA's - in the meantime we encourage all our local ACE providers to make the most of our new CEU advertising opportunities.

ABAA

CONFERENCE 2019



Melbourne 26-28 July

We are thrilled to announce our next conference in **Melbourne 2019!**
(Don't forget that they'll always fall on **the last weekend of July**)

Some early teasers: **ACT Workshop with Evelyn Gould** (on the Friday)
Cynthia Anderson | **Donna Quay**

And that's all we can giveaway for now folks - stay tuned as more information is released.
We look forward to seeing you there!

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ABAA
BACB
BEHAVIOUR
BRISBANE
CONFERENCE
CUSPS

DEMAND
DIETIC
ELASTICITY
EXTINCTION
FIDELITY
FOODSELECTIVITY

HANLEY
MICROECONOMICS
RFT
SLEEP DISORDER
SUPPLY
VICTORIA

Secret Message

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Note: To find the secret message, put in the leftover letters of the find-a-word into the secret message box. Letters should be put in order from top to bottom and left to right.
(There will be leftover letters remaining.)

New Benefits for Members!

The Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia is happy to announce that we have set up some new benefits for our members. You can access these benefits through the member's only area on our website

- ✦ We have put together some research bibliographies in a variety of ABA related topics
- ✦ Members can now be listed on the ABAA website as a BCBA supervisor and ABA provider for FREE
- ✦ Members can advertise their research on the ABAA website for FREE
- ✦ Members can advertise jobs and CEU/professional development events on our website, social media platforms, and newsletter at a discounted rate. For more information check out the question of the newsletter.

Keep an eye on your emails and our social media platforms because we have some more exciting benefits in the works that we will be announcing as they become available!

The data says we need more data.



Contact us!

Email: admin@auaba.com.au

Website: <https://auaba.com.au/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/auaba.com.au/>

Instagram/Twitter: @auaba2014

Subscribe/follow/like/comment us! Join our online community to discuss, promote and laugh/cry about all things ABA!

Thank you for reading our newsletter! Feel free to send it on to anyone who's interested in behaviour analysis, already works in the field or could even give us some corrective feedback - we welcome it! Keep spreading the word that ABA is growing in Australia, and our association is too. Look out for our next newsletter early next year and other updates along the way!

The Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia is a professional organisation that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behaviour analysis within Australia through research, education, and dissemination of information.



Association for
Behaviour Analysis Australia
———— **ABAA** ————

The mission of ABAA is to promote the science and practical application of behaviour analysis within Australia and to serve as a platform for dissemination of current behaviour analytic research.