

Sixty year ALA history, including the broader Australian adult and community education (ACE) context

Time Line

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Preamble

*This timeline focuses on the main developments in the field of Adult and Community Education (ACE) in Australia from the formation of the first national association, Australian Association of Adult Education, (AAAE) in 1960 to the present association, Adult learning Australia (ALA). It is based primarily on documentary evidence available in the association journals. The timeline starts in the early 1900s to provide the context for the formation of AAAE and includes several developments internationally, nationally and within states that affected the development of ACE in Australia as well as the association as it transformed over time to become AAACE and more recently ALA. It is necessarily selective and partial but provides references to other sources for those seeking a more detailed history.**

Years	Key Developments
1913	<i>Indian Journal of Adult Education</i> (first such journal) established by IJAE, that published a 228-page book in 2018, 'Indian Adult Education Association: Some Glimpses covering the events from 1939 to 2014' as part of their 'Platinum Jubilee' celebrations.
1944	1944 Duncan Report, the 'Future of Adult Education in Australia' proposed a national system of adult education for post-World War II Australia; its recommendations were not implemented. Duncan returned to the report in 'A vision splendid: the Duncan Report with commentaries' in 1973.
1946	Queensland Board of Adult Education established (first in Australia) by 'The National Education Co-ordination & the University of Queensland Acts Amendment Act' to 'organise, supervise and generally direct Adult Education activities in Queensland and to arrange for their extension wherever practicable throughout the State. NOTE: Badger in AJAE 1963 (3), No. 2., 13 wrongly suggests QAEB was founded in 1941. CAE (Council of Adult Education) created in Victoria by the Cain government 1945-7 (The Act to set up the CAE was passed 1946).
1947	Victorian CAE created; Adult Education Board, Tasmania created.
1949	World Association of Adult Education created; 'NIACE' created from the amalgamation of the National Foundation for Adult Education & British Institute of Adult Education.
1950	<i>Adult Education Quarterly</i> established in the US (AEQ remains the preeminent ACE journal in the world to 2019).
Post War	Adult education carried out in Australia through agencies at state level: WEA (Workers Education Association) in NSW & SA, Universities at Sydney, Perth, Armidale & Adelaide; State Boards operated in Queensland & Tasmania & CAE in Victoria.
1955-59	Annual meetings of the various state adult education providers commenced in 1955; at the 1958 (Sydney) and 1959 (Adelaide) meetings, the question of formation of a national association was discussed. Fred Alexander's book <i>Adult education in Australia</i> poured fuel on the debate about whether WEA, particularly in metropolitan NSW, had become an outmoded and elitist form of adult education. The full history of the events is detailed Badger AJAE, 3 (2), Dec 1963, pp.5-21.

Years	Key Developments
1960	<p>UNESCO second adult education conference in Montreal. AAAE (Australian Association of Adult Education) was formally established at the 1960 Hobart 'National Directors Meeting'; Arnold Hely played an important role in resolving conflicts between the many people & organisations involved & the differing perceptions of adult education.</p>
1961	<p>July 1961 <i>Australian Journal of Adult Education</i> first published with three articles: Arnold Hely, Adelaide University was inaugural AJAE Editor; 3-5 Oct 1961 first Association Conference in Adelaide, with theme 'Adult education: The nation's responsibility'; 6 Oct first annual meeting of the Association (AAAE), a voluntary organisation with part time office bearers and headquarters moving between different places over the next few years. It was unable to get financial support or influence policy and practice. Professor W. G. K. Duncan's [University of Adelaide] paper in AJAE Issue 1 'Agenda for a national association', anticipated that the journal and conferences were important to give members a 'lift'. Duncan's national agenda was difficult to implement in the 1960s with limited resources, disagreements about the nature of adult education & the role of the Association. E. M. Hutchinson's [Secretary, NIACE] article on 'The international importance of a national association' pointed to existing national associations 'virtually confined to the Commonwealth and the United States (p.12), in Canada, NZ, Norway, India, UK and the US. The third article 'An experiment in method' by J. L. J. Wilson [University of Sydney] is a now excruciating account of providing lecture courses 'for aborigines' at Tranby in Sydney and reflecting why the 'experiment' did not work. The 'News' in the first Issue (p.30) rightly anticipated Dr R. B. Madgwick, Vice Chancellor of UNE 'for a time Director of Army Education during the war ... and a champion of adult education in university circles' would become the first President of AAAE.</p>

Years	Key Developments
1962	<p>The Association's first year was formative and exploratory. The second (Dec 1962) Issue of <i>AJAE</i> began with news of the 2nd National Adult Education Conference in Sydney, in August 1962, noting (p.3) that the Association's first year was 'formative and exploratory', observing that 'There is still a good deal of experiment to be carried out on what the Association can and cannot successfully do, and room for improvement on what it is doing, but one can no longer doubt the need for a national organisation'. This second Issue included the Association's submission (including seven recommendations, pp.43-4) on the future of Australian tertiary education. The key ACE-related recommendations included support 'for mature aged students who have proved their ability in adult education courses'; reducing the heavy strain on resources of [State] Boards or Councils of Adult Education'; researching and experimenting in 'Community Development'; investigating educational radio and TV; securing overseas adult education experts from overseas; flagging that AAAE has been functioning without government assistance, and linking it to the potential for developing adult education in Asia and 'among Aboriginal and Papuan peoples'. Page 48 has a full-page advertisement for 'West End' beer.</p>
1963	<p>July 1963 <i>AJAE</i> Issue, first ever 'Editorial', by Arnold Hely about 'Television and adult education in Australia'; Issue includes six articles: one by Colin Cave about 'A Victorian experiment in adult education' in Wangaratta; another 'The beginnings of WEA in Victoria' by L. T. Leathley. Issue 4 (Dec 1963, incoming Editorial by D. W. Crowley, first Association Secretary & later Chair, also a New Zealander, awarded AM 1984: Hely then became AAAE Chair). Issue 2, Dec 1963, includes an article on 'Background to the foundation of the Australian Association of Adult Education' by Colin Badger, who had just been appointed as Director, CAE in Victoria.</p>

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1964	<p>Martin Report, 'Tertiary education in Australia'. <i>A handbook of Australian adult education</i> published by AAAE in 1964, including 'a guide to the adult education organisation in each of the Australian states, complemented by Directory of Australian Adult Education with contact details & brief organisational description. July 1964 AJAE Issue, includes 'News' that one outcome of the UNESCO Asian-South Pacific seminar (that AAAE helped to organise) on 'Role of universities and schools in adult education' (held in Sydney, late Jan to 1 Feb 1964), had led 'to the founding of the Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education' (ASPBAE); Dec 1964 Issue 'News' includes 'further progress for ASPBAE, including meeting in Hong Kong in late 1964. The 'News' exhorts adult educators in Australia who have assisted 'the developing countries in their construction of adult education ... to come to grips in our discussions – to sift out the wheat from the chaff among our differing perceptions. And is this not Australia – heir to the British tradition and culture, but sister born frontier society, the United States – well placed to make a reconciling contribution to world debate' (p.4). The Dec 1964 issue (with Hely still as Chair of AAAE) notes that after eight years in Australia, Arnold Hely is taking up position of Secretary of the National Council of Adult Education in New Zealand.</p>
1965	<p>July 1965 <i>AJAE</i> Issue includes 'Regional Seminar Reports on the Role of Universities' by Hew Roberts, UWA, and 'The role of schools (A. J. A. Nelson, UNE). Crowley briefly becomes AAAE Chair as well as Journal Editor. July 1965 Issue: John Shaw, Uni NSW, becomes AJAE Editor; Shaw later worked on the journal separately and together over 11 years with Joan Allsop (Dr Allsop was the first Australian awarded a Doctorate in adult education, also awarded an AM, 1981). Advertisement for AAAE publication (then located at CAE, 256 Flinders St) includes mention of forthcoming 'Monographs in Australian Adult Education' with the first to be by Noel Anderson, 'History of Mechanics Institutes in Victoria'. Anderson published a previous 1961 book <i>Mechanics Institutes and Schools of Design</i>.</p>

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1966	<p>1966-7 were 'years of crisis' for the Association: the Universities Commission Martin Report recommendation that university provision of adult education should cease led to 'old wounds' being reopened about the nature of adult education and how it might best be provided; if the report recommendation was supported by the association, the status of the State Boards would increase. AAAE, by a slim margin, opposed the recommendation. July 1966 AJAE Issue includes a critique of the "The Martin report and adult education' by Phillip Rossell (Uni Sydney) than acknowledges (p.4) that the Australian adult education provisions are not only limited, but the scene is confusing and many who operate within it are confused', with confusion also among 'many adult educators as to aims, functions, and standards'. The main problems cited by Rossell were about continuing education's lack of visibility, accessibility, facilities, teachers and methods, as well as it being 'a peripheral, low priority concern' (p.5). The July 1966 issue also includes 'Origins of the Council of Adult Education' article. The 1966 Dec Issue includes a very strong response from Association Chair, D. W. Crowley to Colin Badger's 'Origins of CAE' article. Clearly the article opened up old wounds about the role and funding of WEA in NSW as a consequence of CAE's creation in Victoria by the John Cain government in 1945-7. It also mentions the then recent inaugural publication of the ASPBAE Journal, 'available via Secretary Hely' who had moved back to Wellington, New Zealand.</p>
1967	<p>June 1967 <i>African Adult Education</i> journal published by the Adult Education Association of East and Central Africa. 'Untimely death' of Arnold Hely, 1967. July 1967AJAE Issue includes an article about 'Research in adult education' by Berry Durston (UNE), observing (pp.6-7) that most of the research reported in AJAE does not meet the canons of adequate research, inadequately defining problems for investigation and methods, with inadequate description and presentation of data raising serious questions about the value and reliability of conclusions. Dec 1967 Issue notes Professor Zelman Cowen is new Association President, with Joan Allsop appointed Assistant journal Editor with John Shaw.</p>

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1968	<p>‘Convergence international adult education journal published in Ontario, Canada’. First year where three <i>AJAE</i> Issues published (April, July, Nov): Obituary to Arnold Hely, by D. W. Crowley, in April 1968 Issue. July 1968 Issue, plus and article about the history of WEA in Queensland 1913-1937. and Part 1 of ‘Some considerations about adult education in Australia’ by Brian Smith (UWA). The article argues for adult education, vocational, non-vocational and recreational dealt with on a state-wide basis, operated by only two organisations: the universities and the State Education departments. Joan Allsop, becomes Acting <i>AJAE</i> Editor for the Nov 1968 Issue, that includes Part 2 of Smith’s article, arguing for a diminishing but complementary role of universities in adult education. It includes (p.116) ‘It is time we stopped dreaming of a population agog with the urge for pure enlightenment and looked at the situation as it exists. ... The brute fact is that in this country, at this time, very few people study and learn for the joy of it. The vast majority of adult students are seeking social contact, amusement, status advantage, useful skills or, above all economic advantage. This does not mean that they may not achieve a considerable measure of ‘broad liberal education’ in the process ...’.</p>
1969	<p>Studies in Adult Education first published in Britain. Nov 1969 <i>AJAE</i> Issue includes article by Chris Duke ‘Towards education permanente: The concept of life-long integrated education’, asserting that life-long ‘continuing education’ will become the norm (p.104).</p>

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1970	<p>Barrie Brennan (2010) described the 1970s as AAAE's period of 'adolescence'; Federal Government gave funding of a grant to AAAE for the first time, for \$8,000 per year for three years, to support the Association. <i>Adult Education in Australia</i> 288-page book by Derek Whitlock published in Sydney, with 20 chapters written by 16 different practitioners. W. G. K. Duncan reviewed Whitlock's book in the July 1970 AJAE. Zelman Cowen says in his 'Preface' that each adult education agency (identified by Duncan, p.82) as 'universities, statutory bodies, government departments and voluntary bodies') '... has its place and special qualities. The last thing that the adult education movement in a democratic society wants or needs is conformity' (in Duncan, p.82). In Issue 3, Duke's article 'The liberal and the socio-emotional' identifies the tensions between 'discipline oriented liberal adult education and problem- or student-oriented adult education'. The former is associated with Albert Mansbridge (who cofounded WEA in Britain in 1903), the latter with 'Andersonianism by adult educators in Sydney' (John Anderson was an influential, free thinking Sydney philosopher, died 1962, whose work was taken up by the Sydney Push, left wing intellectuals from the late 1940s to the 1970s.</p>
1971	<p>AJAE Issue 1, Duke & Butterfield introduce a tool trialled at Centre for Continuing Education at ANU for researching and surveying 'non-certifiable education of adults in Australia'; Douglas Roberson becomes first paid Association Secretary/Treasurer in January 1971; John Shaw & Joan Allsop, AJAE Editors.</p>
1972	<p>Publication of UNESCO Faure Report 'Learning to be'; UNESCO third adult education conference in Tokyo, The development of adult education in Queensland: The Thiele report 1972: a report for the Board of Adult Education' by a Committee of Review.</p>
1973	<p>AJAE Issue 1 includes 'Organisation of adult education in Tasmania'. Issue 3 includes an article by Alan T. Duncan (Uni of Sydney) on 'Strategies in Aboriginal adult education', which is today cringe-worthy. For example (p.115), "Today Aborigines find the concept of deferred gratification very difficult to accept [as] clearly demonstrated in attitudes towards education and employment. One of the problems the author identified 'in teaching Aborigines how to overcome the problem of isolation on one of the reserves' (p.117) 'arose from the fact that Aborigines were encouraged to express themselves freely'.</p>

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1974	Kangan Report, <i>TAFE in Australia</i> published, 1974. Joan Allsop (Uni Sydney) AJAE Editor. AJAE Issue 2, July 1974 includes Joan's Allsop's "Toward lifelong learning" article, that optimistically & presciently anticipates that 'Educational Resources Centres' across Australia 'will be essential for all its citizens, not just as community centres ... but as places of social and civic learning for all ages and at all times' (p.54).
1975	Prior to 1975 Association members were 'professionals' (who dominated the Executive) or 'associates' with an 'interest' in the field. Once this distinction was abolished membership diversified. In 1975 the possibility of 'branches' was also legalised.
1976	UNESCO Nairobi Conference (Oct/Nov) considers 'Draft Recommendations on the Development of Adult Education'; ICAE World Conference on Adult Education and Development in Dar es Salaam; upturn in ASPBAE activity; Australian Council of Adult Literacy (ACAL) began operating as an independent entity; Editorial in AJAE Issue No 2 by Barrie Brennan, as Acting Editor, flagging a change in AAAE publications policy, with more emphasis on journal articles, moving reviews on books and journals to the newsletter. Issue No. 3 was themed around adult education and development; Editorial by Chris Duke flagging the move towards future journal papers around a theme.
1977	AJAE Issue 1 Editorial by A. Wesson (Preston Institute) complaining 'it has not proved possible for our craft to agree on a framework in which to develop an adult education theory': on one hand we amass 'unconnected heaps of hard data'. On the other, we 'peddle our current favourite framework in the hope of acquiring fellow believers amongst our colleagues'; Issue 2 emphasis on continuing professional education; 1977-8 Association income \$61,000 with a grant of \$17,000.

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1978	Jack Mezirow published a new theory of transformative adult learning in AEQ 1978. AAACE publishes 'Special group needs' Report; <i>AJAE</i> Issue 1 Editorial by Nicolas Haines; Issue 3 includes an article by Joan Allsop flagging that Australia was being urged to take up 'Recommendations' from the UNESCO 1976 Nairobi report; A national conference held at ANU on 'The Provision of Adult Education in Australia'; Issue 3 includes Al Grassby article, 'The adult educator in multicultural Australia', lamenting the 'extirpation of 500 Aboriginal languages and to building by 1939 one of the most mono-lingual, xenophobic people on earth'.
1979	Nicholas Haines, <i>AJAE</i> Editor, based at ANU. In Issue 2 Editor notes that 'community education' is being run up the mast in Australia bringing new confusions ... having nothing to do prima facie with age'; in 1979 the Association made its first foray into 'commissioned research'; AAAE felt vulnerable with the creation and rise of the AAACE. Haines noted that at the 1979 conference, participants '... assembled, gyrated and dispersed with no published, or perhaps, publishable proof that the fundamentals we possess have been mentioned, let alone explored in reasonable debate'.
1980	1980s described by Brennan (2010) as a 'decade of women' for AAAE; in the 1980s the emergence of a community-based adult education movement, particularly in Victoria, had national implications. <i>AJAE</i> Issue 3 includes an attempt by Marianne Devin to construct a state level profile and typology of adult education in NSW.
1981	Douglas Roberson (Association Sec/Treasurer) died unexpectedly 1981; Association headquarters then moved from Canberra with the office of the Association Secretary/ Treasurer between Adelaide & Sydney (two periods each) & Melbourne prior to 1988. <i>AJAE</i> Issue 1 includes Charles Bentley's article 'Adult Education statistics' (pp.11-14), identifying significant problems of categorisation and measurement (p.13). Issue 1 also includes 'Instruction for illiterates' (pp.15-18) by three academics from Latrobe University. [<i>AJAE</i> Issue 3, Nov 1981 erroneously has 'No. 2' on the cover].

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1982	<p><i>AJAE</i> Issue 2 includes Roger Harris' 'Spring or Indian Summer: Competency-based approaches in Australian post-secondary education', anticipating that Competency-Based Education (CBE) 'would have considerable application' ... 'in several areas in Australian adult education and training', particularly in most role-training areas' (p.9). Issue 2 also includes David Battersby's 'Gerogogy' (education of the aged) article.</p>
1983	<p>BACE in NSW sought to stimulate community agencies to boost their provision as TAFE NSW virtually withdrew from adult education courses in the early 1980s. WEA-University of Sydney alliance finally severed in 1983. <i>AJAE</i> Issue 2 1983 includes Keith Solomon (Darwin Community College) 'Recent developments in Australia and overseas' that gives consideration (pp.8-10) to the many unmet research needs in Australian adult education, urging AAEE to actively encourage research through a recently established 'Research Network'. It also identifies a need for training adult educators (pp.11-12). In Issue 3, Peter Long, from TAFE Brisbane 'The AJEA: Preoccupations through ten years' undertakes a retrospective, partly quantitative, thematic analysis of the <i>AJAE</i> contents between 1970 and 1979. In that decade only 17% of contributors were women; 26% were from overseas; 55% of Australian authors were university academics; 48% of all Australian authors were from NSW (none were from Queensland). The heavy emphasis on philosophy was seen as being related 'to people in the field trying to understand the parameters of the enterprise'. There was 'very little in the journal which reflected the pre-occupations of the nation' (p14), and a perceived '... abundance of articles on topics of those already catered for educationally.... [as well as] a dearth of articles reflecting migrant education, literacy development, participation, public policy, prisons, agriculture, aboriginal education to mention but a few' (p.14). The final contention in the Conclusion is that 'It may be time for the Association to note who does speak for adult education and to ensure that this voice is more representative' (p.15).</p>

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1984	<p>ABS undertook a national survey in 1984 that identified 13.6% of adults involved in programs or courses of adult education in that year. In 1984 Barrie Brennan, UNE became <i>AJAE</i> Editor, in Issue 1, noting changes in the management, presentation & content of <i>AJAE</i>, creation of a six person 'Editorial Panel' & two numbers in each Volume devoted to a particular theme. Margaret Valadian (Aboriginal Training and Cultural Institute) was likely the first Aboriginal person on that Editorial Panel, that included Dorothy Davis [now Lucardie] at ANU. Issue 2 was special issue on 'Literacy'. Issue 3 was a special issue on 'education of the aged', including 'The continuing education for the elderly' by Kennece Coombe and David Battersby, providing an evidence-based case for the democratic concept of lifelong learning, including for the elderly.</p>
1985	<p>Johnson & Hinton: 'Adult and continuing education in Australia' (1985) and other reports highlighted the importance of adult education and its contribution to the community, particularly to women. Kirby Report, 1985. <i>AJAE</i> Issue 1 theme 'Technology and adult education. Issue 3 theme, 'Multicultural education'. Founding of the NOW in AACE (Network of Women in Australian Adult and Community Education) marked a significant step for women working in vocational and adult education.</p>
1986	<p>Publication of <i>It's human nature: Non-award adult and community education in Australia</i> (1986) & <i>Helen Kimberley's Community learning: The outcomes report for Victorian Technical and Further Education Board</i>, Melbourne (1986). <i>AJAE</i> Issue 1 theme, 'Learning'; Issue 2 theme. 'Adult education in Asia and the Pacific'; Issue 3 theme, 'Innovations'.</p>
1987	<p><i>National policy on languages</i> published, 1987. <i>AJAE</i> Issue 1, Barrie Brennan editorialises that 'the adult education movement' has perhaps 'become bogged down by becoming bureaucratised, professionalised or divided between conservative thinkers and activists'; Issue 3 theme, 'The celebration of learning'.</p>

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1988	<p><i>A nation of learners report</i> (M. Evans, NEET, 1988) stressed the participation of a wide range of adults in the field. AJAE Issue 2 theme 'History of Adult education in Australia'; also includes Barrie Brennan's 'The history of the AAAE: The first decade' (pp.31-38); Roger Harris joins the Editorial Panel. Issue 3 theme 'A re-examination of the future of adult education' in Australia', includes Brennan's 'A history of the AAAE: The seventies and beyond' (pp.27-35).</p>
1989	<p><i>Lifelong education revisited</i> (A. Butler, 1989 for Commission of the Future). Late 1980s: First Adult Learners Week celebrated in the US; CBT announced in Australia by Ministerial decree, 1989. AJAE Issue 1 includes the first relatively 'modern' critical perspective on 'Aboriginal community education', concluding that 'Their struggle against paternalism ethnocentrism and the Anglo-centric society which dominates them can only be fought through education. ACE programs help bridge that gap' (p.40); Issue 2 theme, 'Prison education'. Issue 3 theme, 'Adult education in rural areas'. AAAE & AAACE merged in September 1989.</p>
1990 AJACE	<p>World Conference on 'Education for all'; 1990 Training Reform Agenda; 1990-1991, Mezirow's major works on critical, transformative and emancipatory learning. 1990s described by Crombie (2010) as the 'decade of AAACE' bookended by two name changes. New journal title <i>AJACE</i>, new Editor (Roger Harris, Uni SA) and new Editorial team; Harris editorialises in Issue 3, p. 2, that 'this journal itself can act as a mirror, reflecting back the contours and complexions of those three decades' that 'this journal itself can serve; Issue 2 theme 'Adult basic literacy' in World Literacy Year; Issue 2 commences 'Research in Progress' reports in journals.</p>
1991	<p><i>Come in Cinderella: The emergence of adult and community education</i> Senate Report, 1991. Alastair Crombie, AAACE's final & ALA's first full-time Director was instrumental in getting the Senate to undertake the 'Come in Cinderella' and the 'Beyond Cinderella' landmark reports in the 1990's. ACE formally recognised in Victoria via the Adult, Community and Further Education Act 1991. Australian language and literacy policy, 1991. <i>AJACE</i> Issue 2 theme 'Community education', including Peter Willis 'Community education in Australia: Reflections on an expanding field of practice'; Issue 3 theme, 'Adult education responses to economic rationalism'.</p>

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1992	First 'Adult Learners Week' in the UK; <i>AJACE</i> Issue 2 theme, 'From the learner's standpoint'; Issue 3 theme, 'Ways of working with adult learners'.
1993	National collaborative adult English language and literacy strategy, 1993. Issue 2 theme, 'Workplace education'.
1994	Issue 1 theme, 'Gender and community education', an all women edition was co-edited by Elaine Butler and Sue Shore; Issue 3 theme, 'Education for marriage and family life'. Sue Shore went on to co-edit a number of other <i>AJACE</i> journals throughout the 1990s
1995	First Australian 'Adult Learners' Week' (10-16 Sept 1995). <i>AJACE</i> Issue 1 theme, 'The adult vocational education sector'; Issue 2 theme, 'Adult learners and learning in the adult higher education sector' ; Issue 3 theme, 'Adult community education sector'.
1996	<i>AJACE</i> Issue 1 theme, 'International perspectives'.
1997	UNESCO Hamburg conference acknowledged the value of adult education. <i>Beyond Cinderella: Towards a learning society</i> (1997) sought to bring together national ACE & VET policy, leading to the creation of a national ACE policy (MCEETYA). <i>AJACE</i> Issue 1 theme, 'The many roles of ACE'; Issue 1 includes Roger Harris' 'The Australian Journal of Adult Education in the sixties' (pp.49-56).
1998	<i>AJACE</i> changes to <i>AJAL</i> ; Issue 1 theme, 'ACE in regional areas'. After a member ballot was taken, the Australian Association of Adult and Community Education (AAACE) changes its name to Adult Learning Australia (ALA) to reflect the changing adult education environment.
1999	UNESCO General Conference approved 'Adult Learners Week'. Issue 1 theme 'Adult learning in different sectors'; Issue 2 gives first mention of intention for the journal to become partly peer refereed. Dorothy Lucardi becomes first female president of ALA. Tony Brown appointed ALA Director. ALA located in Cook public school in Cook ACT along with ASPBAE, HERDSA and Learning Circles Australia. Before that it was located at ANU, Canberra.
2000 <i>AJAL</i>	<i>AJAL</i> new cover, title and format. Roger Harris <i>AJAL</i> Editor; Issue 1 theme, 'Lifelong learning' includes first two peer refereed articles (plus 4 non-refereed). Issue 3 observes ALA's 40th anniversary celebrations, including several 'Blasts from the past' (pp196-244): by Colin Lawton, a foundation member of AAACE in 1960; reprinting of W. G. K. Duncan's 1961 'Agenda for a national Association' and Edward Hutchinson's 1961 'The international importance of a national Association'.

Years	Key Developments
2001	<i>AJAL</i> Issue 2 article by John McIntyre on ‘How the ACE sector was discursively constructed in national policy during the period of Australian training reform’: Issue 3 article on ‘The two traditions [radical versus liberal] of adult education’ by Teri Meryn. Tony Brown departs, and Francesca Beddie appointed Executive Director 2001/2. NOW in AACE rebadged itself to become WAVE (Women in Adult and Vocational Education) as the first national and autonomous non- government organisation for Australian women in the adult, community and vocational education and training sector.
2002	<i>AJAL</i> Issue 1 theme ‘Explorations of practice’; Issue 2, ‘Informal learning’ a ‘predominant theme’; Issue 3, ‘online learning ... a predominant theme’.
2003	<i>AJAL</i> Issue 1 theme, ‘Lifelong learning’.
2004	Ron Anderson replaces Francesca Beddie as Executive Director of ALA; <i>AJAL</i> Issue 2 Editor, Tom Stehlik; Issue 3 theme ‘Enabling education’, with guest Editor Jo May.
2005	ANTA (Australian National Training Authority) transfers to DEST (Department of Education, Science and Training). <i>AJAL</i> Issue 3 includes Editor’s [40 year] retrospective examination of Dec 1965 Issue of AJAE
2006	<i>AJAL</i> Issue 2 includes Editor’s [30 year] retrospective examination of April 1976 Issue of AJAE. Issue 2 includes Editor’s [20 year] retrospective; 1986 Issue 3 includes Editor’s [20 year] retrospective on Nov 1996 Issue of AJACE.
2007	<i>AJAL</i> Issue 2 overarching theme ‘Outcomes from learning’; Issue 3 Co-Edited by Roger Harris & Keryl Kavanagh. ALA in conjunction with the Australian Education Union develops a policy paper ‘Let’s Get Serious ‘on adult literacy and numeracy in Australia. Peter Peterson takes on the role of Executive Director.
2008	2008 ‘Ministerial Declaration on Adult Community Education’; <i>AJAL</i> Issue 2 Co-Edited by Roger Harris & Lili-Ann Berg.
2009	Australia did not send a national representative to CONFINTEA VI. <i>AJAL</i> Issue 3 theme ‘Learning to be drier’ with Guest Editors Barry Golding & Coral Campbell. Ron Anderson returns as acting Executive Director

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2010	<p><i>AJAL</i> 50 Years; Roger Harris extended Editorial in Issue 3 (p.455-467) includes background on previous key Journal Editors. Issue 3 includes five 'Recollections on the Association over five decades' by Arch Nelson (1960s), Barrie Brennan (1970s), 1980s (Dianne Berlin), 1990s (Alistair Crombie) and 2000s (Roger Morris), 'Revisiting the first issue of the Journal with rejoinders 50 years on' (six articles, pp.557-613) & 'Facts and figures' recording Journal objectives, editors, covers and conferences over 50 years' (pp.628-639). ALA adopted formal policy position on what constitutes adult education. ALA 2010 Conference, Adelaide, theme, 'Looking Back, Moving Forward: Celebrating 50 years of adult learning in Australia'. Special Issue includes a list of all association Conferences, themes & locations (post 2010 Conferences details are included below). Sally Thompson appointed as CEO. ALA headquarters at CAE, Melbourne.</p>
2011	<p><i>AJAL</i> Volume 51 'Special Edition', December includes Harris & Morrison's 'Through the looking glass: Adult education through the lens of the Australian Journal of Adult Learning over 50 years' (pp.17-52), & Roger Morris 'Arnold Hely and Australian adult education' (pp.192-204). ALA 2011 Conference at CAE, Melbourne, theme "Celebrating learning spaces".</p>
2012	<p><i>AJAL</i> Issue 3 theme, 'Food pedagogies'. ALA 2012 Conference, Byron Bay, NSW, theme, 'Lifelong learning - Resilient Communities'.</p>
2013	<p><i>AJAL</i> Issue 1, Tony Brown commences as <i>AJAL</i> Editor; <i>AJAL</i> has a web presence www.ajal.net.au, with contributions managed online. ALA & ACE Aotearoa combined 2013 Conference, 'Confident communities, education and learning', Wellington, New Zealand.</p>
2014	<p>2014-2015 saw widespread marketization of VET in Australia; <i>AJAL</i> Issue 3 theme, 'Adult education and lifelong learning in the Asian Century'. First year without an ALA Conference. Joint ALA, ACTU, AEU conference in Canberra featuring Bill Shorten MP about young people and adult education. ALA moves headquarters to Footscray Community Arts Centre. Tony Brown commences as <i>AJAL</i> editor.</p>
2015	<p>NIACE becomes National Learning and Work Institute in UK, 2015. Issue 3 theme 'Public pedagogies', guest Editors Karen Charman & Maureen Ryan. Sally Thompson departs as CEO. Stephen Dunn commences as CEO.</p>
2016	<p>No themed issues for <i>AJAL</i>.</p>

Years	Key Developments
	Stephen Dunn departs as CEO, Catherine Devlin appointed acting CEO, Jenny Macaffer appointed CEO.
2017	AJAL Issue 2, final Tony Brown Editorial after 5 years as Editor; Issue 3 theme 'Getting of wisdom: Learning in later life', four guest Editors including Golding and three internationals: Krasovek [Slovenia], Findsen [NZ] & Schmidt-Hertha [Germany]. Trace Ollis commences as Editor Nov 2017.
2018	Trace Ollis AJAL Editor from Issue 1; Issue 3 theme, 'Lifelong learning and sustainable development'. Tony Brown's paper in 2018 Special Edition 2018, commissioned as part of ALA's 'Year of Lifelong Learning' campaign. AJAL moves to an on-line journal system.
2019	In late 2012, an amendment to the Education and Training Reform Act was passed to enable the operations of the CAE to be governed by the Box Hill Institute (BHI) Board. From 30 June 2019 the Centre for Adult Education (CAE) began operating by Box Hill Institute. The Victorian Government launches 'The Future of Adult Community Education in Victoria' 2020-25. AJAL Issue 3 theme. 'Social movements, popular education and power of knowledge'. ALA contributes to the Spotlight on Australia's Progress on SDG4: Education and Lifelong Learning with ACED submitted to the UN.
2020	ALW successfully celebrates 25 years in Australia during COVID-19. ALA, RMIT and the ALCN hold a joint forum examining Smart Learning Cities. The NSW Government launches ACE Policy Statement. Tasmania launches the Adult Learning Strategy – skills for work and life ALA celebrates 60 years with special events. AJAL celebrates 60 years anniversary with special edition.

**Editor's note: this historical timeline is a work in progress and is subject to ongoing revision and change. Any key events or members missed are not intended. The timeline will be updated and revised on ALA's website in future versions. If you have relevant information that you believe should be included please notify info@ala.asn.au*