



Mixed Methods International Research Association - Oceania Chapter (MMIRA-O)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3433457003378639>



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8977998/>

Chapter Newsletter | March 2021

MMIRA-O

Meeting together in Dec. 2021



Dr. Pat Bazeley, Western Sydney and
Torrens Universities (Australia)

The MMIRA-Oceania Committee is currently planning for our biannual conference to be held at Notre Dame University in Broadway, Sydney, from 8th–10th December, with the theme *Mixing into the Future*. With all the disruptions we have experienced in our daily and professional lives over the past year, we considered that this is a great time to reflect on the future for mixed methods, and to build our association together. If travel restrictions are likely to prevent in-person attendance, we will also connect to hubs in other centres (Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, New Zealand).

Meanwhile, we'd love to hear your reflections on mixed methods now and into the future through this newsletter – and of course, more about your mixed methods projects and other research activities in December. Here is my very personal take on my mixed methods future, for this edition. (Please consider contributing yours for later editions.)

I began weaving statistical and observational data together as part of my 1970s PhD. As I learned to use computer software for text analysis in the early 1990s, I “naturally” explored the possibilities of converting qualitative coding for statistical analysis – and wrote (and sold!) manuals on how to do so (as the software developed, such manuals became unnecessary). My first published article on integration of qualitative and quantitative data appeared in 1999, and integration strategies have been the focus of my mixed methods publications since then. But I wonder how relevant my work (and I) will be in the future?

I now struggle to “get my head around” some of the innovative tools and strategies being developed for networking, data gathering, and data analysis. I groan at the thought of learning to use new versions of familiar software, let alone whole new programs. While I understand the principles of data mining, neural networks, and artificial intelligence, for example, I am now unlikely to ever learn how to use them in practice. Yet, as I wonder about the possibilities these new strategies offer to the mixed methods researcher, I also argue, as I wrote in the Preface of *Qualitative Data Analysis: Practical Strategies* (second edition), that “the fundamentals of analysis have not changed, and basic strategies for working with data still need to be learned”. The question becomes: to what extent can good integrative and interpretive skills be mechanised, and what is lost in the process?

It seems, as I write about integration even now, that the core processes of combining, comparing, and converting data to integrate analyses have not greatly changed since I first wrote about them, and often I wonder what more I could write. What has changed, however, is that integration of analyses has only recently become widely accepted as the key for meaningful mixed methods research. There have been accompanying theoretical developments, and there has been elaboration of those core integrative processes made possible by technological developments in data mining in particular. While I might balk at the latter, perhaps there is still a role for an ageing brain, into the future, in bringing some clarity of thought to the theoretical and strategic basis for the work being done? Continuing and future innovation in integrative work must be built on firm foundations.



Join MMIRA-Oceania!

MMIRA-Oceania is a young Chapter of the Mixed Methods International Research Association for researchers coming from the Oceania and Pacific Nations. The objectives of the Chapter are to:

1. Build a community of, and share expertise amongst, mixed methods researchers throughout the region;
2. Support and build mixed methods research (MMR) capacity for researchers and research students throughout the Oceania region;
3. Contribute to civil society through enhancing the mixed methods research skills of those working professionally in development and policy work, and in practice more generally; and
4. Connect members to the wider global networks of mixed methods researchers.

Interested researchers wishing to become MMIRA-O members can click on https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79z8sfDZQPfPpR4.

Further queries can be sent to Kylie Short at mmira.oceania@gmail.com

Evaluation studies serving older women bring mutual benefit

by **PAT BAZELEY**

Western Sydney University and Torrens University



For the past five years, I have been conducting evaluation work, as a volunteer, for one of six Wellness Centres in the greater Sydney region: OWN, or the Older Women's Network (NSW Inc). OWN is an organisation dedicated to fostering the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of older women. The largely volunteer-run Wellness Centres provide exercise and other classes on a low-cost basis. But more than that, they provide a safe and welcoming environment for older women, often widows, where they gain support and friendship as well as opportunities to improve their physical fitness, mental health, or leisure time.

The Centre I primarily work with receives some financial support from the Department of Health, hence the demand for regular reporting that includes but goes beyond simply providing programme, attendance, and financial data. So far, the evaluation component of my involvement follows a fairly-standard pattern of assessing various aspects of health and wellbeing. The evaluation involves an annual survey comprising both open-ended and closed questions, with reports weaving together data from both. At the same time, however, I have been supplementing survey data with interviews, discussions, and cultural domain data in order to develop and refine a concept of wellbeing appropriate to community-living older women, as well as to explore the relationship between health and wellbeing.

This latter work can be best described as having what US ecological psychologist James Kelly, in the 1970s, called a "patched up design", with data elements being gathered on an as needs, when possible, or chance basis. Theoretical sampling is becoming important as clarification is sought and ideas need to be tested. Theoretical sampling is likely to take me to those who struggle less effectively with health issues. Conceptual models and theoretical propositions are being developed largely through reflective thinking in the process of iterative diagramming and report writing. Often it is difficult to specify a source for any particular idea. Rather, this gradually emerging understanding derives from using complementary and comparative methods in a largely exploratory way—to work iteratively and in detail with all data sources, including background literature. While some of the basic analytical steps (stats, coding, summarising) can be done in small segments when time permits, the core reflective work and modelling comes out of having longer periods of intensive immersion in the data – something I have found to be essential for effective analysis.

My goals for this additional research are twofold. The first is to refine and streamline the measures used in the evaluation work, especially as I will not always be available to analyse detailed survey data for OWN. This is designed also to make that evaluation work more relevant and meaningful to the women it is designed to serve. The second goal speaks to the mutual benefit of contributing research skills in the community: Undertaking this work for OWN provides me with data from which I can contribute to the broader gerontological literature and, with their agreement, it has also provided me with opportunities for analysis that support my contributions to the mixed methods literature.

**FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

Call for Nominations – Board of Directors MMIRA 2021

The Board of Directors of the Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA) warmly extends an invitation for nominations to stand for election for one of four elected position on the MMIRA Executive Board. New officers will officially join the Board in this coming July. All nominees must be an active MMIRA member.

We encourage you to nominate yourself or a colleague who is a member of MMIRA, with his or her permission, for the following positions that serve on the MMIRA Executive Board.

- **President-Elect (3-year term)**
- **Student member (1-year term)**

MMIRA is strongly committed to broad geographical representation and welcomes self-nominations from people who are eager to get involved in the continual shaping of the organization. A brief description for each position appears at the end of this message. A more detailed summary follows that.

- Each nominee must be a PAID member of MMIRA in good standing.
- ALL voting members must be PAID members of the MMIRA in good standing.

Complete nomination packets are due on or before **April 16, 2021** to Professor Roslyn Cameron, Governance Chair, ros.cameron@laureate.edu.au

There are only two pre-screening criteria: that the materials are complete and received by the deadline. There is no other pre-screening process.

Voting by MMIRA members opens **May 15 until June 1, 2021**. Announcement is anticipated on June 11, 2021.

Procedures for nominating someone else:

- State your name and the name of the individual you are nominating.
- Identify the office for which you or the nominee would like to be considered.
- Include confirmation that the nominee is a PAID member of MMIRA in good standing
- Describe her or his professional affiliation, credentials, and where he or she resides.
- Supply a brief paragraph about the nominee identifying how you believe he or she would contribute to the Board and the organization.
- Advise the nominee to create a short (2 minute) video) file with a succinct summary of their credentials and expected contribution. They should post their video on You Tube with the title "Meet the Meet the Candidate" followed by your name, your institutional affiliation, and the position you are running. Be sure to ensure good lighting and a quiet background. Use the YouTube caption generation option. More information can be found on

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-YouTube-Video>. Please send the link to your video or audio file with your application materials, the link to your video or audio file and the biographical statement you supply will appear on the MMIRA website and in the Sunday Night Newsletter prior to the election.

- The nominating individual should send their nomination materials and the candidate should send their media link to Professor Ros Cameron ros.cameron@laureate.edu.au on or **before** April, 16, 2021.

Nominee Materials (instructions for self-nominated candidates)

1. Supply the information listed above in the procedures for nominating someone else.
2. Provide a one paragraph biographical statement (100 words or less) that describes your credentials for the position, as well as what you would expect to contribute to the Board and to the organization. A link to this will be provided in the MMIRA Newsletter prior to the election. It will also be included in the ballot.
3. Create a short (2 minute) video file with a succinct summary of your credentials and your expected contribution. Post your video on You Tube with the title "Meet the Candidate" followed by your name, your institutional affiliation, and the position you are running. Be sure to ensure good lighting and a quiet background. Use the YouTube caption generation option. More information can be found on <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-YouTube-Video>. Please send the link to your video or audio file with your application materials, the link to your video or audio file and the biographical statement you supply will appear on the MMIRA website and in the Sunday Night Newsletter prior to the election.
4. Send all your materials to Prof. Ros Cameron *on or before April, 16, 2021* (ros.cameron@laureate.edu.au).
5. Be sure to secure an acknowledgment of the receipt of your application materials and that they are complete.

BRIEF POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

President – This is a three-year term, with one year as incoming president, a second as president, and a third as past president. The president coordinates with the Executive Director to manage the day-to-day operation of the organization including oversight of the budget. He/she is responsible for setting the agenda and managing the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee and for working collaborative with chairs of the Membership, Governance, Marketing and Awards, and Conference committees. (DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM THE BY-LAWS BELOW)

Student member at-large (one-year term). The Student Board Member is responsible for participating in the regular meetings of the MMIRA Board of Directors and for raising issues of concern to its student members.



Editorial

Economists opening up to mixed methods?

Economist **Dr. Dani Rodrik** of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (photo from his university's faculty page)

A leading international economist, the Turkish Dani Rodrik of Harvard University, wrote a commentary for *Project Syndicate* last March 9: [How can economists and non-economists go along?](#) Rodrik's piece reflects a bold step for economists to rethink about combining econometric methods (as well as what Rodrik calls "imaginative statistical techniques") with qualitative methods.

The observed disregard to qualitative methods in Economics reveals similar trends as to how other disciplines belittle the value of qualitative and mixed methods. Instead of delving much into the methodological criticisms to qualitative methods by economists, we take cue from what, Rodrik, current president-elect of the International Economic Association (IEA), wrote:

"Economists can be justifiably proud of the power of their statistical and analytical methods. But they need to be more self-conscious about these tools' limitations. Ultimately, our understanding of the social world is enriched by both styles of research [quantitative and qualitative]. Economists and other scholars should embrace the diversity of their approaches instead of dismissing or taking umbrage at work done in adjacent disciplines."

In the last decade, however, other economists have also voiced the value of utilizing qualitative methods. In a 2014 [article](#) for the *Journal of Economic Surveys* (2019 impact factor: 3.126), economist Martha Starr called on economists to use qualitative and mixed methods. She even cited papers delving into identified themes in economic studies, where economists utilized qualitative and mixed methods. Of course, she had raised the methodological concerns of economists surrounding qualitative and mixed methods —issues usually brought up in the so-called "paradigm wars" in research methods.

Yet qualitative methods, Starr says, allow the voices of economic actors (those who are statistically aggregated in quantitative research) to be heard. Qualitative methods "[bring] the perspectives of actual economic actors more directly into the processes of producing economic knowledge".

With this enrichment of economic knowledge that qualitative and mixed methods approaches help to bring, hopefully there will come better analyses and conclusions. Starr writes: "...Making greater use of research strategies that give economic agents more opportunities to help shape how economic knowledge evolves may result in knowledge that has better scientific validity, higher social value, and better ethical properties than what the [Economics] discipline has produced to date."

Starr's 2014 paper found justice in Rodrik's fresh commentary. There may be hope for economists worldwide to slowly learn more about qualitative methods, and eventually work with scholars from other disciplines for mixed methods projects. This kind of mindset can begin with curiosity, the basic trait of all researchers. Google searches can even give economists a goldmine of instructional materials on conducting qualitative and mixed methods (the latter, for example, coming from the Mixed Methods International Research Association). Collaborators and coaches can also contribute to economists' further discoveries of quantitative and mixed methods.

Champions may also be needed from within the discipline.

On this score, we have the Indian economist Vijayendra Rao. He has been lead economist for the World Bank, particularly for its Development Research Group, the past 22 years. "Biju" claims to integrate his economic training "with theories and methods from anthropology, sociology and political science to study the social, cultural and political contexts of extreme poverty in developing countries" (on his personal website). He had even integrated mixed methods in a major initiative of the Bank, the *Social Observatory*, that seeks to improve "the adaptive capacity of anti-poverty projects" through interdisciplinary collaboration.

An example of Rao's use of mixed methods is a 2017 co-authored [paper](#) (for the journal *World Development*) titled *The anatomy of failure: An ethnography of a randomized trial to deepen democracy in rural India*. Rao and colleagues implemented a randomized control trial of a citizenship training and facilitation program in rural India (N=100 treatment group and 100 control group comprised of village councils, called the *gram panchayat* or GP). They then combined RCT with a four-year ethnography, generating 400 village reports.

The treatment and control villages showed considerable improvement in a variety of governance and participation indicators over time, but "the differences in the changes between the treatment and control villages were not statistically significant." The RCT intervention seemed to have "failed," the authors wrote. To determine why the intervention failed, their extensive ethnographic data (drawn from a 10 percent subsample) cited reasons such as: high levels of inequality, conflict, elite domination and low literacy in these communities; and variations in the quality of the training and facilitation that were given to respondents.

Rao and colleagues Kripa Ananthpur and Kabir Malik wrote: "The qualitative analysis is able to unpack mechanisms of change and identify institutional shifts that are hard to capture in quantitative data." Thanks to the thick descriptions that qualitative methods provide, qualitative methods "can add value to standard impact evaluation," they added.

Curiosity and boldness to combine quantitative and qualitative methods in Economics provide promises of a future yielding more interesting economic analyses. The voices of economic agents can fittingly blend with econometric results, and prospective findings from mixed methods studies by economists and their social science colleagues can hopefully yield "better scientific validity" and "higher social value".

Online Mixed Methods Papers on COVID-19

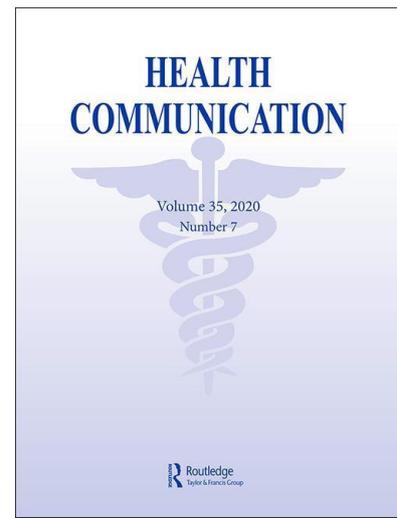


Tom Hanks (photo taken from his official Facebook account)

Tom Hanks and mixed methods?

A Mixed Methods Inquiry into the Role of Tom Hanks' COVID-19 Social Media Disclosure in Shaping Willingness to Engage in Prevention Behaviours

Jessica Gall Myrick and Jessica Fitts Willoughby
Health Communication (online first)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1871169>



Mental health and coping

Older adults' experience of the COVID-19 pandemic: A mixed-methods analysis of stresses and joys

Whitehead B, Torossian, E
The Gerontologist, 61(1): 36-47.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa126>

Impact on mental health care and on mental health service users of the COVID-19 pandemic: A mixed methods survey of UK mental health care staff

Johnson, S., Dalton-Locke, C., Vera San Juan, N. et al.
Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology, 56, 25-37.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-020-01927-4>

Coping during COVID-19: a mixed methods study of older cancer survivors

Galica, J., Liu, Z., Kain, D. et al.
Support Care Cancer (online first), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-020-05929-5>

Mental Health Staff Perceptions of Improvement Opportunities around COVID-19: A Mixed-Methods Analysis

Bommersbach, T., Dube, L. & Li, L.
Psychiatric Quarterly (online first), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11126-021-09890-2>

The health workers and their welfare

**Older adults' experience of the COVID-19 pandemic:
A mixed-methods analysis of stresses and joys**

Whitehead B, Torossian, E
The Gerontologist, 61(1): 36-47.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa126>

**Evaluating the motivation of Red Cross Health volunteers in the COVID-19 pandemic:
A mixed-methods study protocol**

Heyerdahl LW, Vray M, Leger V, et al.
BMJ Open;11, e042579
doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042579

**Experiences of early graduate medical students working in New York hospitals
during the COVID-19 pandemic: a mixed methods study.**

Pravder, H.D., Langdon-Embry, L., Hernandez, R.J. et al.
BMC Medical Education 21, 118
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-021-02543-9>

The 'masked' ones

**COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing in the United States:
A mixed-methods study on lived experiences and well-being**

Vaterlaus, JM, Spruance, L & Patten, E
The Social Science Journal (online first)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03623319.2020.1852856>

Socio-cultural impacts

**A mixed-methods systematic review of the impacts
of coronavirus on society and culture**

Yu, YJ, Park YS, Keller A, Noh J-W, Cha J.
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (online first)
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18020491>

Expressions of interest (EOI) due 30 April

Book chapters - Handbook of Mixed Methods in Business and Management

The aim of the *Handbook of Mixed Methods Research in Business and Management* will be to provide an essential resource for anyone interested in the contemporary, emerging, and evolving practice of mixed methods research and scholarship. It is anticipated that the *Handbook of Mixed Methods Research in Business and Management* will offer foundational mixed methods research (MMR) design concepts and considerations, as well as coverage of MMR across a variety of business and management disciplines and sub-disciplines together with a section dedicated to innovative MMR designs and analytical techniques.

Current plans involve approximately 30 chapters of the handbook organized across the following 3 sections:

Part A: Foundations of Mixed Methods Research Designs and Features

- MMR Designs and issues MMR Data integration issues MMR Data displays
- Publishing Guidance and Strategies for MMR
- Working in multi-disciplinary and methodologically diverse research teams

Part B: Discipline and Sub-Discipline Specific Utility of Mixed Methods Research Designs

The list of disciplines and sub disciplines will draw upon the Conference Tracks, DIGs and SIGs hosted by a collection of Academies of Management (AoM) across the globe:

AoM DIGs:

[https://aom.org/docs/default-](https://aom.org/docs/default-source/events/aom_2021_call_for_submissions_final.pdf?sfvrsn=9a80efd3_4)

[source/events/aom_2021_call_for_submissions_final.pdf?sfvrsn=9a80efd3_4](https://aom.org/docs/default-source/events/aom_2021_call_for_submissions_final.pdf?sfvrsn=9a80efd3_4) Page 28

Editors to be emailed for submissions

Professor Roslyn Cameron Torrens
University Australia

E: ros.cameron@laureate.edu.au

Professor Cameron is currently a Board member of the Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA) and Co-Founder (2011- to present) and Co-Convenor of the ANZAM Mixed Methods Research SIG.

Dr Xanthe Golenko
Bolton Clark, Australia

E: xgolenko@boltonclarke.com.au

Publisher

This book is scheduled to be published by Edward Elgar. This publication is anticipated to be released in 2022-23.

British Academy of Management (BAM) Conference Tracks:
<https://www.bam.ac.uk/events-landing/conference/bam2021-track-summaries.html>

BAM SIGs:
<https://www.bam.ac.uk/bam-community/special-interest-groups.html>

European Academy of Management (EURAM) Strategic Interest Groups:
<https://conferences.euram.academy/2021conference/strategic-interest-groups/>

Part C: Innovations in Mixed Methods Research Designs and Data Analysis Techniques

- Innovative and Complex MMR Designs
- Emergent data analytical techniques

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit an expression of interest (EOI) on or before *April 30, 2021*. This EOI bares a chapter proposal of 1,000-to-2,000 words, clearly explaining the objectives and content coverage of the proposed chapter.

Authors will be notified by *May 30, 2021* about the status of their proposals and sent chapter guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by *October 30, 2021*, and all interested authors must consult the guidelines for manuscript submissions at prior to submission.

All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this book publication. All manuscripts are accepted based on a double-blind peer review editorial process.

EOI Book Chapter Proposal template

WORKING TITLE	
AUTHOR/S & AFFILIATION/S	
BOOK SECTION	
ABSTRACT	
Keywords	
Chapter objectives	
Chapter structure	

Submit to Professor Roslyn Cameron (Torrens University Australia), ros.cameron@laureate.edu.au

FURTHER LEARNING



ACCESS FREE WEBINARS
(Recorded with Video; click hyperlinks)

2021 (links to come)

Dr. Eileen Boswell | March 10
Considerations for Planning and Executing a Mixed Methods Dissertation:
Wisdom from Current and Recent Doctoral Students: a webinar and panel session



Dr. Donna Mertens | February 9
Designing Mixed Methods Studies for Transformative Impact

2020

Dr. Roslyn Cameron | December 9
[Mixed Methods in Business and Management Disciplines](#)

Dr. Melissa Dejonckheere | November 16
[Community-Based Research and Mixed Methods](#)

Drs. Elizabeth G. Creamer and Natalya Ivankova | October 14
Tackling a Book Writing Project (link to follow, from MMIRA)

Dr. Caryn West | September 22
Research with Indigenous Populations (link to follow, from MMIRA)

Dr. Elizabeth G. Creamer | May 15
[Publishing Mixed Methods Research](#)

Drs. Sergi Fàbregues & Elsa Escalante | April 14
[Una introducción a la investigación con métodos mixtos](#)

Dr. José Luís Guedes dos Santos | March 9
[Introduction to Mixed Method Research in Portuguese - Introdução à pesquisa de métodos mistos](#)

Dr. Leia Cain | February 18
[Ethical Considerations in Mixed Methods Research](#)



Dr. Judith Schoonenboom | January 28
[Developing and Connecting Claims in Mixed Methods Research: A Case-based Approach](#)

FOR FURTHER LEARNING

MMIRA Mixed Methods
International Research Association

MOOC



From www.ictworks.org

MMIRA's massive open online courses (MOOCs) allow members of the Association—from novices to experts—to learn mixed methods anywhere and at their own pace. Members can enjoy free access to a range of topics that provide foundational (five modules) and specialized knowledge (another five modules) about mixed methods.

The MOOC registration form can be found in the "Member Resources" tab on the MMIRA website when you are logged in (http://mmira.wildapricot.org/member_resources).

Season 3 (1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021)

Core Modules: Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (MMR)

1. Defining Mixed Methods Research (Jennifer Greene)
2. Qualitatively Oriented Mixed Methods Research (Peggy Shannon-Baker)
3. Quantitatively Oriented Mixed Methods Research (Marcia Gail Headley)
4. Sampling in Mixed Methods (Michael Quinn Patton)
5. Writing MM Research Reports (Nancy Leech)

Specialized Modules: Innovative Data & Specialized Analysis in MMR

1. Demonstrating Causation in MMR (Joseph Maxwell)
2. Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool or MMAT (Quan Nha Hong & Pierre Pluye)
3. Mixed Methods Research Designs with Available Data (David Reeping)
4. Mixed Methods Secondary Analysis of Open Access Data (Sheryl Chatfield)
5. Integrating Visual Methods in Mixed Methods Research (Cherie Edwards)

MMIRA?

Learn more about the Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA), including how to join, by searching on mmira.org.



MMIRA-Oceania *Interim Management Committee*

PROF. PAT BAZELEY, *Western Sydney and Torrens Universities*
DR. PETER RAWLINS, *Massey University*
LEESA TAYLOR, *Australian Institute of Business*
DR. JESSICA STANDER, *University of Melbourne*
PROF. ROSLYN CAMERON, *Torrens University*
VALERIE LEISHMAN, *Charles Darwin University*
DR. JENNIFER LITAU, *Pacific Adventist University*
DR. DEV PAUDYAL, *University of Southern Queensland*
A/PROF. ANNA WILLIAMS, *The University of Notre Dame Australia*
KYLIE SHORT, *Ara Institute of Canterbury*
DR. PHILIPPA BUTLER, *Massey University*
ISABEL JAMIESON, *Ara Institute of Canterbury*
DR. TAMBRI HOUSEN, *University of Newcastle*
JEREMIAH OPINIANO*, *University of Santo Tomas*

* newsletter editor

For questions about MMIRA-O: email mmira.oceania@gmail.com