

# ASET e-Bulletin

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## ASET

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@ASETOnline

## Summer 2021

A message from your **ASET Chair, Francesca Walker-Martin.**

Welcome to the Summer e-bulletin

Summer is always that strange time of year when we are either frantically busy working on recruitment for the new intake, preparing for the new year, or taking a well-earned rest. Here at ASET we are busy preparing for the [2021 Annual Conference](#) which this year will focus on 'New Skills for a New World'. We have a packed programme with insights from practitioners across a wide variety of placement and work based learning provision. We are really looking forward to seeing you all.



Looking back at a year that seems to have gone by in a flash, I have been reflecting on the things that have changed for us in our working lives. For some, online and remote working was the norm, but for others it has been a new and challenging experience. It makes me smile now to think that at ASET we were a bit nervous about dipping into online delivery; being thrown into it though, we have embraced both the challenges and the ability to reach more of you than ever before.

I remain hopeful that as we move into the new academic year we will be able to meet in person again. In the meantime, we will continue to bring you Workshops and Insights and provide other events through Zoom. I hope that you will be able to [join us at conference 2021](#) but if not, I look forward to seeing you at the next ASET event.

Enjoy the Summer e-bulletin. Stay safe and Stay well.

*Fran*

2021 ASET Conference  
7-8 September  
[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

## ASET e-Bulletin

### Over in a flash

As we reflect on a second year disrupted by COVID-19, let's all take a moment to acknowledge what has been achieved despite all the challenges. The determination and commitment of your students to build the skills they need, supported by you, has enabled graduation to proceed – not as normal – but proceed nevertheless, and to head out into this new world of work. Let's celebrate the importance of that and take strength from it. And let's remember we are part of a community, that continues to pull together and to share knowledge, and has achieved a great deal together over the last year:

#### September

The academic year began with a coming together of the ASET Community for **#ASETConnect**. A great opportunity to hear from a broad range of Employers about the impact of COVID-19 on their businesses. We also heard from colleagues around the world, sharing challenges and solutions to managing and developing quality placement opportunities for students despite the constraints of online working. It was good to hear about ongoing research into WBPL, despite the challenges including an outstanding ASET funded Bursary Project. With further uncertainty ahead, **#ASETConnect** was an ideal opportunity to remind ourselves that there is strength in Community.



#### October

With so many challenges faced by students over the 2019-2020 academic year, the launch of the ASET Student Competition offered a welcome opportunity to all your students; a chance to reflect on their learning despite, and in some cases, because of the challenges they had faced, and a chance of earning some cash too. Acknowledging the impact of COVID-19, the ASET Trustees decided to broaden this year's competition to include Placement/Internship/Work experience undertaken remotely or in-person. Students were asked to reflect on what they had learnt about themselves, their strengths, ability to adapt to change, learnings on working with colleagues face to face, and then remotely, and ultimately how their experiences would shape their plans for the future? With entries from across the UK and Ireland, the panel of ASET Trustees (Deborah Callister, Andy Dodge, Seamus McConomy, Julie Udell led by Vicki O'Brien) had the difficult task of finding a winner from amongst so many worthy entries. Vicki and her team of were pleased to agree on an overall winner, Katarzyna Komarowska, *Anglia Ruskin University*, and awarded two Highly Commended prizes to students from the *University of Kent* and *Lancaster University*. We are part of a community, and we have pulled together.



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### **November**

As everyone settled into another academic year where online was to be the new normal, the ASET Trustees came together to consider applications to join the team of Trustees. Some difficult decisions had to be made, with so many strong applications from members keen to join the team.

The Staff Development Events programme was well underway with the new ASET Insights proving to be a popular addition to the programme of events. Designed and delivered by the Trustees, these 90-minute sessions offer bite-size options to enhance your CPD and address issues of general concern to members. Find out more about the [Autumn '21 Online Professional Development Events programme](#)

### **December**

Building on our highly successful series of online Regional Hubs providing immediate support, guidance and networking during the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown, we were pleased to host another week of Regional Hub sessions to consider *Virtual Student Support*. Around 200 members came together to share what they had learnt, offering TopTips to colleagues in the ASET Community enabling all to benefit. In case you missed it, [hear ASET Trustee Deborah Callister](#) summarise learnings from the week's events. We look forward to continuing to offer 'free to ASET members' online Regional Hub events in the future – it has been such a pleasure to welcome members from the farthest corners of the UK and Ireland.

### **January**

2021 was off to a great start as we welcomed our new Co-opted to the board of ASET Trustees; **Dr Helen Hooper**, Head of the Biology, Food and Nutritional Sciences Department in the School of Life Sciences, *Northumbria University* and **Steve Osborne**, Lecturer in Sport Management and Development in the Cardiff School of Sport *Cardiff Metropolitan University*.

Helen and Steve have both taken an active role in since they joined in January, taking part in Research events, Working Groups and Conference Planning and we are delighted they are both now preparing to stand for election at the forthcoming AGM in September.



### **February**

A flurry of applications chased the deadline for the 2021 ASET Bursaries. These bursaries offer an excellent opportunity for students to undertake a paid placement over the summer months, and, like last year's winner, an opportunity to present their work at conference. The bursaries are now their 10<sup>th</sup> year, and have supported 18 Placement Projects adding to the breadth of research into aspects of Work based and Placement Learning and we look forward to finding out more about this year's project work in September at the 2021 ASET Conference.

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Rising to the online challenge, our partners at RateMyPlacement delivered a memorable online event for the 2021 NUEs (National Undergraduate Employability Awards). ASET has taken an active role, as part of the judging panel for these awards for many years, and we were again delighted to take part this year. If you were there, you'll recall the charm and sparkle of guest host and speaker June Sarpong OBE, a clear proponent of the role of placements and work experience in developing confidence and life skills into the student journey. It was a welcome and fun afternoon of celebration in a difficult year. To add to the celebrations the 'Outstanding Contribution to Work Experience', award this year went to ASET Trustee **Vianna Renaud**, *Bournemouth University*.



### **March**

And so to March... a year on from the start of the COVID-19 crisis, and how different our working world had become. Working online brought challenges, but opportunities too. One such opportunity was the Practice and Research Network meeting when ASET members across the community came together to share the research they were working on. If you missed it, you can still access the [Report](#) form this event with highlights of each of the great Research Showcases.

Throughout the pandemic, the ASET Community has continued to grow. We've been so pleased to welcome all our new members and glad we have been able to provide a space to meet and to share knowledge.

Finding this space to meet others has been particularly important to those new to Work Based and Placement Learning, some of whom started in their roles in the midst of the pandemic and had not even met face to face with their colleagues in their own institutions. ASET Trustee Laura Bielby, University of Durham, recalled how tough those early days of working in a new role, in a new field could be (even in those heady pre-pandemic days) and with this in mind developed the **Coffee and Chat** sessions – for those new to WBPL. More than 40 new members joined for the first session in March to meet others in similar positions at institutions across the ASET Community. The opportunity to share experiences and 'find a friend' was appreciated by all, and we hope these will be enduring links for the future.

The next Coffee and Chat session is in September and can be accessed via the link below:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88018743473>

**Meeting ID: 880 1874 3473**

### **April**

In April, alongside our ongoing Staff Development programme, the ASET Trustees hosted another week of online Regional Hubs on the theme:

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### Outside the Box – WBL

The last year has proven the HE sector to be agile, innovative and peopled by staff who will go above and beyond for students. There have been many innovations and placement practitioners, have contributed by developing new, alternative and creative solutions to enable students to gain the vital professional experience they require. This hub presented an opportunity to share and hear about some of these innovations first hand, what worked, what didn't, lessons learned and the long term impact, including examples shared by many of our peers in the Advanced HE report on this topic;

<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/employability-breaking-mould>

### May

Another bumper month of ASET events. With two workshops, the second Coffee and Chat session, and our second biennial **Leadership Exchange**.

Our panel of speakers were; **Rachel Hewitt**, then Director of Policy and Advocacy at HEPI and soon to become MillionPlus CEO, **Helen Higson OBE**, Professor of Higher Education Learning and Management, Aston Business School, **Johnny Rich** Chief Executive of the Engineering Professors' Council, Chief Executive of

the award-winning outreach organisation Push, and consultant in Higher Education policy and communications and **Vicki Stott FRSA**, Executive Director of Operations and Deputy CEO at The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Chaired by **Emily Timson**, **ASET Vice Chair**, the panel addressed four key questions for the sector:



- How do we deliver a meaningful and safe international placement experience when international mobility is under threat?
- With the rise of remote working and wholly virtual internships, have placements changed forever?
- What is a sustainable way for placement services, and exhausted placement professionals, to function in the longer term? Do we need to give space to new management/administrative models, or adapt our offer?
- What are elements of placement practice you feel need renewed focus in 2021 and what data can we use to underline this?

### June

And before we knew it, it was June and we were welcoming members and guest speakers to our latest new workshop Freelancers, Entrepreneurs, Enterprise Placements (FEPP). This was such a great workshop, made all the better when we were joined by Jackie Smyth, Career Development Consultant, at Ulster University, and one of her students, Rose McGuigan who shared her own placement journey for which she has established [www.bitesbyrose.com](http://www.bitesbyrose.com) a highly successful and growing cake business. Jackie and Rose shared many tips and experiences with the group about their inspiring journey together. Having these authentic voices in the session really sparked discussion and sharing amongst the delegates. We ended the month with

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Placements for Postgraduates (PGrad) – a growing area for many institutions, reflected in the workshop which was and one of our most well attended this year.

### *July*

Our final Staff Development events for the 20-21 academic year were both new events. A new Staff Development Workshop – **Student wellbeing and Placements**, where we considered how we can best support students demonstrating tools and techniques to navigate these important and often challenging issues, and ASET Insight: **Beyond placements – skills development**. Both events proved popular and will again feature in our 2021-22 programme.

Here's hoping that the year ahead will bring some semblance of a return to normal, in the meantime we will be here offering online events as our new normal, and we look forward to seeing you at our first event of the academic year:

### **ASET Conference 2021**

**7-8 September** ONLINE

#ASET21

### **'New Skills for a New World'**

The 2021 ASET Conference will take place online via Zoom, over two days: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The theme for this year's event is '**New Skills for a New World**', and we are looking forward to welcoming you to:

- reflect on all we have learnt in the last year
- share triumphs and challenges
- highlight new ways of working
- determine ways to evaluate our practice

and above all to join together as a community, to look to the year ahead with determination, and a wealth of new skills and tools

Conference will feature a discussion panel, speakers, and a wide range of presentations from practitioners and researchers working in the area of Work based and Placement Learning. There will be plenty of opportunity for meeting and networking too. Keep an eye on our [website](#) for full details and updates.

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## Programme

### #ASET21

#### The Placement and Employability Professionals Annual Conference

##### Day 1 - Tuesday 7 September

From 09:30	Early open for networking
09:50 - 10:00	Welcome from ASET
09:30 - 10:45	<b>Panel: New Skills for a New World</b>
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Practitioner Solutions to Student Engagement during the Pandemic - Parallel Session Stream 1</b>
11:25 - 11:40	A word from the ASET Chair : (AGM)
11:40 - 12:00	<b>Practitioner Solutions to Student Engagement during the Pandemic - Parallel Session Stream 2</b>
12:00-12:05	BREAK
12:05 - 12:35	<b>ASET Student Bursary Presentation</b>
12:40 - 13:00	<b>Practitioner Solutions to Student Engagement during the Pandemic - Parallel Session Stream 3</b>
13:00 - 13:40	LUNCH
13:45-14:15	<b>Keynote :</b> How do we use data in our HEPs to evaluate practice? Professor Helen Higson OBE
14:15 - 15:15	<b>Keynote :</b> Inspiring students with the first steps in their careers in a post-pandemic world RateMyPlacement
15:15 - 16:00	Regional Networking
16:00	CLOSE

##### Day 2 – Wednesday 8 September

From 09:30	Early open for networking
09:50 - 10:00	Welcome from ASET
10:00 - 11:00	<b>Research Showcase</b>
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Practitioner Solutions to Student Engagement during the Pandemic - Parallel Session Stream 4</b>
11:20 - 11:30	BREAK
11:30-11:50	<b>Practitioner Solutions to Student Engagement during the Pandemic - Parallel Session Stream 5</b>
11:50 - 12:05	<b>Digital Innovation - Parallel Session Stream 6</b>
12:10-12:25	<b>Digital Innovation - Parallel Session Stream 7</b>
12:30 - 13:15	LUNCH
13:15 - 14:30	<b>Professional Development Taster Sessions</b>
14:30- 15:00	The Future
15:00 - 15:30	Closing Speaker - Ross McWilliam <a href="https://mindsetpro.co.uk/">https://mindsetpro.co.uk/</a>
15:30	CLOSE

Parallel session abstracts and timetable details will shortly be available on the ASET website [here](#)

**Please note: The programme and/or individual parallel sessions may be subject to change at short notice**

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### Fees and Booking

Booking is now open and you can reserve your place for conference via our [online booking](#) system. This year we have a flexible pricing offer to enable more of your team to attend over the two days:

#### ASET MEMBERS

Full conference - up to 6 delegates : £1000  
Full conference - 3 delegates : £600  
Full conference - 2 delegates : £500  
Full conference - 1 delegate : £350  
Day rate : £195

2021 ASET Conference  
7-8 September  
[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

### AGM Notification Update

The **ASET Annual General Meeting** will be held online as part of conference on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021** at **11:25**. You will shortly be receiving the AGM nominations paperwork via email. Please take the time to read through carefully and, if you are unable to attend conference and are your institution's key contact, please complete a proxy form to ensure your institutional vote is registered.

The AGM is your opportunity to hear about the work of ASET during the year, receive the formal report on the accounts and to engage with the process of electing Trustees to the ASET Board. We encourage you to [attend](#) and take an active part in this process.

If you have any queries about the process of the AGM, then please contact **Francesca Walker-Martin**, ASET Chair, [fdwalker-martin@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:fdwalker-martin@uclan.ac.uk) or Emily Timson, ASET Vice Chair, [e.j.timson@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.timson@leeds.ac.uk)

### Global WIL Survey:

#### Professional Development Needs in the WIL Community

A message from our international colleagues in the Global WIL Team:

*The Global WIL team invites you to take part in a 15 minute online survey on professional development needs within work-integrated learning (WIL; cooperative education, work placements, internships, work-related projects, industry-based projects, etc). The data will update the findings from the first survey in 2017 with current data guiding professional development broadly across the sector. The Global WIL Team is a group of WIL practitioners from New Zealand, Sweden, Canada and Australia, all members of their National WIL associations who have been developing and presenting online WIL professional development modules since 2015 to WIL practitioners globally. More details available here <https://globalwil.org/>*

*The results of this survey will inform the development of new professional development opportunities in WIL, and also map changes in professional development needs due to COVID-19. The outcomes will be shared with the participating national associations and presented at the WACE International Research Symposium.*

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*Your participation is completely anonymous, we will not be able to identify you. You are also free to withdraw at any point during the survey.*

*This survey has ethical approval from the University of Waikato, NZ, #FSEN-20-17-8*

*To complete the survey, please click on the following link*

[Complete the Survey](#)

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Karsten Zegwaard](#).*

*We greatly value hearing your views and appreciate your time.*

*Thank you in advance.*

**Global WIL Team**

## Online Professional Development Events – Autumn programme

Ahead of the new academic year, we are pleased to launch our programme of Professional Development events.

All events are **online** and prices for both **Workshops** (£125 ASET members' rate) and **ASET Insights** (£50 ASET members' rate) have been held.

We have a mix of core and **NEW** professional development events, essential to building the skills and knowledge of your team. Whether you are new or experienced, there is something for everyone.

### Workshops

We are once again starting our programme early in the term, kicking off with **An Introduction to Work Placement Management (IWPM)** – the 'go to' workshop for all new starters, and those taking on new responsibilities in the area of Work based and Placement Learning. The next workshop will be **Managing the Health, Safety and Welfare for Student Placements (HSWP)**. This workshop will follow the launch of the fourth edition of the **ASET Good Practice Guide for Managing the Health, Safety and Welfare for Student Placements**. The programme will run through to December 8<sup>th</sup>, ending with one of our **NEW** workshops - **Games! The fun way to upskill and engage students (Games!)**.

Workshops run from 9.30 – 1.30, with plenty of breaks

**£125 ASET Members (£275 ASET non-members)**

[BOOK ONLINE](#)

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### Workshops at a glance:

W'shop No.	W'shop Ref.	Date	Day	Time	Title
1	IWPM	23/09/2021	Thurs	09:30-13:30	Introduction to Work Placement Management
2	HSWP	13/10/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Managing Health, Safety and Welfare for Student Placements
3	VP	27/10/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Virtual Placements
4	PP	10/11/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Promoting Placements
5	EDIP	16/11/2021	Tues	09:30-13:30	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for Placements <b>NEW</b>
6	STAPP	25/11/2021	Thurs	09:30-13:30	SMEs, TSOs and other Alternative Provider Placements <b>NEW</b>
7	Games!	08/12/2021	Wed	09:30-13:30	Games! The fun way to upskill and engage students <b>NEW</b>

Find out more about workshop content on our website [here](#)

## ASET Insights

**ASET Insights** are 90-minute interactive sessions looking at broad, complementary professional development themes. Insights are developed and led by our experienced Trustees, and designed to provide short, impactful updates to your professional toolkit. **ASET Insights** themes are selected to enhance your confidence in practical skills that contribute to work success. You can book your place for these short CPD sessions through our usual online booking system.

£50 ASET Members (£100 ASET non-members)

Session	Date	Day	Time	Title
E *	29/09/2021	Wed	10:30-11:30	Bridging the academic/administrative divide
G	07/10/2021	Thurs	10:00-11:30	Inducting new placement staff
H	01/11/2021	Mon	10:00-11:30	Learning Styles and how they impact the workplace
I	13/12/2021	Mon	10:00-11:30	Beyond placements – skills development

\* rescheduled from Spring

Find out more about ASET Insight content on our website [here](#)

[BOOK ONLINE 2021](#)

## Wellbeing in focus

We recently had 12 delegates join us for our final Staff Development Workshop of the year, Student Wellbeing and Placements. As part of the co-facilitation team, I drew together some of the resources available at my own institution alongside best practice being shared by organisations such as Student Minds and research in this field. Something the facilitation team wanted to share more broadly with all our members is, the [University Mental Health Charter](#). The University Mental Health Charter has a range of stakeholders who have been consulted since 2019, and has been piloted with a number of Universities since 2020 with a programme, framework and award. At the centre of this charter is a “whole university approach”

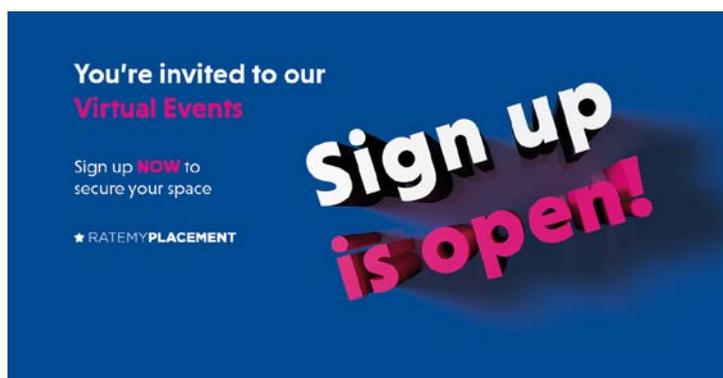
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providing a space where good mental health is supported and facilitates staff and students to understand and maintain their own wellbeing.

Some of your institutions are already a part of the University Mental Health Charter so you may be aware of the resources but for those of you who aren't we would encourage you [explore the Charter Framework](#) which shares best practice across 18 themes. Consider how you can embed these themes across your pre, during and post placement/internship practice?

### Virtual Careers Events

Our colleagues at RateMyPlacement are hosting another series of Virtual Careers Events, beginning in August. Students can sign up now – places are limited.



[RateMyPlacement.co.uk](https://RateMyPlacement.co.uk) is hosting a series of [virtual careers events](#), and you and your students are invited!

The events are designed to help and inspire students from all backgrounds to kickstart their career.

The events include:

- **"It's not who you know"** - 10th November
- **Black Heritage in Business** - 17th November
- **Inspirational Women in STEM** - 24th November

- **Legal Virtual Event** - 25th & 26th August
- **Inspirational Women in Financial Services** - 15th September
- **STEM Virtual Event** - 6th & 7th October
- **Be Your Authentic Self at Work** - 3rd November

Each event is an opportunity to get to know multiple employers through presentations with Q&As, 1-2-1 conversations, competitions and MORE.

The events are open to ALL students but spaces are limited, so if you can encourage your students to sign up NOW that would be amazing 😊

[Register here!](#)

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### CPD Corner

**Nicola Bullivant-Parrish, Learning and Development Advisor**



Some of you may have time off this summer to look forward to; a pocket of much needed down time to relax and to revive the soul. Others will be ploughing on through, preparing, checking, thinking, planning for the months ahead as you go into the Autumn term. To all of our members, old and new, I hope that you will be able to make time to pause and congratulate yourselves for what you've achieved of late. It's been immense. The sharing of good practice in staff development workshops has been inspirational, stories and anecdotes told by members in breakout room discussions have been really well received. Participants have felt greatly encouraged by the support shown them by other attendees. Your students are so fortunate to have you – I applaud you all.

I look forward to seeing you this Autumn term as we promise to bring to you yet another exciting programme of staff development events.

*Nicola*

### ASET Resources

Don't forget we are here to support you. Make the most of your membership:

Join us on **LinkedIn** – The Placement and Employability Professionals Group 1200 + members and growing daily. Request to join here <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1929302/>



Follow us **Twitter** @ASETOnline

Use your **ASET Good Practice Guides**

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Work based and Placement Learning in Higher Education](#) and [TOOLKIT](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Health and Safety for Student Placements](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide for Supporting Students with Disabilities on Placement](#) and [TOOLKIT](#)

[ASET Good Practice Guide to Successful Work Based Learning for Apprenticeships in Higher Education](#)

**#ASETConnect** – [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#) and [#ASETConnect Proceedings](#)

Know about the **ASET Viewpoints**

- 1 - [Paid and Unpaid Placements](#)
- 2 - [The Benefits of Placement](#)
- 3 - [HEA Recognition](#)
- 4 - [Alumni Mentoring](#)

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- 5 - [The Consumer Rights Act and the Competition and Markets Authority](#)
- 6 - [Making Effective Placement Visits](#)
- 7 - [Insurance and visas for International Placements](#)
- 8 - [Student Engagement](#)
- 9 - [Student Resilience](#)
- 10 - [Degree Apprenticeships](#)
- 11 - [Troubleshooting for Placements – Everyday Troubleshooting](#)
- 12 - [Troubleshooting for Placements – Crisis Management](#)
- 13 - [The impact of budget cuts and steps to mitigate](#)
- 14 - [Making the most of technology to adapt to changes in work and placement opportunities](#)

### And Finally

The next ASET members' e-Bulletin will be issued in October. Please forward your news/copy to [aset@asetonline.org](mailto:aset@asetonline.org) by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

**Debbie Siva-Jothy**

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