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AAF Inc. Project Team
Heath Marks  Project Manager, AAF Inc.
Email: heath.marks@aaf.edu.au

The Australian Access Federation is supported by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.
This is the first Annual Report of the AAF Project covering the period 23 June 2009 to 31 December 2009. The report includes the activities and outcomes since Incorporation and the Financial Report for the same dates.

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This is the first Annual Report of the Australian Access Federation (AAF) Inc. which covers the last six months of 2009. The challenge of progressing the AAF has been taken up and I’m happy to report that good progress has been made on all the activities that were the focus of the Interim Executive Committee’s attention this year. For many, 2009 has been the beginning of an exciting journey of discovery about the AAF and the benefits it has to offer the Australian Research and Higher Education sector.

We are now focused on 2010 and beyond to specifically concentrate on growing the Federation with a view to becoming self-sufficient and self-funding and entering into cross-federation arrangements to support international collaboration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Project Manager, the Project Team and my fellow Interim Executive Committee members for their hard work during the year and their commitment to the future of the AAF. I would especially like to thank Clare McLaughlin and her staff from the Science and Infrastructure Division at DIISR for their ongoing support and encouragement.

Paul Sherlock
President, Australian Access Federation

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) Inc. is sponsored by the Australian Government’s Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR).

The AAF provides a framework and support infrastructure to facilitate trusted electronic communications and collaboration within and between universities and research institutions in Australia and overseas. The AAF uses cutting edge technologies to provide a range of automatic identification services, which will allow authentication of people (researchers, teachers and students) and resources (servers, services, networks, instruments and data). It enables resource owners to identify and authorise a researcher to access online resources, such as computer facilities, data and other research infrastructure, at their home institution, at other Australian institutions, and around the world.
The AAF is funded by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to support trusted electronic communications and collaboration within the Australian Research and Higher Education sector.
The Australian Access Federation Inc. was incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act (1984) on 23 June 2009 and is governed by an Interim Executive Committee consisting of members of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) and various other stakeholders from DIISR, AeRIC, AARNet, ARCS and CSIRO. The 2009 Interim Executive Committee Members are:

**Mr Neil Thelander**  
President, AAF Inc.  
Neil was Director of Information Technology Services at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for eleven years before his resignation in early 2010. Neil has thirty-two years experience in IT with the last twenty-two years in executive positions in the public sector, health and education. Neil is a certified professional grade member of the Australian Computer Society specialising in project management and served four years as an elected member of the Board of Directors of AARNet and 5 years as a member of the Teaching Faculty for the CAUDIT Institute. He was elected Chair of CAUDIT in October 2008.

**Mr Paul Sherlock**  
Vice President, AAF Inc.  
Paul has been Director of Information Strategy and Technology Services at UniSA for the past 8 years. Prior to joining the University, Paul held senior ICT based management roles at the Defence Science & Technology Organisation (Adelaide) and BHP Billiton (Whyalla). Paul is Deputy Chair of CAUDIT and has been Director and Chair of SABRENt Ltd since its formation in September 2006. He is also a member of the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) Steering Committee. Paul has formal qualifications in Engineering (Electrical), Computing, Business (MBA), and Finance. He is a chartered professional member of the Institution of Engineers and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

**Mr David Toll**  
Treasurer, AAF Inc.  
David has worked with the CSIRO for close to 7 years and his current role is Acting Chief Financial Officer. David has held a number of senior positions at CSIRO, including Chief Information Officer from 2007 with responsibility for Information and Communication Technology and library functions and General Manager of Finance and Property. David is a member of the VERNET Board and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) Steering Committee and is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA).

**Mr Bruce Callow**  
Secretary, AAF Inc.  
Bruce is the current Director of Information and Communication Technology Services for Griffith University, a position he has occupied since January 2009. Previous to this, Bruce was the Associate Director of Enterprise Information Systems for Griffith. During this period he was on the Board of Directors for the global Higher Education Users Group and Chair of the ANZ Higher Education Users Group. Bruce has spent some 30 years in the IT industry including 14 years as an Army Officer in various IT related roles, a number of years as an IT Manager in large Local Government Authorities and as a business manager with AWA Computers.

**Mr Richard Northam**  
Public Officer, AAF Inc.  
Richard Northam currently holds the role of General Manager of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology and has been with CAUDIT for 6 years. Richard has more than 20 years experience in the ICT industry in higher education and the public sector including senior management appointments as the IT Manager at the University of New South Wales @ the Australian Defence Force Academy, Network Manager at the Insurance and Superannuation Commission, Associate Director of the Information Management & Technology Branch at the then Department of Primary Industries & Energy and has served as the Director of Information Systems within the Headquarters of the Australian Air Force Cadets. Richard holds a degree in Engineering (Electronics) and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
The AAF Project Team was set up to manage and co-ordinate activities on behalf of the AAF Inc. Interim Executive Committee. The 2009 Project Team members are:

**Project Manager**
Mr Heath Marks

**Technical Program Manager**
Mr Terence Smith

**Change and Communication Manager**
Ms Glenys Kranz

**Senior Project Officer**
Mr Steven Beagley

**Policy, Process and Strategy**
Ms Patricia McMillan

**Technical Specialist (MAMS Migration)**
Mr Bruc Liong

**Technical Specialist (Advanced Technical Development)**
Mr Bradley Beddoes

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**Ordinary Members**

Mr Alan McMeekin
Mr John Parry
Mr Nick Tate
Mr Garry Trinder
Professor Anthony Williams

**Technical Specialist (MAMS Migration)**
Mr Bruc Liong

**Technical Specialist (Advanced Technical Development)**
Mr Bradley Beddoes

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**Co-Opt Non-Voting Members**

Dr Rhys Francis
Ms Clare McLaughlin
Mr Peter Nicholson
Mr Peter Nissen
Mr James Sankar
Mr Stephen Whiteside

**Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council (AeRIC)**
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR)
Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT)
AARNet
University of Auckland
From a researcher’s point of view the main advantage of the AAF is in having a system that provides a single sign-on for whatever system or research service they wish to use — no more managing a huge number of separate access accounts.

David Toll, Chief Information Officer, CSIRO
Our first six months have been extremely successful and active. The AAF has experienced rapid Participant growth, championed by a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy and renewed sector interest. Conference presentations, workshops and a new online presence have planted the seed for strong community involvement and the growth of technical communities of practice. The first two rounds of the AAF Mini-grant scheme have also seen promising interest and will deliver valuable AAF enabled services to the Higher Education and Research Sector over the next 12 months.

A snapshot of our first six months:

June
AAF Inc. Registered as an Incorporated Association
AAF Inc. was registered as an Incorporated Association on 23 June 2009.

Appointment of the AAF Interim Executive Committee
An Interim Executive Committee was appointed consisting of members from the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) and various other stakeholders from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council (AeRIC), AARNet, Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

July
Appointment of an AAF Project Manager to run the operations of the AAF
Heath Marks from Griffith University was appointed as the AAF Project Manager.

First Participants Join the Federation
The first six Participants joined the Federation.

August
Inaugural Meeting of the AAF Inc. Interim Executive Committee
The Interim Executive Committee held their Inaugural Meeting on 25 August 2009.

October
AAF Mini-grant Scheme
A Mini-grant scheme was initiated to assist current and potential Service Providers with the deployment of their service(s) to the Federation.

AAF Inc. Operator Appointment Process
In October and November 2009, the AAF advertised nationally for suitably qualified and experienced companies to respond to a Request for Information (RFI).

November
Transition of the MAMS Testbed Federation
MAMS Testbed Federation Participants were migrated to the AAF Production Federation.
The transition from the Pilot AAF to Production AAF completed in June 2009. All organisations joining the Production Federation have signed the Federation ‘Commitment to the Rules for Participants’ on a ‘best endeavours’ basis. As of 31 December 2009, 18 Members and 1 Affiliate have joined the Production AAF (see table 1 and 2 for a list of Federation Members and Affiliates as of 31/12/2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Join Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
<td>November 13 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Research Collaboration Service</td>
<td>August 6 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Cowan University</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eResearch SA</td>
<td>December 22 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith University</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cook University</td>
<td>October 1 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln University (New Zealand)</td>
<td>December 3 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie University</td>
<td>December 2 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash University</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>August 3 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Auckland (New Zealand)</td>
<td>November 10 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Canterbury (New Zealand)</td>
<td>November 18 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>December 16 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Australia</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tasmania</td>
<td>July 27 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>October 6 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing</td>
<td>November 24 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Federation Members as at 31 December 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Join Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pebble Learning</td>
<td>November 25 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Federation Affiliates as at 31 December 2009
The transition of Identity Providers and Service Providers from the Meta Access Management System (MAMS) Level 1 and 2 Federations to the AAF Production Federation was carried out with the support of staff from the Macquarie University eLearning Centre of Excellence (MELCOE). The MAMS Level 1 and 2 Federations were decommissioned by MELCOE on 14 December 2009. Below is a summary of the transition activities:

- 27 institutions were successfully migrated;
- 4 institutions delayed their migration until after the decommissioning of MAMS;
- 7 institutions were not migrated either through choice or their Identity Provider was not operational in the MAMS federation;
- 22 Services were migrated; and
- 24 Services were not migrated (many services were not migrated as they were only test services).
The primary purpose of the Australian Access Federation (AAF) Inc. is to put in place systems and services in order to create what is effectively a Single Sign-on environment for researchers, educators and students who wish to use shared information, communication and technology based facilities and services both within Australia and globally.

The AAF is looking to appoint an Operator(s) to deliver many of the AAF services to Federation Participants on its behalf, including support for long term planning and growth and the day-to-day business functions of the Federation. The appointment process is two-phased.

The first phase has been completed and consisted of an initial Request for Information (RFI) designed to enable the AAF to assess the market. The RFI closed on 30 November 2009. The AAF has reviewed the responses and will begin the second phase, a Request for Offer (RFO) process, in 2010.
AAF Mini-grants

A Mini-grant scheme to stimulate development and deployment of AAF enabled services opened on 1 October 2009. Grants of up to $40,000 were to be awarded for projects that had the potential to promote growth of the AAF across the sector and would:

- be likely to be used by participants;
- facilitate the AAF uptake by new members;
- be developed and deployed quickly;
- benefit Australian research, teaching and learning effectiveness; and
- involve collaboration and/or can be used more broadly across the research and education community.

Round 1 and Round 2 closed on 30 October and 27 November 2009 respectively. Although only one application was received in Round 1, the number of enquiries we received as a result of actively promoting the Mini-grant scheme through a myriad of advertising channels was more than encouraging. Consequently, 10 applications were received in Round 2. All indications are that Round 3 will be just as successful – perhaps more so. The AAF has been delighted with the diversity and range of projects put forward for consideration.

Mini-grant Recipients

Successful Mini-grant applications for Round 1 and Round 2 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation Awarded</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>AuScope Grid Portal Project</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash University</td>
<td>Access to ARCS Nimrod Services</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Advanced Shibboleth Integration with Blackboard</td>
<td>$39,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMIT Publishing</td>
<td>Informit AAF Integration</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Phenomics Ontology Driven Data repository (PODD) AAF Enablement</td>
<td>$35,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Australia</td>
<td>University Benchmarking</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing</td>
<td>TPAC Portal AAF Implementation</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
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Total Mini-grants Awarded: $247,871
Following the appointment of a dedicated Change and Communication Manager for the AAF in September, a comprehensive communication and marketing strategy has been developed to accelerate uptake of the AAF initially within the Higher Education and Research sector. The key strategies include:

**Engagement Packs**
Different Engagement Packs for each group of stakeholders have been developed to specifically meet the needs of, and provide information to, each identified group.

**Promotional items**
A project brochure and posters and flyers for key messages have been developed to support the planned communication activities. AAF promotional items have also been produced for distribution at conferences and events (polo shirts, pens, post-it note pads). All material ensures easy recognition of the AAF ‘brand’.

**AAF Website**
The AAF Website, which provides on-line access to information about the AAF, including governance, how to Join, the Mini-grant Scheme and News & Events, was launched in September 2009. An AAF Wiki also provides a collaborative space for the sharing of information between the AAF Community, including Mini-grant recipients, technical support and documentation and acts as a resource hub. A snapshot of AAF website statistics from September to December 2009 can also be found on the Wiki.

**Micro-blogging**
The AAF has also been engaging with interested parties through the Micro blogging website Twitter and Social Networking website Facebook.

**Conferences and Roadshows**
2009 AAF conferences:
- eResearch Australasia Conference 2009 - joint workshop with ARCS and an AAF Information/promotion booth
- CAUDIT Annual Meeting
- Innovation 2009 Summit

A series of interstate Roadshows are planned for the Project Team. The first Roadshows were held in Sydney in November 2009 at universities from the immediate area and plans are in train to hold further Roadshows in Melbourne and State regional areas in 2010. A number of different channels have been utilised to communicate with stakeholders. In the 4th quarter 2009, the AAF released 34 news articles through enewsletters and the AAF website. The focus of these releases included publicity regarding major activities, such as new members joining the AAF, the Mini-grant Scheme and the Operator appointment process.
...as more institutions utilise software as a service, they need assurance that the authentication data they share with service providers is securely and safely managed. Being part of the AAF helps PebblePad meet institutions’ evolving needs through a trusted community.

Shane Sutherland, Director of Pebble Learning
Supporting and growing the AAF is a critical step in ensuring that the Federation meets its goal to be self-sufficient in the future. In 2009, the AAF has particularly targeted universities and research support organisations with a specific engagement strategy which will provide us with significant opportunity to grow the AAF into the future. We understand the challenges ahead but believe the AAF is ready to progress to the next phase of operation.
The Year Ahead

Appointment of an Operator(s)
The AAF Inc. will begin Phase two of the Operator(s) appointment process in 2010. Respondents to the Request for Information (RFI) will be invited to submit a full Request for Offer (RFO). The AAF Inc. will work closely with the appointed Operator(s) to implement a seamless Migration Plan to guarantee minimal disruption to delivery of Federation services to its participants.

AAF Inc. Sustainability
The AAF Inc. Interim Executive Committee will continue to review a number of Federation charging models and scenarios at other research and education federations in operation internationally. The AAF’s objective is to work towards being self-sustaining through subscription fees levied on Participants from 2011 onwards. Fees in 2010 will continue to be waived, allowing the AAF to grow the Federation and provide a mechanism for its Participants to focus on full compliance to the AAF’s Federation Rules for Participants.

Growth of the Federation
Growth of the Participant base is one of the primary goals for the AAF in 2010. The need for growth is both to increase the usefulness of the federation to its Members and to establish a Participant base large enough to sustainably fund the future of the federation through subscription fees.

During the year ahead, AAF Inc. will continue to execute a number of strategies to engage actively with the following three groups of organisations:
- Australian universities and research support organisations such as the Members of ARCS (MARCS)
- Existing AAF Members to identify other potential Participants with whom they are currently collaborating, ensuring that the federation grows in a way that is most useful to its Members; and
- Organisations and groups associated with the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) process. These organisations and groups represent the shared use of research infrastructure, facilities and resources throughout Australia.

Engagement with the International Community
The AAF will continue to engage with the international federation community through the Research and Education FEDerations (REFeds) group coordinated by TERENA. REFeds includes representatives from 23 existing research and education federations from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia and several federations in the process of forming. REFeds meets twice per year in Europe to discuss and harmonise federation policy, technical and business approaches. The group communicates actively at other times through a discussion list and wiki. The AAF also participates by invitation in ECAM, the European Committee on Academic Middleware, which is TERENA’s coordinating committee for federation and middleware activities. ECAM meets monthly via teleconference. Participating actively in these groups gives the AAF a voice in influencing international federation directions, provides an avenue for input and assistance from the international community and paves the way for future co-federation arrangements. AAF Inc. will send a representative to the next REFeds meeting in June 2010.

Advanced Technical Developments
The AAF has employed a dedicated staff member to work on advancing the technical developments of the Federation in 2010. A roadmap of activities will see the AAF collaborating with the international Federation community to ensure best practice with enhancing and further developing the Federation.
## Income Statement

For the year end 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Grants</td>
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<td>1 2,000,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Innovation, Industry, Science &amp; Research</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE**

2,000,000.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising, Marketing &amp; Promotional Expenses</td>
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<td>16,980.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultants - Professional</td>
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<td>3,681.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions to External Collaborative Projects</td>
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<td>51,894.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits &amp; On Costs</td>
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<td>117,475.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits Tax</td>
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<td>115.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Supplies &amp; Services</td>
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<td>158.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Capitalised Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>819.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage, Freight &amp; Courier</td>
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<td>147.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; Stationery</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,919.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental, Hire &amp; Other Leasing Fees</td>
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<td>45.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications</td>
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<td>1,369.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Related Staff Development &amp; Training</td>
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<td>8,633.29</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

203,240.69

**PROFIT/(LOSS)**

1,796,759.31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RETAINED FUNDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Retained Funds</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit/(Loss)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,796,759.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| CLOSING RETAINED FUNDS                                                |                                   | 1,796,759.31  |

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**Note 1** Interest revenue for the period June 2009 to December 2009 has been journalled to the project in February 2010.