



News from The Retired Primary Principals' Association

Edition No. 1

April 2005.

The First Newsletter:

This is the first of many newsletters from the Retired NSW Primary Principals' Association that was formed at the luncheon held on Thursday 7th April in Sydney. An interim Executive has been formed to set up the Association to make it an active and relevant Association in the coming years. A part of the plan is to not only broaden the membership but to communicate to all members each Term through a Newsletter such as this. It will be the responsibility of the Publicity Officer to get the Newsletter out and to also have it posted on the NSWPPA website. At the moment we are looking for a catchy title for the Newsletter (it has to be better than What's Hot!) so any ideas can be forwarded to Colin Labrie or myself (Ken Pares). We would also like someone to design a new logo as the one above is only a temporary one. To add "colour" to the Newsletter we would love to receive snippets of news from retired Principals (for example there is good story of how Colin Labrie trapped himself in his own cellar.....perhaps another time!) and we hope to add to the list of Principals that Colin has already compiled and passed on to you.

The Luncheon:

Wow- what a lunch! We were hoping for 20 but 35 people turned up! I think Cheryl Buckley from Orange might have been the furthest one to travel although Dennis Suttling (surfing and golfing) reckoned Newport was a long way to travel! It was a typically brilliant piece of organisation by John McMillan – "Oh we'll just meet at the Covent Garden, have a few drinks and stagger next door for a Chinese feed." Although he did book the restaurant! Colin was slightly more efficient by having a list of those who were coming although his list became unreliable as the few drinks at the Covent Garden turned into a few more to allow for late comers. It is true that we all made it up the stairs to the restaurant and it turned out a wonderful (cheap) luncheon with everybody busy catching up or discussing their superannuation or golf swing. During the lunch the proposal for a formal Association was put forward by John McMillan and Colin Labrie and was supported overwhelmingly. Peter Newman was inundated with membership payments. Many adjourned to the Covent Garden after the meal and continued their story telling. Some had wisely booked into the Carlton Crest Hotel (using the NSWPPA cheaper rate and cheap car park fees) and were seen at the Crystal Palace Hotel later in the evening. The atmosphere indicated that with similar support the Retired Principals' Association could only grow from this. We need your support by becoming a member and hopefully the rest of the Newsletter will convince you to forward your cheque for \$50 to Peter Newman.

The Association:

A brief outline at this stage will help you to understand what we are trying to achieve and hopefully convince you to join. An interim Executive has been formed to develop a Charter and get the Association up and running. President: John McMillan, Vice-President: (To be filled- hopefully a retired female Principal will volunteer for this position by contacting Colin), Secretary: Colin Labrie, Treasurer: Peter Newman and Publicity Officer: Ken Pares. This Executive will meet at least twice more this year to develop a Charter and liaise with the NSWPPA Executive to keep within the guidelines of what the NSWPPA was trying to achieve when it set up the Retired Principals' Association on its website. Membership of the Association will be \$50 per annum with the first membership payment running through until 1st July 2006. All communications will continue to be delivered personally i.e. emails and some letters, but later this year we will only be able to communicate with our **members**. General communication will hopefully continue to be posted on the NSWPPA website. It is anticipated that all Social Functions organised by the R.P.A will have a discount for members.

Why A Membership Fee?

Just running an informal group of Retired Principals has cost money. John McMillan and Colin Labrie had been doing this while still involved with the NSWPPA but now that both do not have a role on the State Executive they have been meeting costs out of their own pocket. John has made numerous phone calls and emails and Colin has set up a data bank with over 100 names. Colin emails some but many do not have an email address and so phone calls or the normal mail process has to be used. All of this is time and money.

It was felt that the time was right to formalize the structure, especially with the imminent retirement of many Principals. It is planned to organise a number of dinners/luncheons around the State using key retired Principals in various locations. Apart from organizing these from a central base and perhaps using some key speakers, some formal meetings and structure was needed to make it an effective Association.

The future will require some meetings with the NSWPPA and DET, especially if some form of mentoring/welfare program is going to be organised. An active Executive with a reasonable budget is the only way this can happen.

Some of the Plans:

The Social Aspect:

This would be a key aspect of the Association. To catch up with other Principals, to enjoy some time with similar minded people and just keeping in touch can be important in the coming retirement years. Some plans generally discussed at the luncheon were trips to the Hunter wineries, harbour cruises, regional dinners and of course, the possibility of a few games of golf. Our next lunch will take place on **Tuesday 19th July** again at the **East Ocean Restaurant** in Dixon Street at the Haymarket, next to the Covent Garden Pub. We are also investigating the possibility and cost of a harbour cruise lunch early in September. More information about this later.

Keeping in touch through communications such as this will also be a key factor (so get yourself an email address!)

The Influential Role:

The future role of the Retired Principals' Association could be to develop into an Advisory body to both the NSWPPA and the DET. I think we are all well aware of the influence the mentoring role can have in helping new and aspiring Principals and the Association could play an active role in this area and be well placed if we have members right across the State to help in country areas as well as the metropolitan area.

The Federal political area is another aspect that we might be able to carry some influence. The promotion of the cause of Public Education is now as vital as it can ever be in the federal sphere and someone with the standing of a President such as John McMillan can only help the cause. Correspondence, publicity and comment from such an Association could be of assistance to many who are trying to get a fair share for Public Education in the federal sphere.

With the development of the data bank of retired Principals by Colin we have a ready contact for ex Principals who might be interested in any specific role that the DET or the NSWPPA might see in the future.

In Summary:

This brief outline I hope will convince you to join the Retired NSW Principals' Association by forwarding your membership fee of \$50 to Peter Newman at

29 Marilyn Parade, Green Point, NSW 2251

It is hoped that the Association will grow and have a budget to be able to operate effectively. The interim Executive is also applying to the NSWPPA for a "seeding" grant to meet the initial costs.

Ken Pares

Publicity Officer.

Contacts:

To add a name to our data base or nominate a new member: **colinlabrie@bigpond.com.au**

To submit an item for the Newsletter: **ken.pares2@bigpond.com**

To pay your membership: **Peter Newman - 29 Marilyn Parade, Green Point, NSW 2251**