



Christmas Newsletter 2005

Merry Christmas

To all our members and intending members the Association would like to wish you all a happy and joyous Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year. If you haven't joined our Association it is not too late. For a mere \$50 you will be kept up to date with social events and any specific role that the NSWPPA or DET might request our Association to help with. Membership renewal will not be until July 2006 so for new members join now and the Executive has agreed to give a 50% discount. All you need to do is send a \$25 cheque to our Treasurer, Peter Newman at 29 Marilyn Parade, Green Point, 2251.

Working With the NSWPPA

Since our last Newsletter our Association has been able to have closer ties with the NSWPPA. They generously gave us a seeding grant of \$5,000 and next year we plan to be more active in the area of mentoring and Principal Support. The State Council also approved a Representative to attend State Council next year to not only promote our Association but to remain up to date on current issues and offer support when needed.

State Conference.

John McMillan spoke on our behalf during the Business Session at State Conference and he was received very favourably by State Council (I think it was his description of certain social events that got their attention!). We thank John for his continued efforts to involve retired Principals in educational issues.

On the Friday of the State Conference many retired Principals and partners came to morning tea and stayed on with the Life Members for an enjoyable lunch. The arm waving of Brian Powyer and Colin Labrie at one table did cause a spillage of some valuable red wine but the laughter that followed made up for any embarrassment.

The presentation of Awards and Life Membership that followed lunch was a very dignified and praiseworthy ceremony with the old Life Members being given pride of place at the front of the Hall ready to congratulate their new colleagues.

The Retired Principals' Association would like to thank the State Conference Committee for this innovative approach in giving recognition to both the Life Members and the R.P.A. To have badges ready for us and to allow us time to catch up with many friends at the Conference was greatly appreciated. After the Award Ceremony many "retired" to the



bottom bar of the Wentworth where a few complimentary drinks were provided by the R.P.A.

Christmas Lunch

A Christmas lunch at Harts Hotel in Sydney was enjoyed by the 40 retired Principals who attended. The noise became almost deafening with conversations going on all around the old style rooms and bar. Thank you to Heather Causley once again not only for keeping on top of the nametags for everybody but promoting an exceptional Stewart House raffle that raised close to \$500 for Stewart House. Cheryl Buckley also helped out on the day and our Treasurer, Peter Newman provided some Christmas spirit on the tables. The exchange of small gifts as a part of the Christmas spirit was a good idea although my gift is still on the table at the hotel (not out of disrespect but through the spirit of forgetfulness). Peter Shuttleworth was in full conversation mode for anyone who wanted to listen and Geoff Buckland was determined that no wine be left on the table. Thank you to Graham Hayton, Pat Eagleston and Gordon Pyne for escorting Colin Labrie off the premises. Graeme Dixon and I adjourned to the Crystal Palace where we caught up with a few Delegates from State Council before searching for an evening meal in Dixon Street.

Next Year

It is hoped that around March next year we will be organizing a dinner at Forster on the North Coast. Graeme Dixon is keen to organise some golf, a meal and accommodation for those who would like to see what retirement is like in God's country. It would be something different with the opportunity for city people to travel out to the country. Many Principals have retired to the coast so a good attendance should be in order. The golf would be optional, which is about the standard of my golf anyway - more news and details early next year.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Ken Pares
Publicity Officer