



Retired Principals' Newsletter October 2006

Newsletters:

Two newsletters were sent out in 2006 but for some reason did not get on to the website section for the RPPA on the NSWPPA website. However, the newsletters are now back on the website. We apologise for this but will endeavour to make sure this newsletter makes it! All members should have received their own copies through Colin's email service

Office Bearers:

The elections were held not long ago and for the next two-year period the following people were elected. President: John McMillan, Vice-Presidents: Heather Causley and Cheryl Buckley, Secretary: Colin Labrie, Treasurer: Graham Hayton and Publicity Officer: Ken Pares. Thank you to Dennis Suttling who was the Returning Officer. To contact us at any time use the Secretary's email address: colinlabrie@bigpond.com.au

Luncheon:

A delightful luncheon was held on 28th September at the East Ocean Chinese Restaurant with some 32 members attending. There was plenty of country representation with Graeme Dixon, Rob Stephens and Lloyd Hogg travelling together from the Taree/Port Stephens area, Cheryl Buckley from Orange and Phil Gooley travelling all the way from Wagga Wagga. Once again a few welcoming drinks at the Covent Garden got everyone into a talkative mood.

Executive Meeting:

The Executive held a business session before the luncheon on 28th September to talk through a number of issues. It was resolved that Cheryl Buckley and Graham Hayton prepare a survey for members so that we can better gauge what you want as members of the R.P.A. Heather Causley attended the last NSWPPA State Council Meeting and outlined the activities of the R.P.A. to the Council. The Executive will also be looking at preparing a package about our Association to go out next year to PPA District Secretaries to encourage those Principals retiring to join the RPA. The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$8,513.94 and just over 60 members were fully paid up. Graham has prepared a Budget that includes benefits to members who attend functions plus an allocation to promote country representation.

Future Meetings/Social Events:

Life members and other Retired Principals will be informed of invitations to the NSWPPA Annual Conference and is usually a Morning Tea and Lunch on the Friday, then attending the Awards Ceremony. Usually after the Ceremony the RPPA put on some drinks for its members. It is a wonderful social occasion and an opportunity to catch up with those still in the job.

We are looking at a Christmas function to be held on Thursday 30th November at the Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club.

Membership:

Our membership is growing but we would still like to keep in contact with more people. The membership fee is only \$50 (that's not quite \$1 a week) but it keeps you in touch with what is happening not only in the Retired Principals Association but also some aspects of DET and the NSWPPA. At the moment we have 3 Country representatives on the Executive; John McMillan (Central Coast), Ken Pares (Forster) and Cheryl Buckley (Orange). These people are very much aware of trying to keep in contact with Retired Principals in country areas and it was the main point of discussion at the last Executive Meeting.

NSWPPA News:

The NSWPPA has just completed its elections and congratulations must go to Geoff Scott who was elected as President for the next two years. Kerrie-Anne Knox has been elected as Deputy President, with Jackie Malecki, Jane Law and Graham Doust as Vice-Presidents. Ralph Taylor was elected Secretary and John Scott as Treasurer. We wish them all a successful two years in promoting the welfare of Primary Principals and Public Education across the State.

Current Involvement of Retired Principals:

The Commonwealth Program "Investing in Our Schools" has grown dramatically and at the moment five of our members are involved in the assessment process of these submissions for the Commonwealth DEST. They work closely with some Secondary Principals and Parent Representatives as well as DEST Management.

John McMillan and Warren Marks have met with DET personnel about the mentoring process and some progress has been made. A list will be given to DET and this will be distributed to Regional Directors (ah.... Regional Directorsremember them?). Also further discussions will be held about future training of retired Principals as mentors. See Warren Mark's section in this Newsletter.

Out About in The Country:

I was recently down in the Riverina and catching up with some Principals in Wagga Wagga. I taught with many of them at Koorinal Public School in Wagga and many of them are now Principals in that area or recently retired. On talking to a few of them I learnt they have a group that travel to Sydney once a year for a weekend of football and racing and I heard even Barry Cant, retired Principal from A E Southee School (Cootamundra) joins them. It is hoped in the future to have regular contact with those retired Principals in the Riverina just as we have developed in the Taree area. If any group or individual is looking at coming to Sydney for a weekend why not try and tie it into one of our Sydney luncheons.

Mentoring News from Warren Marks:

NSWPPA Retired Principals Association is currently negotiating with NSWDET around a project for NSWDET to employ retired principals as mentors. The scheme & the negotiations are still in the "early days". However, if you are interested in nominating to be part of a list of retired principal mentors, which we hope to forward to the senior officers of NSWDET for their implementation, please complete the application form in the attachment and email to: Warren.Marks@det.nsw.edu.au