

Newsletter June/September 2011

Combined Newsletter

There was a delay in some of the photos coming through for the June newsletter and therefore I have combined the news from the two lunches into one newsletter. My apologies for the delay.

June Luncheon

By all accounts the Sydney Rowers Club was a beautiful venue for the June luncheon and details in this section are provided by (our Secretary, Colin Labrie? or by our President John McMillan?). I was unable to attend as I was in Lismore at the time and spent an extra week there as the Pacific Highway was cut at Kempsey due to torrential rain and flooding.



Members on the ferry



Bryan Powyer and Warren Marks in deep Discussion

History of NSWPPA

Thanks to the hard work of President John and his many contacts this is emerging as a significant document. Work on the history of the 1990's will be worked on this year with Jim Rutherford and Bob Harbin being contributors and John collating the material. Also thanks to Brian Powyer who maintains our web page and gets all of this onto our site.

Education Comment

On Monday 20th June an interesting article in the education section of the Sydney Morning Herald was written by Head Teacher (or whatever they call them now), Leon Wright about everybody telling teachers how to do their job and the latest breakthrough in pedagogy (I love that word!). Here is an excerpt from that article that I found most interesting.

“All sorts of people are experts in education. Politicians know a timely rant about the three R's is the easy way to votes. Education bureaucrats know that leading the educational revolution looks better on the CV than equipping schools. Everyone knows about teaching because, after all, everyone has been to school. In the same way, I'm an electrician because I can boil a jug of water.

Here is the reality. This morning, tens of thousands of teachers will go to work. They each have their strengths and weaknesses. There are motherly types, coaches, IT experts, role models, adventurers, martinets, inspirers, storytellers, social workers, academics, craftsmen, performers and of course, a few time servers, incompetents and babes in the woods. Only the gullible and ambitious among them will uncritically embrace the passing fads. The rest will just get on with it.”

Merit Pay for Teachers

This became a discussion item at a recent luncheon. Many will remember the attempt by the state government many years ago in trying to bring in Advanced Skills Teachers with a separate pay incentive and how this became watered down to include just length of service and then incorporated into the normal pay scale. This was a failed system for the government but a success story for the Teachers Federation and all teachers. The Federal government is looking at going down the same path and it is really a minefield of interest groups, raw data, subjective and school based influences. Our President has attended the NSWPPA State Council meeting where this issue was discussed and rejected. I had made the suggestion that if a Merit Pay system was forced upon the education system then our Association should not ignore it but be ready to put forward the experience and expertise of our members in presenting an objective method of assessment. I am sure there will be more discussion in the future but for the time being the issue remains dormant.

Membership

Just a reminder that membership is overdue for the 2011/12 year and the following details will help you with your \$50 payment:

By cheque:

Send to Graham Hayton at 34 Kareela Rd, Baulkham Hills, 2153

OR By Direct On Line Payment.

Account name: Association of Retired Principals

BSB : 062668

Account No. : 10152151

* NB Remember to add you surname as a reference for a receipt.

September Luncheon:

Our September luncheon saw some 40 members turn up in Chinatown to enjoy a delicious banquet. Many met at the renovated Covent Garden Hotel before the lunch to discuss old times and current health issues. The “never say die” types also returned to the Hotel after enjoying the lunch.



A few of the “boys” at the Hotel



V President Heather Causley organises name tags

Dates for the Diary

13th Oct 2011

Lunch at Woy Woy

28th Oct 2011.

Life Members NSWPPA and ARP luncheon at State Conference

8th Dec 2011 ARP Christmas Lunch at Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club

New Members

It was great to see four new members attend the lunch and the Association has now decided to organise a representative from the Association for each district of the NSWPPA so that they can attend a meeting each year to explain what the ARP can provide.



New Members: Howard Hawkins, Ron Adams, John Minns and Ted Hemmens

Old Stories

The Publicity Officer would love to hear from Retired Principals with old stories about their teaching or Principalship days that could add a bit more interest in the Newsletter that we try and publish at least 4 times in the year. I well remember my first Principal Mr Mervyn Rolfe (father of Sid Rolfe who was Principal at Walcha). He was a thorough gentleman who insisted on calling all his staff by their surname and used a filing system of shirt boxes. Pelaco was for Regional Office correspondence etc. The school was North Wagga and in those days the Regional Office in Wagga was across the river. Mr Rolfe discovered that you could hear our school bell across the river and quite often out in the playground, on a beautiful day and heavily involved in general conversation, we would go overtime for lunch. On those occasions Mr Rolfe would always ring the bell very softly!!!



Two Key Men in our Association: Brian Powyer looks after our website and Colin Labrie our Secretary.

Ken Pares

Publicity Officer