



Newsletter-September 2009

SYMPATHY FOR COLLEAGUES' FAMILIES

On behalf of all retired primary principals, I wish to extend sympathy to the families of four colleagues who have recently passed away. All made outstanding contributions to public education and to the lives of countless children and their families through their teaching careers. All had retired in the last decade and unfortunately succumbed to illness in recent times.

Fred Lake	Macquarie Fields Public School
Leo Callinan	Young Public School
Flo Punter	Sutherland Public School
Geoffrey Derricott	The Meadows Public School

Sympathy cards have been forwarded to all families.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP – GREG TAYLOR

Our association has nominated Greg Taylor who was the inaugural Treasurer of the NSW Primary Principals Council, for Life Membership of the NSW Primary Principals Association. Greg has made an outstanding contribution to public education and to the general community. This fitting honour will be made at the Awards Ceremony at the Annual NSWPPA Conference.

RECENT LUNCHEONS

Two very successful luncheons have been held on June 4 and September 3 at the Emperors Garden in The Haymarket. Approximately forty of our retired colleagues attended each of these luncheons. Members welcomed new faces - Jan Cannon, Tim Corbin and Chris Worthington to the June 4 luncheon and to the last luncheon on September 3 – Bruce Roberts, Jan Whyte, Doris Blairs and Des McLean.

WOY WOY LUNCHEON

We attempted to organise a luncheon at the 'Fisherman's Wharf' at Woy Woy on August 13. Unfortunately, the numbers were a little short to access a deal with the 'Fisherman's Wharf' Restaurant and so the event was postponed.

Another luncheon has been planned for Thursday October 8, again at the 'Fisherman's Wharf'. This seafood restaurant is a famous central coast institution. We are hopeful of a large attendance on this day, particularly of retired central coast principals. Geoff Buckland and Peter Newman have already started contacting retired central coast colleagues. We are certain that other retired principals from Sydney, Newcastle and surrounding areas will also attend.

It is proposed to meet at the Bay View Hotel from midday onwards with the luncheon scheduled for 1.00 p.m. at the nearby 'Fisherman's Wharf'. Both venues are approximately 200 metres from the Woy Woy Railway Station. Trains are frequent and the journey from Hornsby takes approximately 30 minutes.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY – LIFE MEMBERS PROGRAM

An invitation has been extended to all Life Members of the NSW Primary Principals Association and Retired Primary Principals to attend the last day of the Annual PPA Conference on Friday November 6, 2009.

The program for the day is:

11.00 am	Reception for Life Members and Retired Primary Principals
12.45 pm	Life Members Luncheon hosted by the NSWPPA Executive
2.00 pm	NSWPPA Awards Ceremony

At the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony, a 'Happy Hour or So' will be held in a downstairs bar of the Wentworth Hotel hosted by the Association of Retired Primary Principals.

The cost for members of ARPP is \$50 per head with Life Members being free. Anyone wishing to attend should contact and forward a cheque (if necessary) to Rob Walker at Evans River K-12 School, Cypress St., Evans Head, NSW, 2473 before September 18.

XMAS LUNCHEON

Our annual Xmas Luncheon will be held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club on December 3. Full details of this event will be advertised shortly.

LETTER TO MINISTER

A letter was forwarded some weeks ago, from our Association to the Minister for Education and Training, protesting about the withholding of \$50 of an extra \$100 per student that the Federal government has granted to government primary schools across Australia. This extra funding resulted from the abolition of an anomaly that existed for many years between the grants for secondary and primary government schools from the Federal Government. The NSW Primary Principals Association and the Australian Government Primary Principals Association fought to have this situation changed since 2000.

A reply has been received from the Director General, Michael Coutts-Trotter, acknowledging the efforts of principals' organisations to 'secure additional funding from the Commonwealth' and thanking us for 'taking the time to write on this matter'.

We tried but got the old 'bureaucratic' flick pass.

FUNDING FOR STEWART HOUSE

Peter Shuttleworth has alerted our Association to the inequality of Federal funding under the BER funding Program which is financing vast building and maintenance programs in schools.

Stewart House and the Royal Far West School, both in the Manly area, have been excluded from this funding of approximately \$300 000 each. As well, these schools have been deemed ineligible for funding under the National Schools Solar Program.

The Association is preparing a letter to be sent Julia Gillard, the Federal Minister for Education as well as to Verity Firth, the State Minister for Education, expressing our dismay at this inequity and seeking a review of these decisions.

The Principal of Stewart House, Marilyn Bourne, would greatly appreciate any emails or letters to Local Members of the Federal and State Governments from members of our Association, protesting about these decisions.

PROTOCOLS FOR RETIRED PRINCIPALS – MENTORS

Members of our executive have met with Desley Morgan, Vice President of the NSWPPA, regarding the formulation of protocols for retired principals working in any capacity within the NSWPPA. This could entail voluntary or paid work. More information will become available shortly.

HISTORY OF THE PRIMARY PRINCIPALS COUNCIL

An initial draft of the story of the 80s has been completed but there is still a long way to go before it is published.

There is one question that someone might remember the answer to: In the mid 80s when Rodney Cavalier was the Minister for Education, he met up with Barry Mainefield, the former President of the NSW Teachers Federation and, at the time, Principal of Denistone East Public School, at a swimming carnival at the Ryde Pool. As a result of the conversation between these men, the Minister changed a decision he had made.

The question is – 'What was the issue?' Please contact me – 0407232008 or on mcmillan184@bigpond.com.au

John McMillan,
President