

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators *From the President*



A Happy New Year to everyone! I look forward to another enjoyable year with ARISSEA.

As all those who attended will know that the December luncheon meeting was a great success. We had an excellent roll up, the venue and catering was, as usual, of a high standard, the fellowship was wonderful and we saw quite a few members who we hadn't seen for a few years! Well done, Jack Harrison.

As well, we were able to "sign off" on a few important initiatives brought forward by the executive.

The agreement with ISEA is now in place. As of

now, all ARISSEA members enjoy the status of "retired" members of ISEA. We will also have access to a range of benefits as members of ISEA, including invitations to special events and study tours hosted by ISEA.

ARISSEA members will begin to receive ISEA bulletins as soon as we complete the merger of lists. Any members not wanting to receive these will have the opportunity to opt out. If you require further information, Ron Ikin will be pleased to hear from you via ron.ikin@bigpond.com.

The December meeting endorsed the executive's recommendation to join Union Shopper. Secretary Brian Ford is currently finalising arrangements with Union Shopper.

Members who received Union Shopper brochures at the December meeting should begin to use this facility as soon as possible. Feedback to Brian via genecom@bigpond.net.au will be appreciated.

I am still keen to expand our support of Stewart House by building links with service clubs, particularly Rotary. Richmond Manyweathers is working with me on this. Please contact me at grjgreen@bigpond.net.au if you have any comments or ideas. We will liaise closely with The Friends of Stewart House.

Geoff Walton is still keen to expand our data on Life Members of ISEA. Please contact him via geoff_walton@bigpond.net.au if you can help.

Finally, a bright idea for 2011! John Dugdale's interesting article in this newsletter "Who do you think you are – or were?" has reminded me that the later history of the inspectorate (and the structures that followed it) is not nearly as well documented as the early history.

Over the years, ARISSEA has taken on a number of projects, including the current secondary panels project, that fill some of the gaps. What other work has been done? How can we, who must surely be a most fruitful source of information about this critical part of the history of public education in New South Wales, contribute?

The next luncheon meeting will be on Friday, 6th May. I hope to see you there.

George Green

From the Editor

North Rocks

This edition of the ARISSEA Newsletter has been produced in two formats. One is for distribution by Australia Post. It is in the traditional photocopied B/W paper form. (The cost of copying and postage = 1.10/copy)

The other, a coloured digital version, is for distribution by email. It is designed to be read from a computer or video screen, although it can, be printed on paper in part, or whole, by the member, if desired.

All members are entitled to receive their Newsletter in the form of their choice. At present, approximately 20% of members have requested the email version.

If no request for a change from the postal to the email version, has been received by the Secretary from a member, by the despatch date, the traditional Newsletter will continue to be posted to them.

I would appreciate your comments and advice regarding the layout of this email version. Please send them to me at: peterrobinson7@gmail.com

Peter Robinson



Signing the ISEA/ARISSEA agreement, George Green with Ron Ikin, John Dugdale and Richmond Manyweathers

ISOVES

As mentioned at the ARISSEA luncheon herewith is the 2011 calendar of events for the Institute of the Senior Officers of the Victorian Education Service (ISOVES).

The calendar only indicates the dates and broad descriptions of the activities planned by ISOVES but I will update details when they become available. The planned excursions and luncheons may be of interest to ARISSEA members who happen to be in Melbourne on the designated dates.

ARISSEA members would receive a warm welcome from their Victorian colleagues.

Dr Ron Ikin

ISEA Executive Officer

THE INSTITUTE OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE VICTORIAN EDUCATION SERVICES INCORPORATED (ISOVES)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011

Monday, 7 February Excursion and Luncheon Thursday, 10 March Council Meeting Thursday, 5 May Annual General Meeting & Luncheon Thursday, 12 May Council Meeting Tuesday, 7 June Old Brigade Luncheon Thursday, 11 August Council Meeting Tuesday, 13 September Excursion & Luncheon Thursday, 13 October Council Meeting Wednesday, 2 November Excursion & Luncheon Tuesday, 6 December Christmas Dinner

Contact through the ISOVES Secretary Jim Sonnemann or jim.sonnemann@optusnet.com.au



Rus and Daphne Mulholland

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Secondary Panels Project

At the Christmas Luncheon Meeting, Graham Sims spoke about some directions that the Secondary Panels Project is taking and specifically invited members to comment on the "Graham Report" – *Report of the Working Party on Inspection and Advisory Services* (submitted to the Director-General in September 1971) and its subsequent impact on the work and lives of Inspectors of Schools.

Amanda Weate and Alicia Yorke writing in *An Uncertain Tradition* the paper that they presented at the Australian Curriculum Studies Association Conference Melbourne, July 2007 made the following comment:

"A 1971 report by Graham, an inspector in NSW, identified the tensions/contradictions inherent in a role" taken up by the inspectorate "combining advice" and "judgement. Interestingly, inspectorial influence, so potent from the 1950s to the 1980s, appears to have been eclipsed by new forms of governance linking funding and the mutation of professional development, teacher accountability, teacher accreditation and new forms of consultancy. The inspectorate endures in one guise or another until the present day as a peculiarly NSW entity currently with the imprimatur of the curriculum authority, Board of Studies."

The Report, relating to primary and secondary education, contains recommendations about:

- the relationships between the inspector and the principal and staff of the school when evaluating the work of a school,
- limiting the inspectors' involvement to assessing teacher efficiency,
- decentralizing Secondary inspection to provide for pastoral and professional care of individual teachers,
- the location of (curriculum) advisors.

Our thanks to Norm Robinson for providing us with access to a copy of the report.

To assist you with your response, on request we will provide you with extracts from the report including a collation summary of recommendations.

Geoff Walton for the Working Group (geoff@sandglass.com.au Phone: 96396847)

Members say

Beecroft

APOCHRYPHA

The article by Col Macdonald in the November Newsletter reminds me that evaluation of school equipment was not always carried out with the same detailed analysis that Col describes.

When I was appointed as Director of Services, I forsook my cosy 19th century office in Bridge Street for the luxury accommodation provided in the M.L.C. Building in North Sydney. Col Gaut, Head of In-service Education, was on hand to give me a conducted tour and to brief me on the policies and procedures that had been established in this Kingdom, separated from Bridge Street by more that the Harbour Bridge. He pointed out that the previous Director, Tom Ingersoll, had not seen any need to set up a filing system for the Division, so I would be saved the onerous task of trawling through piles of documents.

Instead I was invited to inspect what used to be the Cadet Corp's Armoury on the site of the old North Sydney Technical High School site. It was an Aladdin's Cave, crammed with items ranging from rolls of carpet, boxes containing sets of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, to an assortment of items of equipment the like of which I had never before encountered.

Many of them turned out to be machines devoted to the development of 'Speed Reading', a particular focus of in-service activities at that time.

Col explained to me that many manufacturers and distributors believed Tom to be a senior officer influential in determining items to be made available to schools. They would bring their precious items to Tom in his office at North Sydney and pitch their spiel to convince him that schools could not possibly function without having access to this latest addition to essential classroom equipment.

Col told me that, with the item under discussion on his desk, Tom would listen intently to the spiel and then, without warning, sweep it to the floor. "Now ", he would say, "show me how it works". His rationale was faultless; if the item could not withstand a drop of less that a metre, it would not last a day in the grim reality of classroom use.

The Armoury was filled with the results of this rapid evaluation process.

Col Mac could have saved himself a deal of time and effort had he only known.

Chick Carey



Merv Blanch and Trevor Harrison

I thought members might appreciate the following which came my way recently from a newspaper friend. He cites it as evidence of the poor quality of some of the advertising copy he receives from time to time and swears that a young real estate agent submitted this little gem to him exactly as written, complete with its innovative spelling and expression.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Vendors are responding enthusiasticlly, to a refreshing new approach in marketing currently being introduced by the inovative iniciative of our firm, the quiet acheavers. Purchaser also are impressed by the high standard of proffesionalism offered by this company and the exolance in quality and value of properties being shown unde the new 'Priority Listing' sceem.

Breafly stated this program entails, the total commitmen of the friendly & dedicated team, to premote special, well priced, exclucivly list properties for motavated vendore who require individual attension, rathe than being just another listing, where a sale occers rather like winning a sweep stake draw.

This weeks Priority Listing realy stands out in a crowd. Your plesure will be intensified when you live in a home you love and are proud of, and where the surroundin properties reflect a real pride of ownership. This will be yours when you posess this conservativly contemporary 3 bedroom & rumpuss room, generous porportioned architect designen home, featuring glass, clinker brick, warm timber construction, with colour cordinated tiled roof. The ceilings are vaulted, and feature exposed beams throughout.

Set on a beautifull subtropical block studded with palms and furns, with a manicured lawn running down to a bushey reserve at the rear enhabited by cudly coalas. This one is not expected to last long on the market. Sounds to good to be true. Phon us and come and have a look. We dare you!

Interesting, isn't it? I particularly like the "furns" and the "cudly coalas"!

Warren Newman



Vincent Delany, Ian Vacchini and Graham Sims

Mornington Gwen and I spent a couple of days in October in the historic Victorian Central Highlands spa town of Daylesford. Heading back to Melbourne across-country, through Kyneton, we took a detour through Lauriston where our former, retired and esteemed, Director of Properties, David Rowland owns a lovely property on which he grows olive trees and grazes alpacas.

We managed to find his property and found David out on a tractor, enjoying himself, slashing long grass around a very full farm dam.

The Central Highlands experience a bracing climate in the cooler months, somewhat enhanced this year by prolonged wet winter and spring conditions.

David and Sandra are in good health, and it was great to catch up with him, all but briefly. Those of us who worked in leadership roles in Central Schools and in Regions appreciated greatly the support David gave through his roles as Inspector of Schools, Agriculture and, later, Director of Properties.

Schools benefited greatly from David's efforts and initiatives. The quality of school buildings and their maintenance, south of the border, bears no comparison with what was achieved in NSW in the earlier 1990s.

Frank Fisher

Friends of Stewart House

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Menzies Hotel at 11.00am, January 18th, 2011.

For further information contact Pat Morgan, phone 9948 2162



Beverley Mayo

Thornleigh

Tall Tales and True from the Aussie Bush

We've had some pretty severe fogs in Sydney lately... real "pea-soupers". They can stop the ferries, close the airport, blanket the city and cause traffic chaos. Nevertheless, today's fogs aren't a patch on the fogs and mists described in some Aussie outback yarns.

There was, for example, the fog that rolled in one afternoon in the Snowy Mountains, while two stockmen were leaning back on the top rail of a fence, resting after mustering some cattle.

The fog lifted so suddenly that they both fell backwards off the fence!

Worse still was the fog that suddenly descended across the Bathurst plains, just as two mates, who'd been out rabbit shooting, were about to start their long drive back to Sydney.

The fog was so thick that they couldn't even see the road, let alone work out which direction they should take.

Suddenly, to their relief, they saw the taillights of a car, confidently driving along the road ahead of them

"We'll follow him," they decided. "At least he seems to know where he's going."

They dutifully followed the taillights for miles, over hill and dale until, quite abruptly, the lights went out, so unexpectedly that they almost ran into the back of the car.

"By cripes, that's a bit rough!" said one of the mates. "I'm going to get out and give that bloke a piece of my mind."

Getting out, he yelled, "Oi, you there! What's the idea of switching your lights off so suddenly?"

"Well, why shouldn't I? I" the driver replied, "After all, I am in my own bloomin' garage!"

Speaking of rabbits, the <u>thickest</u> fog I've ever heard about concerned two rabbit-trappers, (not the blokes from the previous yarn), who, every night, carefully set their traps in a farmer's paddock, where there were plenty of bunnies.

As experienced trap setters, they laid the traps carefully on the ground, covering them lightly with grass or soil, and first hammering the traps' steel pegs into the ground, so that a rabbit (or fox) couldn't drag the trap away.

Every morning, for about a week, when they went out to inspect their traps, they were intrigued, then puzzled, then infuriated to find them lying on the ground, still set (i.e. not released) and with the steel pegs also lying on top of the ground.

First they considered foul play, then a practical joker, but eventually they discovered the solution. And, dear reader, do you know what it was?

You see, each evening, when they set the traps, laid them carefully on the ground, and hammered in the steel spikes, there had been a thick fog, <u>so</u> thick that they had actually rested the traps ON TOP OF THE FOG, and had hammered the pegs not into the ground, as they'd thought, but only into the fog itself.

During the night, the fog gradually lifted, ever so gently lowering the traps and the pegs onto the ground, where they found them, apparently undisturbed, the next day!

NOW THAT WAS A FOG!

Fogs aren't the only aspect of Australia's crazy weather to have been captured in our bush humour.

We are, as Dorothea Mackellar immortalised in her iconic poem about our Sunburnt Country, "a land of droughts and flooding rains." In the great outback, so legend has it, the crows fly backwards, to keep the dust out of their eyes!

There is, for example, the story of the poor outback cockie (farmer) whose farm had been in constant drought for seven years. One day, a single drop of rain chanced to fall on him and he fainted from sheer shock.

His mates had to throw three buckets of dust over him before he came to!

The extremes of our Aussie weather have also become part of our folklore. I'm reminded of the two farmers, one from the 'high country' around the Snowy Mountains, the other from the outback, 'back o'Bourke', who were having a yarn.

"By cripes," said the high country man. Last winter was so cold that all our whiskers froze, and we had to shave ourselves with dynamite."

"Ah, well," said the bloke from back o'Bourke. "Where I come from, it's the heat, rather than the cold, that worries us a bit. You can tell when we're getting a heat wave. The kangaroos hop by with their tails on fire!"

There was also the story of the circus high diver, who toured around with a carnival travelling through the outback. (The fascinating history of these carnivals and side-shows is a story for another time.)

To add excitement to his act, this bloke learned to dive, from a high platform, into smaller and smaller containers of water: first a swimming pool, then a bathtub, then a barrel, then a bucket of water.

Finally, in an outback town, he drew an enormous audience when he offered, as his pièce de résistance, to dive, from his high platform, into a wet towel.

Unfortunately, in the few minutes between his climbing onto the platform and his dive, the water in the towel evaporated and he was killed!

It really does get hot and dry out there!

Graham Sims



Graham Sims and Geoff George

Members say

Strathfield

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE - OR WERE?

To borrow from the title of a current TV genealogical program on SBS. Of course, this will only apply to a few of us now.

From the earliest days of national education in New South Wales and with very few exceptions, the practice has been to select men (and later women) for the inspectorate who were from amongst the topmost teaching practitioners in the state system.

In the first place, those chosen to be inspectors had to possess teaching skills and experience in school management that generally equated to the requirements for categorising them as teachers with 1A classification.

Also from the beginning, personal qualities of wisdom, character and pedagogical understanding were attributes that had to be of the highest order in those chosen to be inspectors of schools.

In this regard, the ideals set in 1839 by James Kay-Shuttleworth for Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in Great Britain formed the pattern for the colonial inspector. The latter, however, much more so than his British counterpart had to possess good health and considerable stamina to meet the physical demands of his duties in the pioneering days of nineteenth century Australia.

It will be recalled that Kay-Shuttleworth's pupil and New South Wales's first permanent inspector and superintendent of National Schools, William Wilkins, shared his master's concepts of the personal qualities of the ideal school inspector and adapted his procedures and those of his later colleagues to the needs of the Australian geographic and social scene.

It was not until the establishment of high schools was envisaged that the possession of a tertiary academic degree began to have particular significance in the selection of inspectors.

The Public Instruction Act of 1880 had provided for founding institutions of higher secondary learning and with the Act's proclamation the authorities looked forward to opening high schools as soon as possible. There would then be a need for men (women then undoubtedly not being considered) who were qualified to inspect the academic subjects that would be taught in them.

This issue was raised in 1883 by the new chief inspector, Edwin Johnson; at the same time he questioned the wisdom of selecting inspectors only from the field of teachers with 1A qualifications as this posed the danger of draining too many persons of the highest calibre from the schools themselves.

The policy that inspectors should be chosen from the topmost rank of successful headmasters was one that was strongly supported over the years by those who were of that status. They obviously saw such a practice as being in their own interests in opening up to them the possibilities of further promotion and higher salaries.

There was also the generally unpleasing prospect that otherwise junior men would attain seniority and power over them. More altruistically, perhaps the headmasters felt that men with the fullest experience in the system would make more effective inspectors.

Such thoughts were probably in the minds of senior members of the Public School Teachers' Association when a delegation from its executive met Chief Inspector James Dawson, who was acting under-secretary while Peter Board was overseas. In April 1909 they laid before him "certain matters . . . amongst others, the question concerning the appointments of inspectors of schools."

Dawson responded at length to the submissions of the delegation. He said that the selection of inspectors called for a process in which the ordinary rules of promotion by seniority could not apply. If it were otherwise, he argued, it would be extremely unacceptable to all who have the welfare of education at heart.

Pending the advent of an educational millennium, when every teacher will be a law unto himself, the inspector will remain an important factor in our present system of education. Hence the importance of careful selection, and the need for the utmost freedom to the officers who make the selection as they should know best the kind of men wanted.

He went on to point out that the functions of the inspector had lately radically altered. He reminded his listeners that the new conception had been chiefly expressed in the published General Rules of Inspection and these had to be kept in mind when selecting a man for the position.

Some of the main attributes, Dawson said, were:

He must be in touch and in sympathy with modern ideas in education, with the rising public demand for more and fuller education; in his district he must worthily represent this Department as an authority on the various phases of education effort; he must have the ability to set forth in well-chosen language the aims and meaning of education, and through his wider knowledge stimulate the desire for higher forms.

In his school work he must be rather a friendly adviser than a captious critic, less of a master and more of a servant; he must be interested in the great many phases of a school's life to which the past was a stranger. The altered conception almost demands a new name for the office.

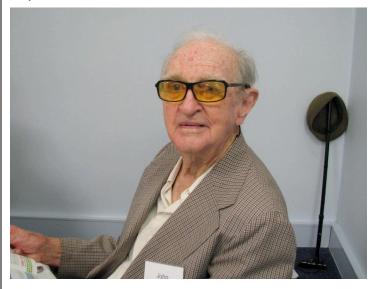
The chief inspector emphasised the qualities of personality and character needed for the position of inspector of schools. Tact was necessary "in dealing with all sorts and conditions of men and women, and in facing difficult situations as they arise."

Some other factors were:

a many-sided culture that did not depend alone on passing examinations, a "thoughtful outlook upon men and events, kindliness of speech, and courtesy of deed."

Dawson observed that "the possession of a First-class certificate of the Department, or the possession of a University degree, is taken for what it is worth. Sometimes study stops abruptly with their acquisition . . . The First-class certificate . . . is only one factor among many to be considered."

Inspectors had also been chosen at times from among those teachers who held but 1B



classification. However, the general rule has persisted in line with the Council of Education's insistence in 1867 that 'practical skill' and knowledge of 'school management' should be 'paramount' considerations in choosing men or women for the inspectorate, whether or not the person was a university graduate.

In prospective inspectors the university qualification was not to assume an equality with managerial experience and teaching ability until well into the twentieth century.

(Adapted from Chapter 11 of my PhD thesis, Inspectors of Schools in the State Education System of New South Wales, 1848-1971.)

John Dugdale

Georges Hall

It's always interesting to read hints about travel in our Newsletter, somewhat along the lines to the Travel Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald. These are generally brief and can be very useful when planning a trip. So...

Last year we included a visit to Russia and Scandinavia in our travels using Trafalgar Tours. The mainly bus tour from Berlin to Warsaw was very well-organized and packed with visits to the main places of interest.

A shorter alternative using the same high quality accommodation is by train to St Petersburg. This also avoids the very lengthy trip through Belarus and the border hassles.

If ending at Warsaw, take the train to Krakow and spend a few days at the old-world Orlowska Townhouse and stay in the very reasonably priced and spacious Boudoir apartment. Hope this is of some use.

Tony Re



Denise Ford and Margaret Hopkins

Members say

Smiths Lake

An article in the 'Australian' of 31/12/10, Business section page15 on the Queensland floods: 'Coal mines inundated' reminded me of my Geology studies in 1951, when the Prof. had us contemplate the effect of shipping overseas the mined coal, iron etc. and how long it could last?

Selling off our resources, leaving less for future generations and the effect on our 'floating crust' re continental drift? Coal mining in Wales had then exhausted the UK reserves for its industry.

The Australian article quoted these flooded Qld mines: Newlands 20mtpa (million tons per annum), Hay Point 44mtpa, Dalrymple Bay 75mtpa; Goonyella 110mtpa, Blackwater 66mtpa, Gladstone 73mtpa and Moura 18mtpa.

This represents a total of 406 million tons per annum being shipped from just these flooded Qld coal mines to Japan, Korea, China and Europe. Remember the even greater tonnage from WA, plus that from NSW & other states.

Teaching chemistry, I remember that one ton of carbon [coal] produces 3.66 tons of carbon dioxide; so we are exporting a huge amount of green house gas.

No wonder China has problems living with its polluted air from our coal driving its industry. These Queensland mines alone, are exporting 1,486 million tons of CO2 per annum.

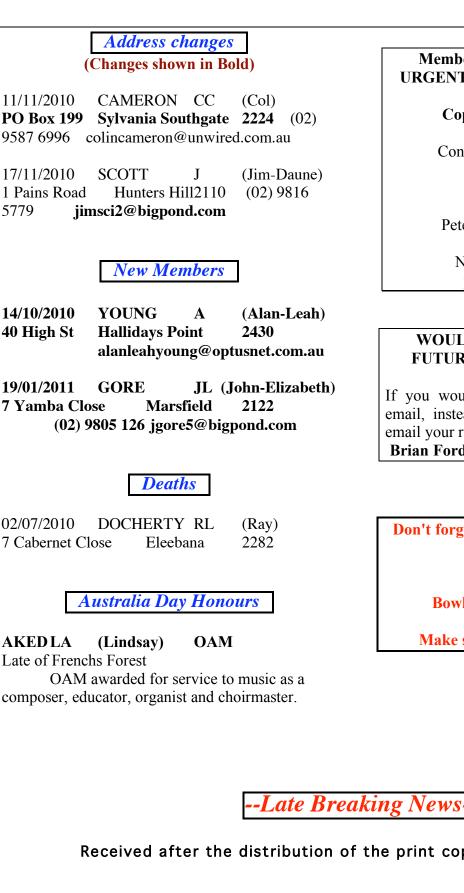
What are WE doing about this?

What I am doing, is writing to people and newspapers, trying to educate the public for a sustainable future for our grandchildren.

Will Robertson



Santa Claus or President George?



Members are reminded that material is **URGENTLY needed for the next Newsletter.**

Copy deadline: 21st March 2011.

Contributions should be directed to: Brian Ford, Secretary, genecom@bigpond.net.au OR Peter Robinson, Newsletter Editor, 3 Corunna Ave,

NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151 peterrobinson7@gmail.com

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL?

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, instead of the posted printed copy, please email your request to:

Brian Ford, Secretary, genecom@bigpond.net.au

Don't forget the first 2011 ARISSEA luncheon.

Friday 6th May 11.30am for 12.00 **Bowlers' Club, 95 York St, Sydney**

Make sure that you put it in your diary

--Late Breaking News--

Received after the distribution of the print copy of this Newsletter.

Friends of Stewart House Activity Dates for FOSH

February 17th Thursday

Visit to the Art Gallery of NSW to see the exhibition of the Terracotta Warriors. Meet at 10.15am in the foyer. Cost is \$25. (\$15 entry & \$10 to Stewart House.

Contact: Barbara Kenny 9986 1718 by Monday February 14.

February 27th Sunday

Castle Hill Players, Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill Showground. The play is '**Breath of Life**' by David Hare. The original production, in London, starred Dame Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. This wry and often humorous moral tale follows 2 women, one a museum curator and one an author. They strive to break free from a life burdened with memories, and take a new breath to make the most of their later lives. Play commences at 4.30pm. Usual eats and drinks afterwards. Cost is \$30. Cheques made out to Shirley Grant. **Contact Shirley Grant 9980 8416** 102A Chapman Ave, Beecroft 2119 by Monday February 21.

March 10th Thursday

Talk by Steven Carruthers, author od 'Japanese Submarine Raiders - 1942. A Maritime Mystery' will present a talk on the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on 31st May 1942. Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. 10.30 for 10.45 start. Cost is \$10. Lunch at own expense. **Contact Margaret Harmer 9744 2625** by Friday March 4.

April 28th Thursday

'The Challenge of Leadership'. The speaker is Professor Ed Davis. To be held at Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club. 10.30 for 11.00 start. Cost is \$10. Lunch at own expense. **Contact Diane Hill 9665 7202 or 0417 170 173** by Monday April 25.
