



November 2013

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

If you wish to attend the next ARISSEA luncheon,
please print this first page,
complete the Booking slip,
include a cheque for your payment and
post to Jack Harrison.

Booking slip

6th December 2013 Meeting

Complete and return with your cheque by 15th November to
J. Harrison, 2 Amalfi Place, Longueville NSW 2066 (phone 9427 5399)

Here is my payment of \$_____ (at \$40.00 per head)

for _____ and me to attend the ARISSEA luncheon
at 11.30am for 12.30pm at the Bowlers' Club, 95 York Street, Sydney on Friday 6th December.

Please provide _____ vegetarian meal(s).

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone No. _____

* Print your surname here. _____

Make your cheque payable to the *Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools* and cross it 'Not negotiable'.
Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after 22nd November.



November 2013

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

From the President



The winter lunchtime meeting always has the smallest attendance and according to Jack's saved statistics we have always managed to register at least 30 or so members to make up a friendly get together in August. This year we had to make adjustments when a bare 21 indicated they would attend but with other late minute apologies the numbers were reduced yet again.

To ensure the meal and room hire were possible we decided to accept the club's offer of a smaller but cheaper room and a different menu for the day. Our other option was to cancel the meeting altogether but had we decided to do that it would have set a bad and unpopular precedent. In spite of this we had a most memorable and informal gathering and enjoyed the normal camaraderie and tales of now and times gone by.

The smaller numbers nevertheless raised an issue that led to some serious discussion at our table. It seems for example that many retired or former CEOs were unaware they could join ARIESSA, including a number who had returned to schools as principals. Tracking down these potential members is not easy and many of you may know that Geoff Walton, Alan Rice and myself hope to arrange a meeting with the Director-General in order to see if the Department can help us in this matter. However, it's also possible that many of our members reading this newsletter know some of these officers who served as CEOs (and above) and have never attended one of our lunches. If you can help us in this way I am

sure we would not have that situation we faced at our August lunch meeting. If you know of anyone who has yet to join please let them know about ARIESSA and pass on their names and contact details to any of our committee members and we will swiftly follow up on your advice.

In relation to our usually well-attended December meetings, I wonder if each of those intending to attend might target another member they know, someone who hasn't been before or perhaps not attended for some time and could you convince them to come with you. In this way we would gather a much larger group and gain greater involvement from our members. This was an excellent suggestion from the discussions that took place at our table and could well solve the problem of lower attendances at future lunch meetings.

The committee is still considering the possibility of a selected speaker at a future special meeting and working on other ways of identifying new members. Another initiative we intend to introduce is to produce an audio version of our newsletter for those members who have vision problems. Bill Grant has offered to record this for us and we are grateful for his assistance. We are aware of a few members with this problem but again if you know of others please let us know.

May I say how grateful I am to the committee who is supporting both you and myself this year. I look forward to seeing you all again in December and wish you continued good health and luck. I also look forward to reading your stories in the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to include the following Position Vacant notice:

An Exciting Adventure for Retired Educators:

Teaching English in Shanghai and Nanjing City, Xinyu in Jiangxi Province, China

An excellent opportunity exists for teachers and retired ARIESSA members who are interested in helping high school students in China to learn English and prepare for their ELTIS Examination. The positions would suit English teachers, retired teachers, ARIESSA members and university graduates who are willing to spend at least 6 months teaching in Shanghai and Nanjing (Jiangsu Province) commencing this February 2014.

Comfortable and modern living conditions are offered free of charge plus free return air travel and a living allowance while working in China. This is a genuine well-managed program that offers a great opportunity to live in China free and make a contribution to the teaching of English to Chinese students. You can find out more by sending an email to:

Ms Julia Zhou at julia958@126.com.

If you are not interested at this stage you may like to pass on this message to any suitable educators you know.

Syd Smith President ARISSEA

From the Committee Meeting, September 30, 2013

Thank you for your advice – it informed our decision making. In the July Newsletter I sought feedback from members about our involvement in the 2014 Stewart House out of School Hours Program Assessment and the value and continuation of our *Union Shopper* affiliation.

Responses to a follow up email were received from 23 members and of these:

1. A majority of the responses about the 2014 SHOOSHP Assessment supported our involvement. Four members indicated that they were prepared to be directly involved in the assessment processes.
2. None of the members who responded had made use of their *Union Shopper* affiliation and there was no support for continuing our affiliation in 2014.

The committee considered these responses and determined that we would notify:

1. the Stewart House Chief Executive Officer, Graeme Philpotts, that ARISSEA would like to offer its support for the implementation of the 2014 Assessment of the Stewart House Out of School Hours Program.
2. *Union Shopper*, that based on responses from members, we will not be continuing our affiliation in 2014.

Membership Officer reported that 173 of our current total membership of 207 are either fully financial or regarded as being financial members of ARISSEA.

The Treasurer's Financial Report indicated a current account balance of \$6,891.12

Other matters: Various members of the committee have volunteered to explore and trial options for producing and distributing an audio version of the *Newsletter*.

From the Membership Officer

Allan Mills

Our present membership is 207 members. Of these, 133 are financial and 34 are unfinancial. The list of unfinancial members is shown on a separate sheet. There are also 40 members who were classified as 'Over 80' when that classification attracted honorary membership.

Financial members	133	64.25%
Unfinancial members	34	16.43%
Over 80 members	40	19.32%

Four of our members have died since the beginning of the year:

Mrs Marlene Sheppard 5/05/2013,

Miss Moira Whiteside 25/05/2013,

Miss Peg Playford 26/05/2013 and

Mr Neil Morrison 18/06/2013.

All membership renewals received to date have been entered and these are reflected in the statistics given above. There were a couple of quandaries arising from lack of information on my part but Richmond has been able to resolve any issues from his resources and to the best of my knowledge the database provides an accurate picture of the state of our association.

I have discussed with Richmond changes that appear to be desirable with the reminder form for renewal of membership. This revolves mainly around the Over 80 members who were left confused by the blank space showing their arrears. The notification form used next year will be more explicit in this area.

From my limited experience with our records it appears that we receive a flurry of feedback after the distribution of each Newsletter. This provides us with valuable information that is used to update and revise our records.

August Lunch



Brian Gillett

Frank thank you for, *A time for recollection and reflection* (*Members say* February 2013). I have taken the liberty of making a contribution.

Members of the Walton family certainly remember Frank Fisher, the teacher at Ainslie Primary School. Frank taught one of my brothers, I think in about 1960. We were born and bred in Canberra; all four of us were students at Ainslie.

Our Dad, John Walton, was appointed as a Manual Training teacher to *The Canberra High School* at the beginning of 1942. He and our Mum, a Domestic Science teacher, met while teaching at Narrandera Intermediate High School in 1940-41. They moved into a rented cottage in Tyson Street Ainslie (the then North-Eastern extremity of Canberra) after they married in August 1942.

In 1946 Dad was allocated a two bedroom, double brick government house in Reid on Anzac Park (then the last street on the Eastern extremity of North Canberra) running from the War Memorial to St Johns Church and then continuing as Scotts Crossing Road over the Molonglo River and into South Canberra. This house was home and the centre for family activities until after our parents' deaths in 1984. Our Dad retired from (the new) Canberra High School at the end of 1976.

My first experience as a recipient of government schooling came in 1947. As a four year old I was provided with a position at the newly established, purpose built, Reid Play Centre, the second government Pre-school in Canberra. In 1962, as trainee teacher, I began attending 'dem lessons' at Sydney primary and secondary schools and I came to realise that growing up in Canberra had provided me with the opportunity to attend the schools that were better maintained, better equipped and more generously resourced.

Over the last fifty years and with the benefit of hindsight I have come to understand that the advantages that growing up in Canberra provided were far greater and longer lasting than these physical 'things'.

It provided me with the opportunity to learn with a group of high school peers that included the daughters and sons of diplomats and foreign embassy staff members, and people whose work has shaped Australia, academics, research scientists, artists, policy makers, future political leaders and journalists. By the mid-1950s my school mates included members of refugee families from countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

A look at my Fifth Year school photographs prompts me to recall family names that include Hope, Titterton, Oliphant, Clarke, Fry, Arndt, Gascoigne, Pringle, Crisp, Pentony, Fingleton, Deeble, and Parker.

August Lunch



Cate Vacchini

Members say

Joy Starnes

The following is attributed to Les Gordon when he was D.I. for some outback schools.

The wife of one of his Teachers in Charge wrote to Les complaining about the quality of the water supplied to the residence. She complained that her children 'came out in a rash' when bathed "in polluted boar water".

Les replied that he would do something about the residence water supply and added that he could understand her concern for the children. He added that most children would 'come out in a rash' when bathed in 'boar' water, polluted or not.

It is a great pity that the D.I. is no more ... (especially one like Les Gordon)

August Lunch



Allan Mills

Members say

KEEPING AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL

Syd Smith

How often have you seen a sign on the entrance to a country town saying, *This is a Tidy Town*? What is a Tidy town you might ask? Well if you asked some of the locals they might say, “Oh you know. We keep our town clean and tidy. The streets are swept regularly. There is no litter. Our gardens are well kept and out verges are mown often and well cared for.”

Others are sometimes a little confused and will tell you that once a year the town takes part in the Cleanup Australia program but this is a different initiative altogether and often frustrates Keep Australia Beautiful NSW who manages the Tidy Towns program.

In fact over the years, Tidy Towns has grown well beyond the concept of tidiness and litter to be one of the most successful non-for profit sustainability projects in the country. Once a year every rural settlement in NSW is invited to share its sustainability programs to Keep Australia Beautiful and to be considered for first a state award and ultimately the big national award, often presided over by the Governor-General.

On my retirement in mid 2004 I was invited by the then state environment minister, Pam Allen to join the board of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. This I did with enthusiasm as programs like Tidy Towns, Clean Beaches and Sustainable Cities (or known as Tidy Towns in

Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong) are the key to communities preparing for their future, ensuring energy needs will be sustainable, waste is managed efficiently and water resources will be secure in the long run.

In essence it means communities being encouraged to take responsibility for their own environments, to be volunteers and make things happen, to build a sense of cooperation and participation in their town and to be proud of their homes and citizens.

One of the most enjoyable events of my year is to be a judge for Tidy Towns and to serve as an educational adviser to KAB's Enviromentor's school visit program. A team of educators book schools to present lessons on waste, energy, recycling and water conservation. Local councils fit the cost and various sponsors cover additional expenses like vehicles and accommodation.

In relation to the Tidy Towns judging, I drive to a country location and observe the great achievements that the locals proudly show me. An escape to the bush is something I look forward to as there is so much to see and the warmth and friendship of country people is something I truly appreciate. Some of the programs are local initiatives developed by youths, others presented by schools, another known as Bush Spirit where a local festival or community event has been planned and others where an historic site has been preserved.



Talking with the Tidy towns Committee at Darby Falls near Cowra

Along with 20 odd other judges who travel the state, I submit our reports where a central panel finally determines who will receive the top awards. There is also an overall award, where the top Tidy Town of the year will be selected and who will host the following award presentations the next year. This town will then compete with the top towns in each of the other states and territories.

Last year Armidale was the winner so in the first weekend of November we will all gather there to recognise and congratulate Armidale on the great work it has done in becoming the most sustainable NSW town for 2013. So next time you drive through a Tidy Town you might see the changes the citizens have brought about and the large amount of energy and time that has gone into it being the place where the community works together and made the place better for a sustainable future. You will certainly see it is more than being tidy and clean.



The cafe road service developed on the site of the old Bethungra Public School
Or maybe you might like to join a Tidy Town Committee and be part of the next program.
As Ghandi said “Be the future you want to see. Be who you want to be and do what you want to do before you die.”

Friends of Stewart House

The following fund raising activities may be of interest to ARISSEA members:

Monday 18th November Lunch at Cellini's, Level 2, Queen Victoria Building. Table booked for 12 o'clock. **Contact:** Diane Hill 9665 7202 - Mob 0407 170 173 by Thursday, Nov.14th

Tuesday 14th January 2014, Annual General Meeting, Masonic Club, within the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169-171 Castlereagh St, City

Maureen Reeve, President F.O.S.H.

August Lunch



Graeme Nicholls

Members say

Mandy Tunica

On being, or not being an Australian citizen.

In early July, I decided to travel to London to visit one of my closest friends whom I have not seen for many years. Foolishly, I had let my passport lapse so I headed to our local post office to obtain a new one. To my surprise, our rather haughty postmistress informed me that she needed me to provide a certificate of Australian citizenship in order that she could complete my application. To acquire such a certificate I would have to apply to the Immigration Department!

That's where the story starts! After speaking to three 'officials' at the said Department, I was given three different opinions but they all agreed that I was not an Australian citizen and would have to fill in numerous forms in order to be considered for citizenship. I was, of course, outraged and said that, although I was born in England in December 1937, I returned to Australia in March 1939 and have lived here ever since.

I told them that both my parents were Australian and my grandparents and great grandparents on both sides were also born in Australia. I hesitated to add that my great, great grandparents migrated from Scotland in the nineteenth century!

I also informed them that I had held four Australian passports, had been educated in Australia, (I omitted to tell them that, when 10 years old, I had spent some months in a

Buddhist boarding school in, what was then Ceylon), worked in Australia all my adult life, had voted in every local, State and Federal election since turning 21 and was a Justice of the Peace.

All this fell on deaf ears. They wanted hard evidence before they would consider that I might be granted citizenship by descent!

My first reaction, apart from utter disbelief, was to say 'damn your eyes'. I'll get a British passport but when I rang the British Consulate, which has a totally automated answering machine I was informed that British passports are no longer issued in Australia and I would have to apply to Wellington, New Zealand!

This all seemed too much so I decided to set about collecting the required evidence – my mother's full birth certificate, my father's full birth certificate (I only met him twice in my life), shipping records etc. (Thank Heavens for the National Archives).

When I was also asked to provide school reports for the years 1945-1949 I replied that I didn't have any. "Oh", they said, "well can you provide a bank account or club membership for those years?" For Heaven's sake I was only a child!

Angry, frustrated and distressed I decided to fill in their wretched form and send them the only "evidence" that I could find. Several weeks later, I received a phone call from a woman at the Immigration Department asking when exactly I was registered as an Australian citizen.

I was sick on the morning that she rang and began to cry. I said, "How on earth would I know – anyone who might know is DEAD!" She went on to ask me was I registered on 26th January 1949. I repeated that I didn't know before she advised me that she would refer my application to an 'expert' in Canberra.

Several weeks later I received a beautiful (lots of wattle and no Queen) citizenship certificate that stated that I had been granted citizenship (you guessed it) on 26th January, 1949! My brand new passport records that I am an Australian citizen and a British subject.

So the long, sorry saga had a happy ending as well as providing much merriment for my family who made humorous suggestions about notifying them if I was sent to Christmas Island or some other detention centre, deported or fined for working without an appropriate visa! My son in law continues to call me a 'whingeing Pom'.

They also noted how easily my French born husband acquired Australian citizenship during the Cold War years even though his mother was, at one time, Secretary of the Communist Party in New Caledonia!

THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS – DON'T LET YOUR PASSPORT LAPSE!

August Lunch



John Allsopp

Members say

Fires, Firemen and Fate (Part 2)

Graham Sims

The Inquest

Given that a young fireman had been killed in the course of his duty, with two colleagues injured, one critically, a coronial inquest was required, and expected by a grieving community.

The City Coroner, Mr Jamieson, opened the Inquest on 7 September, 1922, only two weeks after the fire. The fundamental issue for him was to ascertain, if possible, precisely why the ladder had swayed and broken, causing death to William Brown and injuring his two colleagues. From a reading of available source documents, logic suggests that the fault had to lie either:

- (a) In the ladder itself, or
- (b) In its misuse at the time or
- (c) Some external factor(s) or
- (d) A combination of the above.

The Board of Fire Commissioners appeared keen to affirm that there was no fault or defect in the ladder, that it was the best of its type in the world, that it had been regularly tested and was perfectly safe if used appropriately. The Board's Chief-Officer Jackson suggested that the three firemen "may have been a little bit reckless when running the hose in their hurry to get to work".

He further suggested that attaching guy-ropes “would have prevented the accident”, that the men were instructed to use them on high jobs, but that, on this occasion, the three firemen may have considered the ladder safe without them. A police Constable Teasdale said he thought the ladder began to sway because one fireman, Dwyer, “was running up and down”.

Professor of Engineering, William Warren, of the University of Sydney, examined the ladder and concluded that, when extended as it was, its safe use required the three men on it to be symmetrically distributed along its length, and, it seemed, they were not, with all three close to the nozzle end of the hose, on the fourth extension piece of the ladder.

It also became evident that the hose should have been fastened to at least two points on the ladder before the blast of water pressure was turned on ...and it had not been fastened. These distinctions between the ladder’s theoretical integrity and the way in which it was, in fact, used on the day of the fire, became critical to the Coroner’s task of making an informed finding. On the one hand, the Board of Fire Commissioners could validly claim that the ladder “was chosen with every care,” was “fully fitted for the purpose it was used for”, had been “examined from time to time by experts and found to be in perfect order”.

Indeed, it happened to have been examined on the Wednesday before the fire, “by Fire-Officer Gaudry, who tested every rung”. (It was never alleged that the ladder’s rungs had anything to do with the tragedy.) The inference was that any fault must have lain with the manner in which the ladder was used by the firemen on the fatal day.

The Coroner appeared to confirm this inference when on 6 October, he stated: “I am satisfied that the ladder was in as good order as it was on the day it was bought.” However, Mr A.S. Lloyd, appearing for the dead fireman’s family, stated that the ladder “was not suitable for the work it had been called on to perform”. He also stated: “Instructions given to the three men seemed of a most casual nature”, and “the men seemed to be left to instruct one another”. Mr Marland, for the Fire Brigade Employees, had also claimed that the ladder was not suitable and the men not properly instructed.

On 6 October, 1922, the Coroner indicated that his duty was to go beyond a mere verdict, that he would review all evidence and give his verdict in a week’s time. On Friday, 13 October, 1922, (an ominous date?), the Coroner, in his summation, stated that the ladder had collapsed because it was subjected to an unfair strain. Mr Jamieson concluded that, although the ladder had been in very good condition, and its manufacturers had intimated the extent to which it could be used with safety, the relevant instructions were evidently disregarded by the Board of Fire Commissioners and their staff.

The Board had, said the Coroner, “formed a better opinion of the strength of the ladder than was justified”. Furthermore, he stated, the firemen themselves did not know the (maximum) number of men supposed to be on the ladder, and he referred to Professor Warren’s expert view that the relative positions in which the three men distributed themselves on the ladder, with an unfastened hose, were potentially dangerous. However, said the Coroner, in the stress of fire-fighting, men could not be expected to take up meticulously symmetrical positions. The reason for the collapse was that the ladder had

been subjected to an unfair strain, causing it to break, and thereby causing the fall, to his death, of Fireman William Brown. Mr Jamieson recommended that the Board of Fire Commissioners have other ladders tested “at an early date”.

With the passage of nearly 90 years, and living as we do in a technologically sophisticated society, with Occupational Health and Safety legislation, computer modelling and stress testing of dangerous machinery and apparatus, industrial protection for workers and their families, it would be easy, but quite unfair (the very word used by Coroner Jamieson) to judge the tragic events of 27 August, 1922, by today’s standards and expectations.

There was a city fire, fire brigade officers responded to it, using the best techniques and resources available to them at the time. A long, heavy ladder, being used effectively for a time, twisted and then broke. A young fireman was killed and his two mates injured. And, with hindsight, the tragedy might well have been avoidable. However, with all of today’s modern equipment, knowledge and techniques, it is salutary to remember that fire-officers, both professional and volunteers, are still injured, or even killed, in the course of their duties, which still involve risk and danger, in the protection of public life and property. Three of my colleagues were so killed in the Blue Mountains in 1968.

Fireman William Brown would, I am sure, believe that the lives of his fellow officers, 86 years on, are just as much to be valued as his own.

August Lunch



John Edwards

Norm Robinson

During June, Bernice & I did a Trafalgar 12-day tour of Germany. Because of my military background, we were particularly interested in visiting cities and places associated with the Nazi era and World War 2. Consequently we visited Frankfurt, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Nuremberg, and Munich.

With Munich as our base, we also did optional tours of the Dachau Concentration Camp remains and the Kehlsteinhaus or *Eagle's Nest*. The Kehlsteinhaus, a chalet-style structure, was built by the Nazis as an extension of the Obersalzberg complex erected in the Bavarian Alps above Berchtesgaden.

The Kehlsteinhaus was built in the 1930's on a mountain peak, 1834 metres above sea level and involved tunnelling 200 m horizontally into solid granite, then 406 feet vertically for a lift to the actual building - brilliant engineering. The Kehlsteinhaus cost RM 30 million (150 million Euros) and was the Nazi Party's 50th Birthday present to Hitler on April 20 1939.

We were told Hitler didn't particularly like going up to the Kehlsteinhaus and only visited it about a dozen times. However, it was used frequently by Eva Braun and her sister, as Eva actually had her own room in the Kehlsteinhaus.

The Kehlsteinhaus was captured by the Americans in April 1945. They named it the *Eagle's Nest* and would not allow it to be destroyed like Hitler's home, the *Berghof*, situated about 2,000 feet lower down in the Obersalzberg.



The *Berghof* and other Nazi homes in the Obersalzberg were bombed and demolished by the Allies in 1945 and replaced by the present day pine forest. Our local guide took me

into this forest and showed me where the *Berghof* was located. All that remains, are overgrown concrete slabs and metal aeration ducts from the bunkers.

From the Kehlsteinhaus or *Eagle's Nest* we had spectacular views into Germany on one side and into Austria on the other. Our visit to the Kehlsteinhaus or *Eagle's Nest* was certainly the highlight of our tour of Germany.

How do we now occupy our time since leaving, after 26 years, our 2.5 hectare house, garden and large home orchard of 58 trees at Dunoon, and settling in Lismore? Bernice continues with her very nice but smaller flower garden. I continue to be very actively involved with my Rotary Club of Lismore West. This being my 40th year as a Rotarian.

Apart from our church, we are also members of Probus and participate in their many social activities. I attend local meetings and activities of the National Servicemen's Association and the 41st Battalion Association, having served for many years as a MMG officer with the 41st Bn after completing my National Service in the 1950's.

I am heavily involved with the City of Lismore RSL Sub-Branch, serving as their Welfare Officer for the four Aged Care facilities in Lismore, visiting veterans. As a qualified RSL Tribute officer, I participate at the funerals of veterans when called upon - sadly rather frequently these days.

Bernice & I like to travel but these days no longer do extensive trips by car, preferring train and plane. Last year we did a most enjoyable 'train and plane' trip around Australia, which included both the Indian Pacific and the Ghan trains as well as other trains. Finally, kind regards and best wishes to all.

August Lunch



Jeannette Manyweathers

Peter Robinson

The following message was recently broadcast on email to all Stewart House staff and supporters.

On 26/07/2013, 11:37 AM, Graeme Philpotts wrote:

Last evening Gayle and I attended the 6th Annual Life Education Gold Harold Awards at the Sofitel along with 500 or so other guests. Stewart House had been nominated as a finalist for one of the awards that I perceived before the event to be no big deal. I was wrong!

I twigged when we rubbed shoulders with Dick Smith, John Symmonds, Jack Thompson, John Williamson, the young guy that won this year's The Voice etc etc.

Long story short. WE WON!!!!!!

The Australian and NSW CEOs of Life Education also disclosed separately after the ceremony that we won hands down - a unanimous landslide from all the judges - who are not lightweights!!!

I guess you all know how important the work we do is and are reminded every day of the great needs we address. We often measure our success by how much money we make (don't get me wrong this is important for without it we couldn't do what is required for our kids). But, to have Stewart House receive public accolade at such a prestigious event really is icing on the cake and a feather in all our caps.

You all should feel very proud of what we have achieved and your contributions towards this Australia-wide recognition.

CONGRATULATIONS

August Lunch



Jack McLean and Doreen Smith

Members say

Joan Healey

I recently came across the following item published in the Bathurst Free Press and Mining Advocate of June 1 1861.

In writing about the proposed National school it was reported: “ the subscriptions for this object get on but slowly, I wish I could rouse the townsfolk to a sense of their duty on this point, as the building in which our school is conducted is a wretched affair, without even the proper furniture for school purposes.

I am sorry to observe a laxity amongst the parents of the town, as numbers of boys and girls are seen daily all about the streets, rejoicing more in being able to crack a whip or fire a gun than in reading or writing, nor is it because the parents can't afford to keep then at school, I believe there is not one family that can plead this excuse, without exception they could were they so inclined, but alas for education the will is not there....

In Cowra it would appear that the children are so naturally intellectual that they hardly require any education at all to fit them for after life duties, in fact, most of them are born geniuses (at least so their doting parents think) and this I suppose is the reason that they give them so little schooling and less learning.”

August Lunch



Alan Laughlin

Members say

Joy Starnes

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said: "Let me see if I've got this right.

You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behaviour, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages and instil in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self-esteem and personal pride.

You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a chequebook, and apply for a job. You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behaviour, and ensure that they all pass their final exams.

You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

You want me to do all this, and then you tell me.....

I CAN'T PRAY or wear a little cross or say 'Happy Christmas' because someone might take offence?

August Lunch



Ian Vacchini

Members say

Syd Smith

THANK YOU JOHN DUGDALE OAM

For over 18 years Dr John Dugdale was the loyal convenor of ARISSEA's Welfare Subcommittee, a job he did with efficiency, sensitivity and great care. It is with regret that we announce that John is moving on to a retirement home on the Central Coast and is unable to attend our luncheon meetings in the future.

However, John's departure will not go without a sincere note of our appreciation for the contribution that he made to, not only ARISSEA but the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and, of course, Australian education as a whole.

John began his career in education at the age of 21. "I was working, not too happily, as a clerk, when I saw an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald for applications for a scholarship at the Sydney Teachers College," he recalls.

His first appointment was Tallebung Public School in central NSW, a one-teacher school with fourteen students. "It was an exciting time", he said. "I had finally found my calling".

John later took up a position as Assistant Lecturer in Child Welfare at Sydney Teachers' College after an RAAF posting in New Guinea during the war.

In September 1953 he was appointed to the Inspectorate, a position he held until his retirement in 1978. His research into the inspectorate's history and the compilation of a list of all those who have served in the position are now with our current secretary and a valuable archive for the association.

However, it is John's long support for the association for which most of us will remember him. John attended his first meeting of the Association of Ex-Inspectors of Schools in May 1979 and was soon elected as Hon Secretary in April 1982, a position he held for eleven years.

In 1992 he was elected vice president followed by president the following year. From 1993 to May 2013 most of us will remember him as our convenor of the Welfare Subcommittee.

Many of us may not realise that John had another passion. "I was instantly attracted to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children because of my belief in the importance of teaching. I feel teaching is an art.

I also knew at the time that I was going to have difficulties down the track with my own vision, and in fact now I'm legally blind. So there were two strong connections really"

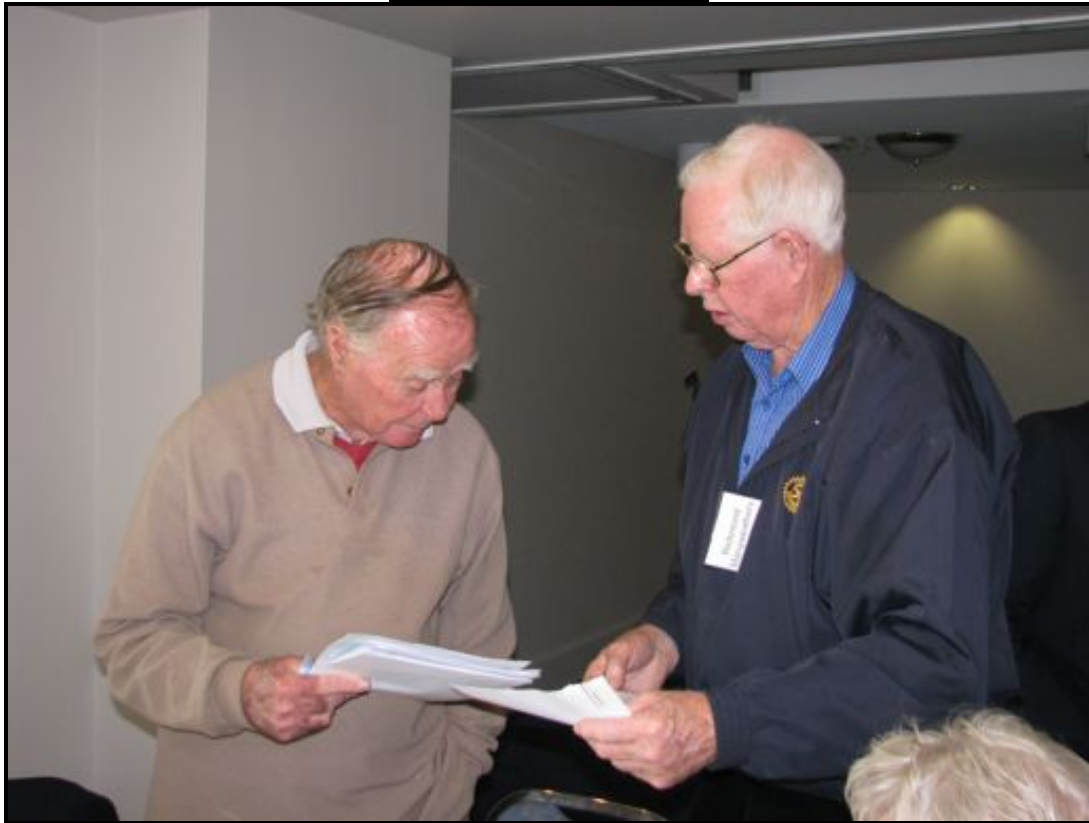
John began donating to RIDBC each year and has decided to leave a bequest to RIDBC in his will. "I felt that I should be giving back to the community and RIDBC was an organization that I should be supporting," said John. But John Dugdale has many other achievements that he can look back on as a man who has led a useful, successful and impressive life. He is a Fullbright Scholar, received an Order of Australia (OAM) in 2005 for his commitment to veterans and in 1992 completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

We know John will remain busy in his new life in the Hunter and Central Coast. He still appreciates staying connected to RIDBC, enjoys visiting students during tours of RIDBC and attending the annual Hunter Braille luncheon, which is arranged to thank those who have decided to leave a bequest to RIDBC.

We wish John a fulfilling and enjoyable time in his new life north of the Hawkesbury and hope he will make regular contributions to the newsletter. We respect the wealth of knowledge he still has to share with us and are keen for him to maintain a strong connection with us in the years to come.

John, we will miss you at our meetings, we salute you for your contributions and we honour you as one of our most esteemed members. Bon chance, take care and don't forget us.

August Lunch



Jack Harrison and Richmond Manyweathers at work

August Lunch



Jack Baseley

August Lunch



Barry Higgins

Members say

VALE NEIL MORRISON

Ian Vacchini

Many will remember Neil Morrison of the English/History Panel, the Inspector of Schools who became a successful barrister. Neil was born in Scotland and was always proud of his Scottish background.

He went to school in Edinburgh, moved to Bolton, England at age 9 when his mother died and, after a sad life there, willingly went to Australia at age 12 where he was placed at Fairbridge farm, Molong. There he became an unpaid farm worker, suffered bullying (the Scottish accent didn't help) and attended Molong Central School.

Although he topped the year at the Intermediate, a different pupil was sent on to Orange High School for Fourth and Fifth years because a 'farm' boy was apparently not appropriate. Instead, he moved on to a farm job and later came to Sydney and obtained a job as copy boy at the Daily Telegraph.

He joined the Army on the 5 August 1944 and was later stationed in Japan for four years with the British Occupation Force after the war. He then became a teacher at the school for Army dependents in Japan during his fourth year there.

On his return to Australia, he achieved his teaching diploma and moved onto university, married Pat and eventually they had three children. After teaching - especially Berkeley

High with involvement in drama, swimming and soccer, Neil was appointed as an inspector on the English and History Panel and served as ASI Central Met.

At one stage he was sent back to the U.K. to recruit teachers in England, while there meeting up with his uncle, Lord Dunrossil, who later became Governor-General in Australia.

Neil later worked in Industrial Relations and the Policy Support Unit both of which he “thoroughly enjoyed” and with the N.S.W. Minister of Education, Paul Lander, who, as the story goes, hounded him so much that Neil finished a Law degree and left the Department of Education.

He joined the Bar Association and pursued a successful career as a barrister. Throughout his life he had a great love of poetry and music, including singing. He enjoyed a stint as Deputy President of the Arts Council and his involvement in an Arts in Schools committee.

Neil’s penchant for poetry gave me great delight when I moved from the Policy Support Unit to the Board of Studies and he composed an extensive poem entitled, The Passing of Ian, in the form of a Middle English Epic.

Like all of his colleagues I appreciated Neil’s wit, sharp mind, knowledge and above all, his friendship.

One can listen to a three-hour interview with Neil Morrison about his life and career. This was recorded by the National Library in 2011 and is freely available on [www.http/nla.gov.au/nla.oh-vn5720307](http://www.nla.gov.au/nla.oh-vn5720307)

Chick Carey, however, knew him better than I did, and he has contributed the following Memories of Morrison to our tribute to Neil.

MEMORIES OF MORRISON

Chick Carey

Clive James cannot lay sole claim to “Unreliable Memoirs”. Most of my memories of Neil Morrison are clouded by two circumstances:-

First: the incidents ‘remembered’ occurred along time ago - 40+ years, and second: they were incidents that often occurred after dinner during a Panel Inspection in a country town, and many of you will remember what that entailed. With those caveats I recall many, but recount three:-

MEMORY 1. The secondary panel had completed its Full School Inspection at Armidale H.S. The train back to Sydney was due later in the evening, so the Panel retired to the local, to join the teachers who were either celebrating or drowning their sorrows.

Neil reminded me that we were sharing a Sleeper for the return journey and that to ensure that we didn’t suffer from the ravages of thirst on the way back he would bring supplies. In any case we could become thirsty while we talked. This I recognized as Morrison Code for ‘I have things I want to say to you’. And he did!

He said, or sang or recited them from Armidale to Hornsby. It was probable that 'Dan Hauser' (?) featured, as it seemed to be one of his favourites, but there were many other party pieces along with extempore compositions that filled the time, so that I arrived at Hornsby, sleepless, exhausted, but greatly entertained and with a memory, however clouded, that puts that trip amongst 'The World's Great Train Journeys'.

MEMORY 2. Why would the Secondary Panel have left the comfort of their motel to subject themselves to the vicissitudes of night-time street walking in Bundanoon? The answer of course was 'THE MORRISON FACTOR'.

Not content to leave his colleagues to rest after a stressful day of inspection, Neil thought it would be more interesting and beneficial for us to explore the GLOW WORM CAVE. He seemed to be blissfully unaware that most of the group was already glowing more brightly than any conclave of worms could possibly manage.

So we stumbled through the streets, along a bush track, to the caves. Here we were informed by a Council Notice that the worms could only be viewed in normal office hours.

Clearly that did not apply to our group so, like Kim, 'in defiance of Municipal orders' we entered the Cave, viewed the worms, remarked on their luminescence and returned, better servants of the Crown, more convinced than ever of Neil's leadership abilities and grateful to have made it unscathed to our warm motel rooms, safe from all forms of Coleoptera.

MEMORY 3. MORRISON was confronted with a problem. What to do with a Secondary Panel, slated to spend a week in Crookwell for a Full School Inspection? Aided by his extensive studies in Australian History he realized that the answer lay just a few kilometres along the track; TUENA of course.

A night in this historic hostelry would live forever in their memories and perhaps be good for their Immortal Souls. And so the Morrison Motion was put, and, disregarding the nay-sayers we were Tuena-bound. And this is what we found:

The Hotel was established in 1866 and is the oldest wattle-and-daub hotel in the country and well worth a visit. Gold was found in Tuena in 1851 and at its height, the population was over 10,000, but by 1869 the gold petered out and the population was less than 100.

Today the town survives with a few historic buildings on a dirt road about halfway between Bathurst and Goulburn. Not all Panel Members were convinced that a night in wattle and daub was what was wanted - but that is another story.

VALE. NEIL MORRISON

YOU WERE YOUR OWN MAN, AND WHAT A GREAT CREATION THAT WAS,
AND YOU SHARED YOUR JOY OF LIFE WITH COUNTLESS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.
IT WAS A PRIVILEGE AND A DELIGHT TO HAVE KNOWN YOU.

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE

Address changes

(Changes shown in Bold)

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 15 Leverton Close, St Ives 2075
9449 8841 bjarman9@optusnet.com.au

Deaths

18/06/13 MORRISON NR (Neil)
 37/6 Hale Road, Mosman 2080

Members are reminded that material is needed for the **February 2014 Newsletter**
Accompanying photos are most welcome, preferably as JPG email attachments.

Copy deadline: 14th January 2014

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