



July 2014

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrator

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

1st August 2014 Meeting

Complete and return with your cheque by 11th July 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, 99 York Street, Sydney on Friday 1st August.

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 18th July.



July 2014

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

From the President



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President for 2014/15. The Annual General Meeting in May elected an enthusiastic and capable Executive Committee that has started work on a number of projects for this year. We are continuing to pursue ARISSEA's broad agenda with some actions that will help to sustain the Association as a respected and vital part of the fabric of public education in NSW.

ARISSEA offers continuity of interest and collegiality to the people who have held senior positions in public education. Our key role is in preserving friendships and a sense of identity amongst the senior people who committed their professional lives to the Department. While we are separate organisations, ARISSEA has a natural affinity with the Institute of Senior Educational Administrators.

In many ways, our members are the guardians of the history and culture of the Institute. I commend to you the ISEA's History Project and the opportunities for you to participate in it.

Your Executive has been discussing ways to engage with a greater proportion of senior officers as they retire from the Department. Most of us were Institute members when we were employees; this is not always the case with current senior officers. The ISEA has offered assistance in identifying potential ARISSEA members. We are proposing a meeting with the Department to examine ways in which we can work together to our mutual benefit.

Personal recommendation is the best way to encourage retired officers to join ARISSEA. One idea is to provide everyone with a list of members' names so you could look to the gaps and suggest people we could invite to join us.

This newsletter is our main and most effective instrument of mass communication with our members. The emailed version goes to about 30% of our members. Please let Peter Robinson know if you can switch from hard to electronic copy. We are also pursuing the idea of an audio version of the newsletters for members with seeing/reading difficulties.

The three luncheon meetings a year are valued by the 15% of members who attend. For the 1 August lunch meeting, we are inviting a guest speaker to talk briefly on trends in public school education – please support this event if you are possibly able to do so.

New technologies in communicating are almost a cliché. ARISSEA has not yet ventured into social media. However, your email addresses are useful for more rapid distribution of notices. Could an ARISSEA website be of benefit to our current and future members? Could we offer more services appropriate to those of us living productive and lengthening lives in retirement?

I was an Inspector of Schools when the Inspectorate was abolished 24 years ago. Since then there have been further profound changes in the structure and culture of public education. Members will be watching the playing out of the new Commonwealth education budget and announcements about COAG, the National Curriculum and relative responsibilities of the States and Commonwealth for schools.

For NSW, the Internet has resources that will give you an insight to the current changes in the Department. Key websites include the new Public Service Commission <http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au> and those of the Department. Departmental resources feature a detailed organisation chart and an explanation of reforms to public schools in <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au> and <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au>.

ARISSEA has strengths in wisdom and experience, our members look both forward and back. Developments in the pre-retirement milieu might have impacts on the organisation and we may wish to consider expanding our vision of ARISSEA's purposes. We are equipped to have this discussion and should do so over the next few years.

Ray Gillies

61st Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held at **99 on York** Conference and Function Centre on May 2, 2014. President Syd Smith opened the meeting at 1.30pm. Thirty members and partners were in attendance and thirteen apologies were received.

The minutes of the previous AGM, as published in the July 2013 Newsletter were accepted on a motion moved by Bill Grant and seconded by Allan Mills.

Reports:

In speaking to his report President Syd Smith reminded members that when he accepted the president's role in May 2013 he had two objectives in mind, the first was to seek the co-operation of the Director-General in identifying potential ARISSEA members, namely the CEOs and other Senior Educational Administrators who had recently retired or were about to retire.

The second was to investigate the viability of organising a lunch time meeting that would be addressed by an appropriate guest speaker.

He also raised the possibility of ARISSEA making submissions in response to invitation to comment on issues related to schooling and school education policy. (The full text of Syd's report was published in the April 2014 edition of the Newsletter.)

In acknowledging the work of committee members over the past year, Syd welcomed the incoming President Ray Gillies.

Reports, published in this Newsletter were received from the Secretary, Membership Officer and Treasurer.

In speaking to his report Secretary, Geoff Walton thanked members for the assistance they have continued to provide by passing on information relating to the welfare of members.

Election of 2014/15 Executive and Committee

The meeting appointed Joan Healy to act as returning officer for the election to fill the 2014-2014 executive and committee positions. The election results are listed below.

Designated Role / Position	Elected 2014
President	Ray Gillies
Immediate Past President	Syd Smith
Vice President	Chris Carroll
Secretary	Geoff Walton
Treasurer	Richmond Manyweathers
Newsletter Editor	Peter Robinson
Membership Officer	Allan Mills
Luncheon Coordinator	Jack Harrison
Welfare Coordinator	Vacant
Stewart House Contact	Joan Healy
Committee member	Laurie Craddock
Committee member	Vincent Delany
Committee member	George Green
Committee member	Alan Pratt
Committee member	Alan Rice

In closing the meeting, incoming President, Ray Gillies, spoke of the significance that membership of the Association has had for him since he retired as a Chief Education Officer.

Meeting closed at 2.00pm

Secretary's Report

Activities during 2013-2014 include:

Luncheon Meetings: Over the last twelve months Jack Harrison coordinated our regular meetings in August and December 2013 and today's meeting in May 2014. The catering costs for these meetings have been established and maintained on the basis that a minimum of 30 members, partners and guests will be attending.

Specifically, if we guarantee that at least 30 meals will be served there is no additional charge for the hire of the venue. In the last year we were able to meet the minimum attendance numbers for our December and May meetings. Fewer people attended our meeting in August 2013 and Jack and President Syd Smith moved swiftly to negotiate a menu change, thereby obviating the need to cancel the meeting.

The continuing support given by Cate and Ian Vacchini has ensured that we have accurate meeting attendance records and we all have a name tag.

Newsletters: The production of four Newsletters during the year kept Editor, Peter Robinson busy. The work that he undertakes on our behalf includes canvassing for articles, formatting and preparing the print-ready master copy and two versions of each newsletter that are distributed electronically.

Peter and Wendy fold and then 'squash' the printed copies of newsletters ready for packing and mailing to members. The March 2014 newsletter was mailed to 144 members, 38 widows and widowers and emailed to 59 members.

Committee Meetings: Executive and committee members met on May 27, 2013, September 30, 2013 and March 3, 2014. These meetings were held in rooms at *99 on York*. The costs incurred in moving meetings to a more easily accessible (by public transport) central location are detailed in the Treasurer's Report.

In addition to the regular business issues the executive has:

Terminated our affiliation with Union Shopper;

Notified the Chief Executive, Stewart House that members will be supporting the 2014 Out-of-School-Hours Program Assessment (October 2014);

Agreed to provide 'in kind' support for the History Research Project that has been commissioned by the Institute of Senior Educational Administrators to mark the centenary of the ISEA, previously the Institute of Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators and prior to that The Institute of Inspectors of Schools. Alan Pratt is our nominee on the steering committee for the project. Copies of his progress report are on tables today.

Membership: Last year Allan Mills accepted the position of Membership Officer and since then has maintained the membership data base and provided regular membership reports at Executive Meetings. His collaboration with Treasurer, Richmond Manyweathers has ensured the successful completion of the processes involved in renewing memberships for 2014.

Welfare: The 2013 AGM accepted John Dugdale's resignation as welfare officer and since then I have taken on the tasks associated with communicating with members and their families. I have been well supported by a number of members who have prompted timely action and contributed relevant information.

Geoff Walton, Secretary
April 30, 2014

Membership Officer's Report

In the early part of this year my computer was disrupted by something I can only assume was a virus of some sort as it evaded the antivirus software and eliminated about 45 members. I have not identified the cause of the problem but I have cleaned the files with malware detectors and restored the membership file from archives.

I hope I have eliminated the problems but time will tell. I am not writing this to seek your sympathy or even your derision but to point out that there may be some errors still undetected and I would be grateful if you advise me if you detect any such.

Our present membership is 203 members. Of these, 44 are ladies and 159 are gentlemen.

Eight of our members have died since the beginning of 2013. Marlene Sheppard
(5/5/2013),

Moirá Whiteside (25/5/2013),
Peggy Playford (26/5/2013),
Neil Morrison (18/6/2013),
Keith Wilson (19/10/2013),
John Dugdale (20/11/2013),
Phil Bolte (26/11/2013),
Warren Newman (5/12/2013).

The membership renewal forms were sent out with the invitation to this meeting and many have been returned. These were prepared for distribution after the disruption of our records and while I think they are accurate I would be more than grateful for any information if you find any problems.

Allan Mills, Membership Officer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report 2013/2014 Income and Expenditure, Year to 31 March, 2014

Balance b/f	5,552.13	Lunches	4,042.50
Subscriptions	3,190.00	Newsletter	1,235.55
Stewart Hse	3,065.00	Refnd Lunch	40.00
Lunches	4,280.50	Stewart Hse	3,180.00
Interest	269.80	Other Nb 2,3	1,626.32
Other Nb 1,2	1,154.33		
Total	17,511.26	Total	10,124.37

Balance Carried forward 2014/15 \$7,386.89

Lunches' 13	Banked \$4,240.00	Payments \$4,042.50	Surplus \$197.50
May 10	\$1,320.00	\$1,270.50	\$49.50
August 10	\$800.00	\$770.00	\$30.00
December 10	\$2,120.00	\$2,002.00	\$118.00

Stewart House support for the 2013/2014 year

Luncheon profit (surplus)	\$197.50
Individual member donations (balance of 2013/14 contributions)	\$1,185.00
Association Contribution	\$117.50
Total: (Recommended payment*)	\$1,500.00

+ 1,880.00 from member donations in subs to May AGM already forwarded:

Total support 2013/14 = \$3,380.00
(Last year we provided \$3,325.00)

Note 1: \$17.50 welfare funds returned by John Dugdale.

Note 2: Two long standing small Term Deposits (\$1,136.83) redeemed and funds placed in our major interest bearing TD.

Note 3: Payment for room hire for executive meetings, \$489.50 and cash book adjustment of \$50.

Recommendations:

1. That Stewart House Contributions be forwarded forthwith.
2. That membership subscriptions remain at \$15.00 p.a.
3. That \$2,000 be added to the major Term Deposit when it next matures.

Richmond Manyweathers, Treasurer 7 April 2014

The meeting endorsed the recommendations.

Subsequently, in answer to a request from members, the Treasurer provided the following additional information about the term deposits. "You may recall the drama we had when we closed, earlier in the financial year, two small long standing term deposits paying virtually no interest. These two deposits (\$600 each) were added to the larger TD (\$10,000) opened a couple of years ago and which is paying a more respectable interest (4.4%). We still have another small TD (\$1,200) which pays 2.7%. In addition we average about \$0.10 per month on our 'interest' bearing cheque account. RM.

May Lunch



Bill and Shirley Grant

David Maher

As one ages, the urge to read what others write rather than to contribute becomes apparent. Peter's exhortation has awakened me from my lethargy and spawned these responses to each of his questions.

Peter has asked: "What Have You Been Doing?"

Travel has been limited since Anne's illness but we did enjoy two days at the Australian Tennis Open in January last year and another sojourn in Tasmania in April with APT. Australians are so fortunate to have this gem of the south State in a climatic and ecological zone so different from the one where we live. MONA is a marvellous new addition to its repertoire of tourist attractions and sites.

Next January, we shall again have time at the Australian Open. I am also contemplating joining a Canning Stock Route tour with Outback Spirit in 2015 and am in the process of recruiting companions because Anne would not be wise to participate in such remote country.

Principally, I have been reading; undertaking a range of gardening activities; being attentive, obedient and respectful to Anne; and patting myself on the back for learning to use the dishwasher and the washing machine and for learning that Anne prefers small pegs when we are together hanging out the washing. Life took on new dimensions for me after Anne's illness.

Anne is well. Her rehabilitation has been assisted by a very caring and capable cardiologist who even took time recently one Sunday afternoon to 'phone and to discuss the results of her latest set of tests. She continues to quilt with a very sociable group of ladies and enjoys her David free afternoon each Thursday.

As I approach my eighty-third birthday, I am most grateful for the interest and the skills of my neuro-surgeon and physiotherapist. My troublesome back no longer gives me pain and hence I am more comfortable physically than I have been for fifty plus years.

My physiotherapist is about to move to Sydney. Should you have a requirement for the services of an outstanding therapist, do let me know and I shall provide her contact details. My neuro-surgeon is an ex Oxley High School student whose Sydney base is Westmead Hospital.

Each year since I retired twenty-five years ago, I have averaged reading about thirty-five books. War histories have had special interest and in that category I have just finished Ian Kershaw's "Ten Significant Decisions that Shaped the War".

Autobiographies and biographies have been of special interest. Tamworth's relatively new library is very comfortable, reasonably equipped and now staffed generally by very helpful young ladies. The interlibrary loan service that I use regularly is speedy and economic.

My gardening interests have ensured that I have been active mentally, socially, physically and culturally. My catalogue of activities includes an ABC role on Saturday mornings; a weekly broadcast on 2UFM; a talk each month at the Tamworth Cottage Garden Club, of which I was awarded Life Membership last November – the first male Life Member; judging at District Shows – tomorrow I shall be judging at Uralla District Show and writing for the Garden Clubs of Australia.

As a Selector for the Open Gardens Australia, I attempt to identify suitable gardens in the district and the region; writing for newspapers and the Association of Independent Retirees' Newsletter; and assisting people throughout the region, in the streets of Tamworth and in doctors' surgeries with their gardening challenges by answering their questions and providing them with articles from my library.

Along with an ex-Nevertire teacher, I am organizing a re-union for the 4th to 6th April of the teachers who started teaching at Nevertire and Warren Schools in 1964. Sadly, six are deceased and so too are our District Inspectors, Gus Bain and Bill Nay. A souvenir booklet of stories, events, reflections and achievements is being produced.

In my lifetime of driving for fifty-five years, I have owned seven cars. This new computer is our fifth since 1995. Computers seem to be almost transient mechanisms. Incidentally, the late Warren Newman owned thirty cars.

I miss Warren greatly. Often he would come to our home for afternoon tea or coffee and lamingtons on Thursdays while Anne was at quilting. Here we would dissect today's educational issues and reflect upon the working relationship that the North West Region enjoyed with Armidale's tertiary institutions. I was bemused, therefore, to read recently that Mr Piccoli was advocating closer relationships between schools and teacher training institutions.

Sadly, too, Peter, I have been attending funerals, ten in fact since the end of November. Last Tuesday, it was Joan Wasson's where daughter, Gay Walton, and the three sons, Lindsay, David and Douglas, provided faithful memories of their special Mum.

It was a telling walk through the life of a devoted and modest wife and a caring and inspirational mother. Joan will be remembered kindly and affectionately by many members of ARISSEA for her warm and generous hospitality. The Wasson family will never be far removed from Anne's and my thoughts.

Recently, I had some memorabilia framed of my life in the Department of Education. Several of you feature prominently in the photos. Also there is a card that Merv Wasson arranged to be placed on my office desk on the 3rd February, 1982, my first day as Regional Director. The notation read: "Good luck, David. On your side, as always".

Peter has asked: “What Have I been Thinking?”

Well Peter and members, I have been thinking often about the decline in the number of students in regional secondary schools who are represented annually in the top HSC rankings. This statement is based solely on my observations drawn from the results published in the S.M.H. Others to whom I have spoken share my concerns.

The topic featured in a coffee chat that I had recently with the retired Regional Director of Catholic Education. In the past two years at least there have been large regional high schools that have been represented in the top tier by one or two students or none at all. In respect of this region's schools, I can recall when there was a generous representation. Private Secondary Schools are generously represented in the top awards and they are publicising their achievements. I do not intend to offer reasons for the decline.

Essentially, it should be the task of an enquiry into the performances of this State's regional secondary schools. The Director-General and the Minister should be aware of the decline in top academic performances and should be responding accordingly. If Temora High School can gain a significant representation in the top tiers, then why are so many of our larger secondary schools not producing students with top marks? Perhaps the expenditure of some Gonski money could be negotiated to establish an enquiry.

Richmond Manyweathers will remember the H.S.C. results of the mid-1980's when Warialda High School had about five students in the top tier. Sadly, it has not been listed in recent years.

I have also been thinking that the media needs to adopt a new focus in regard to its headlines. Rapes, stabbings, drug trafficking, murders, shootings, the indiscretions of footballers etc seem to dominate the headlines while acts of bravery, productive initiatives, and the achievements of scientists, teachers, the medical professionals and individuals in a range of vocational endeavours are either ignored or relegated to the tail end of broadcasts or the newspapers.

I have been thinking, too, Peter, of the worth of the photos in the Newsletter, because they enable members to reflect on the linkages that we shared, the work that we accomplished together, the socializing that we enjoyed and the personal and professional support that we extended to each other. The Newsletter assists to sustain the family of educators who strove to make Public Education the focus of many families and communities no matter where they were located in the State.

I did note the reclining hair lines among some of the men and, assuredly, I noted with satisfaction the broad smiles and that physical mannerisms have not been discarded. For a fleeting moment, I barely recognised Terry Burke. I thought that he must have had ice cream for dessert and had not removed the remnants of that delightful product from his top lip. A closer examination revealed that he has grown an Omo moustache.

Well, Peter, I do hope that I have answered your questions even though navigating this new computer has tormented and frustrated me enormously in the process. My very best wishes to all members and thank you to the Committee for sustaining our professional heritage.

May Lunch



Alan Rice

Friends of Stewart House

Monday 14th July Lunch at Doyle's Restaurant at Circular Quay (Northern end of overseas terminal). Meet inside at 12.15 for 12.30 start. Cost is \$40 which includes a small donation to Stewart House. **Contact:** Barbara Kenny Ph 9986 1718 by Tuesday 8th July.

Friday 22nd August Patricia Skehan from the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society will discuss why the Elgin Marbles were removed from the Parthenon. Meet at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club 10.45 for 11.00 start. Cost \$10. Lunch at own expense. **Contact:** Kay Whittington Ph 9869 2432 by Monday 18th August.

Monday 8th September Visit to Fort Denison. 10.30am ferry from Wharf 6B for 10.45am tour. Numbers strictly limited. Cost \$33 (Seniors) \$37.50 non-concession plus \$10 donation to Stewart House. **Contact:** Margaret Harmer Ph9744 2625 ASAP as the tour will need to be booked several months ahead. An information sheet is available on request.

Wednesday 1st October Elizabeth Sakker will speak about her adventures in the desert with camels, a trek she does every year. Meet at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club 10.45am for an 11am start. Cost \$10. Lunch at own expense. **Contact:** Hazel Grimmond Ph 9980 7498 by 29th September.

May Lunch



Doreen Smith, Shirley Grant and Joan Healy

Members say

Graham Sims

HIGH OLD DAYS

1963, my first year of teaching, at Sydney Boys High, saw the retirement of Ken Andrews as Headmaster. (I'm not sure if the two events were linked). Ken was succeeded by the redoubtable Murray Callaghan, soon nicknamed "Batman", presumably because he fought crime and brought justice, but also because he wore his academic gown like a crusader's cape.

Murray was a wonderful man and an inspiring leader (as a former Languages teacher, what else could he be?). Although I was too young and naive to know it, Murray was my first mentor, and, many years later, when I'd long left SHS and Murray himself had retired, I realised that he'd been taking me "under his wing", as it were, hoping I'd spend my whole career at "his" school.

He'd bluntly told me I was a "bloody silly young fool" when I "forfeited" SHS to be seconded to the RAAF School in Penang, Malaysia. I'm not sure if he ever forgave me. Nevertheless, when I met him again, for what turned out to be the final time, at the farewell for his successor, Greg Bradford, Murray greeted me as a long lost son, and told me he'd followed my career "with interest and pride".

To students, and staff when the occasion arose, Murray could be a fearsome authority figure. He was a big man, in every sense of the word. Slightly deaf, he had the habit of leaning over you, his great leonine head to one side, with one hand cupped over his 'deaf' ear, and bellow at you, "Can you hear me, son?" Enshrouded beside him in his Batman cape, you could hear nothing else, for quite some time.

Now, back in the 'flower power' 60's, there was to be found, often near the Devonshire St entrance to Central station, a long-haired, flaxen-bearded, Roman toga-wearing, eerily Messianic-looking young gentleman, who, indeed, thought himself to be Jesus Christ.

Treating him with due deference, as schoolboys are wont to do, the Sydney High students, as they waited for their bus to school, would invoke many and varied biblical references and suggestions to him. After rain, for example, they would exhort him as follows "Hey! J.C. Walk on that puddle!" etc, etc.

One day, obviously having reached the end of his evangelical tether, and bedecked in his finest raiments, the young man came to the school to complain about the disrespectful behaviour of the students. One of the two school 'secretaries' was a sweet-natured, diminutive English lady named Bessie B. Typing away at her desk, Bessie looked up to see this Christ-like figure suddenly manifested before her.

"Oh! Yes! Oh! Can I help you, sir?" she stammered. "I wish to see the Headmaster, to complain about the boys", came the stern reply.

"Oh! Yes! Oh! Who shall I say is calling?" asked the shell-shocked but ever polite Bessie.

"My name is Jesus Christ!"

"Oh! Yes! Oh! Certainly, Mr Christ. I'll just see if Mr Callaghan is available." Bessie then rang Murray on the intercom, and said "Excuse me, Mr Callaghan. There's a gentleman here to see you about the boys."

"Good grief, woman. I'm busy. Can't he see someone else?"

"Oh! Yes! Oh! I'm sorry, Mr Callaghan. He insists on seeing you."

"Oh, hell's bells! What's his name?"

"Oh! Yes! Oh! I'd rather not say, Mr Callaghan."

"What on earth do you mean; you'd rather not say? If I'm going to see him, I have to know his blasted name, don't I?"

After quite a lot of mumbling and whispering of "his name", to which Murray kept repeating "Speak up, woman, I can't hear what you're saying", Bessie gave up and announced, "His name is Jesus Christ, Mr Callaghan!"

Murray's subsequent response cannot be quoted in a respectable journal such as this, but, after gathering himself together, he came out into the corridor and, somewhat bewildered, ushered his unexpected visitor into his office.

At this point, an unnamed member of staff (but one whom, in Sir Humphrey's timeless phrase, I tend to refer to by the perpendicular pronoun), raced around the corner and rang Murray on his intercom. There then ensued the following brief but pointed conversation:

"Callaghan here!"

"Mr Callaghan? Look, it's God here. I believe you've got my son in your office."

There was a stentorian bellow from my esteemed Headmaster, followed by some surprisingly irreligious epithets from his erstwhile visitor (or visionary), who stormed out, exclaiming that he was not being taken seriously. And a certain young Languages teacher decided that discretion was definitely the better part of valour, and made himself scarce for the rest of the day.

On another occasion, at the end of the school year, enjoying our "Meadowbank extras" free time, several of us in the staff commonroom were playing cowboys. (Actually, we were trying to match up movie cowboys with their horses and/or trusty Indian sidekicks. eg Tom Mix and his horse, Tony, The Lone Ranger and Silver, Tonto and Scout etc).

As a junior member of staff, my desk was nearest the staffroom intercom, which suddenly rang. Picking up the phone, I said, in my best cowboy voice, something like "State your pleasure, bub. It's ye olde bunkhouse here." There followed what in polite literature is termed "a pregnant pause", and then an all-too-recognisable, totally un-cowboy-like voice replied, "Is that so? Well it's ye olde Headmaster here. Get off the bloody phone, Sims, and stop playing silly buggers!"

I hung up forthwith and, following established cowboy practice, tried to lie low for the rest of the day.

Inevitably, however, I found myself walking past Murray's office just as he walked out. We both froze for a moment: I from fear and Murray, I thought, from disbelief and icy anger.

Glancing around to check that no-one else was watching, he suddenly "shot me" at point blank range, blew on his trigger-finger/pistol barrel, returned it to its holster, muttered "Fastest finger in the West!" and sauntered off down the corridor. Although "dead", I was forgiven.

In those far-off days, coat, collar and tie were de rigueur at Sydney High and, foppish young fool (or foolish young fop) that I was, I became fed up with all the chalk-dust that finished up on my Harris Tweed sports-coats, (Yes, these actually were the days of "chalk and talk").

I noticed that Industrial Arts and Science staff wore dust-coats and decided that I would do likewise. I cut, so I thought, quite a dashing figure in my grey dust-coat, and my jackets and suits certainly stayed cleaner.

Coincidentally, however, I noticed a certain cooling of my Headmaster's fatherly attitude towards me, but merely put it down to liverishness, the pressures of leadership or, just possibly, the accumulating consequences of some of my "professional" behaviour as related above.

One day, dust-coated and dutiful, I came in through one of the doors to the playground just as Murray was coming out. Looking me straight in the eye, he gave the very slightest of headmasterly smiles and said "Morning. Come to read the gas meter, have you?" then walked on and suddenly all was crystal clear.

The dustcoat was doffed forthwith. I resumed my upwardly mobile young Languages teacher persona and, later that very day, as Murray again passed me in a corridor, he murmured "Nice to have you back".

Although 50 years ago, they were wonderful days, where we learned as much as we taught, and where, once we had the maturity and sense to realise it, we were in the company of wise, tolerant and inspirational leaders and colleagues.

I wish I'd really told Murray and others how much I owed them!

May Lunch



John Ward

Members say

Brian Dennis

In later years, one must remain active, or become bored. As I live in a retirement village, Macarthur Village, part of the Illawarra Retirement Trust, I am able to be active.

Activities include membership of 2 Probus clubs, men's activities involving bowls and snooker, regular distance walking, and weekly singing in an active choir! (of seniors).

Humour is very therapeutic too, for all of us! The important thing, at this stage in our life, is "to keep on keeping on"!

Members say

Syd Smith

My First Inspector

In 1951 I was an innocent student enrolled in a Year 4 classroom at Arncliffe Public School. In those days some of the boys came to school in bare feet and a school uniform was unknown.

We drank sour milk that had basked in the sun since 8am that day and sometimes mischievous classmates would drain the dregs from about 10 bottles, empty them into a single used bottle and then hand it to some poor unaware boy who had no idea of the health risks he was taking.

Occupational health and safety had yet to enter the vocabulary, risk assessment was a foreign language and bullying was ignored and part of growing up. Many a time I was challenged to a fight after school across the bridge that spanned the Princes Highway and it was normal to be racist to anyone who was not of British, Irish or Scottish stock. Even the New Zealand boy was met with chants of maori.

And of course we were all boys. The girls were confined to an area over the fence, not that we minded or wanted to know them at that age.

I remember my teacher very well. Jim Caulfield, an old Anzac soldier who was deaf in one ear and hence had some difficulty maintaining discipline and surviving as a teacher in the early post war environment. We all knew he had fought at Gallipoli because above the blackboard hung that famous huge black and white painting of the landing in 1915.

Anzac Day was a big deal and often we went to the local cinema (picture show) to watch special movies and listen to Mr Crabtree the local Labor member make forgettable speeches. We called Mr Caulfield, Corky, because in those days it seemed every teacher had a nickname.

Often in the afternoon, tiredness would creep over Corky and at times he would bark,

“Smith, come out the front and tell the class a story!”

This allowed him to gain his strength I since deduced but it put great pressure on me because I would always have to have a story on hand. To do this I would have to read a range of fairy stories at home the night before.

While I did not know it at the time Corky was doing me a favour because it was from that point on I decided I would become a teacher. My classmates would listen intently to the stories and consequently I had to become a voracious reader.

It was about the middle of that year that Arncliffe was to have a school inspection but of course it was not put to us in that way.

“Now boys I want you to be on your best behavior. Mr Inspector Peek wants to see how smart you are and find out how polite you can be. He may look at your books and ask you questions as well.”

Being gullible we really believed Mr Peek was going to inspect us so to some extent we were somewhat terrified. That messy page with the dirty rubbing out will sink me I thought and what will happen if I don’t know the answer to his questions?

Sure enough the tense day of terror arrived. Mr Peek marched confidently into the classroom, said good morning and promptly began to walk up beside our straight line of desks examining our writing books. Corky shuddered out the front looking quite nervous and red faced which I thought very strange since it was I who should have been terrified.

At last Mr Peek asked us some geographical questions but not one hand shot up to answer them. We were not going to put our head on the block for fear of being wrong.

“Come on”, said Corky. “You know the answer to that.”

But this was to no avail. The questions got easier but still no one was brave enough to answer them. Looking quite flustered Mr Peek gave Corky a chilling stare and marched out of the room.

As soon as he left Corky berated us with an angry diatribe. “What is the matter with you boys? You all knew the answers to those questions. We talked about those topics only last week.”

And then came the final statement that floored us completely. “The old fool knows what’s going on you know. He will think I taught you nothing so if he comes back put your hands up and talk.”

Mr Peek did not return to see us. He had 5 other classrooms to attend to but I’m sure he did have a long talk to Corky nevertheless.

This was my first encounter with an Inspector of Schools and it wasn’t the last of course. What I did not realise back then in those early school years was that I had nothing to worry about and ironically neither did Corky.

Sure he didn't get promoted but he was an old man by then and I'm sure he had no ambitions to extend his skills beyond the classroom in any case. Besides promotion was more difficult in those days.

But looking back at my classmates then, even those who came near the 'bottom of the class', most ended up in great careers. Some became inspectors themselves, the boy next door became a navy frogman and one of my friends became a senior bureaucrat in the State Treasury. Teaching and learning might appear to be crude and very formal in those days, the curriculum might have been limited and teaching resources limited but the outcome for most of was positive and satisfying.

Mr Inspector Peek might have had his work cut out when he visited Arncliffe Public School in 1951 but had he lived another 50 years, I am sure he would have been happy to see the results of the education system that had existed in his time.



Corky's class, one year later

Editor's note: Mr James Peek joined the Inspectorate in January 1950 and served until his death in January 1973.

Can you find Syd Smith in this photo?



Bill Summers, John Edwards and Fred Cook

History of ISEA Project

Brian Powyer

The project to write the history of the ISEA has progressed smoothly and in accord with the broad schedule set for its completion. The management of the project is being undertaken by a steering committee consisting of Brian Powyer (ISEA and Chair), Alan Pratt (ARISSEA) and Brian Elliott (Pres. ISEA).

The task of compiling the history and preparing it for publication has been accepted by Dr Reynold Macpherson, noted educator, researcher, published author and biographer.

The committee has met with Dr Macpherson on two occasions and a continuous flow of emails has ensured that information and organisational matters have been shared between all parties. Regular progress reports have been provided by Dr Macpherson.

The working title of the history is Speaking Truth to Power in NSW School Education: A History of the Institute of Senior Educational Administrators, formerly known as the Institute of Inspectors of Schools in New South Wales.

The project is now nearing the critical stage where the broad structure and key events of the history of the Institute are to be developed, enhanced and placed into the context of those who were involved or have knowledge of the various events as they were implemented or impacted on members.

It is planned to conduct a number of individual and group interviews, during June and July, with those who have indicated their willingness to share their memories and reflections. A planning meeting to coordinate this phase of the project will be conducted on 23rd June.

26/5/14

Editor's Apology

Peter Robinson

Because of the Death Notice in the April Newsletter, Bill Booth now has shared a rare experience with the famous American writer, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, otherwise known as Mark Twain, whose death was incorrectly reported in some US newspapers. In a somewhat longer statement that appeared in the New York Journal of 2 June 1897, he included the often quoted statement: "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

It is with great pleasure that I report that the statement published in the last ARISSEA Newsletter regarding the death of Bill Booth was based on completely false information. I am pleased to report that Bill is alive and well and trust that he will accept my apology for any embarrassment that he may have experienced because of the 'greatly exaggerated' Newsletter notice.

Address changes

(Changes shown in Bold)

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CAMERON	Bill	0401 536 585
CARBINE	Bob	0412 013 880 Delete landline
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SMITH	Syd	0417 282 576
WALTON	Geoff	0418 241 406
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Members are reminded that material is needed for the **November 2014 Newsletter**
 Accompanying photos are most welcome,
 preferably as JPG email attachments.

Copy deadline: 15th October 2014

Peter Robinson,
 Newsletter Editor,
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Have you contributed in the last 2-3 years?

If not, your ARISSEA friends may like to know

what you've been doing,
 what you are thinking or
 what you remember.

Extra Photos from the May Lunch



Jack Harrison Bill Summers Fred Cook Trevor Harrison Ken McKinnon
Barry Higgins & Russ Mulholland Ian Vacchini John Ward
Joan Healy Ian Scott



Ken McKinnon