



Newsletter

November 2017

Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Inc

To submit the following Booking slip for the December Lunch:
please print this **first page** of the Newsletter,
complete the printed Booking slip
and post it with your cheque to John Allsopp.

Booking slip 1st December 2017 Meeting

Please complete and return with your cheque by **10th November** to:
John Allsopp, 23 Lyndon Way, BEECROFT, 2119 (phone 9980 2114)

Here is my payment of \$_____ (at \$45.00 per head)

for _____ and me to attend the IRSEA luncheon
at 11.30am for 12.00pm at '*99 on York*', 99 York Street, Sydney on 1st December 2017.

Please provide _____ vegetarian meal(s).

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone No. _____

Please 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 **16th November**



Newsletter

November 2017

Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Inc

From the President



Kerrie Ikin, President IRSEA 2017-18

In the August newsletter, I wrote that 'it was time to refresh the information about what members think about some specific aspects of IRSEA'. The results of the subsequent survey have come in and a summary of these results appears later in this newsletter. Thank you to all those who replied and took the time to add very valuable comments to help us improve our services to all members.

One suggested enhancement to the newsletter is for the inclusion of short profiles from members; providing opportunities to members to reflect on educational issues or to let others see what they are up to. I encourage you to consider contributing a paragraph over the coming year

Secondly (and in keeping with some of your ideas as it turns out) I wrote that I would profile members of the executive, especially those who may not be so well known to

those who are newer to the readership. In this edition, I would like to introduce Ray Gillies, our Treasurer.

I first met Ray in 1995, in the then Metropolitan West Region.

With the abolition of regions at the end of that year, I moved to Newcastle, without really getting to know Ray. A couple of years later, however, Ray and I found ourselves working together in the Specific Focus Programs Directorate – DSP, Multicultural Education and Aboriginal Education, under the leadership of Lyndsay Connors.

Although I was only there for one year, courtesy of yet another Departmental restructure, I had time to appreciate Ray's attention to detail, dedication to public education, sound understanding of financial management, and willingness for just plain hard work.

Since that time, our paths have crossed on numerous occasions, in the Department – both before and after 'retirement' and through the ISEA, the Australian College of Educators, and other professional associations. Ray has never been one to shy away from hard work. Ray's work on the constitution and finances is helping shape IRSEA's future. He is an invaluable asset.

As the year begins to draw to a close, I would like to remind you of our December luncheon meeting. This has traditionally been a time for our largest gathering and I hope that this year is no exception. The booking slip is at the end of this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Kerrie Ikin

AUGUST MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

In his address to members attending the IRSEA lunch meeting on August 4th, Murat Dizdar, Deputy Secretary, School Operations and Performance, NSW Department of Education spoke to some of the specific challenges that "the Department is wrestling with" and some of the action that 'the Department' is planning to take over the next 5 years to develop responses to these challenges.

In general, responses would reflect "experience and insight" and ensure that in advocating "changing practice established practices that work are not thrown out". Murat cited the development and implementation of the **Connected Communities** approach to addressing the educational and social aspirations of Aboriginal children and young people as an example of the way 'the Department' is developing a response to a challenge.



President Kerrie with Murat Dizdar
Deputy Secretary
School Operations and Performance
NSW Department of Education

Responses to the second challenge that Murat outlined related to accommodating an increasing student population. He cited Westmead Public School as an example; the current enrolment is 1500 with 60 classes. As a point of comparison, in 1970 falling enrolments had led to the closure of Westmead Boys High School.

He indicated that currently some 750,000 students are enrolled in NSW Government Schools with an anticipated increase of a further 160,000 students to be accommodated over the next 14 years. The government has accepted that during this time it will need to invest funding to build many new schools each year and to upgrade or rebuild existing NSW schools.

The upgrading and rebuilding is necessary to “wipe out demountables on some sites”. New classroom designs, including multi-storey prefabricated buildings (up to 3 levels) are being rolled out to reduce the existing building footprint on some school sites.

Several high rise, and open flexible floor plan schools, both primary and secondary, are included in the rebuilding program. A new organisation, School Infrastructure NSW, has been established with a Deputy Secretary in-charge.

Murat introduced a third challenge ‘the Department’ is wrestling with, “establishing, sustaining student well-being and engagement”, by citing his own 4 year old son as an example.

He will start school next year, commence university in 2033 and retire in 2078. His formal educational experiences need to continue to provide him with opportunities to connect with, experience success and thrive in a learning environment.



Murat Dizdar explains a point in response to a question.

In talking about this challenge Murat suggested we look at papers on “A1 and education in the future” published on the internet.

He also suggested that we look at the description and reports about project-based learning at the Cooks Hill Campus Annexe of Newcastle High School as an example of how one school is addressing student well-being and engagement.

Murat introduced the fourth major and complex challenge by reflecting on his own experiences as a beginning teacher in a “Green Valley” high school in South Western Sydney.

Teaching and learning happened largely behind closed classroom doors. He did not get to observe other teachers’ working with their classes. He had no formal or informal basis for making reflective judgements that would help him improve his own performance in the classroom.

“Our challenge in 2017 is to improve student performance targets in NSW by focusing on strategies to improve the level of achievement in every school and the level of personal achievement by every school leader, by every teacher, by every student.

That is, to have everyone committed to demonstrating improvement.

Murat suggested that reports on the Grattan Institute's partnership with *turn around schools* in Victoria, published on the internet provide evidence of approaches that have resulted in observable improvements in levels of student and teacher achievement.

Closely connected is the related challenge of strengthening school leadership by acknowledging the complexity of the work of principals and other members of the school leadership team. Research indicates that on average a principal will complete 44 tasks each day including making decisions about the allocation of resources (70% of the State's Education budget "is delivered at the school gate").

Currently "the department" is looking at:

- executive reform to provide support for principals
- taking back some principal's delegated responsibilities, for example assessing and managing the risk posed by trees in school grounds
- personalised incentive packages for principals



Some of the members during Murat's address

New Treasurer brought to account

Last year, I was becoming the next Treasurer of IRSEA in a planned succession. After all, I had first met Richmond Manyweathers in the 1970s when he was a Commerce Master and I was Social Science Advisor in Met East.

Our common background as geography teachers led us through the Geography Teachers Association and further in the fields of Commerce and Social Sciences for many years.

Following Richmond's tradition, it seemed obvious that I should become Treasurer after my term as President of IRSEA. In the event, however, his sad passing made the hand-over essential and I'll miss his wise advice and friendship.

As the new Treasurer, I feel obliged to give you a quick update on IRSEA's finances.

Since the start of our financial year (April 1), we have received \$6,015 including annual subscriptions, Stewart House donations and luncheon meetings payments.

We have dispersed \$7,407.60 including Stewart House donations, luncheon meetings costs, newsletter and other operational expenses. This leaves us with \$5,972.87 in our Society cheque account.

We also have \$13,136.82 in a term deposit. This is a healthy financial position for our organisation of about 180 members. Let me know if you'd like more detail.

I retired, the first time, 10 years ago. I failed retirement. Like the student who has to score highly enough in literacy and numeracy between Years 9 and 12 to earn the HSC, I've kept on working.

After a year as general manager of St George Workplace Learning, I went back to the Department to manage the regional conservatoriums grants program.

I was pleased to find I had valuable knowledge, skills, commitment to community and, dare I say, bureaucratic temperament to support and monitor the 17 independent regional and two metropolitan conservatoriums of music.

Being retired for a second time, I did some volunteer work with the IRSEA committee - we changed our name, drafted a full constitution and became an incorporated association, and I take photos for our newsletter.

I also volunteer with the Australian College of Educators (ACE).

To be an accredited and registered teacher in NSW these days, teachers have to do 100 hours of professional development every five years. Of these hours, teachers at

Proficient career stage must do 50 hours of PD courses registered with the NSW Education Standards Authority (which replaced the Board – BOSTES – on 1 January 2017).

At present, teachers who started after 2004 have to meet this requirement. From 2018, all NSW teachers including executives and principals will need to do their 50 registered hours to remain as Proficient teachers. NESA endorses providers of registered PD. ACE applied successfully to become an endorsed provider and teachers can now claim the hours undertaken in registered ACE courses.

My success with ACE led to working with Macquarie University to expand its role as an endorsed provider of NESA registered PD courses. Beyond the compulsory Proficient Teacher level, teachers can apply for accreditation as Highly Accomplished Teachers and Lead Teachers.

At Macquarie, I am working with academics to develop Proficient courses and an application for NESA to endorse the University to provide registered Highly Accomplished courses. Naturally, I'm exploiting my mechanistic managerial tendencies honed over years in the Department as a Son of the State to enhance Macquarie's quality assurance systems.

Still, the connection to geography remains. Last August, at an ACE NSW event, Emeritus Professor Chris Deer, whom I met 50 years ago when she was doing geography demonstration lessons for teacher trainees, recommended that I read the excellent book on geopolitics: *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall (2016). It is quite an eye-opener on how the world's countries became what they are and why they behave as they do.

I pass on the recommendation to you, and ignore the time when I might retire again.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the next IRSEA luncheon meeting, Friday 1 December.

Ray Gillies

<p>Report from the Executive Committee meeting held on Monday 18th September 2017.</p>
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Several of the decisions taken during this meeting will clarify and streamline the Institute's financial management in 2018 and beyond. The meeting endorsed action proposed by Treasurer, Ray Gillies to:

- Close the long standing CBA Society Cheque Account after the related Term Deposit matures on 24 November 2017. These accounts are in the name of the Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools.

- To transfer the balance of the funds from these accounts to the CBA Society Cheque Account set up in July 2016 in the name of the Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Inc.
- *As a self assessed non-profit organisation that is not Income Taxation Exempt*, by eliminate our exposure to the mandatory withholding tax by registering for and notifying the CBA of our Australian Business Number (ABN) and Tax File Number (TFN).

The committee also considered a draft schedule of meetings and newsletters in 2018. Traditionally lunch meetings have been held on the first Friday in May, August and December and the dates of these meetings have “driven” the schedule of dates for committee meetings and Newsletter distribution.

Some of the members during the Guest’s address

After discussion it was decided that:

- More of the members during the Guest’s address The May AGM lunch meeting will be held on Friday 4th May, 2018.
- The Christmas lunch meeting will be held on Friday 7th December, 2018.
- A tentative date for a meeting on 3rd August 2018 would be confirmed after discussion at our December meeting.

Geoff Walton
Secretary

<p align="center">Members’ Views Summary of the Survey Responses</p>
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Thirty-six members responded to the survey, almost all of whom were retired inspectors or senior officers and almost half had been members for more than 20 years. Nearly all indicated that they enjoy all sections of the newsletter. Nevertheless there were some good suggestions for enhancements that the executive will consider over the coming months.

In particular, members:

- want to hear from other members (especially through short profiles)
- would like the opportunity to contribute some short response to educational forums
- want to read a summary from any luncheon guest speaker
- want to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the Department

A guest speaker at the August luncheon meeting was seen as very positive, with quite a few suggesting that this should happen more often, and some suggesting that there should be a guest speaker at every luncheon. It was noted, however, that many members live too far away to attend or are now unable to attend and would at least appreciate a summary in the newsletter. *This newsletter includes a summary of the Murat Dizdar's address in August.*

In relation to the questions about IRSEA's *Articles of Association*, the majority of members either strongly agreed or agreed that both were being met. Comments in relation to these Articles, included that there is limited opportunity, other than through the newsletter, to further Article 1, and that in the future IRSEA may need to move further Articles to suit the changing times.

There were a number of individual comments, containing good suggestions and the executive will consider all of these over the coming months.

Again many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey.

Kerrie Ikin
President



Ian and Cate Vacchini

Family History
Through the eyes of gossip columnists, Court reporters
and informed by the content of Classified Advertisements

Geoff Walton

I apologise in advance if this article deteriorates into a record of self-indulgent revelations. GW

During the last couple of years I have spent many hours researching and documenting what I was learning about our families. It soon became obvious that my siblings, our children are far more interested in “*what these people were like?*” and “*what they did?*” than “*where?*” and “*how?*” they fitted into the branches of our family tree.

In the process of looking for answers I have developed a heightened appreciation of the contributions made by newspaper editors, general reporters, Police and Court reporters, letter writers and most significantly the often anonymous gossip columnists. Frequently their work provides substance and colour to people and events.

I have also found that the content of *Classified Advertisements* and *Public Notices* carried in local and major newspapers help to ‘fill in some of the gaps’. The National Library’s digitised document collection (***Trove***) continues to provide me with streamlined access to relevant newspaper articles, notices and advertisements.

In ignorance, I am not sure if and how the increasing use of social media will impact on the information available to amateur family historians, looking for answers to the two questions “*what were these people like?*” and “*what did they do?*”.

This all started about six years ago when my wife, Gay, came home after a quilting workshop and reported that over lunch she and a couple of others had been talking about what they had done the previous weekend. One of the group, Georgie, talked about having been to Morpeth and looked at where her Great Grandfather had lived and worked.

She told the group that he had been the Headmaster of one of the local schools. In the course of the ensuing conversation, Gay said that she commented; “that’s interesting we were in Morpeth and Maitland last Saturday too, Geoff’s Great Grandfather was also a teacher at one of the local schools – his name was Steinbeck”. It turned out that Georgie’s maternal Grandfather and my maternal Grandmother were brother and sister, two of William Byron Steinbeck’s children.

William Byron, was born in 1852 in New York and, as an infant, immigrated to Australia with his parents. William Byron Steinbeck started his teaching career as a pupil-

teacher in September 1870 at the newly established Oakvale Public School. (Oakvale is about 4km from Buchanan).

In July 1871 a *Council for Public Instruction* Inspector paid a visit to the school “and found a great deal of neglect and inefficiency in Teacher William Steinbeck’s work “. “W. Steinbeck was dismissed and Oakvale School closed...”

By 1878 William Byron Steinbeck was Head teacher at the Buchanan Church of England Denominational School. The school was taken on by the Council for Public Instruction in 1880 and William Byron Steinbeck was retained as the first teacher at Buchanan Government School.

Handwritten entries in a volume of the ***New South Teachers’ Rolls 1869-1908*** formally document his career as a NSW public school teacher. One of the entries indicate that he had been appointed to act as Teacher-in-Charge of the Evening School at Buchanan. The family had lived in Buchanan near Maitland from 1874 until January 1889 when the family moved to William Town and then to Nelson Plains.

William Byron and his wife Eliza had eight children. All four of their sons and their two older two daughters had, at sometime, been teachers employed in NSW Public Schools. Some started out as ‘pupil teachers’, gained teacher status through on-the-job inspections and/or by successfully gaining a pass in formal examinations.

Reports published in the *Maitland Mercury* and later, the *Raymond Terrace Examiner* suggest that William Byron was a committed and competent teacher and a responsible and effective school administrator.

With the benefit of hind-sight this fits in pretty much with the general picture I had developed after listening to snippets of conversations between the adults and from what I now suspect were guarded responses to the questions I asked my mother and her mother after visits with members of the Steinbeck family.

No one seemed to have or would pass on stories about William Byron’s early life and his parents. I have now discovered that reports, articles and advertisements published in contemporary newspapers reveal some of the “secrets”.

As an infant, William Byron and his parents Martin L Steinbeck and Maria Caroline (Lee) emigrated from New York and arrived in Wollongong early in 1853. By June 1954 the family had moved into rented accommodation in Camperdown.

In a long *Letter to the Editor* published in full under the head “EDUCATION” in the *SMH* Thursday 23 Nov 1854, Martin Steinbeck based on his experience of schools and

schooling in the United States offers a commentary about the ability of *embryonic state-based* systems to deliver *an enlightened general education* and reminds the reader that *the paramount consideration is the appointment of efficient teachers: they are to the school what the soul is to the body.*

A classified advertisement published in the *SMH* about a month later on 26 December 1854: *Mr. Martin Steinbeck respectfully announces to the inhabitants of Camperdown and its vicinity that the duties of the newly established Camperdown Classical and Commercial Academy will commence on Monday next. He confidently appeals to this community for a moderate share of public patronage.*

His course embraces all ordinary branches of an English education together with the French and Latin language. I have not been able to confirm how successful Martin was in attracting 'patronage' for his Academy.

Between 1855 and 1870 the Registrations of the birth of seven of their children trace the movements of the Martin Steinbeck family. The family was living in Maitland in 1855, then in Wollongong between 1859 and 1861 and back in Maitland 1864 to 1870. On 16 July 1861, *The Illawarra Mercury* published a report of the preliminary meeting of the *Avondale Debating Society*. Martin was elected to the position of Secretary, and in his address he argued that: *"man was emphatically a debating animal and it was better for him to assemble and go about it in a workman like manner than to be perpetually nibbling as it were and mixing up his momentary debates with all the everyday business"*. Other office bearers are identified in the report.

I suspect that during this time Martin may have been employed as teacher by a *patron* of a local school (an individual who was subsidising the cost of running a local school). Notices regularly published in the *Maitland Mercury* variously indicated that between 1864 and 1870, Martin had been declared bankrupt and his estate was placed under sequestration. He set himself up as, and advertised his services as, an employment agent specialising in positions for domestic staff (servants) to work on rural properties. For several years he was the secretary of a local Building Society and was responsible for advertising the monthly meetings.

On 24 November 1868 the *Maitland Mercury* reports that Martin appeared in the Maitland Police Court. He had been apprehended on a warrant the previous Saturday morning on his wife's deposition *that he had threatened to commit suicide by throwing himself into the Hunter River and she feared that he would carry his threat into execution.*

(In his defence she explained that) ... *He was suffering from a brain disease and each succeeding summer it became worse.* The records show that he spent a month in Maitland Goal and that his wife visited him several times.

I am not sure about the nature of the “brain disease”. I suspect he may have depressive tendencies that were exacerbated by a penchant for a restorative glass or two of wine.

In January 1870 Martin Steinbeck was appointed *Teacher (temporally) of Brokenback Public School*. The Brokenback (the town’s name was later changed to Bunkerville) community had contributed to a new school building that was opened at the start of the 1870 year. Martin was the only teacher and 63 students were enrolled. An entry in his record in *Teachers’ Roll Volume 1 (1869-1908)* shows that on *30 September 1877* (his) *Services as Teacher Brokenback dispensed with on a/c misconduct*.

A report by the local Mt Vincent correspondent published in the Maitland Mercury newspaper provides a description of the misconduct as described by *Mrs. Rachael Claydon, whose husband keeps the Wine Shop three miles distant from the school, that Martin Steinbeck (the schoolteacher) had been drinking immoderately at her place, and that he had run up a score of eight shillings for wine, and that he had given a note of hand for the same, and that Mrs. Claydon was obliged to lend him a horse to take him home.*

Both Matthew Stevensen and Thomas Blissett (two members of the Brokenback School Board) stated *that Martin Steinbeck was running about the paddock trying to escape from his children to the Wine Shop.*

Martin’s account of the incident was also published: *Mrs. Claydon’s house is situated at a distance of between 2 and 3 miles from this school, and the road to it, in dry weather, affords a pleasant walk through the mountain gap.* (This would place it somewhere near the present OAK Shop at Freeman’s Waterhole).

On Tuesday afternoon, after school, feeling that I had not fully recovered from the illness that I had greatly suffered during the latter portion of the previous week, and believing that the exercise would help me sleep better than I had lately slept, I set out on this walk.

I arrived at Mrs. Claydon’s at about 6 o’clock in the evening, and having had tea with the family, and temperately partaken of such refreshment as one might look for at such a place, I returned home the same night before my family had retired to rest.

Further entries in the Teachers’ Roll indicated that in November 1878 Martin was appointed teacher Glendon Brook on trial with a classification 111A and a grant of some 9 pounds to cover removal and relocation expenses. In November 1880 he was Gazetted as Teacher of Evening Public School and his resignation was accepted in February 1881.

Martin L Steinbeck died on 6 June 1882, aged 62. He is buried in Campbell's Hill Cemetery, West Maitland.

His son, William Byron Steinbeck died on the job at Nelsons Plains Public School on 5 April 1904 aged 52. His death notice published in the SMH lists his siblings and their current locations, three were shown as living in Public School Residences, and two of his sisters were teaching at schools in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. One of his sons, W.M. Steinbeck was shown as living at the Public School, Broken Hill.

I suspect the Martin L Steinbeck was thinker and perhaps in some ways a frustrated idealist who ultimately sought to escape from responsibilities of everyday life. His legacy – the only alcohol that I was aware of in the homes of his grandchildren and great grandchildren was the brandy used for making the Christmas cake and Christmas puddings. At all other times the social beverage was a cup of tea.

Geoff Walton



Allan Mills and Geoff Walton



John Edwards and Brent Corrish

Member Says

After reading Peg Craddock's letter in the recent IRSEA Newsletter, I thought as it is also just over 2 years since Clem's death, I would respond.

There have been good memories of family and work. He had many years as teacher and Inspector and then 20 years as President of the Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum which became his mission and saviour. It is still going well under Dick Greaves.

My family is spaced up the east coast and I see them as regularly as possible and hear from them regularly.

I keep busy playing tennis, mahjong and tap dancing and other classes with U3A.

I turned 88 on February 8th and going well. My best wishes to all of Clem's associates.

I look forward to the newsletter and thanks for forwarding it to me.

Yvonne MacMahon



Barry Laing



Brian Davies and John Allsopp

Members Say

Regarding the death of **Beryl Raymer**:

In an email: **Cliff Cowdroy** paid tribute to Beryl and her work as an Inspector.

He wrote: She was dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in early learning and worked with Marlene Shepard's SCREEN TEST to identify learning and gross motor problems.

In those days her teaching tips for very new teachers were invaluable in terms of immediate practicality.

She was very proud of her girls and was focussed on training on site at Riley St. Infants School, one of a few stand alone schools not then affiliated with a larger Primary School.

(Met East Region): Beryl was a model Inspector, a credit to our Department, a leader in her specific field and a gracious lady.

In an email from **Helen McMaster**: she wrote: "Beryl Raymer, or Miss Raymer, as we always called her, she, like Hilary Jackson and Marlene Sheppard were the special Infants Inspectors and greatly revered for their influence on early childhood learning. Her passing seems like the end of an era."

Address changes (Changes shown in Bold)
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BAILLIE Arthur
10 Lancaster Avenue, BEECROFT NSW 2119
a.hbaillie5@bigpond.com

BASELEY Jack
160/155 Fisher Road North,
DEE WHY NSW 2099
02 9971 8893
baseley@primus.com.au

GRAY John
9 Churchill Circuit
BANYO QLD 4014
johngray7@bigpond.com

GREEN George
Unit 44/28 Rosebank Ave
Dural 2158

SHARP Helen
c/- Bowden Brae Gardens
1-7 Frith Avenue, Normanhurst NSW 2076
02 9487 2447

YOUNGHUSBAND Nola
4 Kensington Avenue
DUBBO NSW 2830
0447 780 537
Nolayounghusband@outlook.com

Deaths

16.08.2017 **Raymer B (Beryl)**
11/646 Pacific Highway, KILLARA, NSW 2071

New material is needed for the February 2018 and the April 2018 Newsletters.

What interests you?

What have you done?

What are you doing now?

**Chances are that it will be of
great interest to other members**

**Accompanying photos are most welcome.
Preferably as uncompressed jpg email attachments.**

**Copy deadlines: 15th January 2018
and 15th March 2018**

**Peter Robinson,
Newsletter Editor,
3 Corunna Ave,
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151
peterrobinson7@gmail.com**

*If you would like to write a few paragraphs for inclusion in the Newsletter, I would be most
pleased to receive them.*

Peter Robinson

FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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