



Newsletter

November 2018

Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Inc

Please print page 1 and complete the booking slip &/or the Questionnaire

Booking slip 7th December 2018 Meeting

Please complete and return with your cheque by **16th 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 7th December 2017.

Please provide _____ vegetarian meal(s).

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone No. _____

Please print your surname here. _____

Make your cheque payable to the ***Institute of Retired Senior Education Administrators*** and cross it
'Not negotiable'.

Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after **23rd November**

IRSEA Luncheon Questionnaire 2018

1. Do you regularly attend luncheon meetings? Y/N
 2. Would you go to the Dept. of Ed. building in Parramatta for a meeting/luncheon: Y/N
 3. How many meetings would you go to in a year at Parramatta? 0,1,2 or3. _____
 4. Would you prefer a venue in the city for meetings? Y/N
 5. Can you suggest a reasonably priced city venue? _____
 6. Are there any other venues/localities you can suggest? _____
 7. Do you have any other comments re luncheon/meetings? _____
-

If you are coming to our Xmas luncheon just complete and post this with your luncheon form
OR send separately to : Brian Davies 24 Olinda Crescent, Carlingford NSW 2118

Please respond by (RSVP date for luncheon booking)



Newsletter

November 2018

Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Inc

From the President



Alan Laughlin, President IRSEA 2018-19

IRSEA President's Report November 2018

As you would likely be aware from our last newsletter, IRSEA is undergoing some significant changes. This is most evident in our executive positions and a number of new people have come on board.

I would firstly like to commend our new secretary Brian Davies. He has stepped into some very large shoes, taking over from Geoff Walton. Brian has done an exemplary job, promoting communications and keeping excellent records. Geoff is acting as mentor to Brian and will continue as welfare officer, a position unfilled now for a number of years. Again Geoff has done exemplary work for some six years as secretary and we are all deeply indebted to him.

Peter Robinson is also stepping down as Newsletter editor. We have been very fortunate to have Grant Beard come forward to take on the role with the support of Geoff and Brian. Thank you to all involved. Peter has also given exemplary service over an extraordinary fourteen years. The Newsletter is our major vehicle to bond members together. The work load is demanding and includes the collection of materials, formatting, printing and distribution. Peter thank you for your efforts. This November Newsletter will be Peter's last. A thank you also to all other members of the committee for their diligence and hard work.

Our luncheon meetings also face a challenge. For many years now we have held these at the Club York but unfortunately now we will be required to pay a hefty room charge as well as increased luncheon costs with a guarantee of 40 in attendance. They also want us to change luncheon days from a Friday to earlier in the week. John Allsopp has used his very significant negotiating skills to try to work with Club York, but to no avail.

It looks like this December luncheon (Friday 7 December) may be our last at this venue. A number of alternatives have been considered. One option is to have one, or all, of our luncheon meetings at the new Department Headquarters at Parramatta. This is convenient to public transport and might suit many people.

It would also provide a ready link to appropriate developments in the Department. We could look to other venues in the city if we can find one for a reasonable cost. There may be other alternatives? What are your thoughts? A questionnaire has been developed for you to give your views. The luncheon meetings promote great collegiality and enjoyment. We must preserve them.

Please take the opportunity to complete the questionnaire and send this onto John Allsopp with the luncheon booking slip or separately to Brian Davies-(see addresses shown at the end of this Newsletter)

Our scheduled luncheon meeting for August was unable to be held at the York Club but was held at the new Departmental Headquarters, 105 Phillip St., Parramatta on 24th August.

The Deputy Secretary (DDG) , Murat Dizdar, was our most generous host and we had a fascinating morning. Some 20 members were in attendance. We spent a good hour looking over the new premises. They are certainly splendid and based on a total commitment to new technology.

Officers do not have their own desk or room, and this includes the Secretary (DG). Computers are carried everywhere and plugged in as required. There are certainly

break out rooms and privacy centres for use when necessary, but not as a long term office.

There was little evidence of files or paper work of any kind. Apparently it is all in 'the cloud'. Many people seemed to have two or more computers on the desk they were using with very large/split screens.

There are hospitality areas with kitchens and dining facilities. There is a sports area on the roof top and coffee facilities.

As Department offices close in others parts of Sydney the numbers in this purpose built facility will grow to some 1800. Obviously the changes brought about to people's lives has created some problems, but by and large people seemed very happy with the new building.

You would be interested to know that Art Express material is being distributed across floors. The old Honour Boards have also been retained and set up in strategic places.





Later in the visit a meeting room was made available for us and we were addressed by Murat re some of the challenges he is facing. The Department kindly provided a light lunch.

This was certainly a fascinating and enlightening visit and a massive change from Bridge St. A big thank you to Murat and his staff, particularly Ian Armstrong from Public Relations who proudly and enthusiastically led us on our 'tour'.

Murat addressing some of the old-timers noted the very pleasant surroundings

Murat's comment on Twitter: Great honour to speak at the Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators today & to welcome them all to our new State Office. Fantastic discussion around best positioning public education - such a wealth of knowledge & so important to recognise those who have served us)

Maybe a comment now re the many controversies swirling about education. With a Federal Election in the offing and a new Prime Minister, we have a new funding model designed to 'calm the horses'. I suspect it has had the opposite effect. To allocate a one off grant of some \$1.2 billion to Catholic Education over the next ten years does not have any logic to it and appears political expediency.

What happens next time there is a noisy minority? However needs based funding seems to have been partly retained, but state schools, appear to have been short changed. The NSW Minister has objected and should be commended for this. This is not an issue that will go away and your views in this Newsletter would be welcome. And what of the curriculum? We also now have the Review by Geoff Masters with a report due at the end of 2019.

NAPLAN is being reshaped, or maybe going out? There are strident views on both sides. Teacher quality and teacher training has been a source of public commentary. Crowded schools in many city areas is putting the system under great strain. Some of our new schools are proposing to do away with formal Year groupings and personalise all learning under identified stages. Early childhood is emerging as a political battle ground. A fascinating time to observe education. If you have views on any of these issues please make them known.

In conclusion may we wish all members good health and for those who may be ill we wish them all the very best for a speedy recovery. Unfortunately since our last newsletter we have been advised of the loss of some dear colleagues; Joy Starnes and Gordon Campbell. Our sympathies go to their families and friends.

All the very best to all members and please make a big effort to get to our last luncheon at the Club York on 7 December. And don't forget the questionnaire with the luncheon booking form.

Regards Alan

If I may add to Alan's report on our visit to the new State Office at 105 Phillip St Parramatta. As we were leaving the building, I took the opportunity to thank one of the staff members who had been looking after us.

I also explained that I was the editor of our Newsletter and that I would appreciate it if she could send me any brief notes that were available on the reasons for the movement to Parramatta and the planned centralisation of state office in one place. She was happy to do so and we agreed that it should be run past Ian Armstrong.

Shortly later, I received some photos and the notes that I found very interesting.

There were a number of factors which led to the NSW Department's decision to relocate a State Office to Parramatta.

They included:

The sale of the Bridge Street building under the Sandstone Precinct Initiative to transform some of Australia's most iconic assets into key tourism infrastructure.

The Government's Decade of Decentralisation policy.

The Government's commitment to strengthen the economy of Western Sydney, the third largest economy in Australia to cement Parramatta's position as Sydney's second CBD.

The new Department of Education State Office at 105 Phillip Street, Parramatta provides a contemporary commercial office which is fit for purpose and designed to support agile work practices.

The Grade A building provides approximately 25,000 square metres of space including general office space, meeting rooms and collaborative space, kitchens and break out spaces, end of trip facilities, as well as a dedicated lobby, rooftop terrace and separate ground floor cafe.'

I think that it is marvellous as a productive and pleasant work environment, provided that you can learn to work:

- * without a dedicated office space,
- * without a dedicated work bench space,
- * without a dedicated chair,
- * with no stacks of paper and files around you,
- * without your own steel filing cabinet,
- * without your own computer, because you can call up all of your files on any big screen computer that happens to be available near you, at present,
- * without a desk phone, because you always have your DofE mobile phone with you that can be reached by anyone who needs to contact you, and vice versa.



If you can. Welcome to the future!

Peter Robinson

Secretary's Report

I was sorry to miss our meeting at the new Department offices in Parramatta, which I understand went very well. I was overseas at the time in Canada and Alaska, the lands of the two to three-month summer term breaks for schools. Thank you to Geoff Walton for continuing the work of Secretary during this time.

The Executive Committee met on 17 September with the production of the newsletter in 2019 and the venue of lunch meetings next year dominating the discussion. With Peter Robinson stepping down after the November newsletter, new arrangements were needed.

Grant Beard attended the meeting and generously offered to publish the newsletter which the committee accepted with much appreciation. The committee also decided to develop guidelines for the newsletter and these are published below under: 'Newsletter Developments and Guidelines'.

It was also decided to approach the Department to provide regular input into the newsletter.

As part of the changes, the Committee is looking to encourage members to choose to receive the newsletter by email (which will lessen the workload). It was noted that of 176 members, 153 have provided an email address. The newsletter will continue to be available by post.

The committee also discussed the organisation of lunch meetings for 2019 given the new situation with 99 on York and the offer by the Department's Assistant Secretary to hold our meetings at their new Parramatta premises (as discussed in the President's Report).

An advantage of holding the luncheon meetings at Parramatta was seen as the potential to enhance contact between the Department and IRSEA. It was decided to conduct a survey of members (please complete the questionnaire in this newsletter) and discuss the matter further at the December luncheon at 99 on York. Members are encouraged to be there and to bring their partners. It would be good to have strong numbers.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be in February 2017.

Brian Davies
Secretary

Editor's Report

My earliest record, of what is now called **IRSEA** but was then the ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS AND SENIOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS is a copy of the MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Bowlers' Club of NSW on Friday 7 May 1993.

It consists of 2 pages of double-sided typewritten minutes, which may have been photocopied. The meeting was opened at 2.07 p.m. by the Vice-President, John Dugdale, who was in the chair.

The attendance book was circulated and 27 members recorded their attendance.

The Chairman welcomed members and their partners, particularly new member, Brian Ford, and acknowledged the presence of Lady Margaret Wyndham and Mrs Marjorie Verco.

Stapled to this document is a double sided page, titled THE MESSAGE STICK authored by the then, 'wholeheartedly' elected President, John Dugdale.

THE MESSAGE STICK was the precursor of our IRSEA Newsletter.

These pages are very special for me. I knew some of these people. They were a link for me to earlier periods when I was still finding my way through an unusual and at times insecure career path.

Brian Ford gave me these documents when I became Newsletter Editor, to mind as part of a folder of material to do with the Newsletter's past, that he had been working on while serving as Secretary from the mid-1990's and, later, with Laurie Craddock as Co-Editor.

The documents gave me a whole new view of our members and a great feeling of empathy with the changing world we had all experienced during the last 40 years.

It also made me even more determined to make our Newsletter the best possible communication link with our members.

During my career, I had worked as a curriculum manager with computers, television, audio-visual and print communications for remote teachers and monitored the cost effectiveness of the various communication media.

I have found that with staff in remote schools who are supplied with new equipment and appropriate training opportunities, it still requires individuals to see the value to them personally of adopting the new approach, if it is to be successfully adopted.

Using the Internet to email the Newsletter to each member removes the postage and printing costs, that have increased so markedly over the last 2 years. This is valid only if each member already has, and uses, broadband computer (or equivalent) and are comfortable with getting their daily news 'online'.

The problem of how to replace the printed Newsletters with a 'better' medium at a more economical delivery cost, that doesn't require our members to obtain and learn any new technology, has concerned me for the last 15 years.

I retired from the Department on Jan 15, 2001. One week later, at Brian Ford's invitation, I applied to join ARISSEA, and was accepted as the first retired permanent CEO to become a member under the then recent revision of the ARISSEA's membership rules.

My immediate interest was in the Newsletter. By August 2003, I was involved in co-producing it.

By April 2004, I was managing the editing, production and distribution of the printed version of the Newsletter.

This November 2018 issue represents the 60th issue that I have been involved in producing.

Unfortunately health problems and family commitments are now making it impossible for me to continue with the task.

In looking back at the last 15 years, I can remember many of the changes that have been introduced. In November 2003 we printed the first photograph in the text of a report on travelling on the Queensland coast when I met up with Frank Fisher. I photographed Frank on the beach on Frazer Island.

The photographing, printing and copying techniques that we were using, resulted in a complete disaster when the Newsletter was printed. Frank appeared as a completely opaque black figure with a blurred beach in the background.

By post, I apologised to Frank, an apology that he accepted and understood.

In the following editions, various photographic effects were tested, resulting in a steady improvement in the photographic coverage, but only in black and white.



Starting with November 2004, a photograph of the current president has appeared on page 1 of each issue. In later years, in high definition colour, but still only in monochrome in the printed editions.

In 2011, we began experimenting with distributing the Newsletter by computer links. It could be done by text and with black and white photographs with low resolution, but only using special software on both the transmitting and the receiving computer. This was the kind of systems that various states had developed for distance education use, some decades before.

This was unsatisfactory for our purpose, but through a combination of the developing communication technologies, a very suitable set of communication systems was becoming increasingly available.

Our original email usage was developed for fixed phone lines. It was then linked to mobile phones as well as fixed lines and then the email addressing international system. Because we were using digital signals and email addresses, it linked into these networks seamlessly.

What was originally planned for desktop work computers, was now open to the whole mobile and domestic system. This meant that mobile phones, pads and tablets and other email devices were all suitable for use in receiving the page images because we were not using video signals. Even our photographs were suitably digitised because of the type of compression that we used.

With all of the advantages of our email delivery system for the Newsletter, less than 40% of our members have chosen to receive it this way instead of the expensive, slow Aust Post delivery of printed paper in black and white.

I trust that the use of the Email version will increase in the near future so that we can decrease the cost of the printing and distribution with the printed paper edition.

I have lost count of the number of paper cuts that I have received while folding paper Newsletters for the Pack and Dispatch sessions. I do not wish them on the next generation of Newsletter Editors.

I would like to thank all of our members, my friends, and particularly my long suffering wife, Wendy, who have helped in the development of our Newsletter and worked on the pack and dispatch get-togethers over the last 14 years.

I sincerely wish the new Newsletter Editor and team that will produce our Newsletter in the future, all of my heartiest best wishes and I hope that they enjoy it as much as I have.

Peter Robinson

FRIENDS OF STEWART HOUSE

Background:

The Friends of Stewart House (FOSH), has run a series of very successful events this year that have been advertised in our IRSEA Newsletter. We have a few “end of year” functions that IRSEA members may be interested in.

November 24 (Saturday) Race Day on Central Coast.

There will be a fundraiser for FOSH on Saturday 24 November 2018 at Gosford Racecourse. This will be a similar event to the very successful Newcastle Race Day held in 2017. Attendance includes a deluxe seafood share platter, free entry to the races door prizes, private facilities in the Lakeview Room etc. Cost \$100.

Contact: Kerry Knox: kknox@bigpond.com or Cynthia Hall: c.7Hall@gmail.com

November 26 (Monday), Parramatta Revealed: The Archaeological Remains.

This an easy walk around the historic precinct of Parramatta bounded by the Parramatta River, O’Connell, George and Macquarie Streets, including a section of World Heritage listed Parramatta Park Domain.

On the walk you will discover Aboriginal scar trees, Governor Phillips redoubt (fort), the foundations of the original Government Farm settlement, Governor Macquarie’s weir, the Old Kings School, the archeological remains of Governor Macquarie’s first

hospital, the oldest remaining building in the Parramatta CBD, the first bowling green in Australia, the archaeological remains of convict huts and Wheatsheath Hotel, and the oldest bridge in Australia, and of course the original foundations of the first Government House in Parramatta. The walk will take about 1.5 hours and is a distance of about 1.5km.

Meet: Old Government House in Parramatta Park, Time: 10.15 for 10.30am walk.

Parking 1: Parking available in Parramatta Park or Hunter St Car Park.

Parking 2: Time limits (1hr, 2hr or 3hr stringently enforced in the park.

Optional Lunch: Garrison Cafe Old Government House (own expense - \$20.00 - \$25.00

Booking: Essential -Email Brian Powyer - bpowyer@optusnet.com.au include mobile number. Cost \$15.00 pay on the day.

To register email bpowyer@optusnet.com.au or kknox@bigpond.com (0417410283)

For more information and to join FOSH today (only \$15) go to Stewart House's website www.stewarthouse.org.au and follow the links from the drop-down menu "Get Involved".

Regards
Alan Laughlin (Hon Sec, FOSH).

Newsletter Developments and Guidelines

As mentioned in the President's Report, this is Peter Robinson's last newsletter as editor and thanks go to Peter for all his marvellous work. Thanks also go to Grant Beard for stepping into the role. Geoff Walton and I will support Grant in that role.

It is very important that members contribute to the newsletter. In last year's survey, you said that you wanted to hear from other members about what they were doing as well as their reflections on educational issues. Alan has mentioned some issues in his report.

To help you contribute, the following guidelines have been developed. Please look to contribute for the 2019 newsletters starting with the February edition.

Email your contributions to:

brian.davies09@gmail.com OR Post to: Brian Davies

Secretary IRSEA

24 Olinda Crescent

CARLINGFORD NSW 2118

Guidelines for Contributors to the Newsletter

The newsletter plays an important part in our organisation. It is mailed or emailed to members and the widows and widowers of members four times each year (February, April, July and November).

In addition to regular features, including reports from General and Executive Committee meetings and Institute office-bearers, the newsletter provides members with a vehicle for exchanging information and stories, for expressing views, and for promoting future activities.

Members are encouraged to submit articles. All articles submitted are welcome and will be considered for publication in the newsletter. We are particularly looking for articles that support the objects of the Institute (see below).

Articles of any length are welcome, from a paragraph to a page or more if warranted.

The Institute follows the usual ethical guidelines as to which material it will publish. It will not publish a manuscript that includes text that:

- has been taken directly from or closely paraphrases previously published work that has not been appropriately acknowledged.
- is abusive, defamatory, fraudulent, illegal, libellous or obscene.

Please remember that the newsletter is produced by volunteers:

- contributions should be submitted as Microsoft Word files (.docx or .doc) or text files (.txt).
- contributions in other formats, e.g. handwritten or typed, will be accepted at the Editor's discretion.
- the Institute does not have the resources to re-type lengthy articles submitted as hard-copy.
- photographs should be in .jpeg (.jpg)

Member Profile
Kerrie Ikin – Vice President

A number of members may recall a short profile I wrote about myself when I took on the president's role in 2017, so it seems most appropriate to simply provide an update on what I am now up to.

In a nutshell, it seems that just like my late husband, Ron, I too have spectacularly failed retirement. In the past year I have further developed my consultancy business which focuses on evaluation.

I work with whole-school staffs to develop, monitor, and evaluate their school's strategic plans, building evaluation capacity and trust, and I also work on large-scale evaluations for a range of clients.

Although I have hung up my teaching hat, I still enjoy being an adjunct in the Business School at the University of New England, continuing research into program evaluation, writing papers and book chapters, presenting at conferences around the world, and supervising the occasional masters or doctoral student. I keep my hand in with the Department of Education by assisting in the review of complaints.

I enjoy the 'detective' work, analysing just what has gone on and whether there is an injustice to be sorted but I must admit those departmental briefings are no more enjoyable now as a retiree than they ever were as a Director.

However, all is not hard work. This year I have travelled to Canada twice, Singapore, Fiji, and other locations in Australia and have just booked my January travel mainly to Norway.

And if I ever think there is some down time, I am the chair of two owners corporations, one which functions as a motel, but most importantly and certainly the most fun, I have three wonderful grandsons: the oldest just over 2, a 10-month old, and the latest edition born just 3 weeks ago.

At this stage it is all good fun and I am very grateful that I am fit and active and can enjoy this busy lifestyle. I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at our next luncheon.

Member Profile
Brian Davies – Secretary

After 18 years in schools, mainly in the Metropolitan West and South West regions, I took up a position as Manager of Assessment and Reporting in State Office.

On becoming a Chief Education Officer I joined the Institute of Senior Educational Administrators and served on the executive. I worked for seven years as the Professional Assistant to Dr Terry Burke, Deputy-Director General Teaching and Learning and then DDG Operations.

During that time I worked on a number of projects including the development of the *School Development Policy* (1999) for annual school self-evaluation and reporting and school reviews.

I worked as a CEO School Improvement in the Port Jackson District and then in State Office, mainly in the research and evaluations areas. I retired from the Department at the end of 2010 but worked for several years at the NSW Board of Studies (now NSW Education Standards Authority).

On retirement I joined ARISSEA. I have a strong, ongoing interest in what is happening in education and wanted to maintain contact with the many wonderful people I had met in my career – as well as meet others, I had only heard about, who had contributed so much to education.

As a glimpse, and only mentioning a few, there at the AGM luncheon was John Edwards, my Head Teacher who guided me as a young teacher through my first contact with an inspector.

There was Jack Baseley, the District Superintendent of Port Jackson who supported my work on school reviews and there was Chris Carroll who I worked with on the State Literacy Strategy – and with his (some might say) disarming smile, nominated me for Secretary.

DEATHS

22.04.2018 Starnes J.E. (Joy)
40 Walter Crescent, BANAORA POINT, NSW 2486

1.07.2018 Campbell G.A. (Gordon)
Villa 383, Brentwood Village, 1 Scaysbrook Drive, KINCUMBER NSW 2486

20.07.2018 Elliott A.J. (Jack)
3/12 16 Hope Street, ROSE HILL NSW 2142

9.07.2018 Cobbin A (Allan) Former member and colleague
Mrs Barbara Mason (Bill's widow) died earlier this year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Daphne Mulholland, (Russ' widow)

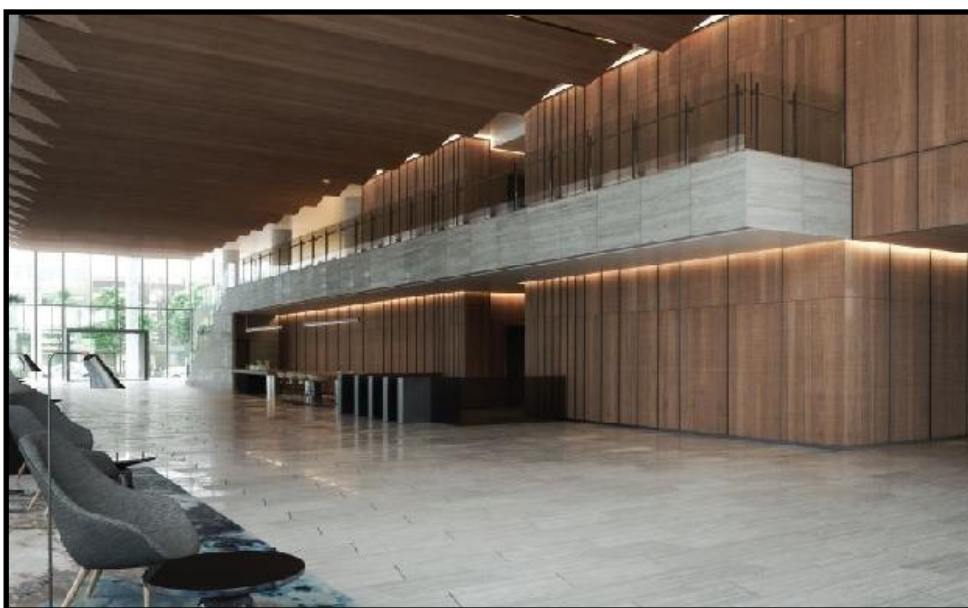
Unit 341 Kerrisdale, Norwood Parade Beach, NORTH MACKAY, QLD 4740

Dr Bob Carbines,

153 Dennison Street, QUEENS PARK, NSW 2022



Alan thanking Ian Armstrong (DofE)



The Lobby area at 105 Phillip St. Parramatta

Objects of the Institute

- preserve friendship and a sense of identity among those senior men and women who have spent their professional endeavours in the field of public education
- provide whatever donations and other support to Stewart House, Harbord, New South Wales, or any other non-profit tax-exempt charitable organisation for children, as may be determined at each Annual General Meeting of the Institute
- provide members with a forum for the discussion of educational issues
- offer the benefits of the members' experience and wisdom to policy makers and senior officers in public education and to the wider community
- provide support that may enhance the welfare and quality of life of members in regard to retirement matters
- contribute to the body of knowledge about the evolution of public education in New South Wales, Australia.
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Our host

Murat Dizdar
Deputy Secretary
School Operation &
Performance

