



Newsletter

ABN: 78 259 388 090

No. 3

June 2020

From the President

Welcome to the June Newsletter for 2020 and to my final report as the 2019/20 President. My report is a little different from previous reports as it will also serve as my President's report for our AGM. Indeed, this edition of our Newsletter is primarily our AGM brought to you by email or mail during COVID-19 times. While an AGM by email cannot compare with a face-to-face meeting that brings colleagues together, it does have the advantage of enabling every member to take part. So, please take the time to join this year's AGM by reading and considering the reports from the office-bearers and then completing the voting form to cast your vote on the motions.



Our Secretary, Brian Davies, has provided a record of our activities over the last year in his report, so I won't repeat these, other than to say that COVID-19 has certainly put a damper on our activities over the past few months, leading of course to the cancellation of our May luncheon meeting and also our next luncheon meeting that would have taken place at the end of July. Hopefully, by December a Christmas lunch meeting will again be possible. I know the new Committee will be keen to explore the possibilities and make decisions about Committee meetings, luncheon meetings, and other ways to keep members in touch in our emerging COVID and post-COVID times; always keeping our members' safety the priority.

The end of this IRSEA year is somewhat like the end of an era. Geoff Walton, Vincent Delany, and Peter Robinson are all stepping down from the Committee after many years of service. While between them they have held a range of positions from President to Committee member, in their current or recent roles of Welfare Officer (Geoff), Committee member (Vincent), and Newsletter Editor (Peter) they have provided invaluable support, insight, and commitment to our Institute. I have no doubt, however, that they will remain staunch supporters of IRSEA and look forward to catching up with them when we are able to resume our luncheons and face-to-face contact.

As I look forward to becoming the Past President, I also welcome Graham Dawson to the role of Vice-President, Kerry Knox to the Welfare Officer role, and Hetty Cislowski as a Committee member—and of course congratulate Janina Sulikowski as the incoming President.

Finally, thank you to all on the Committee for your support over the past year. It is a great privilege to have been the President for this second time and look forward to many more years of collegiality with you all in IRSEA.

KERRIE IKIN
President

From the Department



The resilience of public school principals and their local communities is being tested as never before with the COVID-19 pandemic. For many school leaders, particularly in rural and regional areas, this disaster has followed on quickly from years of drought, devastating floods, and catastrophic bushfires. A good example from many is the principal of Delegate Public School, Brad Bannister, who after supporting his students and community through bushfires, faced a range of issues leading his school through the educational and operational complexities posed by the pandemic.

During remote learning, Brad and his team prepared learning packs that were personally delivered to each student, a round-trip of over four hours. This individual touch also aimed to remove any feeling of isolation among the students, while also enabling a visual well-being check of each student and their family. Brad and his team went even further in these visits by providing each family with a care pack through the school successfully arranging sponsorship for the packs.

The school community of Bombala has also had to deal with the twin challenges of bushfires and COVID-19. These were met head-on by the Relieving Principal of Bombala High School, Jai Lester, whose inspirational leadership created a range of mutually supportive and productive

relationships with his local community that ensured student and staff well-being during these difficult times. This included the rapid development of a learning-from-home website, which allowed teachers to support students and families during the pandemic's remote teaching and learning phase. The effective use by teachers of this resource ensured students remained engaged with their classwork and were well prepared for the return to face-to-face teaching.

These are only two examples during particularly difficult times of the effective and innovative public school leadership that is increasingly being seen and appreciated by the public. No clearer proof of this was needed than the many reported comments in mainstream news, online, and social media from parents about 'how difficult' a job teaching is, after their own experience of trying to educate their own children at home.

The challenges of our current times have again shown that, for many localities, public schools are a cornerstone of the community. They not only provide first-class education, but also provide support for families, a safe haven for children, and a reassuring presence.

Truly, these principals, teachers, and support staff not only observe the Department's commitment to every student being, known, valued, and cared for—they embody its spirit.

KATHY POWZUN

Executive Director, Bushfire Relief Strategy
Office of the Deputy Secretary, School Operations
and Performance

Members Write

Small-group Touring: The Channel Islands *Geoff George*

Last year my wife and I enjoyed a small-group tour with a company called 'Back Roads', which commenced in London and finished in Paris via the Channel Islands. The small coach (16 people) was able to travel on the ferries across to the Channel Islands. I want to concentrate on the Channel Islands part of the tour, as many of you would have toured the south coast of England together with parts of France. The Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans during WW2 and many of the local residents remained on the Islands during this occupation. We had read a number of books written on the experiences by the locals that encouraged us to visit the Islands.

Guernsey

The three hour ferry trip from Poole (England) to Guernsey included our small coach, which of course was used to transport us around each Island. The Island of Guernsey is a self-governing British Crown dependency and it has its own currency

(Guernsey pound) and accepts the British pound, but any change given is in local currency! The capital, St Peter Port, consists of a thirteenth century harbour fortification and contains a number of historical and military museums. The German Occupation Museum is dedicated to the Nazi occupation and contains many interesting stories of people involved including the finest collection of WW2 relics during the five years of German occupation. During the occupation various fortifications, gun turrets and observation towers including an underground hospital were built by slave workers captured by the Germans. The locals had their clocks changed to German time and drove on right hand side of road; German was compulsory in schools; no more than three people meeting together (sounds familiar!); confiscation of weapons, boats, radios, motor vehicles, cameras, fuel, and alcohol.

Guernsey is famous for its Guernsey cow, which produces some of the richest dairy products in the world owing to its high butterfat and protein levels.

We visited Sausmarez Manor, one of the many historic houses and gardens on the Island.

Jersey

Jersey is the largest of the Channel Islands and is 14 miles from the French coast with a mix of French and British cultures. The capital is St Helier. It's known for its magnificent beaches, cliff-side walking trails, inland valleys, and historic castles. The Jersey War Tunnel complex is a former hospital excavated by war prisoners and documents the islands five-year German occupation during WW2. At La Hougue Bie we discovered one of Western Europe's best preserved Neolithic sites. Mount Orgueil Castle, overlooking the village of Gorey, is another of Jersey's iconic images.

Jersey is a low-tax haven for big business (e.g. Specsavers headquarters is located there).

The island used to be famous for its woollen trade. Because of the popularity of Jersey wool, knitted jumpers came to be called jerseys.

As in most of the Channel Islands the tides can be very high. Low tide can see the sea retreating as much as 2 miles off shore.

Sark (our favourite island)

A small island (just over 5 square kilometres), Sark has a population of about 500. Cars are prohibited, with tractors, bikes, and horse-drawn carriages being the main mode of transport. For example, the one fire engine and ambulance are both pulled by tractor! Sark has a very unspoilt landscape and is most appealing to the eye. It has a sense of a much slower life.

It is said that the inhabitants of Sark received favourable treatment from German soldiers during the occupation in WW2.

I visited the primary school (two teachers) and spoke to the pupils about school education in Australia, although at times I think they thought I was from Austria! There was only the one doctor and police officer, and everyone knew each other (many were related).



There are no streetlights on Sark, so the island is plunged into velvety blackness at night.

The main sights include the La Seigneurie Gardens, set within the grounds of a seventeenth century manor, and the Sark Museum. The walk around the southern section of the island, known as Little Sark, is particularly memorable. To get there you have to cross La Coupee, an isthmus only 2 m wide, that was built by prisoners of war and has a sheer 80 m drop on either side! The views were spectacular. We would love to go back there for a longer time.

Unfortunately we had to catch the ferry to Saint-Malo on the French coast for the next stage of our tour. Again, a very interesting and different place. Saint-Malo, a walled city, is famous for its almost complete destruction during WW2 and was subsequently rebuilt to its original glory after the war.

We would recommend that if possible you visit the Channel Islands.

District Inspectors: Were We Leaders?

Merv Blanch

For the generation of the fifties and sixties we, as teachers, were extremely fortunate. At the top of primary education was a man—no, a giant—of primary education. His name was **Owen Jones**.

He watched closely those of us who had begun to climb through the promotion lists fairly quickly and had obviously asked his current inspectors to draw his attention to us. He posed the question, '*What makes a good leader?*'

He brought to us a beekeeper from New Zealand who had led a team to reach the summit of Mount Everest and spoke to us as a small group on the subject of Leadership. Additionally, he had Lady Plowman, from Britain, talk on education in

Britain. An American professor spoke to us about accelerated schooling for the gifted child. Owen was encouraging us to look at ourselves as educators beyond the classroom.

We were asked to give up a week to attend a conference at Hurlstone Agriculture College at Glenfield, where in groups of six we discussed the varied issues of leadership and our responsibility to help our staff learn more about leadership so that, together, we might improve our systems within each school.

As we as principals reached the third list (the second from the top) we were encouraged to write articles for a publication by Owen Jones called *The Leader*, telling of something we were doing in our school that was worthy of educational consideration.

Hurlstone also allowed each of us to discuss issues with one another, and thus our knowledge was expanded and enriched. We became an alert team, bent on professional development of self and school.

In due course many had another inspection to see whether we 'merited further promotion', and, if successful, then we were placed on List 4, from where District Inspectors were chosen.

Owen retired in 1966, and of course we know what happened in 1990.

An Unexpected Interlude

John Ward

Kay and I were visiting our daughter and her family in Florida as the COVID-19 threat grew there, relentlessly. By mid-April we decided to do a runner and book a Qantas rescue flight from Los Angeles.

Our plane landed in Brisbane very early on 26 April. No ANZAC Day for us. 150 passengers, and we were by far the oldest, queued, were interviewed by border patrol officers or police, and escorted to a downtown hotel for fourteen days' quarantine.

By good luck, we scored the 5-star Marriott. Even better we were given a room on the 27th floor. It had a huge picture window presenting us a panoramic view to the north-west as far as the Glasshouse Mountains, plus bursts of sunshine each day and a high-rise apartment block opposite that let us share people's daily lives across thirty floors. We had our own Rear Window stories to imagine and embellish.

We'd read of detainees complaining about the boring meals or crying out for fresh air. Not us. Three times a day a knock came on the door. We had to count to ten and then we could open the door and bring in a big brown-paper bag of food. Breakfast alternated between cooked, with bacon and eggs, and continental, muesli, and toast. Both came with fresh fruit and yoghurt. Lunch could be

salads or sandwiches. Dinner was soup, meat/fish, and lots of vegetables plus dessert. Fruit and snack treats were added along with a crossword, Sudoku puzzle, or word game to keep our minds going.

Between phone calls, Kindle books, online news, and lectures, our days were pretty full. But there was more. Our daily well-being call from the Red Cross told us we could book outside time each day. Two police officers would knock on our door and escort us by lift to the pool deck, where we could soak the sun, breathe fresh air, and talk to other detainees for half an hour or so. We were lucky to be in Queensland where they offered this respite.

As a challenge we mapped a walking trail around our room from door to window, around the sofa, skirting the bed, and back to the door. We managed to do 10 000 steps a day in three bursts, supplemented by a bit of Pilates. The meals made this essential. I used a paper Ikea tape measure to find we were walking 5 km each day.

Our washing was paid for by Brisbane Council. Fresh linen was left at our door on Day 8 and a cupboard was full of extra soap, shampoo, and, thankfully, toilet rolls. We were judged infected until cleared. Our room was untouchable.



THE VIEW FROM OUR ROOM

Another surprise was that the hotel would deliver us orders from Woolworths, pharmacies, and a liquor shop called Jimmy Brings, overcoming our chief fear. Happy hour became a lot happier!

Queensland Health phoned regularly to check our physical and mental health. On Day 12 they determined we were clear and issued us each a Discharge Certificate and the hotel sent us details of our release process for Day 14, one room at a time. We cleaned the scuff marks from the carpet along our walking trail. Then police escorted us and our

luggage to the hotel door where we were dispatched from the quarantine zone and banned from re-entering. After fourteen days we almost missed the sanctuary of our room. Could we cope for ourselves?

Throughout it all we were shown compassion and treated with dignity. Being Queensland, there was a mix of directness and underpinning humour from police, border patrol, hotel staff, government officers, in fact from everyone involved. It could not have been a better experience and best of all we were in Australia, 12 000 km from the orchestrated chaos of Trump.

Overseas Educational Improvement

Anne Eggins

I read Graham Dawson's article about improving education in Myanmar. It was very interesting, but made me realize how the language used to describe educational enterprises has changed over the years.

It made me recall an incident I was involved in about words in education a long time ago. In the 70s I was part of the science team in the Teacher Education Program at Macquarie University. The Director of the program was Merv Dunkley. Many of you will remember him as a mathematics inspector of schools. Merv was also the leader of a Macquarie-based team working for the Department of Foreign Affairs. We were assisting the work of schools in the South Pacific. I made thirteen trips to Tonga and five to Western Samoa. On these trips I ran courses for teachers who were teaching science in both primary and secondary schools.

In Tonga, an analysis of staff found that there were two hundred untrained teachers of science working in its high schools. I was supposed to fix that! At this time the path to becoming a Tongan science teacher was highly selective. If you did well and completed the four years of high school there was the opportunity to instantly become a primary school teacher. If you proved yourself teaching young students, you were promoted to become a high school teacher. Science teachers were very scarce, so it was easy to get a job. All you had to do was work your way through the huge blue 'Harry Messel' science text used in NSW schools. These teachers were dedicated, extremely intelligent, and hard-working; but they mostly had no idea about the hands-on side of science teaching. They had never seen a beaker or a test-tube! Their students who sat for our School Certificate examinations did very poorly.

In my four-week course, my twenty students covered the four years of the NSW junior high school curriculum. It was very intensive, mostly activity-based work. They were a delight to teach. At this time in Tonga, from a cohort of one thousand

students entering school at age five, only one was ever likely to gain a full-time, salaried job. My untrained science teachers were the intelligentsia of the land. However, there was a problem with our foreign-aid intervention. Most of the younger Tongans who attended my courses did not continue to teach science in Tongan schools. For the first time in their lives, they had realized that they loved to learn and that they were good at it. The majority of them soon gained entry into universities in Australia and Fiji and never set foot in a Tongan school again.

During one of these courses, Merv Dunkley asked me if I would mind attending a meeting that was discussing a problem with science teaching in Tongan primary schools. All primary education was conducted in the Tongan language, whereas high school classes used English. The difficulty was there was no Tongan word for 'force'. The teachers had invented a new Tongan word 'forcee'. This was considered by the hierarchy to be a corruption of the Tongan language and was not to be tolerated. The meeting was of senior primary school staff, education department officials, and a member of parliament who was also a member of the Tongan Royal family. Merv gave me only one rule to follow: never argue with Tongan Royalty.

I was asked what 'forcee' was. I explained that in English a force is what makes things move and that in our primary schools we would usually use the words 'push' or 'pull' depending on what the force was doing. There was a strong reaction to this because 'push' and 'pull' were not scientific enough. I was stumped. Then His Highness spoke. He asked, 'Would this "force" be a good "force" or a bad "force"?'. I was really bowled over this time. The best I could offer was that we would always hope that forces would be good. He was delighted and declared that from now on the primary school teachers were not to use the word 'forcee' but replace it with the word for the Holy Spirit. I was flabbergasted, but remembered the rule: do not argue with Royalty! I am sure the brilliant teachers of young Tongan students found a way around that one.

It is possible that the Royal leader had seen the first Star Wars film, which was released in 1977. This may have been the first use in a science education context of the expression 'May the force be with you'. That may be fanciful, but my wish to those gentle, genial geniuses of Tonga is certainly 'May the forcee be with you!'

because of the need to include the AGM documents in this newsletter, we have had to hold over some members' articles until next time. But we will still need some more, so **Keep Writing!**

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual members and do not necessarily reflect those of IRSEA. IRSEA accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of those views.

Next Newsletter

November (copy by 22 October)

Valete

Joan Vickers	17 January 2020
Don Lawler	2 May 2020
Benjamin John Farnsworth	6 May 2020
Noel Ernest McClelland	9 June 2020

Reg Pollock

13 April 2020

I was saddened to read of the recent death of Reg Pollock. Reg was a man I admired and respected. He was a leader with a strong work ethic. He made his expectations clear and was very supportive of those who worked hard to meet them. He knew his Principals and teachers well and this gave him an ability to respond quickly to what was happening within the Region. He ensured there was active support and ensuing assistance to those who needed it. Under an earnest demeanour there was a dry sense of humour. Although rarely given, he delivered his quips with a straight face which made them all the more amusing. I worked in the Metropolitan West Region under Reg for a number of years—as an Inspector in the 1980s and then as Director, Personnel, in the 90s. I appreciated his support and acknowledgement and look back on those years with fond memories. Reg Pollock upheld the ideals of sound educational management and he was a leader of whom the educational community can be justifiably proud.

JOHN FOX

Peter Johnson

4 April 2020

Peter Johnson. Peter was not a member of IRSEA, but was well-known to many of us. Murat Dizdar wrote of him, 'A very sad day for the Public Education family. He was a primary school teacher, principal, demographer, and Executive Director, People and Services. He was instrumental in launching teach.NSW, numerous staffing agreements and awards, and incentives for rural and remote schools'.

REPORTS FOR THE AGM

Secretary's Report

The past twelve months saw pleasing developments despite the disruption from COVID-19. The executive committee met three times (June and October 2019 and March 2020) but unfortunately the February meeting had to be cancelled because of storms on the day and the massive disruption to electricity and transport. After much work reviewing options by John Allsopp, our Luncheon Coordinator, a new location, the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in the CBD, was found for our meetings. The August and December luncheon meetings were held there and a survey by those attending the first meeting gave a very positive response. Thank you to John for all his hard work.

The Department of Education continued to be supportive of our organization. At the August Luncheon meeting Richard Skinner gave a well-received presentation on his role as Director of Educational Leadership. The Department also had made available a room at its Parramatta premises for our 2020 Annual General Meeting, which could not take place because of the health restrictions. We have also enjoyed the further support of Kathy Powzun, Director, School Operations and Performance, from the office of Murat Dizdar, Deputy Secretary. Kathy has taken on the role of Executive Director, Bushfire Relief Strategy. We were also to continue our involvement in the Department's ANZAC Remembrance Service this year, but unfortunately it was cancelled owing to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The transitional arrangements for the newsletter were ended when Syd Smith commenced as Editor at the start of 2020. Thanks to Syd for volunteering to do this and to Grant Beard for his ongoing work as desktop publisher. Syd has done a great job since taking on that role. The functioning of our organization depends on members willing to serve on the executive committee. Fortunately we have a good group of people who have volunteered for the 2020/21 committee. In a May special notice members were informed of the new executive and that a ballot was not required. I am pleased to announce that Kerry Knox, who was a Director in the Department, is to be our Welfare Coordinator. Three long-standing members are not continuing: Geoff Walton, Peter Robinson, and Vincent Delany. They deserve much thanks for their wonderful contributions to our organization.

For our 'socially distanced' Annual General Meeting please make sure that you complete the voting form in the newsletter to indicate your acceptance/rejection of the reports and return to me

by 3 July. The notional date for the AGM will be seven days later.

PLEASE NOTE: The 31 July luncheon meeting has been cancelled owing to COVID-19. At this stage we are still planning to proceed with the 4 December luncheon meeting, subject to no new risks arising and ratification by the new executive.

Thanks

BRIAN DAVIES
Secretary

Membership Report

1 May 2020

Our ability to communicate with our members depends upon the accuracy of our members' records and I am grateful to note the flow of information from members of the Executive who report what they gather, as they pursue their tasks, and this information flowing to me, results in our contemporaneously correct database. The tables below summarize the changes in our membership during the last membership year.

NEW MEMBERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Joining Date</i>
Elaine Tasker	22.07.2019
Kerry Knox	6.02.2020
Cheryl Ballantyne	9.02.2020
Sharon Parkes	14.02.2020
Hetty Cislowski	13.03.2020
Terry Franklin	15.03.2020

RECENT DEATHS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
Noila Berglund	23.02.2020
Don Bliss	8.08.2019
Nev Bothwell	9.10.2019
Jim Burton	25.07.2019
Derek Howland	3.04.2019
Cliff Johnson	15.09.2019
Ern Kotlash	28.04.2019
Gerry Spring	9.07.2019
Sam Weller	7.11.2019

Here are some statistics to summarise the year:

Current Membership: 160 (This time last year 167)

Female Membership 42

Male Membership 118

All of these people receive the Newsletter each issue. We also maintain contact with 41 widows and widowers of former members through the Newsletter.

It is sad to record the passing of nine of our members since this time last year, but the entry of six new members is a bright spot in the statistics.

The years take their inexorable toll. A breakdown of the age-groups shows we have the following numbers in the various age cohorts and a comparison with previous years is also supplied.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Members under 60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Members aged 60–69	8	6	8	9	13
Members aged 70–79	52	57	61	68	81
Members aged 80–89	70	76	77	82	73
Members aged 90–99	20	20	16	18	22
Members over 100	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Those of a mathematical bent may notice these numbers do not tally with the membership. This is because we do not have the birth date of all members.

ALLAN MILLS
Membership Officer

Committee Members and Office-Bearers for 2020/21

President	Janina Sulikowski
Immediate Past President	Kerrie Ikin
Vice-President	Graham Dawson
Secretary	Brian Davies
Treasurer	Ray Gillies
Newsletter Editor	Syd Smith
Membership Officer	Allan Mills
Welfare Coordinator	Kerry Knox
Luncheon Coordinator	John Allsopp
Stewart House Contact	Alan Laughlin
Public Officer	Ray Gillies
Committee Member	Alan Laughlin
Committee Member	Alan Rice
Committee Member	Chris Carroll
Committee Member	Hetty Cislowski



INSTITUTE OF RETIRED SENIOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, INC.
ABN 78 259 388 090

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

Balance sheet: Financial year ending 31 March 2020

Assets		Liabilities	
CBA Society Cheque A/C	\$3,627.18	Due to Stewart House	\$0.00
CBA Term deposit	\$15,805.53	Subscriptions in advance	\$285.00
Postage stamps	\$12.00	Expenses owing	\$0.00
Non-current assets	\$0.00	Uncashed cheques	\$0.00
		Total liabilities	\$285.00
		Net equity	\$19,159.71
Total assets	\$19,444.71	Equity and liabilities	\$19,444.71

Income and Expenditure: Financial year ending 31 March 2020

Income		Expenditure	
Stewart House	\$2,971.15	Stewart House	\$3,089.95
Subscriptions*	\$1,905.00	Newsletter (printing)	\$826.40
Other (donation)	\$55.00	Newsletter (postage)	\$500.50
Luncheon meetings	\$2,750.00	Luncheon meetings	\$2,700.00
		Committee meetings venue	\$88.00
(* includes current, in advance, and back subs)		Fees to Fair Trading	\$46.00
		Printing and postage (Subs)	\$113.99
		ANZAC Day	95.00
Total income	\$7,681.15	Total expenditure	\$7,459.84
Operating surplus	\$221.31		
Term deposit interest reinvested	\$408.03		
CF 2019/2020	\$3,405.87		
Plus operating surplus	\$221.31		
CF 2020/21	\$3,627.18		

Reconciliation as at 31 March 2020

CBA IRSEA Cheque A/C	\$3,627.18	CBA Term Deposit (Matures 19 October 2020)	\$15,805.53
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Motions

1. That the Annual Financial Report for 2019/20 be accepted.
2. The Treasurer is to forward members' donations to Stewart House for 2020/21.
3. IRSEA member subscriptions for 2020/21 should remain at \$15 per annum.

(Note: \$15 has been the subscription since 2007).

RAY GILLIES
Treasurer, IRSEA
1 June 2020

INSTITUTE OF RETIRED SENIOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, INC.
66TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
3 MAY 2019
DRAFT MINUTES
NSW Department of Education, 105 Phillip Street, Parramatta

Pre-Annual General Meeting

Alan Laughlin President declared the meeting open at 12.30 p.m. Members who had passed away during the last year were acknowledged and commended for their contribution to education. These members were: Joyce Starnes (22.04.2018); Frank Fisher (1.06.2018); Gordon Campbell (1.07.2018); Betty Anderson (12.07.2018); Jack Elliott (20.07.2018); Julianna Dartnell (24.08.2018); Lionel Phelps (3.11.2018); Brent Corish (21.12.2018); Gordon (Ted) Roberts (17.03.2019); Ernest (Ernie) Kotlash (28.04.2019); Derek Howland (3.04.2019).

Alan Laughlin invited the meeting to nominate a member to act as Returning Officer for the election of members of the 2019/20 Executive Committee. Fred Cook was elected unopposed.

Annual General Meeting

1. **Welcome.** Alan Laughlin opened the Annual General Meeting at 12.40 pm. Alan thanked the NSW Department of Education for hosting the meeting and providing the lunch.
2. **Confirmation of Apologies.** There were 18 members in attendance and 13 apologies. Apologies were received from: Chris Carroll; George Green; Joan Healy; Allan Mills; Bill Muir; Rosemary Muir; Graham Dawson; Ian Vacchini; Heather Fiala; Terry Burke; Alan Pratt; Barry Laing; Chris Carroll (asked for the outgoing executive to be thanked and support to the new members).
3. **Call for any items of General Business.** No items.
4. **Acceptance of Minutes of Previous AGM.** The minutes of the AGM of Friday 4 May 2018 were circulated. The minutes were accepted. Moved Vincent Delany and seconded Ray Gillies.

Reports

5.1 President's Report

The President's report was circulated. Alan Laughlin expressed his appreciation to the members for the honour of being elected as President for the 2018/19 year. He also thanked the members of the committee for their work and support throughout the year.

Alan Laughlin reported that the year had been one of big changes, including the development of a very positive and helpful liaison with our old employer, the Department of Education. This grew mainly through the attitude of the Deputy Secretary, Murat Dizdar. He hosted an IRSEA visit here in August last year and showed members around this great facility. He has facilitated our use of DoE facilities and this luncheon is an example. Murat agreed to distribute a letter of invitation to join IRSEA for all retiring senior officers and distribute our book, *The Institute*, to them. We were also invited by Pat

Medway, President of the Teachers' sub-branch of the RSL to lay a wreath at the honour Boards for ANZAC day, while Kathy Powzun, Director of School Operations and Performance, has contributed a regular column to our newsletter.

It was further reported that Stewart House continued to benefit from contributions from IRSEA. The President attended the Stewart House recognition day and presented a cheque for \$2700 from IRSEA towards the goals of this wonderful organization. IRSEA has continued to promote and be involved in Stewart House fund-raising activities through the Friends of Stewart House. This has been a regular feature of our Newsletter. The CEO of Stewart House, Graeme Philpotts, has expressed his thanks for IRSEA's support.

In summing up we have maintained and expanded our roles through a period of significant change. We have capitalized on a growing links with the Department of Education. We have an opportunity to build and refresh our membership. We have fulfilled our task of '*preserving friendship and a sense of identity among senior men and women who have spent their professional endeavours in the field of public education*'. So by and large I think we have done well in a year of change.

Vice-President Kerrie Ikin, who becomes President for 2019/20, will bring fresh ideas and commitment and is wished all the best for the role.

5.2 Secretary's Report

Brian Davies thanked Geoff Walton, the previous Secretary, for his support and assistance in his first year in the role.

It was reported that the executive committee met four times (May and September 2018 and February and March 2019). Issues have included, inter alia, relationships with the Department, attracting eligible retiring departmental officers to join IRSEA, guest speakers for lunch meetings, the location of lunch meetings, and transitional arrangements for the newsletter editorship. With regard to future luncheon meetings a questionnaire was included in the November newsletter to provide member input on this issue with the results presented at the December luncheon and published in the February newsletter. There were 40 responses.

With Peter Robinson stepping down as Newsletter Editor at the end of 2018, Grant Beard was thanked for taking on the desktop publishing and Geoff Walton was thanked for his assistance in the production and distribution of the February and April newsletters this year.

The Secretary met with Kathy Powzun, Director, School Operations and Performance, from the office of Murat Dizdar, Deputy Secretary. The aim of the meeting was to establish a regular column from the Department for our

newsletter. Kathy was very supportive of our organization and contributed articles for the February and April editions this year.

Members have been encouraged to contribute to the newsletter with their views and experiences in education or on what they have been doing personally. Guidelines to support these contributions were published in the November 2018 newsletter. There has been an increasing number of members who have chosen to receive the newsletter by email. There are now 70 members who do so.

The Secretary's Report incorporated the report from the Welfare Coordinator, Geoff Walton. The Coordinator communicated with the membership, supported by members who promptly provide relevant information. Communication included comments on and details of funeral arrangements for members who pass away. Brief letters were written on behalf of the Institute to the family of a member that made reference to the comments and observations from colleagues. Members who have died since the 2018 AGM were listed (see names above). Geoff Walton was thanked for his continued excellent work as Welfare Coordinator.

5.3 Treasurer's Report

Ray Gillies reported that the overall position of IRSEA was steady compared with the previous year, with total assets of \$18 803.37 and funds carried forward into 2019/20 of \$3 405.87. There was an operating surplus of \$1.12. The CBA Term Deposit of \$15 397.50 matures on 19 February 2020. Luncheon meetings had not been as profitable as previous years with the total surplus from the previous three luncheon meetings totalling \$45.00.

Recommendations

- Forward to Stewart House donations from 2018/19 operations and members donations to date for 2019/20 within one month following the 2019 AGM.

Individual member donation from 2018/19	\$5.00
Luncheon meetings surplus 2018/19	\$45.50
Individual member donations 2019/20	\$2185.00
Total recommended initial payment	\$2235.00*

*plus other donations

- Forward members' Stewart House donations received after the 2019 AGM, and up to the end of the 2019/20 financial year, to Stewart House.
- IRSEA member subscriptions should remain at \$15 per annum. (Note: \$15 has been the subscription since 2007).

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and the recommendations endorsed on a motion moved by Vincent Delany and seconded by Tony Re (Carried).

5.4 Membership Officer

Allan Mills, the Membership Officer, was an apology for the meeting. Brian Davies spoke to the report. The report drew attention to the importance of members providing information about changed contact details so that accurate records were maintained. Allan Mills is grateful for the information provided which allows continuation

of contact with members. Alan also thanked Ray Gillies, Geoff Walton, and Brian Davies for their updates on membership information.

Membership stands at 167. At this time last year the membership was 175. The present membership comprises 39 ladies and 128 men. All of these people receive the Newsletter each issue. We also maintain contact with 33 widows and widowers of former members through the Newsletter.

A breakdown of the age-groups shows we have the following numbers in the various age cohorts and a comparison with previous years was also supplied.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Members under 60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Members aged 60 to 69	6	8	9	13
Members aged 70 to 79	57	61	68	81
Members aged 80 to 89	76	77	82	73
Members aged over 90	20	16	18	22
Members over 100	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Numbers do not tally with the membership. This is because we do not have the birth-date of all members.

5.5 Business arising from the reports

None.

6. Election of committee members and office bearers for 2019/20

<i>Committee Position</i>	<i>Elected for 2019/20</i>
President	Kerrie Ikin
Immediate Past President	Alan Laughlin
Vice President	Janina Sulikowski
Secretary	Brian Davies
Treasurer	Ray Gillies
Newsletter Coordinator ¹	Brian Davies (interim) ²
Membership Officer	Allan Mills
Luncheon Coordinator	John Allsopp
Welfare Coordinator	Geoff Walton
Stewart House Contact	Alan Laughlin
Public Officer	Ray Gillies
Committee member	Alan Rice
Committee member	Chris Carroll
Committee member	Vincent Delany
Committee member	Peter Robinson

¹ Meeting renamed position given the immediate reality of needing several people to work together

² The Editor's position was not filled, with no nominations received. Committee to look at seeking and appointing someone to take over the role, given Secretary and Editor roles are two substantial positions. The meeting accepted the offer from Brian Davies to support the production of the newsletter on an interim basis.

7. General Business

There being no General Business the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators closed at 1.07 p.m.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
VOTING FORM**

As you have received your newsletter by email, your voting form has been sent as a separate Microsoft Word attachment. You can vote by typing your responses directly into this attachment, saving it, and emailing it to the Secretary. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can print a copy and post it.

Please return to Brian Davies, Secretary IRSEA, by 3 July 2020.

Email to brian.davies09@gmail.com

or post to 24 Olinda Crescent, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118.