



Newsletter

ABN: 78 259 388 090

No. 2

April 2020

From the President

In our February newsletter, in the wake of bushfires and floods, I wrote, 'We hope that some more stable times lie ahead'. None of us could have imagined at that time that COVID-19 was on its way. But it was and now we face unprecedented times.



The Executive Committee was able to meet in person just before such meetings came to an end. The combined efforts of everyone at that meeting have enabled us to agree on some actions that will keep all our members connected throughout the coming months. I want to thank all the committee members for their ability to think 'outside the box' to develop a way to hold our AGM, elect new office bearers for 2020–21, and give all members a chance to contribute to the ongoing development of IRSEA.

First the AGM and election of office bearers. This year we will conduct our AGM through the newsletters and your voting by email or mail. This Newsletter contains (in the red box, page 2) the list of office-bearer positions, with those for which we have already received a nomination, and a voting form.

- Members are asked to return their nominations for any of these positions by 18 April 2020.
- If there is more than one nomination for a position, a voting form will be emailed or mailed out to all members on 20 April 2020, with a return date of 28 April 2020.
- The announcement of the new Committee will be announced in the mailout of the June Newsletter.
- The June Newsletter will also contain all mandatory reports for the AGM (e.g. the minutes of last year's AGM, financial statement, President's report) and a voting form for all members to accept (or reject) these minutes and reports.
- Voting needs to be returned by 3 July, providing time for follow-up of any matter, if required.
- This process will have our AGM completed before 31 July, which is the date by which our AGM needs to have been conducted.

Second, we have decided that it is timely to review our current Constitution. The information in this Newsletter (in the green box, page 3) explains what we have in mind and how we are seeking the input of every member in this very important task. We hope that these two processes will keep you connected to IRSEA and eagerly awaiting the next time that we can meet in person.

In such difficult times and uncharted territories, take care and remain well.

KERRIE IKIN
President

Secretary's Report

All the best to everyone in these difficult days. The executive committee has been working hard to adjust the functioning of our organization to the restrictions of the current situation and to look towards the future.

An essential part of the future of our organization will be the 2020–21 executive. There is an item in this newsletter about the election of that executive along with a nomination form. It is very important that members consider being part of the executive. We particularly need nominations for the positions of Vice-President and Welfare Coordinator. Our current Vice-President, Janina Sulikowski, will become President; Geoff Walton, our Welfare Coordinator, will not be continuing on the executive. Geoff has made a magnificent contribution over the years, including as Secretary and Welfare Coordinator. I would like to thank Geoff for all his support and assistance, especially during the time when I took on the role of Secretary as well as during last year when he helped to produce the four editions of the newsletter. Geoff has also done an outstanding job as Welfare Coordinator with his extensive knowledge of the background of members and his care and sensitivity in providing support. Thank you Geoff.

Continued on page 4 . . .

ELECTION OF 2020–21 IRSEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the process of the election of the 2020–21 Executive Committee will be conducted through a mailing and emailing process. Fortunately many of our current executive are willing to continue, but this does not preclude anyone else from nominating for these positions and there are still positions for which there is no nomination at this stage. Where there is more than one nomination for a position, a ballot will be held.

The functioning of our organisation depends on members' being willing to be part of the Executive Committee. Any member who feels they are able to fill a position is encouraged to nominate for any of the elected positions listed below.

Under the constitution the Immediate Past President and the President will not need to be elected. Our current President, Kerrie Ikin, will become the Immediate Past President and our current Vice-President, Janina Sulikowski, will become the President.

The positions on the committee with nominations received are:

Positions Filled by Succession

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) | President | Janina Sulikowski |
| (b) | Immediate Past-President | Kerrie Ikin |

Positions to be Elected

Position	Nominations
(c) Vice-President	VACANT
(d) Secretary	Brian Davies (nomination received)
(e) Treasurer	Ray Gillies (nomination received)
(f) Newsletter Editor	Syd Smith (nomination received)
(g) Membership Officer	Allan Mills (nomination received)
(h) Welfare Coordinator	VACANT
(i) Luncheons Coordinator	John Allsopp (nomination received)
(j) Stewart House Contact	Alan Laughlin (nomination received)
Ordinary Committee Members*	Alan Laughlin (nomination received)
	Chris Carroll (nomination received)
	AlanRice (nomination received)
	VACANCIES (number to be decided)

* There were 4 Ordinary Committee Members on the previous executive. The number can be decided by the Executive.

The nomination form is below (**indicate page**). Please send completed nomination forms to brian.davies09@gmail.com or post to 24 Olinda Crescent, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118 to reach me **by Saturday 18 April**.

IRSEA Constitution Review 2020

IRSEA's executive committee is reviewing the constitution. The executive invites you to contribute to the discussion. The executive committee has identified several matters for consideration:

1. *Bringing the IRSEA financial year into alignment with the membership year. See clauses 43 and 44.*

Current constitution

'43 Financial year

'The financial year of the Institute is each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year of the Institute, commencing on 1 April and ending on the following 31 March.'

'44 Membership year

'The membership year of the Institute is each period of 12 months commencing on 1 January and ending the following 31 December.'

Proposed new constitution

Clause 43: change the financial year commencing date to 1 January and the ending date to 31 December. No change to clause 44 is proposed.

Reason

Different financial year and membership year dates may be confusing for new members who join from January to March. Currently, their subscription payment is in the last quarter of the financial year but they would expect to be a member for the current calendar year. Our financial accounts do not reflect this expectation.

2. *Flow-on amendments to clause 24.1 in the constitution.*

Current constitution

'24 Annual general meetings

'24.1 The Institute must hold its annual general meeting:

- '(a) on the first Friday in May each year, or
- '(b) at another time, determined by the committee, before 31 July, or
- '(c) within such later time as may be prescribed by the Regulation or allowed by NSW Fair Trading.'

Proposed new constitution

Clause 24.1 (a): bring the date of the AGM forward from May to earlier in the calendar year.

Reason

Shifting the end of the financial year to three months earlier (i.e. from 31 March to 31 December) means that a May AGM is too late in the year to be good practice regarding disclosure and transparency of IRSEA finances to members.

Alternative dates in February, March, or April should be considered.

Clause 24.1 (b): 'before 31 July' would become 'before 30 June'.

Reason

This change is to meet legislative requirements that we hold our AGM no later than six months after the end of the financial year.

3. *Clause 25.1: the timing of other general meetings.*

Current constitution

'25 General meetings

'25.1 General meetings of the Institute will be conducted on the first Friday in August and December in conjunction with the luncheon meetings.'

Proposal

Change the dates of other general meetings.

Reason

Our traditional luncheon meeting dates—May, August, December—were established when the school year was divided into three terms, and remain aligned with the three-term year. If we change the May meeting AGM date as proposed, we could change the other dates to ensure balance across the year.

4. *The costs of adopting a revised constitution.*

The fee for submitting a 'new' constitution to NSW Fair Trading is \$52.

Costs of consulting members, printing, and mail-outs would be met from current funds.

The costs mean that it would be sensible to make any other changes to the constitution proposed during the review and supported by members at the same time.

IRSEA members adopted the current IRSEA constitution along with incorporation in 2016. Your executive committee proposes to recommend approval of a revised constitution in a special resolution at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The executive committee invites IRSEA members to respond to these proposals and to suggest any other amendments to the IRSEA constitution by 30 June 2020.

Please send any comments or requests for a copy of the current IRSEA constitution to Ray Gillies, IRSEA Public Officer and Treasurer, at rcgillies@yahoo.com.au or mail to 79 Albyn Road, Strathfield NSW 2135. *A response form is included in this mail-out. You can type your comments into the form or simply send the same information by email or letter.*

Secretary's Report continued from page 1

On a pleasing note about the future, we have five new members. Welcome to Cheryl Ballantyne, Kerry Knox, Sharon Parkes, Hetty Cislowski, and Terry Franklin. All have had an extensive background in public education and are a great addition to our membership.

It is good news that Kathy Powzun, from the Office of the Deputy Secretary, School Operations and Performance will continue to be our contact with the Department. Kathy has been a tremendous support over 2019. This year Kathy was appointed Executive Director, Bushfire Relief Strategy. With the bushfire disaster and now with the COVID-19 pandemic, it must be difficult times for staff in Department offices and for teachers with the health and education issues they are facing. Let's hope that they get the support they need.

Members were invited to attend two events in the first part of this year. The first was a dinner on 21 March to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Teacher Exchange Program. This was cancelled a short time before the event. We assisted the Department by informing our members through an email. The second event was the ANZAC Remembrance Service, which was to be held on 16 April at the Department of Education's state office at Parramatta. This also had to be cancelled.

Take care. These difficult days shall pass.

BRIAN DAVIES

Friends of Stewart House

Current Situation

The Friends of Stewart House had arranged a number of social fundraising activities for the coming year, but with the escalating response to limiting the spread of the coronavirus these have either postponed or cancelled. However, I include a few events that have proved popular in previous years and are many months off; maybe we will be in a position to confirm these nearer the event but, with a sense of optimism, please put these in your diaries if you are interested.

As you would expect Stewart house has now ceased operation until otherwise advised. The nature of the boarding operation at Stewart House is incompatible with Government action.

All members of FOSH wish the staff at Stewart House all the very best and encourage all to look after one another and support the vulnerable.

July 23 (Thursday). Lunch at Doyle's Restaurant on the beach at Watson's Bay

This popular event has been organized this year for Thursday 23 July commencing at 12.30 p.m. The menu consists of fish chowder followed by fish and chips, accompanied by a glass of beer, wine, or soft drink, at a cost of \$45, which includes a \$10 donation for Friends of Stewart House.

September 29 (Tuesday). High Tea, Beehive Cafe, Shop 4/1A Wongala Crescent, Beecroft

High Tea will be on Tuesday 29 September at 10.00 a.m. The cost is \$36 and includes high tea with unlimited tea/coffee and \$10 donation to Friends of Stewart House. An extra \$7 for a glass of bubbly!

ALAN LAUGHLIN
Secretary, FOSH

Members Write

Life After Education

Highlights and Pitfalls—Cliff's Life as an Auctioneer and Valuer

Cliff Cowdroy

How often did we extol the virtues of **lifelong education and learning**? It was a constant mantra in our time as educational administrators projecting scenarios for the twenty-first century, contemplating the disappearance of jobs, the rise of entirely new trades and professions, and the development of trainers for the digital age and beyond.



CLIFF COWDROY

Putting clichés into action in retirement mode, I enrolled at UWS and undertook a fine arts course, then successfully completed examinations to become a Registered/Certificated Auctioneer and Valuer. It was quite a significant change from the world of schools, education policy, and practice to the

valuing and sale of commercial assets and private estates. In addition, it involved liaising with museums.

Auctioneering has become a deregulated industry, but ethically and practically it is imperative that one become a member of the *Auctioneers & Valuers Association of Australia, Inc.* That entity provided a solid credential that was a prerequisite for admittance to the exchange world of 'Goods & Chattels'. My initial role was mainly focused on gaining individual and commercial clients for a Parramatta-based auction company. A double history major at university also helped me, together with my lifelong interest in Australiana. With a colleague, an accredited gemmologist and jewellery expert, we concentrated on works of art, silver and ceramics, paper-based materials, fine furniture, and any item of Australiana. The firm also had an industrial wing auctioning the equipment of abattoirs, clubs, dental surgeries, mining machinery, and anything else, throughout the Australian States.

Goods and chattels covered a vast array of items, but we shied away from motor vehicles, there being other specialized auctions for their disposal, including listings of ex-government vehicles.

I was thrown in at the deep end and I recalled the salutary advice of our legal lecturer to never divulge an estimated value to a client, as an opinion of value, without first undertaking due diligence and quoting it in writing (including a fee). Initially this was a pitfall.



ROSEMARY AND BILL MUIR, AUGUST 2019

For twenty years I worked in a number of spheres including valuations in connection with Family Law Court directives, deceased estates, family distributions, insurance valuations, and for 'down-sizers'. Rarely were our valuations questioned and if a dispute did arise, it was ultimately referred to our managing director for clarification before issuing a final schedule. Each category had a different valuing pattern: low valuation for family

distribution, high for individual sales to a willing seller/willing buyer at 'arm's length'.

How did one know the value of an object?

First, one draws upon background knowledge, enhanced by catalogue searches. Secondly, we relied upon auction-sale reports. We attended auctions regularly and used modern UK price guides, but then adjusted currency values.

Where did all this stuff come from? Mostly British-based items turned up and some from the Continent, but very little, until recently, from the Far East (old term).

The bulk of British furniture was imported by the container load during the 1970s and sold by unregistered itinerant auctioneers. Much of it was what we call in the trade 'brown work'—mahogany items and heavy Victorian oak dining-room suites and sofas.

Other sources included inherited pieces brought out with wave after wave of British immigrants from around the 1870s through to 1914. Thereafter, the furniture was largely Australian-made, with some labels of the 1930s advising that no foreign labour was involved in their manufacture.

The third source was designated as Colonial, but the term covers a range of eras. For example, early New South Wales furniture was made almost exclusively from rare timbers such as *Fraserium Dioxolym* (swamp rosewood), originally cut out in the Wyong area. These were quickly superseded, with *Cedrela Toona Australis* (red cedar) being plentiful, fine-grained and easy to fashion. Chinese cabinet-makers in the Haymarket of Sydney turned out all manner of practical pieces, including chests of drawers and military campaign furniture (light and portable). As the availability of cedar declined, they turned to pine.

In addition, Australia followed artistic trends of the British and Continental designers, so we got wonderful flowing art-nouveau-style furniture, picture frames, and furnishings, with art deco following between the wars. So hideous were the walnut veneer suites that auction houses banned them from sale.

So, what were the highlights? Gaining a hammer-auction price of \$2500 for a Scandinavian settee (vers 1948) with original red woollen cushions and a fairly low valuation estimate was a highlight for the vendor. Sorting through household rubbish bags on the tip revealed old letters and an 1811–16 NSW military diary, which sold privately for \$18 000. Locating an original dispatch to Sir John Monash on the Western Front, dated 1917, was amazing, as was a signed postcard of the P & O Steamer *Mantua* from General Birdwood en route to Australia. He was earmarked to be Governor General, but Sir Isaac Isaacs won the day and Birdwood ended up in India as C in C; he was

greatly admired and respected by the AIF. In the same estate were next-of-kin plaques—large copper-bronze medallions sent to grieving WW1 families accompanied by a letter of gratitude from King George V. Many family recipients were hostile in receiving them, dubbing them ‘Dead Men’s Pennies’. Another house clearance included boxes of French Ricardo stereoscopic glass slides, lying in the garage. The slides depicted life in transit for our wounded AIF soldiers from France and their rehabilitation in requisitioned British mansions. Many were saved, only to become victims of the great post-war influenza epidemic. All of the militaria has now been accessioned by the Australian War Memorial (ACT).



DEAD MAN'S PENNY

There are many other highlights, such as an early piece of furniture that was in the collection of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie. The sale of this was negotiated for a very high figure and authenticated by provenance and its exclusion from the Bigge 1820s Inventory Reports of the two government houses. Not so long ago we valued a rare late Georgian extension table by the famous artisan Gillows of Lancaster and valued it over A\$50 000 (insurance replacement).

It is essential for the auctioneer and valuer to try to establish the provenance of an item. Original receipts help, if available, as do family anecdotes, though these can be less reliable. Apart from style, an object can also display age and patination. Dear old ladies can get things wrong. For example, one client thought she had valuable rubies, but they were merely good quality garnets. Clients invariably have notions of high value for their items which are discerned to be highly inflated. Although I tried to bring these private clients back to reality, they had to be told bluntly that the item was only worth what the current market buyers would pay for it! A pitfall that is fairly common.

Another pitfall for the auctioneers is to undervalue or overvalue an item. Indemnity Insurance is a comfort, but expensive. Fortunately I have never been involved in litigation or the need to pay compensation. It can be a costly trap with litigious clients

Generally the prices of pedestrian ‘antiques’ have progressively fallen over the past twenty years, owing largely to a number of factors: the era of Flat Pack and buying off the shelf; lack of funds for the decorative arts owing to the high mortgage debt levels; ignorance and lack of understanding of our fabulous past; lack of cultural appreciation by some ethnicities; and the dictates of taste projected by glossy homemaker magazines. I give one example: a fine 1930s Robert Johnson oil painting was valued ten years ago for \$8000 for insurance purposes, but recently we revalued the same painting at \$1800. The valuer must be ever mindful of the fickle and changing market and the expectations of people.

The good news is that there will always be avid collectors of good art works fine porcelain and colonial-era articles. The collectors are mostly Australian with a British or Continental background. Discerning young people with a keen eye buy one or two fine pieces to make them a feature of their homes, but generally the young are not interested in anything Victorian but rather enjoy the style of the late-nineteenth and twentieth century Art and Craft Movement. The young also gravitate to Chinese blue and white ceramics, but much now emanates from modern Chinese factories. Conversely, Japanese ‘Objects d’Art’ in ceramics are rarer, more easily authenticated, and hold their price. Large Imari vases with fine glazes can easily attract up to \$3000 (retail).

A word about FAKES!—a word used frequently now in the media. We always look at makers’ marks on porcelain. An indistinct one is always suspect, and the quality of the firing can often be a ‘give-away’, be it the mode of decoration, the quality of transfer, or hand-pointedness. In furniture, it is relatively easy to pick what we call in the trade, ‘a marriage’. This could be a cupboard turned into a bookcase; a non-matching top and base of a bureau-bookcase, or the wrong type of wood ascribed to the object. For example, a so-called English oak dining-table is likely to have been made in Australian mountain ash and coloured to resemble old English oak. The borers love the Australian version too!

Silver is a vast subject and I relied heavily on my ‘Attenborough’ hallmark guide. Silverplate is very common and virtually worthless unless depicting an Australian motif. However, genuine Sheffield plate with its own marks attracts high value if dated before the mid nineteenth century. Sterling (HMSS) realizes a higher price in Britain than in Australia and many items end up, through auction

houses, back in England. Irish Georgian marked silver is very popular and also brings high prices. A matching canteen of sterling flatware, say simple fiddle and thread pattern, pre-1900 of 44 pieces will attract eager buyers, whereas king pattern ware, though more ornate and almost rococo in style, will be less popular in my belief and experience.

Where does it all go? By inheritance it goes to family members. By order of executors or trustees items go to auction houses or to charity shops; some items go to museums and some are literally dumped a having NCV—*No Commercial Value*.

I hope the article might spark a bit of interest. I retired last year giving up my registration, but had an arduous and enjoyable twenty years at it, gaining knowledge and understanding through research, through conducting household and charity auctions, and securing items for younger Australians to appreciate now and in the future, and, of course, meeting all manner of people.



ALLAN MILLS, JACK BASELY, JOHN EDWARDS, AUGUST 2019

Was It Not Ever Thus?

Joan Healy

At Christmas a friend gave me a copy of a book by Andrea Wulf with the title: *The Invention of Nature*. It is subtitled the 'Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt, the Lost Hero of Science', and won the 2015 COSTA Biography Award.

Alexander von Humboldt is probably best known these days from his name's being given to the cold, low-salinity current that flows along the western coast of South America, but he is worthy of much greater distinction. Born in 1769 into a wealthy Prussian family, he was undoubtedly the David Attenborough of his time without all the modern technology available today. He travelled extensively throughout Europe, plus one major trip in Central America in 1799–1804, another through Venezuela in 1800, and yet another across Russia in 1829. Hundreds of books were published by him as a result of his voyages, as he was not only interested in the geography and geology of the areas but collected thousands of botanical and

zoological specimens that were subsequently described and preserved in museums throughout the world.

Humboldt was one of the influences on Charles Darwin when he was developing his theories on the Origin of Species, and indeed Darwin had seven volumes of Humboldt's work with him on board the *Beagle*, a voyage he said he would never have undertaken had he not read Humboldt's books beforehand.

On reporting back about the Russian trip he wrote two books in which he commented on the 'destruction of forests and of humankind's long term changes to the environment'. When he listed three ways in which the human species was affecting the climate, he named deforestation, ruthless irrigation, and, perhaps most prophetically, the great masses of steam and gas produced in the industrial centres.

That was just on 200 years ago and some people are still not convinced.

American River: A Story of Surprise Encounters in a Strange Land!

Ritchie Stevenson

A couple of years ago when adventuring in our caravan to South Australia we couldn't resist dragging the van onto the ferry and spending some time on Kangaroo Island. Whilst circumnavigating the island we came across a small coastal town called American River. Why American River?

Whilst on an exploratory history walk (well-marked) we noticed that three flags flew over the local wharf—the British Union Jack, the French Tricolour, and the American Stars and Stripes! A small group of men were busy building a strange-looking wooden boat in a shed nearby.

Herein lies a story to warm the historian's heart.

In 1800 Britain and France were at war. The British had commissioned young Captain Matthew Flinders to explore and map the coastline of Terra Australis. On hearing this, the French had appointed their Captain Nicolas Baudin to do likewise.

Flinders, in command of HMS *Investigator*, made the first recorded European sighting of the island in March 1802. He came ashore on the north coast, and named it 'Kangaroo' Island after the predominant wildlife.

On the afternoon of 8 April 1802, as the *Investigator* tacked back towards the mainland, a sail appeared on the eastern horizon. It was the French corvette, *Le Geographie*, under the command of Nicolas Baudin. Initially wary, both parties soon realized that neither had hostile intentions.

They hauled-to in Encounter Bay (later named by Flinders) on the Coorong and, over breakfast the

next day, eagerly exchanged information about each other's explorations in the Great South Land. Exchanging charts, they soon realized they had both been given a similar mission—to fill in the final piece of the continental puzzle by charting the southern coastline of New Holland. It was, in fact, one continent, and not divided by a big river down the middle! Flinders also told Baudin of the large island nearby where the kangaroos provided plenty of fresh meat, and where fresh water might be found. He also told him of the seals sighted there and further along the coast.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, at Stonington, Connecticut, a ship, the *Union*, commanded by Captain Isaac Pendleton, was being prepared for a sealing expedition to the southern hemisphere. By early 1803, *Union* was in King George Sound near what is now Albany, WA, where Pendleton also encountered Baudin. Baudin gave Pendleton copies of the charts of Australia that he had made or received from other sources and told Pendleton of the existence of Kangaroo Island and how he could get many seals there.



MODEL OF THE INDEPENDENCE

Pendleton arrived at Kangaroo Island in April 1803 and decided to spend the winter there. In addition, he decided to spend it fruitfully by building a smaller vessel presumably in order to increase his capacity to carry sealskins. Thus was born *Independence*, a thirty-five ton schooner, built from local timber. The vessel was used for sealing operations around Kangaroo Island and as far afield as the Antipodes Islands south of New Zealand. She was presumed lost with all hands when making her second voyage south in 1805.

Moving into the shed on the wharf we discovered a small group of men rebuilding a replica of the *Independence*. The Rebuild Independence Group (RIG) is a volunteer group that is re-creating the first vessel ever built in South Australia—the 45-ft United States Schooner *Independence*. The original Schooner was built on the banks of the inlet, where

the town of American River now stands, by the American sealers from Connecticut, USA, in 1803, who sailed here in their brig *Union*.

The vessel is being built in the 'RIG Boathouse', which is at the entrance to the American River wharf. As well as the wooden framework for the boat, there is also an interpretive display, which details the adventures and fate of the *Union* and *Independence* and their association with the explorers Nicholas Baudin and Matthew Flinders.

The vessel is being built entirely by voluntary labour and will take some three to five years to complete. Once finished, it is hoped that visitors will be able to climb aboard and go for a short sail around the small, attractive Eastern Cove and learn how these old sailing vessels were handled. The group is raising funds for their project as they go. More may be found on their website: <http://www.theindependence.org>

Go Home Mullins

Told by Merv Blanch

'Go home Mullins!'

'You'll never make a sport.'

We were both eleven years old in 1936 and were being coached in tennis by Mr. J.

Peter Mullins was full of energy, never stopped talking, and was irrepressible. Seven years later at Sydney Teachers' College, I wandered out on to the oval and discovered this giant of a fellow (now over 6 feet 4 inches tall and he was carrying a pair of spiked shoes. It was Peter.

I took some time to recognize him and we began to converse. I asked him, 'Why the shoes?'. He told me he was training to try to beat the Australian high-jump record. Eventually I left college and Peter had to finish a third year to be a qualified physical education teacher.

Peter rang me in 1948 to say he had been selected to represent Australia in the approaching Olympic Games in London; not in the High jump but in the Decathlon. And what, may you ask, is that? It's not one event but ten different elements. You have to run sprints, long distances, do jumps long and broad as well as high, and throw javelins, discus, and hammer, and the total number of subsets is ten. He returned from London and rang me to say he came sixth in the world. We laughed about our tennis coach. Because he had excelled, he was invited to go to Washington State University, and he was there until he retired.

A few years there and he rang me to say he was bringing out the Harlem Globetrotters, a team of coloured players to introduce basketball to Australia and asked would I like to see and hear as they performed a spectacular routine to the music of

'Sweet Georgia Brown'. It was something to remember.

Some years later he rang to say he was retiring, and we later met at Bondi Junction, coming back to Waverley where we had both lived. His body reflected the strain he had put on it over the many years and his sight was failing.

In his early seventies he eventually did 'Go Home'. Peter Mullins was an extraordinary man and teacher and I shall never forget him.

Thank you for the contributions to this newsletter from Cliff Cowdroy, Joan Healy, Richie Stevenson, and Merv Blanch. I hope you enjoy reading their stories. Now we are confined to barracks we can look forward from all members to contribute more stories, opinions, and ideas for our next newsletter. Simply send your contributions as a Word file [.docx or .doc or text file (.txt) and any photographs in .jpeg format] to the email below. Perhaps you can tell us how you are coping with the coronavirus, but, above all, we hope you are well and staying fit. Also if you receive your newsletter by post and would prefer to receive it in colour by email, please let us know. Happy reading.

SYD SMITH

Editor, sydsmith@optusnet.com.au

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.



COL MACDONALD, BRIAN DAVIES, PEGGY CRADDOCK,
IAN VACCHINI, CATE VACCHINI, TONY RE, EULA GUTHRIE,
AUGUST 2019

Gleaning: 'With all these students staying home from school, a whole lot of parents are about to discover that it wasn't the teacher who was the problem'—Column 8, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23.3.2020.

Newsletter Dates for 2020

July (copy by 18 June)

November (copy by 22 October)

Membership Changes for 2020

New members

Dr Cheryl Ballantyne: 59 King Road, Wilberforce NSW 2756. Mob: 0409 846 382.

Ms Kerry Knox: Unit 102, 1–9 Admiralty Drive, Breakfast Point NSW 2137. Mob: 0417 410 283.

Dr Sharon Parkes: 41 Fleet Street, New Lambton NSW 2305, Tel.: (02) 4952 6660; Mob.: 0412 523 452.

Ms Hetty Cislowski: 65 Darling Street, Roseville NSW 2069, Tel.: (02) 9412 1707; Mob.: 0424 278 183.

Change of contact details

Graham Blunden: Address change from 15 January: A 303/5 Grand Court, Fairy Meadow NSW 2519. Phone numbers and email the same.

Alan James Young: Address change to: 27/15 Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, Tas. 7000, New mobile: 0423 272 827.

Vale

Noila Berglund

Noila Berglund died on 24 February 2020. Noila commenced her teaching career in February 1958 and was appointed as a member of the Secondary Science Panel of Inspectors based in Metropolitan East Region in January 1982. In July 1985 Noila was appointed Assistant Director, Metropolitan West Region, and in October 1986 was promoted to the position of Regional Director, Metropolitan South-West Region, based in Liverpool. Then as part of the *Schools Renewal Restructure* in January 1990 Noila was appointed Deputy Director-General of Education; she retired from this position in September 1991. In June 1993 Noila was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to Education, and in 1995 the University of Western Sydney recognized her contribution to schools and education with the award of an Honorary Fellowship. Speaking during her funeral service, Nolia's daughters reflected on what they saw as the high level of enjoyment and professional satisfaction that she derived from her time as the Education Officer at Taronga Park Zoo.

Do We Need to Change Your Contact Details?

If you are changing your address or other contact details please let us know. If you have provided us with an email but have not received emails over the last few months then please let us know. We might have the wrong email or your email might not be working. If you have not provided us with an email and would like to receive emails that go out from time-to-time then please let us know.

Please provide the following details:

Name:

Street:

Town: State: Postcode:

Email address: Phone no.:

Email your details to: brian.davies09@gmail.com

OR Post to: Brian Davies, Secretary IRSEA, 24 Olinda Crescent, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118.

Please Nominate For Our Executive

IRSEA 2020–21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Association, nominate:

Nominee:

As an ordinary committee member AND/OR for the specific position of (please specify):

Position:

Nominator:

Seconder:

I acknowledge and accept this nomination

Nominee (signature):

PLEASE RETURN TO BRIAN DAVIES by 18 April 2020

(brian.davies09@gmail.com or 24 Olinda Crescent, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118)