



IRSEA NEWS

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ABN: 78 259 388 090

IRSEA enriches the lives of retired Senior Educational Administrators through engagement, collegiality, friendship, and support while deploying its intellectual capacity and educational expertise for the betterment of public education in New South Wales, Australia, and beyond.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LINDSAY WASSON



"LET US THRIVE WITH ALL OUR CANDLES BURNING" *

It is with both joy and a heavy heart that I write my first President's Report for my second presidency. Joy in leading an eminent membership of Australia's top educators with a magnificent leadership team which has, under the outstanding presidencies of Graham Dawson, Eric Jamieson and Gerry McCloughan, taken our Institute to new levels of success. (I do believe I fit into that list somewhere.) And a heavy heart as I reflect on the recent death of Tony Re, one of IRSEA's most endearing, active, bright and positive contributors to our events and to the embracing, nurturing culture within which we thrive.

It is our lot, like my favourite Roman god, Janus, to look to and celebrate our illustrious past while casting an altruistic eye to the future, where endless, wondrous possibilities beckon. In taking on this role once more I am also conscious of the expectations of our membership, that we will continue to grow value through richer and more enjoyable

WHAT'S THE NEWS

- 4 ANZAC Ceremony
- 8 Department's Update
- 9 Life Membership
- 10 New IRSEA Plan
- 12 Committee Report Updates
- 13 Vale
- 16 SUPPLEMENT
- 17 - AGM 2025 Package
- 18 - Motions passed
- 27 - New Executive Position
- 29 FLYERS and Booking Sheets
 - May General Meeting
 - Hunter Central Coast

Upcoming Event
MAY GENERAL MEETING
Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
30 May 2025

**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout NSW and Australia.
We pay our respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.**

times together while we also deepen, broaden and enhance our educational thinking, connections and influence in this fraught educational landscape.

Gerry McCloughan, take a bow! As President for 2024-2025, you have brought outstanding intellectual capacity, indefatigable energy, enthusiasm and drive to the role and invigorated so many of our priorities, existing and in development. Thank you! You will be a hard act to follow but I know you will continue to add value to my tenure with your vision, verve and vitality.



Our work this year will be guided by the 'Plan on a Page', ***Our Directions and Priorities*** (and associated documentation), largely compiled by Gerry McCloughan, Eric Jamieson and Lindsay Wasson, along with input from members. The plan stands as a highly accessible statement of our strategic and noble intent as a unique educational organisation of both state and national influence (see page 10 for a Plan report).

On this theme, our newly installed Executive Committee could not be a more illustrious band of educators. Thank you to those who have re-nominated as Executive members for your constancy, reliability and creativity as we



take the organisation forward, and to our new Committee member, Michael Murray, who is taking on the role of editor of our IRSEA News.

This leads me to congratulate, and to thank, Syd Smith for the many years he has devoted to making our News such a hugely valued publication, eagerly devoured by our members and an essential foundation for connecting our widely distributed membership to the Institute. Thank you, Syd, for a truly outstanding job!

As your president, I ask for your help in supporting our continuing work, and particularly on the following select, strategic initiatives - some already in flight and others yet to take off:

- Expand our membership of eligible candidates already retired, and all eligible senior educational administrators in DoE and TAFE, as Associate Members, regardless of age. For TAFE, I will meet with the new CEO and work with John Allsopp, Kim Fillingham and David Riordan to facilitate the links that give promise of growth in our TAFE membership numbers
- Increase the number and type of social events for members both city-based and in other locations
- Establish regional meetings in Newcastle and Wollongong as regular fixtures within our annual calendar of events

- Design and establish an ongoing program of **Thought Leadership Seminars** to explore significant issues in public education and 'the desired landscape of education for the future' (Ken Boston 3 March 2025)
- Develop a consensus on, and promulgate and advocate relentlessly for, free and secular education as the mainstream national provision
- Formalise our partnerships through MOUs with:
 - The NSW Department of Education (DoE)
 - The Public Education Foundation (PEF)
 - Stewart House
- Initiate and support the international recognition of individual NSW public schools through their success in the **World's Best School Prizes**
- Celebrate the first annual **IRSEA Fellowship** awarded to an outstanding senior educational administrator in partnership with the DoE. (This Fellowship is made possible through a generous donation from our Vice President, Dr Kerrie Ikin)
- Establish closer links with the tertiary sector to support a more seamless trajectory of school students to higher education
- Establish links with key Guild leaders within the Australian Film and Television Industry to leverage their cultural, economic and societal influence in strengthening the depiction and perception of the value of public education and TAFE in NSW

While these focus areas and work streams for the year of my presidency are many and, in some cases perhaps even contentious, they are presented as an earnest and strongly held set of priorities based on our work to date and on the principles and values we collectively espouse. Together, with all the intellectual and persuasive power we are able to muster, I believe we can help take public education and TAFE to the levels of success our great democratic society sorely needs.

*"Let us thrive with all our candles burning." **

(*With apologies to Charmian Clift)

Lindsay Wasson
President IRSEA

Hunter Central Coast Gathering – Reunion in June –

IRSEA has organised a special opportunity in the Hunter-Central Coast for retired, semi-retired and yet-to-be-retired senior educational administrators and their partners to come together, catch up and share experiences. The gathering will be held at the Apollo International Hotel, Charlestown over two days: a **Social networking dinner** on Friday 13 June, 6:00-8:00pm; and a **more formal Luncheon meeting** on Saturday 14 June, 11:30-2:00pm. We are fortunate to have as luncheon guest speaker, Laureate Professor Jenny Gore AM.

Running the event over a Friday-Saturday period provides opportunities for all, including those still working, to join in for this unique opportunity to connect, socialise and network with like-minded educational leaders. The IRSEA Executive Committee is looking forward to sharing its achievements, vision and directions, and so we invite former senior colleagues of the Department and TAFE, along with Full, Associate and Honorary IRSEA members, partners and guests to join us for our first meeting outside the Sydney Metropolitan area for many years.

We also invite members and guests to let us know of other former senior educational administrators of the Department and TAFE who you feel would like to receive an invitation. The event flyer and **booking form** is published within this IRSEA News on page 31. Please register by Friday 30 May,

We hope you see value in attending one or both of our gatherings, if you possibly can, over the 13-14 June weekend.

Department of Education ANZAC Remembrance Ceremony

Teachers and the RSL – Hetty Cislowski

IRSEA member, Hetty Cislowski, presented this powerful speech at this year's DoE ANZAC Remembrance Ceremony on 23 April. She commemorated the original Anzacs and the many men and women who followed in their footsteps, then recounted her own moving story as a World War 2 refugee.

I begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we meet today, the Burramattagal people of the Dhurag Nation. This place where we meet today, was initially referred to as part of Rose Hill, but in 1791 Governor Phillip changed the name of this part to Parramatta, to recognise Indigenous history and ownership. If you say Burramatta quickly it's easy to imagine how it became Parramatta. It was the first time in Australian history that a place name had been selected by the colonial government to acknowledge our Indigenous people. Now, that's special.

Today, I also acknowledge the work of Ken Stevenson and senior officers of our Department who have ensured that the war service of teachers and officers would continue to be recorded, displayed and respectfully integrated into the Department's state office.

We are all here to recognise and respect the spirit of the Anzacs and the many thousands of men and women who have followed in their footsteps in other places of war. We honour their love of country and their belief in democracy, decency, fairness and mateship. As we reflect on the decades since the Gallipoli landings, it's a truly dreadful fact, that wars continue to be part of human history. Sadly, we have ongoing wars in several parts of the world at this very moment.



Today, I have chosen to share with you part of my own story as a World War 2 refugee which is connected to that of an Australian airman, Flight Lieutenant George Kiddle.

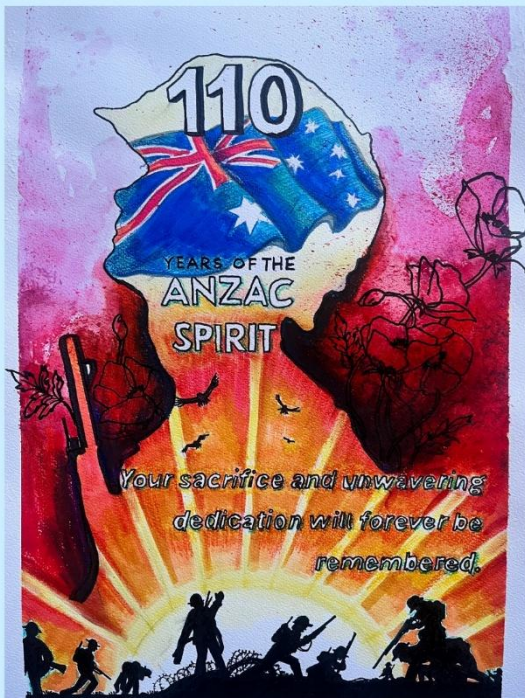
But first, some context:

In the last months of World War 2, there were already millions of displaced persons (DPs) churning around Europe, many moving westwards on foot, by horse and cart, lucky ones on bicycles, even better if you could hitch onto a truck or train. The tide of DPs increased every day – people looking for loved ones, seeking what remained of their homes, and many needing food, shelter and safety.

My father, Zygmunt, was one of those walking west. He had been part of the Polish resistance, and that

made him a marked man. Then, under German Occupation, he became one of the thousands of Poles to be forced labourers on farms or factories in East Germany. When his first assignment as a forced labourer came to an end, the bureaucratic machine of the Reich re-located him to another farm in Northern Germany. There he met Martha who was also a forced labourer, but from the Netherlands. Their job was digging blocks of turf, to be dried for winter fuel.

Six months after the official end of the war, many people had been repatriated back to their home countries, but there were still about 5 million persons who had nowhere to go, including Zygmunt and Martha. They were now “free”, but no longer able to stay on the farm, and afraid to return to Poland. They married and they registered as DPs, the first step towards status as a refugee. They depended on the Allied forces and humanitarian organisations for food and shelter.



Now let me introduce you to George Kiddle.

George's father Edgar Kiddle served as an ANZAC at Gallipoli and then in the Battle of Passchendaele.

Returning to Australia, he married and had one child, George. George was a bright kid and did well at school. On leaving high school, George entered the public service and joined the Department of Air which dealt with wartime aircraft.

In 1942 he enlisted in the air-force and trained as a Navigator. He was posted to the RAF Sunderland Squadron in Northern Ireland - then to Oban in Scotland, where he joined the RAF Coastal Command, flying daily reconnaissance, tracking shipping, and hunting U-boats.

At the end of the war, George was de-mobilised and waiting in London for a boat to take him home. Not many boats were available, given the heavy loss of shipping during the war and it would be a long wait for many. By chance, at Australia House one day, he saw a job ad for positions in the Australian Immigration Department - London Office. Keen to do something useful, George applied and, as he still had status as a public servant, he was immediately accepted, promoted a few grades, and began work on the program for selecting British immigrants. He did this for about 18 months.

Then, in 1947, when Australia decided to accept DPs from Europe, George was asked to develop the forms and selection procedures, and then to implement the program in cooperation with the International Refugee Organisation (IRO). His was a small team: just 3 blokes plus Miss Watkins, the Secretary/Typist. They hired local translators and drivers to get them around the camps.

Now let me bring these two stories together – my family, and George Kiddle

In 1947, Zygmunt and Martha were in one of the largest DP camps. Diepholz. I was born there. The camp had many long wooden huts which had previously served as barracks for German soldiers, also POWs, and for some time as a holding station

for Jewish people being transported to the death camps.

This is how George described it when he went there to select people for his first shipload of immigrants: "... the conditions in Diepholz were worse than in any of the ordinary DP camps I went into to... and the food, well, there was hardly any of it ...". The impression he had of DP soup was "like a cauldron of boiling water with a turnip dragged through it".

George and team were working at a cracking pace. He claims that once they processed 139 applications in one day! Securing ships for the long voyage to Australia, however, was a major set-back. Finally, his first shipload set off in December 1947. Happily, from then onwards, more and more ships became available and in the next 4 years 149 voyages were made, carrying DPs to Australia.

Zygmunt and Martha made their application for us to immigrate to Australia on 27 April 1948. I was just one year old. We had many medical assessments and interviews. My parents also had to provide character references, but I did not have to – I was assumed, quote, "to present no risk to the Australian Government".

We were notified as "eligible" when I was nearly two years old. Finally, the notice we had been waiting for: Miss Watkins sent us our "Acceptance" papers on 19 January 1950. Our ship was the Fairsea. It carried almost two thousand immigrants, in hammocks, with separate decks for males and females.

We departed from Bremerhaven in Germany on 18 April 1950, sailed through the English Channel, the Mediterranean and then into the Suez Canal. As we eased ever so slowly through the canal, the hawkers on the shore hooked up a sort of pulley system in which trinkets and souvenirs came up and the passengers sent down a bit of money. It was my

third birthday now and my parents sent down a small coin which was enough to buy an orange. The orange was very special to me, but I would not eat it. I just carried it around the deck each day, sniffing the perfume, enjoying its roundness and bright colour.

A few weeks later we disembarked in Melbourne. Unfortunately, even though the orange was still intact, the customs official there snatched it from my hand, chucked it in a bin and said firmly, "You can't take that in 'ere, Luv".



From Melbourne we went to Bonegilla Camp, near Albury, for two weeks of basic English. Zygmunt was then assigned to a group bound for the BHP Steel Works in Newcastle. We had a long rail trip followed by a bus trip in the dead of night, on a rough road, with no signs of habitation. It was very dark when we arrived. The accommodation was Nissan huts on the site of an abandoned naval station. There was an air of anxiety - it felt a bit like where we had all

come from. The next morning, we were woken early by the laughter of a rowdy family of kookaburras, followed later by beautiful birdsongs from magpies and currawongs. The sky was endless blue, blue sky such as we'd never seen before. The light danced on the waters of Shoal Bay. And, there were bowls of oranges on the tables.

The horror of war, and uncertainty and shame of being a refugee, were replaced by hope and, for most of us in 1950, boundless opportunity. In total, Australia accepted over 182,000 refugees in the first five years after WW2. I was so lucky to be one of those. My thanks to George Kiddle, and his small team, including Miss Watkins, whose neat signature is on my papers. And my thanks also to the National Archives of the War Museum for the documents I have been able to access.

From my early days at school, New Lambton, Kotara and Hunter Girls High, I participated proudly in every Anzac Day Ceremony. I was very often the chosen student to say the Ode, or to speak about human sacrifice. I was proud to become a teacher in DET, and then a senior officer and ADG.

After my retirement from DET, I spent almost 20 years as an education adviser to Australia's Aid programs in the Asia-Pacific, including Papua New Guinea. On one visit to PNG, I was privileged to attend the Dawn Service at Bomana, which holds the graves of 3,826 service men who died in the fighting in Papua and Bougainville. I was very moved.

They gave their service, and lost their lives.

So very close to home.

Lest we Forget.

Hetty Cislowski

23 April 2025

Dr Brian Davies, Secretary, laid a wreath on behalf of IRSEA at this event.



Letter from IRSEA member, Fred Cook

Dear Brian and Syd,

I was most impressed with the March 2025 IRSEA Newsletter. Clearly, over the 50 years that I have been a member of the Institute, it is the best I have seen. Congratulations!

I regret that I haven't been able to attend IRSEA meetings in recent times, but reading the Newsletter has given me new hope and satisfaction for education, to which we have all committed the best part of lives over so many years.

I particularly appreciated the professional and comprehensive layout, including the informative Directions and Priorities, the Vale section of past colleagues, and the excellent presentation by Ken Boston. Well done!

Please pass on my congratulations and best wishes to the President and Management Committee.

*Kind regards
Fred Cook*

Schools Roadshow at Figtree High School 13 May 2025

Raechel McCarthy, R/Director Delivery Support Group 4, reports on an important event highlighting and shaping future directions for NSW Department of Education and public schools.

Staying deeply connected to what is working and can be improved in our public schools is very important to our Secretary, Murat Dizdar – as it does indeed for IRSEA members. The Schools Roadshow provides a valuable opportunity for the Secretary and the Executive leadership team to connect with school leaders and staff across the state and discuss how we can deliver together on Our Plan for NSW Public Education. Every year the senior leadership team visits 10 new school locations across NSW to host these roadshows and there is very high attendance at each of these events.



I was fortunate as DEL to be able to showcase the work of Cringila PS, Figtree PS and Figtree HS by these schools hosting visits prior to the roadshow. These schools are all making strong strides towards achieving our Department's priority areas of Explicit Teaching, High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE), and Equity and Excellence.

During the roadshow, our Secretary spoke about:

- Our need to do student wellbeing better including a wider distribution of support classes across schools reducing the need for students to travel away from their local schools.
- More system supports for scope and sequences/save reinventing the wheel and focus more on quality teaching and learning including explicit teaching.

- The need to land more support for staffing in small schools
- The importance of learning from issues created recently in centralising selective schools' tests. The Secretary will be sending personalised letters to all unsuccessful students describing what HPGE activities are offered at their local high school.
- Asking for stronger data points from schools to prove to government the merit in their commitment to increase enrolments
- Mandatory School Development Day 2026 will be on neurodivergent students, inclusion and diversity. This year the focus was on HPGE
- Classroom Career Pathway (keeping good teachers in classrooms)
- The importance of leaders balancing trust and credibility as leaders.

During the afternoon session there were roundtable discussions getting feedback from schools on the following issues impacting their schools and suggestions for solutions.

1. Workload reduction
2. Technological impact and support (including the influence of AI)
3. HPGE
4. Community and family engagement
5. Zoning / transitions / enrolments / market share
6. Behaviour and attendance
7. Staff wellbeing.

Overall, the day was highly successful and reinforced for me the positive direction our Department is taking using a positive mindset and pragmatic approach to addressing key issues impacting our success as a system.

Raechel McCarthy



LIFE MEMBERSHIP – DR BRIAN DAVIES

If there is anyone who so well deserves to be recognised with our rare and highest honour, it is our Dr Brian Davies.

Brian is the second life member of IRSEA, following on from the presentation of Life Membership to Geoff Walton in May 2024.

Our records are unclear as to when Brian joined IRSEA, however, he has been spotted in *IRSEA News* back in February 2017. Brian was elected as a committee member in May 2017 and elected as secretary of IRSEA in November 2018. Interestingly, he stepped into some very large shoes, taking over from Geoff Walton! It was stated by Alan Laughlin that Geoff was acting as mentor to Brian. Baton-changing is alive and well in IRSEA. 😊

Alan is also recorded as suggesting that “Brian has done an exemplary job, promoting communications and keeping excellent records.”.

Brian, it was our total privilege to present you with your certificate to recognise a unique and irreplaceable officer of the Institute.



Thank you Brian, and congratulations!

Alan, Lindsay and Gerry

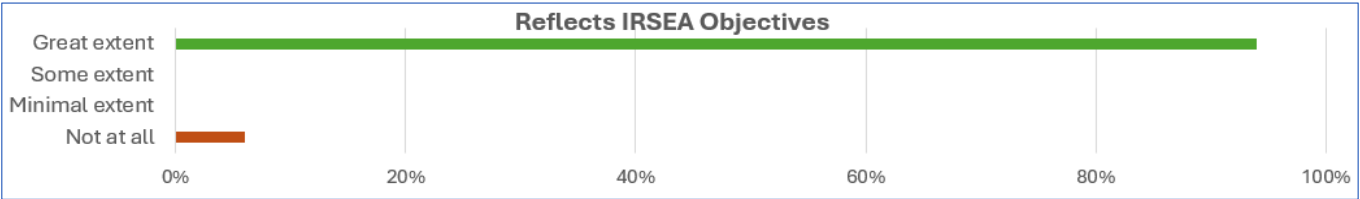
on behalf of all members



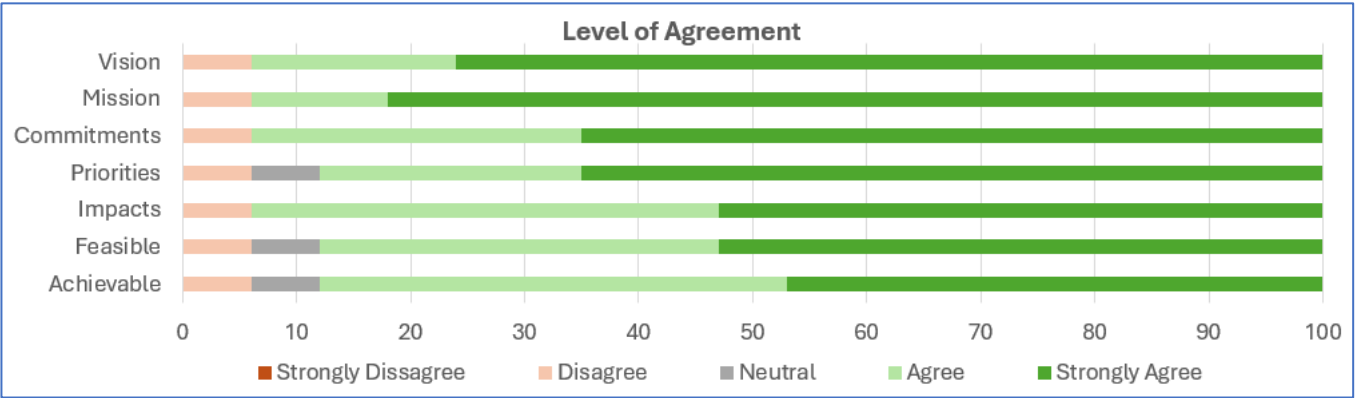
REPORT: Consultation on the New IRSEA PLAN

Consultation on our new IRSEA Plan entitled *Our Directions and Priorities*, occurred between November 2024 and March 2025. The plan was developed in line with the IRSEA Constitution. The ‘*Plan on a page*’ is designed to describe and promote the activities and directions of IRSEA over the longer term. Formal survey responses were received from 17 Full and Associate members. The plan is now formally adopted following amendments suggested by members. The following data presentations indicate member support for the plan through the consultation survey.

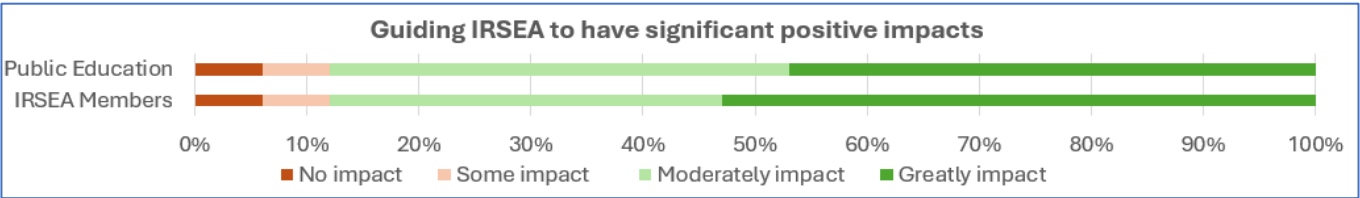
To what extent does the plan clearly reflect and communicate the constitutional *objectives* of IRSEA?



To what extent do you agree with the Plan statements?



To what extent can the plan guide IRSEA to have significant positive impact for its members and for public education in the future?




Rightly, the only amendment required was to explicitly include IRSEA’s commitment to supporting and advocating for students and young people accessing TAFE provisions.

The plan is now accepted as a public facing document for ongoing planning, promotion and reporting and will support the growth and influence of IRSEA for the good of members and for our advocacy of public education in New South Wales and beyond.

A copy of the finalised plan is provided here for members and will be posted on the IRSEA website.


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Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators (IRSEA)


OUR DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

Our Vision




An influential and thriving organisation of inspired leadership, warm collegiality and passionate advocacy to help ensure public education in NSW is the core provider of outstanding, internationally renowned, quality education.

Our Mission




Enrich the lives of members through engagement, collegiality, friendship, and support while deploying our intellectual capacity and educational expertise to advance public education.

Our Commitments



- Ensure collegiality, friendship and member value are at the heart of the organisation.
- Embrace inclusivity, equity, diversity, and collaboration as the underpinnings of excellence in public education.
- Support a public education system that delivers learning success for every child and young person.
- Advocate for the students, families, administrators, teachers, schools, TAFE campuses and communities that comprise public education in NSW and beyond.

Our Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout NSW and Australia. We pay our respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Our Priorities

Thriving Membership

Enriching the lives of retired and current senior educational administrators through engagement, collegiality, friendship, sharing and support.


Thought Leadership

Deploying the deep educational insights, expertise, and wisdom of our diverse membership – connecting past and present to help shape the future of public education.

Advocacy & Inspiration


Inspiring and supporting the achievement of educational excellence and equitable outcomes in public education.

Our Impact




Thriving Membership

Adding genuine value to the lives of members through a suite of social and service activities.



Thought Leadership

Contributing to and influencing the intellectual capital and capabilities of public school educators in their quest to be at the forefront of education provision.



Advocacy & Inspiration

Providing public educators and policy makers with independent, authoritative and evidence-based educational advice, advocacy and support.

20/05/2025

IRSEA Executive Committee 2025-2026

Elected during the AGM 21 March 2025

Committee Position	Elected
President	Lindsay Wasson ¹
Immediate Past-President	Gerry McCloughan ¹
Vice-President	Kerrie Ikin
Vice-President Strategic Directions ²	Eric Jamieson
Secretary	Brian Davies
Treasurer	Ray Gillies
Newsletter Editor	Michael Murray
Membership Officer	Vacant ³
Welfare Coordinator	Kerryanne Knox
Luncheon Coordinator	Gerry McCloughan/ Lindsay Wasson
Stewart House Contact	Alan Laughlin
Public Officer	³
Committee Members	Janina Sulikowski, Graham Dawson, Kim Fillingham, Irina White, and John Allsopp.

¹ Automatic; as per last year's position as Vice-President and President respectively

² Proposed new position; ³Appointed by the committee

COMMITTEE REPORT UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Ray Gillies

On 16 May 2025, the IRSEA Society Account had a balance of \$14,649.34. This included advance payments for the IRSEA meetings on 30 May in Sydney and on 14 June in the Hunter Valley. These funds, totalling \$1,145, will be paid out to the venues in due course.

IRSEA receipts included \$2,605 members' subscriptions; \$2,992 in members' Stewart House donations (due to be forwarded); and \$155 other donations.

Expenditure consisted of AGM lunches \$2,040; March newsletter \$406.34; certificates \$165.10; NSW Fair Trading \$56; and postage \$30.

Our Term Deposit is valued at \$10,775.51 (maturing 14 July 2025).

The Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2025 approved the proposed increase in the IRSEA annual subscription to \$30 in 2026.

Ray Gillies
IRSEA Treasurer



Our 2025 AGM Returning Officer



VALE



VALE ERIC FLOOD

On 28 April, one of IRSEA'S older members, Eric Flood OAM, sadly passed away. Eric was well known in education circles but was also well known as one of the oldest living veterans of World War 2.

Eric was born in 1925 at Yenda, a place near Griffith. and started teaching in 1949 following his army service. He went to Sydney BHS, and when he left he got a job in the Irrigation Commission, before joining the army at 18. His time in the army is well documented and his story is available from the Australian War Memorial sound archives. On Eric's return from war, he had a calling to teach, went to Sydney Teachers' College, got married, and then started teaching, in his words, all over NSW.

He became a school inspector in 1969 in the Lithgow area before moving to Mortdale inspectorate in Met East in 1973. He was the Director of Services, 1977 -1982, spending the last three years of his education service as an Inspector in the Engadine area. He retired in 1985.

He was a tough old guy and lived in the Central Coast area. He was 4 months short of his 100th birthday when he fell, retrieving his walker from the boot of his car (yes, he will still driving his own car) and did not recover from the injuries he sustained.

In 2024 Eric was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to veterans and their families. It was appropriate that on Anzac Day this year, Eric delivered the Ode of Remembrance at the ceremony at Tarragal Glen Retirement Village, as he had done for many years.

Eric was a strong supporter of Legacy in his retirement as he had great empathy for veterans and their families.

How proud we are of Eric...100 years old (nearly) and a life of service to his country, to public school students and to Legacy.

Thank you, Eric, for everything. you have done in your life and now it is time for a rest ... although I doubt whether he even knew the meaning of that word!

Rest in peace, Eric Flood.

Kerryanne Knox, Welfare and Social Coordinator



VALE TONY RE

On Friday 21 March, the AGM for IRSEA was held, and unfortunately there was a spare chair ... our colleague and friend, Tony Re, had passed away earlier that morning. We were in shock, as Tony was a happy, positive member who loved these gatherings.

Tony was born in Sydney in 1938. He went to Sydney BHS before teacher training at Balmain Teachers' College. He was appointed to Tallong PS for his country service before heading back to Sydney where he taught at Maroubra PS and Glenmore PS. Tony studied at UNE externally before accepting Principal positions at Newling PS (Armidale), Chifley PS and Bankstown PS. He spent some time on behalf of the Department as a Senior Teacher Advisor for Scholarship students at the University of New England. He became an Inspector, then a Cluster Director, before finalising his career as a Director of Quality Assurance (1995-6).

A little disenchanted with the number of restructures, he decided to retire at the end of the Quality Assurance role. He continued to contribute to education as he was a highly regarded leader amongst leaders whom he guided and mentored. Tony wrote many articles about leadership, but a great memory many of us have regarding his literary skills is of his "Letters to the Editor". I remember flicking through the paper to find his opinion letters and he soon became part of the SMH Fraternity, destined to entertain, enlighten and educate others about public education in particular. In my talking to other colleagues, I learned that Tony was described as a "fit bloke who ran many times in the City to Surf for the DET"; "a cheerful, cynical guy" ; "a passionate public education advocate, strong-minded, who held very strong political views".

I P President Gerry remembers Tony as the first person to welcome him into IRSEA, and when they made the connection that he and his Jon taught together, there was an instant rapport. Outside of education, Trevor Wootten, great mate of Tony, tells me that they have known each other for more than 70 years and met playing cricket in a church cricket team. They worked together, travelled together, shared stories and enjoyed each other's company. Trevor will miss him as he was a "great bloke."

In reading all this, it probably doesn't fully complete a picture of someone who was a good and well-respected man. Public education was the winner in his story because not only did he spend many years being part of it, but he also spent many years as its advocate. We appreciate this so much as we all try to be advocates for a system that needs every one of us speaking up strongly. One voice is now gone, so we owe it to him to speak louder!

Thanks, Tony, for a wonderful career that has had an impact on many.

Our condolences to Lynette, David, Jon, Margaret and Stephen, and their families.

Kerryanne Knox, Welfare and Social Coordinator

VALE MANDY TUNICA

On 1 May, we received the very sad news that another former member of IRSEA has passed away.

Many people will remember Mandy Tunica in her role as the President of Primary English Teachers' Association. She was so prolific in writing articles and books to ensure that English was taught well and engaged all students that she was awarded Life Membership of the Association.

In my early years of teaching, I can remember teaching poetry guided by the wisdom of Mandy. I do believe she called one of her books *The Passion of Poetry!*

Unfortunately, Mandy developed Alzheimer's disease a few years ago and what should have been a wonderful, relaxing retirement was cut short.

Mandy leaves her husband, Richard, loving children, great grandchildren and a devoted sister, and many friends.

As her family said...

*Although a vibrant, bright and guiding light has gone out,
she will be in our hearts forever....*

Rest in peace, Mandy.

Kerryanne Knox, Welfare and Social Coordinator



IRSEA NEWS

Supplement

EVENT REPORTS

- ▶ Meeting Package from 2025 AGM (pp 17-28)

FLYERS for upcoming events

- ▶ FLYER 1: General Meeting 30 May 2025 (pp 29)
- ▶ FLYER 2: Hunter Central Coast Gathering June 2025 (pp 31)



Thriving Membership



Thought Leadership



Advocacy & Inspiration



72nd Annual General Meeting and Luncheon Friday 21 March 2025 - Meeting package -

IRSEA enriches the lives of retired Senior Educational Administrators through engagement, collegiality, friendship, and support while deploying its intellectual capacity and educational expertise for the betterment of public education in New South Wales, Australia, and beyond.

AGENDA

- 11:00** **Arrival: Bar Area, Level 2**
11:45 **Adam Room, Level 4**
- 12:00** **General Meeting**
 1. **Welcome and Acknowledgements** [Gerry McCloughan]
Apologies: Megan Avery, Chris Bonnor, Chris Carrol, Hetty Cislowski, Kay Coombes, Vincent Delany, Warren Fairfax, Eric Flood, Annie Hollander, Sharon Parkes, Tony Re, Alan Rice, Ritchie Stevenson, Jim White.
- 12:05** 2. **Keynote Address: Deb Summerhayes PSM**
Excellence and Equity in NSW Public Education – Now and Into the Future
- 12:30** **Questions and discussion following the keynote**
- 12:45** 3. **Fellowship for Senior Educational Administrators**
 [Kerrie Ikin]
- 12:50** 4. **Annual General Meeting**
 ▫ Appointment of Returning Officer
 ▫ Items for General Business; Approval of previous minutes, etc
 ▫ Motions for approval:
 1. Membership fee increase,
 2. Progressing partnership with the PEF,
 3. Establishing *Vice-President Strategic Directions*.
 ▫ Items from Reports (see pages 2-10)
 ▫ Election of Executive Committee for 2024-25
 ▫ Welcome to incoming President, Lindsay Wasson
 ▫ General Business
- 1:15** **Lunch and presentation**
 ▫ *Raffle Draw for Stewart House*

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome

Keynote



Deb Summerhayes PSM

Annual General Meeting

Lunch, networking and raffle



Presentation

The Meeting Package contains motions for approval, IRSEA reports and previous minutes for approval.

72nd AGM

Motions for Approval

Motions for approval:

All motions were passed unanimously

1. Motion to increase IRSEA full membership fees from \$25 to \$30 beginning from the 2026-27 year (Ray Gillies).

This motion is presented to ensure IRSEA's financial sustainability within the current economic environment where significant increases to the cost of operation of the Institute are being experienced.

2. Motion that while Stewart House remains the primary charity of IRSEA, approval be given to progress a non-binding memorandum of understanding with the Public Education Foundation (PEF) and following a successful agreement that the PEF be acknowledged as a charity for voluntary donations by IRSEA members. (Gerry McCloughan).

The IRSEA Constitution allows formal identification of non-profit tax-exempt charitable organisations for children for donations and other support, as may be determined at annual general meetings of the Institute.

Currently, IRSEA has identified Stewart House, Harbord, New South Wales as an organisation to receive support from the Institute's and members' personal donations.

The motion being put forward today seeks the support of the AGM to include the PEF as an identified non-profit tax-exempt charitable organisation for children that is also supported for IRSEA members' personal donations and in-kind support.

3. Special resolution to establish the new *Vice-President Strategic Directions* position to the profile of the Executive Committee (Lindsay Wasson)

This motion seeks member support to create a new Executive Committee role to provide sustained continuity of leadership and management of the implementation of strategic initiatives.

Please see on page 14, ***Proposal to Establish the New Position of Vice President-Strategic Directions***, a paper which outlines the purpose and responsibilities of the new position.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gerry McCloughan



Dear friends and colleagues

Thank you for your support to me in the President's role over the last 12 months. It has been an honour to serve this exceptional organisation. I have enjoyed contributing to advancing the Institute's mission and planning for its sustainability as an organisation. I am proud of what IRSEA has achieved over the last 12 months and I pay tribute to the hard working Executive Committee for their time, enthusiasm and advice.

There is much for IRSEA members to celebrate as we look back over the last year.

Our four general meetings continue to provide the primary vehicle for face-to-face networking and collegiality. Some stats for your interest – we have had 122 members and guests attending our general meetings, for an average of 30.5 per meeting. 54 people attended one or more meetings. We received over 60 formal apologies. And, ☺ . . . we should be giving gold stars ★ to our 12 members who have not missed a general meeting in the last 12 months!

As always, regular IRSEA communications are superb. Thanks to Syd, Eric, Brian, Ray and Lindsay for work on correspondence – especially the emails, newsletters and the website.

Our guest speakers have been stunning. Thank you sincerely to David Riordan, CEO, Public Education Foundation, for enlightening us in May about the magnificent achievements of the PEF in supporting disadvantaged students and communities across NSW and the nation. Thanks to Viv White AM, Co-Founder and CEO, Big Picture Learning Australia (BPLA) for presenting to us in August with models that can transform learning by placing students at the centre of decisions around what, how and when they learn.

I acknowledge the ongoing Custodians of the lands on which IRSEA members reside and meet. I pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and commit to promoting improved education and life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families.

The December 2024 meeting was a remarkable celebration, with our own Dr Ken Boston AO recounting his *'Ripping Yarns from the files of the KGB'*. During this meeting, we instigated *Your voice matters*, an event feedback survey, and overwhelmingly responses indicated Ken's address as the highlight of the meeting. Well done Ken. Thank you to those members offering ideas for improvements for our meetings—the Committee has taken note!

Today, we are privileged to have our keynote address from one of our dear Honorary members, Deb Summerhayes, Deputy Secretary, Public Schools, NSW Department of Education. Deb's passionate support of our organisation is tribute to efforts of a long line of amazing IRSEA leaders who have been promoting IRSEA's capacity to provide the Department with independent, evidence and experienced-based educational advice, expertise and support to advance public education.

For some time now, Deb has actively supported IRSEA representation in the Public Schools' Capability Summits and regional Hub & Spoke professional development days as a means to share directions and achievements, but also to ensure that current senior officers of the Department recognise the value of connecting the past and the present to help shape the future of public education. I certainly hope that IRSEA and the Department continue to strengthen the ties between our two organisations for the good of school communities and student learning across NSW.

IRSEA continues to acknowledge excellence and dedication of members and colleagues in education. By the end of our meeting, IRSEA will have presented seven awards to extraordinary colleagues over the past year including two Life Memberships, two Outstanding Service Awards, and three Honorary Memberships. Congratulations to all honoured recipients.

During our meeting today, Kerrie Ikin will update members on the establishment of a Fellowship for Senior Educational Administrators, a research grant scheme to be jointly funded and awarded by IRSEA and the Department. This is an exciting initiative indeed.

Our general meeting raffles and member donorships have raised over \$3,700 for Stewart House in 2024. We hope to boost that figure today. Stewart House remains the primary charity of the Institute, as it has been over a very long time.

Sadly, eight colleagues have passed since the last AGM. I am acknowledging their passing during the meeting today. Valette to members Roy Knudson, aged 92 years; Eula Guthrie OA, aged 95 years Mervin Blanch, aged 98 years; John Fleming, aged 95 years; John Ward, aged 81 years; John Hoyer, aged 94 years; and Joan Healy, aged 87 years; and to colleague Cliff Williams, aged 85 years.

IRSEA continues to attract new members – in the last 12 months over 30 new Full Associate and Honorary members have been accepted to IRSEA. Currently, IRSEA membership is over 140.

During 2024, we were able to increase the number of additional social and professional events. Highlights included:

- re-establishing our IRSEA social luncheon program with an event at the Sydney Rowers Club, Abbotsford in October 2024;
- an amazing tour of the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park on 2 August 2024,
- participation in the forum: *Where now for Public Schooling in Australia?*, held at the University of NSW on Friday, 15 November 2024.

Planning is underway for:

- the next social luncheon to be held at the Sydney Rowers Club, Abbotsford in April or May 2025.
- a Member-seminar being planned for Thursday 22 May 2025 to be held at the University of Technology Sydney Broadway campus. This will be the first of series of member-seminars established to support our *Thought Leadership* priority 2. The first seminar will be led by member Dr Jim Scott to share his PhD research: *Exploring the impact of a large-scale diagnostic science test and formative practices*. The one-hour seminar will be followed by a social luncheon.

- a Hunter Region IRSEA dinner and meeting to be held at the Apollo Hotel in Charlestown over Friday 13 June (for a social dinner) and Saturday 14 June (for a lunchtime meeting). This initiative aims to expand IRSEA's activities beyond the Sydney metropolitan area. The Friday/Saturday format is designed to allow both Full and Associate members to attend. Laureate Professor Jenny Gore, University of Newcastle, has agreed to be our Guest Speaker for the formal meeting on the Saturday.

Invitations detailing these three events will be advertised to members shortly.

In August 2024, we launched our draft IRSEA *Directions and Priorities* one-page plan which has been presented to all members for consultation via IRSEA NEWS and email. Thank you to the many members who have responded to the online consultation survey. If you have not had an opportunity to provide feedback as yet, the consultation window is open until 31 March 2025. Hard copy survey forms are available in the meeting today as well. See Gerry.

IRSEA is proceeding to establish formalised partnerships with other organisations in its mission to inspire and support the achievement of equitable outcomes and educational excellence in public education in NSW. Today, the IRSEA Executive Committee is seeking members endorsement for three motions to strengthen the Institute. Motion 2 seeks to progress a non-binding memorandum of understanding with the Public Education Foundation (PEF). I look forward to member support for our important three motions.

I am looking forward to my new role as Immediate Past President and in supporting the incoming Committee under the leadership of my fine colleague and good friend President Lindsay.

All the very best to all members for a wonderful 2025.

Gerry

President (2024-25)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: BRIAN DAVIES

I would like to thank Gerry McCloughan for his outstanding leadership as President and for his support, and that of the other members of the executive, in my role as Secretary over the last year. Unfortunately, Syd Smith will not be continuing, and I would like to acknowledge the great work he has done as Newsletter Editor.

Since the March 2024 Annual General Meeting, the executive committee has met four times (19 April, 21 June and 21 October 2024; and 13 February 2025). There was also an extraordinary video meeting on 23 July 2024 to discuss planning and associate membership. Three general luncheon meetings were held (30 May, 2 August and 6 December 2024).

We have been fortunate to have had excellent guest speakers for those meetings: David Riordan, CEO Public Education Foundation (May); Viv White, CEO Big Picture Learning Australia (August); and, Dr Ken Boston, Director-General of Education in NSW (1992-2002). The August meeting was preceded by a visit to the ANZAC Memorial organised by Raechel McCarthy.

Members also enjoyed a social gathering and luncheon in October at the Sydney Rowing Club in Abbotsford. Another social event is to be organised this year.

Important dates to place in your diary for 2025 are:

- Friday 21 March** - Annual General Meeting, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
- Friday 30 May** - General Luncheon Meeting, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
- Friday 1 August** - General Luncheon Meeting, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
- Friday 5 December** - General Luncheon Meeting, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

In relation to communication with members, there have been more problems for me with group emailing members with Big Pond accounts. Emails



have not been getting through as Big Pond has once again deemed my group emailing account as suspicious. It has been necessary to create more accounts just for the purpose of the group emailing. If you wish to contact the Secretary, please use secretary@irsea.org.au

In the area of communications, Ray Gillies has continued to do an enormous amount of work on our website. Members are encouraged to make use of this great site at irsea.org.au to keep up to date with developments. There is to be a survey about the IRSEA website organised by Ray with the assistance of Eric Jamieson.

As in previous years, the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Teachers' RSL sub-Branch has once again invited members to the ANZAC Day Remembrance Service, which this year will be on Wednesday 23 April at 10.45 am (arrive by 10.30 am) at the NSW Department of Education, William Wilkins Gallery, Level 1, 105 Phillip Street, Parramatta. RSVP is required by 4 April to the Department at DoEEEvents@det.nsw.edu.au or contact Scott Thurlow, Senior Project Adviser, on 0437 309 003.

IRSEA cannot continue unless members are willing to help on the Executive Committee. Thank you to all members who have assisted on the Committee this year and to those who have nominated to serve on the 2025-26 Executive Committee.

The following nominations have been received for the election at the 2025 Annual General Meeting:

Election of IRSEA Executive Committee 2025-2026

Committee Position	Nominations for 2025-2026
President	Lindsay Wasson ¹
Immediate Past-President	Gerry McCloughan ¹
Vice-President	Kerrie Ikin
Vice-President Strategic Directions ²	Eric Jamieson
Secretary	Brian Davies
Treasurer	Ray Gillies
Newsletter Editor	Michael Murray
Membership Officer	
Welfare Coordinator	Kerryanne Knox
Luncheon Coordinator	Gerry McCloughan/ Lindsay Wasson
Stewart House Contact	Alan Laughlin
Public Officer	³
Committee Members	Janina Sulikowski, Graham Dawson, Kim Fillingham, Irina White, and John Allsopp.

¹ Not elected; as per last year's position as Vice-President and President respectively

² Proposed new position

³Appointed by the committee

The first meeting for the new executive will be on Monday 28 April at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.

Brian Davies

Secretary

Contact: secretary@irsea.org.au

TREASURER'S REPORTS AND MOTIONS: RAY GILLIES



INSTITUTE OF RETIRED SENIOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS INC.

ABN 78 259 388 090

<https://www.irsea.org.au>

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2024

[To be approved by the meeting]

Balance sheet: Financial Year - 1 January to 31 December 2024

Assets		Liabilities	
CBA Society Cheque A/c	\$8,594.78	Subscriptions in advance	\$85.00
CBA Term deposit	\$10,775.51	Subs. arrears written off	\$50.00
Non-current assets	\$0.00		
Subscriptions in arrears	\$50.00		
Total assets	\$19,420.29	Total liabilities	\$135.00
Net equity	\$19,285.29		

Income and Expenditure: Financial Year ending 31 December 2024

Income		Expenditure	
Stewart House	\$4,300.00	Stewart House	\$4,300.00
Subscriptions	\$2,550.00	Newsletter (printing)	\$1,362.00
Donations to IRSEA	\$265.00	Newsletter (postage)*	\$429.90
Lunch meetings	\$7,510.00	Lunch meetings (members)	\$7,020.00
		Lunch meetings (guests)	\$780.00
		Lunch meetings (venue)	\$880.00
		Fees to Fair Trading	\$54.00
		Member certificates	\$278.80
		Refund (prepaid lunch)	\$65.00
Total income	\$14,625.00	Total expenditure	\$15,169.70
		Operating loss	(\$544.70)

Reconciliation as at 31 December 2024

CF from 2022-2023	\$9,139.48
Less operating loss	(\$544.70)
CF 2025	\$8,594.78

Interest earned on the CBA IRSEA Term Deposit in 2024 was \$440.44. The current term deposit was reinvested for nine months at 4.45% p.a. and matures on 14 July 2025.

1. I move that the AGM approves the Annual Financial Report for 2024.
2. I move that the IRSEA annual subscription fee is set at \$30 for 2026.

Ray Gillies

Treasurer, IRSEA



INSTITUTE OF RETIRED SENIOR EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS INC.

ABN 78 259 388 090

<https://www.irsea.org.au>

TREASURER'S REPORT TO MEMBERS FRIDAY 21 March 2025

Financial position on 21 March 2025

CURRENT BALANCES	
Society Cheque Account (at bank)	\$14,723.44
Term deposit (matures 14 July 2025 at 4.45% pa)	\$10,775.51
TOTAL	\$25,498.95
Subscriptions due (paid to 2024)	\$350.00
Less subscriptions paid in advance	-\$115.00
Less donations due to Steward House	-\$2,300.00
Less donations due to be paid to PEF	-\$45.00
Less advanced payment for May meeting	-\$70.00
EQUITY	\$23,318.95

SUMMARY TO DATE

Receipts (1 January to 21 March 2025)

Subscriptions	\$2,375.00
Stewart House donations	\$2,300.00
March AGM lunches	\$1,820.00
Advance payment for May meeting	\$70.00
<u>Other</u> donation to IRSEA	\$175.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$6,740.00

Expenditure (1 January to 21 March 2025)

Stewart House donations due to be paid	\$2,300.00
Lunch and venue costs due to CBH (March AGM)	\$2,040.00
IRSEA NEWS (March) printing and postage	\$406.34
Postage	\$30.00
Donations due to be paid to PEF	\$45.00
Unpaid annual subscriptions written off	\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$4,871.34

NOTES:

1. IRSEA commenced the year with \$8,594.78 in the Society Cheque Account.
2. IRSEA is in a satisfactory financial position to meet any foreseeable debts.
3. To date, potentially 14 members are yet to pay their annual subscriptions for 2025.

Ray Gillies
Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT: KERRIE IKIN

IRSEA Annual General Meeting; Friday 21 March 2025

This report sets out the most relevant of these data for the meeting today.

Current membership

We currently have 117 members: 29 [female](#); and 88 [male](#). Although we also had 117 members at our AGM in 2024 and with the same female/male distribution, some names have been added and sadly some are no longer with us. We now have 22 widows who wish to stay in touch and receive our newsletter, five fewer than in 2024.



Age Range: Members

Count Gender	Total
Female	29
Male	88
Total	117

Our membership remains weighted towards our elder statesmen and women, with just over 58% over the age of 80. We have been sad to lose a number of our members this year.

Financial and Non-financial members

The last of the 2024 subscriptions are still coming in and it is pleasing that most of our members are already financial.

Financial until

Year	Number
2023	1
2024	14
2025	91
2026	2
2028	1
Waived*	8
Grand Total	117

According to our rules, we have one member who remained unfinancial in 2024 and should therefore be removed from our membership list. This will be done following this meeting and after advice from our welfare officer.

* waived refers to those whose fees have been waived because of their health status, or because they had reached 80 years of age under our old rules.

Mailing Preferences

All new members have elected to receive the Newsletter and other mailouts by email. Email is our preferred method. It is allowing us to be far more flexible with the length of the Newsletter and the ability to add much more colour. Nevertheless, we continue to understand that for some, email is simply not an option.

Members

Count				
Gender	Email	Post	Other	Total
Female	21	7	1	29
Male	74	14		88
Total	95	21	1	117

Widow(er)s

Count				
Gender	Email	Post	Other	Total
Female	5	14	3	22
Total	5	14	3	22

Our Welfare Officer, Kerryanne Knox, has been busy this year checking on the wellbeing and wishes of members and widows when our Newsletter is returned. The entries 'Other' in the two tables above mean that we do not have a current mail or email address for 1 member and 3 widows. Kerryanne's ongoing and much appreciated work involves looking into this to check on their welfare and to find out whether they still wish to be in contact.

Honorary, Associate, and Life Memberships, and Members who have received our Outstanding Service Award

We now have 6 **honorary** members, 28 **associate** members, 2 **life** members, 9 members who have received the IRSEA Outstanding Service Award.

Geoff Walton and Brain Davies have both been awarded life membership in recognition of their dedication and service to IRSEA.

Honorary and Associate Members

Count			
Assoc. Hon.	female	male	Total
a	18	10	28
h	2	4	6
l		2	2
o	1	8	9
Total	21	24	45

Kerrie Ikin

Membership Officer, IRSEA

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NEW POSITION

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE NEW POSITION OF *VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS*

Purpose

This paper proposes the creation of a new Executive Committee role—*IRSEA Vice President Strategic Directions*—to provide sustained continuity of leadership and management of the implementation of strategic initiatives.

Background

In recent years, the IRSEA Executive Committee has undertaken a series of strategic initiatives aimed at expanding membership, strengthening professional networks, formalising our mission, and advocating for Public Education as the preferred provider of excellence in student learning.

This has been driven through the development of a range of strategies to:

- invigorate membership by recruiting a broader membership base featuring a shift in demographics;
- add new opportunities for social/collegial gatherings, experiences and celebrations;
- establish a range of awards and honours for both members and notable others;
- formalise IRSEA's high moral purpose with Mission, Vision and Priority statements;
- forge pathways to partnerships and coalitions with organisations of shared values and strategic intent; and
- frame its future as a leading advocate and highly influential contributor to support Public Education as the acknowledged provider of first choice for excellence in student learning outcomes.

Discussion

The scope, scale, complexity and ultimate success of this comprehensive and integrated set of initiatives will require levels of leadership and management continuity that may be better served through a reconsideration of the Committee profile and terms of tenure.

The added work-load inherent in our expanded focus and commitments has meant that a greater burden of responsibility has been carried by Committee members within a structure which reflected and delivered, more than admirably, for a far less ambitious agenda.

A related challenge is the short tenure of key leadership positions, notably President, Vice President, and Immediate Past President. While there are more than valid and admirable reasons for this 'rotation' of leadership, the one-year term for each represents a challenge for the successful carriage of more complex strategic initiatives that can be more than one, two or three years in their making and realisation.

This issue is amply evidenced by:

- the time-lag in framing more formal arrangements with the retired principals' council and association;
- the time and complexity of negotiating and entering into partnerships with the Public Education Foundation (PEF) and the Department of Education (DoE);
- the logistical and management requirements of extending the scope and range of our meetings to regional areas; and
- the difficulty of, and the effort required in realising our great purpose of supporting the regeneration of Public Education in this state.

We have been well served by the current Executive Committee structure and profile. Officers in Executive Committee roles have been magnificent in their dedication, the quality of their work and the splendid outcomes they have achieved.

This proposal asserts that the already powerful impact of our Committee would be enhanced, and the added responsibilities of our members would be more effectively designed, by adding the position of ***Vice President Strategic Directions*** to our structure. This position would enable IRSEA to more ably fulfil its noble remit as an acknowledged leader in shaping the new educational landscape while maintaining and growing its highly attractive suite of social/collegial activities for its members.

Vice President Strategic Directions – Key Responsibilities

1. Support IRSEA's Executive in implementing its strategy, ensuring it is disciplined, achievable, measurable, and sharply focused on the elements most required to deliver the organisation's vision and purpose.
2. Guide the development of clear annual priorities, timelines, and success measures to drive effective implementation.
3. Ensure the Committee's ongoing and regular focus on success measures to track progress, assess achievements, and inform leadership decision-making.
4. Provide structured oversight to maintain momentum on long-term initiatives and ensure alignment with IRSEA's broader goals.
5. Facilitate strategic oversight and continuity across leadership transitions to sustain focus and progress on key priorities.

Note: This position has no automatic succession right to the Presidency of IRSEA. Only the currently configured Vice President position will assume that role as per usual practice.

Recommendations

1. The Executive Committee support the establishment of the position of ***Vice President Strategic Directions*** at the AGM, March 2025.
2. The new position of ***Vice President Strategic Directions*** be appointed for a one year term with the same re-election option as per other positions to bring essential continuity to our work for the levels of influence, impact and outcomes we seek to achieve.
3. The Executive Committee commence a feasibility process for the optional extension of tenure of the President, Vice President and Immediate Past President positions for 2-year terms.

Lindsay Wasson

Vice President

24 February 2025

Institute of Retired Senior
Educational Administrators

Invitation flyer: 15 May 2025



IRSEA Invitation

WWW.IRSEA.ORG.AU

ABN: 78 259 388 090

IRSEA enriches the lives of retired Senior Educational Administrators through engagement, collegiality, friendship, and support while deploying its intellectual capacity and educational expertise for the betterment of public education in New South Wales, Australia, and beyond.

General Meeting and Luncheon

Friday 30 May 2025

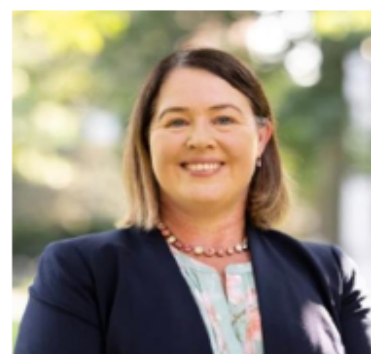
@ Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.
11:00am for the 12:00pm meeting

At our last meeting, we heard from Deb Summerhayes, Deputy Secretary Public Schools, about how the NSW Department of Education intends to implement its plan to focus on Equity and excellence, Explicit teaching and High potential & gifted students as new syllabuses are rolled out across NSW. Now we have the privilege of hearing how one exceptional leader will be implementing the plan in the field. We are excited to welcome our meeting guest speaker . . .

Ms. Belinda Giudice, Principal, Gledswood Hills High School

Belinda was appointed in 2024 as Principal of the very new Gledswood Hills High School, which opened with an intake of Year 7 students in Term 1, 2025. The school serves the new urban development at Gledswood Hills and Gregory Hills in the Camden Area. Belinda is committed to promoting equity and excellence within public education, which she has demonstrated abundantly in her previous leadership roles, including as Principal, Prairiewood High School (2018-2024), as Principal, Canterbury Boys High School (2016-mid 2018), and as Co-Principal at Merrylands High School (2012-2015).

In recognition of outstanding leadership, Belinda was awarded a Harvard Principals Scholarship for study at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in July 2023.



And there is More: The May Meeting will also provide insights from the Public Education Foundation's **Proudly Public! Awards 2025**, which were held in the Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 13 May 2025.

And we will be enjoying our usual networking and collegiality, our general meeting, a new alternate drop lunch main with set dessert and coffee/tea, and of course, an enticing raffle prize to support Stewart House.

We promise a magnificent IRSEA event so, members and guests, please join us for more sharing, fun and information.

Please book straight away on the form below to ensure you do not miss this important event!



Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators

IRSEA General Meeting Booking

*Come and join friends and colleagues for our Guest Speaker, IRSEA Reports and Luncheon at
Castlereagh Boutique Hotel (169 Castlereagh St, Sydney 2000) on*

Friday, 30 May 2025

11:00 - 11:45am – Pre-meeting gathering and refreshments on Level 2,

12:00 - 2:00pm Formal meeting – Adam Room (Level 4).

Please return the booking slip below and make payment for the lunch meeting by **Friday 23 May**.

BOOKING SLIP

Name (please print):

Guest's name/s (if applicable):

I have transferred OR enclosed my payment of **\$70.00** (or additional for my guest/s @ \$70.00 per head) for the above listed to attend the IRSEA luncheon, 11.00am for 12.00pm, at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel which includes a 2-course main meal with bread roll, coffee and tea.

Please indicate in the space provided if you require a special meal.

Meal type Number required

I agree / do not agree (cross out one) that photographs of me in professional or social situations may be published in IRSEA media and publications, including newsletters and on the website.

Signed: Date: Phone no.

NOTIFICATION and PAYMENT OPTIONS ~ Payment by direct deposit/bank transfer is preferred.

- ☐ Payment by **Electronic Funds Transfer** – Details are:

BANK: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 062300

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10466684

ACCOUNT NAME: Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators (IRSEA)

YOUR REFERENCE: Your Surname, Initial, and 'Meeting'

- ☐ Email or message your booking slip to Ray Gillies, IRSEA Treasurer, at **rcgillies@yahoo.com.au**
[Phone images or scans are acceptable]

- ☐ **If paying by cheque**, please make the cheque payable to *Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators*, or *IRSEA* and cross it '**Not negotiable**'. Mail your cheque and booking slip to:

Ray Gillies, 79 Albyn Road, STRATHFIELD, NSW 2135

For further information or notification, please call or text Ray on mobile: 0412 763 242

NOTE: Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after **Monday 26 May 2025**

Institute of Retired Senior
Educational Administrators

Invitation flyer: 16 April 2025



Special IRSEA Invitation to '*Reunion in June*'

ABN: 78 259 388 090

<http://www.irsea.org.au>

IRSEA enriches the lives of retired Senior Educational Administrators through engagement, collegiality, friendship, and support while deploying its intellectual capacity and educational expertise for the betterment of public education in New South Wales, Australia, and beyond.

IRSEA to the Hunter & Central Coast

Catch up with friends and colleagues at ...

Apollo International Hotel, Charlestown, via Newcastle

Friday 13 June 2025 – Social networking dinner 6:00 – 8:00pm

and

Saturday 14 June 2025 – Luncheon meeting with Guest Speaker 11:00 for 11:30am

The Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators (IRSEA) invites former senior colleagues of the Department and TAFE along with Full, Associate and Honorary IRSEA members, partners and guests to join us for our first meeting outside the Sydney Metro area for many years.

We hope our event planning over Friday-Saturday provides opportunities for those still working to join in for this unique opportunity to connect, socialize and network with like-minded educational leaders – we are looking to bring together retired, semi-retired and yet-to-be-retired colleagues.

A number of Sydney-based IRSEA executive committee members will be attending, but we welcome all members and their guests to take this great opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and colleagues in the greater Newcastle and Central Coast areas.

So, please join us for one, or both, of the following:

1. Friday social networking dinner 6:00 – 8:00pm

We will be dining in the [Babbingtons](#) à la carte restaurant at our own cost. Look for the blue IRSEA flag.

2. Saturday luncheon meeting

We will be in Apollo Room, with a two course luncheon priced at \$45pp. Special dietary requirements can be met.



Luncheon Guest Speaker: Laureate Professor Jennifer Gore AM, University of Newcastle.

How can we transform education in NSW?



A leader in education in Australia and internationally, Jenny has significant experience and expertise in educational research and leadership. Jenny is currently the leader of the University's *Teachers and Teaching Research Centre*. Jenny's educational and research interests have consistently centred on quality and equity, and have ranged across teacher socialisation, alternative pedagogy, reform in teacher education, pedagogical reform, and teacher development.

IRSEA – connecting the past and the present to help shape the future.

Please join us . . this weekend promises to be one for the ages!



Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators Hunter & Central Coast Weekend Booking

Please register below to indicate your attendance for the **Reunion in June**. Please make payment for the luncheon meeting by **Friday 30 May 2025**.

REGISTRATION

Name (please print):

Guest's name/s (if applicable):

I/We would like to register for the following:

☐ **Social networking dinner 6:00 – 8:00pm Fri 13 June 2025**

[At *Babbingtons* à la carte restaurant at my/our own cost.]

☐ **Overnight accommodation and breakfast**

[At our own cost. The Apollo is offering discounted accommodation for our group – anyone who would like to stay on Friday night can book directly by sending an email to Steven Renshaw, Functions Manager, to reserve a room. To gain a 20% discount (\$179) please book by Thursday 24 April. After this date, a 10% discount will apply. If wishing to stay Saturday night, members and guests can get a discount of \$242 if booked by 24 April (usually \$300). Please email Steven soon, as the Apollo is often heavily booked in June. **Steven's email:** functions@apollointernational.com.au

☐ **Saturday lunch meeting with guest speaker 11:30am – 2:30pm Sat 13 June 2025**

[Main Event: Luncheon in the Apollo Room - **\$45.00 per head**.

I have transferred OR enclosed my payment of \$45.00 (or additional for my guest/s @ \$45.00 per head) for the above listed to attend the IRSEA luncheon, 11.30am for 12.00pm, at the Apollo International Hotel, Charlestown, which includes a 2-course main meal with coffee and tea.]

Please indicate in the space provided if you require a special meal:

Meal type Number required

Promotion agreement: I agree / do not agree (cross out one) that photographs of me in professional or social settings may be published in IRSEA media and promotions, including newsletters and on the website.

Signed: Date: Phone no.

NOTIFICATION and PAYMENT OPTIONS ~ Payment by direct deposit/bank transfer is preferred.

☐ Payment by **Electronic Funds Transfer** – Details are:

BANK: Commonwealth Bank of Australia, **BSB:** 062300 **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 10466684

ACCOUNT NAME: Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators (IRSEA)

YOUR REFERENCE: Your **Surname, Initial,** and **'Meeting'**

☐ Email or message your booking slip to Ray Gillies, IRSEA Treasurer, at rcgillies@yahoo.com.au
[Phone images or scans are acceptable]

☐ **If paying by cheque**, please make the cheque payable to *Institute of Retired Senior Educational Administrators*, or *IRSEA* and cross it **'Not negotiable'**. Mail your cheque and booking slip to:

Ray Gillies, 79 Albryn Road, STRATHFIELD, NSW 2135

For further information or notification, please call or text Ray on mobile: 0412 763 242

NOTE: Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after **Friday, 6 June 2025**