



New South Wales Secondary Deputy Principals Association Inc.

Website: <http://www.nswsdpa.asn.au>

Newsletter

Issued: 16th December 2005

THE NSW SECONDARY DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first edition of **The Deputy Principals' Newsletter**.

It has been a goal of the Association for a number of years, to provide another forum for communication and feedback amongst deputy principals in NSW. We would like to publish this newsletter on a regular basis as means of keeping deputies informed and in touch with each other. The NSW Secondary Deputy Principals' Association has an enviable reputation as a source of valuable mutual support, a broad professional network and a strong advocate for its membership. For the Association to grow and to expand our service we will need contributions by many. This is best achieved through active participation in local, regional and state meetings so that your voice can be heard and your experiences valued.

Thank you to those members who were able to find the time to complete the *2005 Deputy Principal Welfare Survey*. The survey was very extensive and will provide the Association with firmer data to inform our future strategic directions and to help define some of the important areas of support required by deputies. An interim report on the survey was presented to the Term 4 State Congress of the Association and revealed some quite serious (Alarming) observations. One in particular relates to the support provided to deputies on significant work-related matters. The best support was provided by principals and other deputies (as we might expect). However the least (listed as 'not approached') support came from SEDs and Regional support staff, and from Federation officers. Talk about feeling valued!

A copy of the final report (to be delivered by the end of the year) will be posted on the Association webpage <http://www.nswsdpa.asn.au>.

One of the major initiatives of the Association has been the appointment of our Welfare Officer Barry Lovegrove. Barry has been incredibly active in visiting many regional and district associations across the state. His support for those of our colleagues who have sought his advice and support has been first class. His accessibility and sensitivity are greatly appreciated. Please talk to Barry yourself, or recommend him to colleagues as the need arises.

Barry Lovegrove: (PH) 02 43686134; (MOB) 0425 840 746; (EMAIL) bjlove@zeta.org.au

On the Professional Learning front, the DET has just released its *Professional Learning Continuum* which provides a framework for professional learning programs and strategies to guide the development of school staff and those who support their work. The continuum begins with graduate teachers and continues to teacher leaders, school executives, school leaders and senior officers. There is also a continuum to guide the development of SASS.

Learning programs that the DET has developed or is developing to meet the leadership development needs of deputies include:

- Deputy Principal Induction Program
- Targeted Principal Preparation Program
- Principal Preparation Program (to develop from the TPPP)
- Principal Designate Program (to be developed)
- Principal Induction Program

The good news is that the DP Induction Course is confirmed as an ongoing DET course. It has been a long-standing battle for the Association to achieve this level of certainty and commitment.

We all remember the fantastic 2005 Annual Conference that South Western Sydney Region put together in Canberra. I would like to take this opportunity to once again to thank the organising team for their outstanding achievement and give you all advanced notice of the 2006 conference in Wollongong. The Illawarra and South Coast Regional team are well into their planning and it promises to be another excellent professional learning opportunity for deputies. Make a note in the diary for 6-8 September.

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement and hope that your holiday is happy, safe and restful.

Steve Ramsey
President.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

A newsletter at last! Apologies for the briefness of this first edition but Deputies are certainly busy people at the end of the school year and contributions are really difficult to obtain.

In my role this year I have attended many district and regional association meetings and have been very impressed with the quality of networks established in both country and metropolitan areas as well as the support from both Regional Directors and S.E.D.S. Similar issues arise at all meetings with the main ones being:

- lack of compliance training for Deputies
- managing difficult members of staff
- email addresses for Deputies
- various property matters

I am now receiving a list of newly appointed Deputy Principals each month and this year alone have forwarded more than 100 letters of congratulations to new appointees.

The number of welfare contacts has fallen dramatically this term but in previous terms was dealing with up to three each week. Most of these were individual phone calls but some were referrals from close colleagues. In summary, more than 80% of the matters dealt with were based on relationship difficulties with a variety of positions within the school itself. A small number of personal visits were made throughout the year, usually off-site for obvious reasons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank past President Bruce Tapp for his advice and support over the past 18 months as we worked together to establish the position of Executive Officer. I look forward to working with Stephen Ramsey and other members of the Executive in 2006 and wish all Deputy Principals in N.S.W. State Secondary Schools a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Regards
Barry Lovegrove.

CONFERENCE 2005 REPORT

This year's annual Conference was held in Canberra with 371 Deputy Principals and/or their delegates. We kicked off the Conference with a Cocktail Party at Old Parliament House the night before. Keynote speakers over the 2 days were Cheryl O'Connor, Neville Johnson, David Shores and Bob Hince. A number of concurrent sessions were run after each keynote address to discuss issues from the keynotes or other topics related to that area. Afternoon workshops on the Thursday saw many delegates going to Questacon, the National Museum, Australian Institute of Sport and the War Memorial for their workshop and a tour of the venue. This proved to be a really popular activity that enabled these people to check out venues for future school excursions. Feedback from the evaluations showed that the idea of holding workshops at other venues was interesting and different. Most of these venues donated the hire fee as they believed that by doing so many DPs would return to their school saying that it would be an ideal place for an excursion. The Conference dinner was held at the Australian War Memorial. It was an incredible place to hold the dinner and the atmosphere and ambience was indeed fantastic. We were fortunate enough to be able to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony beforehand which was one of the most moving activities I have ever attended. As always, we had a relaxed and happy time dancing the night away to some live bands that played "our type of music". Many of our costs were minimized due to the generosity of organizations in Canberra. They are trying to promote our National Capital so that we approve more excursions down there. Those of us who attended the Conference were certainly impressed by the facilities and venues that can be visited by our students.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank a very hard working committee for helping put this Conference together. I believe it was a very well-run, well-organised and polished event due to their commitment, dedication and hard work. So, thank you to Evelyn Hazzard (Eagle Vale HS) for administration, Mark Tisher (Macquarie Fields HS) for work with sponsorship and raising much needed funds, Virginia Elliot (Macquarie Fields HS) for work with guest speakers, programs and publications, Linda Smith (co-convenor) and Gail Taylor (both from James Meehan HS) for the entertainment, gifts and everything else that was left over from the rest of us, Christine Casey (Fairvale HS) and Kathleen Seto (Canley Vale HS) for their workshop organization and to Paul Zielinski (Liverpool Girls HS) for all the technical co-ordination. Also to Barry Lovegrove (our Association Executive Officer) for continued support, encouragement and everything he did during the Conference to ensure it ran so smoothly.

We wish the South Coast all the best for next year's Conference. Finally I hope you all have a much needed break from school and work over the holidays and a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

Cheers
Debbie Roberts
Conference Convenor