



# New South Wales Secondary Deputy Principals Association Inc.

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

Newsletter

Issued: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.

---

THE NSW SECONDARY DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2006 started at great pace for most of us, and as we reflect at the end of Term 1, not much has let up. The one great constant for Deputy Principals is the relentless call on our time, our personal resilience and our professional expertise. Just trying to achieve the everyday expectations of staff, students, parents, and the system is exhausting enough, and then to prepare lessons, teach, assess and report for our own classes I sometimes wonder how we do it. And we 'have a life' for our families, our friends and ourselves – it's a double wonder! It is vitally important that we all find a balance between our personal and professional lives. The personal satisfaction and professional rewards we gain from our work must be placed in perspective. As highly skilled managers and leaders we must often remind ourselves that we work to live, rather than live to work.

You will be aware that the Association undertook a welfare survey of all secondary deputy principals in 2005. We were very pleased with the number and quality of responses from deputies across the state. The professional report on this survey and the six recommendations arising from it are available on our website: [www.nswsdpa.asn.au](http://www.nswsdpa.asn.au). The survey has provided us with both valuable insight, and affirmation of the nature of the work, and the impact that that work can have on the life of a deputy. It has set the direction and focus for the Association over then next few years.

The executive of the association met with the Deputy Director General, Schools mid way through the term. We took four key issues to the meeting with Trevor Fletcher:

- appointment of a liaison contact person between NSWSDPA and DET
- signing of a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the Department
- extent and value of the work of the Association's Executive Officer
- DP Welfare Survey and recommendations arising from it.

We left the meeting with mixed results.

- Tom Urry, a Director in the Office of Schools, is our liaison contact.
- Trevor Fletcher would like to meet more regularly.
- Memorandum of Understanding is not possible due to financial constraints

- Executive Officer's work is valued but can not be financially supported by DET under present financial circumstances
- Welfare recommendations:
  - 1 Networks: Tom Urry to meet with regional Directors to facilitate. (Regional Association representatives to arrange contact with Regional Directors to advance network opportunities)
  - 2 Communication: DDG is in favour of all DPs having access to DET email account. (Tom Urry will report back)
  - 3 Teaching & the Role as DP: DDG has no direct line management for staffing but will help where possible. (Association to develop a position paper on this issue for presentation to Trish Kelly)
  - 4 Professional Learning: DET Induction Course to continue for new DPs. (Regional Associations to seek support for career development and compliance training when meeting with Regional Director)
  - 5 Relationships between Secondary DPs and DET: Regional Directors will be made aware of current perceptions. (Another point for discussion at Regional Association meetings with Regional Directors)
  - 6 Occupational Health of DPs: Tom Urry to facilitate pilot program. (Association to develop operational model for regional OH team, and trial in two regions)

As you can see, there is still much to be done.

The Association believes that the significant findings and recommendations from the Welfare Survey are critical to the professional work and welfare of secondary deputy principals in NSW, and therefore to the effective operation of all secondary schools. The best initial strategy is to establish/enhance a transparent and mutually supportive relationship (between the Association and the DET at regional level). Regional Association representatives will be meeting with Regional Directors over the next couple of months to advance this and to address the recommendations of the welfare survey report.

By now, each secondary Deputy Principal in NSW will have received a postcard promoting this year's annual conference (see accompanying report in this newsletter). The conference always provides a golden opportunity for professional learning, networking and collegiality -I urge you all to register for the 2006 Annual Conference in Wollongong.

Steve Ramsey

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT**

At this stage of the year very few calls of a welfare nature have been received from Deputy Principals, although there have been a number seeking clarification or information on policy and procedural- type matters.

More than 60 letters of congratulations have been forwarded to newly appointed Deputy Principals so far this year. Regional Congress Representatives will be informed of new appointments to their regions from this term onwards in order to assist them with their connectedness to the Association and the various networks within the region.

This term I will be attending Deputy Principal Conferences at Yamba (North Coast Region) and Armidale (New England Region). Those Districts or Regions which I have not visited as yet are encouraged to give me a call, as I am only too pleased to speak on the role and duties of my position as well as other matters of the Association.

I am now in contact with the two Principal Liaison Officers in Head Office, Bridge Street and they will be informing me of any incidents in schools, where support from the Deputy Principals Association would

be appropriate. Hopefully, this will help to reduce the “hit and miss” nature of the welfare work, which is such an important part of the role of Executive Officer.

**The following is a list of Regional Congress Representatives. Please contact any of your representatives if there are issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Association.**

**COUNTRY:**

New England	Bill Campbell	Peel High School
Hunter	Col Ekert Graham Eather	Kotara High School Newcastle High School
Central Coast	Mark Dehn	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College Berkeley Vale
Illawarra South Coast	Graeme Murray Bruce Tapp	Corrimal High School Warilla High School
North Coast	Bob Pratt Ken Duryea Ray Linabury	Camden Haven High School Coffs Harbour High School Mullumbimby High School
Riverina	Andy Mojsiewicz	James Fallon High School
Western N.S.W.	Sandra Parker Steve Harvey Sue Francisco Gail Ross Chris Tome	Parkes High School Canowindra High School Cobar High School Orange High School Orange High School

**CITY:**

South Western	Linda Smith Debbie Roberts	James Meehan High School Leumeah High School
Sydney	Margaret McLelland  Connie Alves Mark Christison	Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus Dulwich High School Lucas Heights Community School
Northern	Mary Ann Das Neves Steve Ramsey Scott Leavers Bruce Collins	Hornsby Girls High School Ryde Secondary College Willoughby Girls H.S. Asquith Boys' High School
Western	Frank Land Karen Smith Kerrie Wratten	Cranebrook High School Crestwood High School James Ruse Agricultural High School

### **UPDATE - SECONDARY DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE 2006**

Approximately 100 or more delegates are expected to arrive on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The organising committee will be on hand to meet people at the Novotel and Rydges. A 'formal' Cocktail party (for those who would like to dress up!!) will be held at the Five Islands Brewery, located on the Eastern side of the Wollongong Entertainment Centre, 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The brewery will remain open for barfood and drinks if people wish to stay. Cost details will be in the Conference registration pack to be mailed out early this term.

Thursday 7th September 2006 – the majority of delegates will arrive with the conference commencing at 9.00 am. There will be 3 key note speakers over the two days and 10 workshops, from which delegates will have to choose three. Some will be repeated over the two days. Workshops include First Time Deputys' Forum; EPAC, Career Planning; Quality Teaching and Practice; Aboriginal Education; Boys Education; Aspiring Principals etc. Details will be included in the registration pack.

Thursday night 6.30pm till 11.30pm - Conference Dinner has a “beach theme” so delegates are encouraged to wear casual dress or beach wear. The cost will be included in the registration pack

Friday 8th September 2006 - Conference to continue with key note speakers and workshops. Finish time approximately 3.00pm but this will be ratified early this term and details will be in the registration pack.

Rob Cheadle

Conference Co-ordinator