

## President's Report 2011 AGM



2011 has been another good year for the Association.

The Executive met with the Director General, Michael Coutts-Trotter in October 2010 to discuss the findings and recommendations arising from the last DP Welfare Survey. The meeting was very professional and open, with the DG very willing to listen and take on board the concerns raised in the report on the survey. DP teaching load and the OH&S implications of the role of the secondary deputy principal, EOI processes and the use of EAP by DPs, continued support for the DP Induction Program, DP professional learning were key areas. With Michael moving on to lead another portfolio area for the new state government, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank him for his support of secondary deputy principals. In all our dealings with him, he has been honest, professional and genuine. Good luck Michael.

We are very happy to welcome Michele Bruniges as our new Director General. Michele was a very keen and early supporter of deputy principal induction conferences when we started them seven or eight years ago. We look forward to a professional and productive relationship with Michele over the coming years.

We started 2011 with the early retirement of Vice President Margaret McLelland (GRC, Peshurst Girls Campus) who has had a broad and significant impact on the professional learning of secondary deputy principals. We all wish Margaret well as she enjoys the comforts of Hertfordshire in England. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of Jenny Parrett who willingly stepped into the Vice Presidency as Margaret's successor. Thank you Jenny.

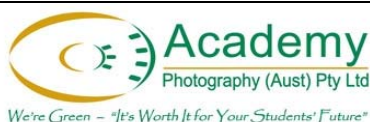
The Association held its second Professional Learning Day on Friday 25 March at Citigate Central in Sydney. The day has become a permanent fixture on the professional learning calendar for secondary deputies at a time six months from the Annual Conference. Vice President(s) Margaret McLelland (initially), Jenny Parrett and Scott Leavers put together a well structured and highly relevant program. The day was well supported by a host of volunteers, with over 140 deputies attending. Evaluations rated the day highly, and indicated overwhelming support for continuing our PLD in future years. Congratulations on an excellent conference, and thank you to Margaret, Jenny and Scott.

In second term, we developed a joint submission with the Secondary Principals Council outlining the three common and most concerning issues relating to the welfare of Deputy Principals and Principals. These were:

1. The intensification of the workload of Deputy Principals and Principals
2. The increasing numbers of students with mental health issues
3. The increasing number of aggressive parents and students

There have been subsequent meetings with the DET resulting in Debbie Hockings announcing the establishment of an Office of Schools working party to look at the intensification of work for Deputy Principals and Principals. It must also be noted that in its staffing submission, the SPC is asking for a second Deputy for over 600 students and 3 at 1000. They want a deputy appointed in a central

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school once the secondary enrolment is above 150. The submission also called for all secondary deputy principals to be non-teaching positions on future staffing returns (AER). This is a long process with hopefully a positive end.

My thanks to Steve Barnett for this excellent piece of consultative work.

The Deputy Principal Induction Conference was again held in the last week of the Autumn holidays in the William Wilkins Gallery at Bridge Street. More than 40 new secondary deputies joined primary colleagues in this very successful two day conference. The Association has been a strong advocate for and supporter of the conference over the past seven years, with many of our members being expert facilitators to the Conference. The Association is very proud to be associated with this important professional learning event, and we will continue to advocate for a second conference to cater for the large number of colleagues appointed each year.

We are also very pleased to co-host (with the Primary Deputy Principals Network) a cocktail reception for the participants on the first night.

I was honoured to attend a presentation ceremony at Stewart House in Term 2 and accept an *Outstanding Supporter 2010* award on behalf of the NSW Secondary Deputy Principals Association. The award recognised the ongoing support that the Association gives to Stewart House (primarily through the big raffle at the Annual Conference). We have been able to donate between 3000 and \$5000 in each of the past few years. Thank you all for this wonderful support.

With the recent announcement on the demise of the School Certificate, the Association has successfully approached the Board of Studies to join the consultation on future credentialing and other emerging issues related to the NSLA (New School Leaving Age).

My thanks to Evelyn Hazzard for pursuing this important issue so promptly and gaining us a seat at the table.

The state Association continues to support DPs at a regional level by providing financial assistance for regional professional learning initiatives. I invite regional convenors to write a submission to the Association via the Treasurer, Noel Morris, so that these funds can be accessed. It is another positive initiative of the state Association to professionally support members.

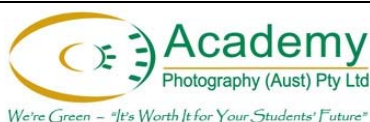
We have also identified that there are a number of 'invisible' pockets of deputies in the state. These are geographical areas where the secondary deputies have difficulty in establishing or maintaining a collegial network. These areas are most commonly away from the usual regional hub, and so appear to have fallen through the cracks. We would like to support the deputies in these areas by providing some seeding funding to establish a self-sustaining and viable network that will grow and eventually connect with the larger regional groups.

The Association's website continues to develop and evolve. You would have noticed a 'members' button on the webpage. This is a work-in-progress, and we hope to populate this space with valuable information, strategies, and insights that will enhance the concept of Association membership. Your different ideas on this will be very welcome.

The Association has been greatly indebted to Miriam Wride for her tireless work in maintaining the webpage despite the fact that she is retired.

Thank you Miriam.

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Last year, we did not award an Academy Fellowship as part of our fellowship program. We seem to have sometimes struggled to get the message out about this important initiative. The Fellowship provides a great opportunity for valuable research with a broad scope. I urge you all to keep promoting this valuable award.

This year, however, I am pleased to announce John Coleman (Colo HS) as our 2011 Fellow.

This AGM sees the award of Life Membership to four deputies – Margaret McLelland (GRC, Peshurst Girls Campus), Mark Christison (Beverly Hills Girls HS), Noel Morris (St George Girls HS) & Scott Leavers (Willoughby Girls HS). Congratulations to these outstanding deputies for their tireless work for the Association and public education in NSW.

While congratulating Life Members, I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the 26 secondary Deputy Principals who have given 10 years of service (and in some cases more) to public education in NSW. Well done, we are indebted to your dedication and commitment and will honour you at this evening's dinner.

In closing I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution of number of other key players in 2011.

I would like to thank our 2011 business partners, Academy Photography, Fuji Xerox, Edval and Millennium, for their valuable support. We can only continue to provide quality support for secondary deputies if we have a secure financial foundation.

I welcome back Academy Photography and Fuji Xerox as our 2012 corporate partners. I urge all secondary deputy principals to continue to support them.

The 2011 Executive of Steve Barnett, Jenny Parrett, Evelyn Hazzard and Noel Morris - thank you for your professionalism, your friendship and your support – it has been a great pleasure to work with you. Perhaps a little immodestly, we have made a fantastic team.

Col Ekert, thank you for all your work for the Association as Executive Officer. Your assistance to the Executive and the processes and innovations you are introducing will continue to have tangible benefits for DPs into the future. Thank you.

Barry Lovegrove, thank you for all your work in 2011. The secondary deputy principals in NSW are most fortunate to have you as an empathetic and responsive colleague who is always available, approachable, and supportive in their time of need. Thank you most sincerely.

I would also like to thank the whole of the Riverina Region organising team for such a great conference here in Albury – it has been very professionally organised, provided a packed and engaging program, and delivered with great hospitality and warmth. To have so many secondary deputies be here in Albury is testament to their dedication and commitment to providing the outstanding professional learning opportunities offered.

Well done Riverina Region!

**Steve Ramsey**

President

1 September 2011

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