

President's Report 2010 AGM

2010 has been another positive year for the Association.

We started with the appointment of a second Vice President following the constitutional amendment at last year's AGM. Margaret McLelland (GRC, Peshurst Girls Campus) has embraced the position and made an immediate and significant impact on the professional learning of secondary deputy principals.

The Association held its first Professional Learning Day on Friday 12 March at the Australian Technology Park in facilities provided by our corporate partner Fuji Xerox. The day was a trial with a view to establishing it as a permanent fixture on the professional learning calendar for secondary deputies at a time six months from the Annual Conference. Vice President Margaret McLelland and her outstanding team (Suzan Dickson, Lance Raskall & Kathie Power) put together a well structured and highly relevant program of keynotes and workshops. The day was highly rated by the nearly 70 deputies who attended and the evaluation indicates strong support for a similar event in 2011. Huge congratulations and thank you to Margaret, Suzan, Lance and Kathie.

The Association was also timely in its submission of our Position Paper on *Raising the Leaving Age* in May. Within a short time, the Government announced a review of the School Certificate and there has subsequently been a lot of work being undertaken in aligning all DET policies and procedures to factor in the new leaving age. My thanks goes to Steve Barnett for this excellent piece of consultative work.

A review of the Executive Officer/Welfare Officer role that Barry Lovegrove has filled has resulted in the splitting of the role. The Association believes that there is a demonstrated need for a single Welfare Officer and an Executive Officer. Barry Lovegrove is instantly recognisable and overwhelmingly suited to the role of Welfare Officer and has enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to concentrate on this important role within the Association. This meant that a number of the tasks previously undertaken by Barry became the core of the new Executive Officer's role.

We are pleased to welcome Col Ekert as the Executive Officer for the Association. Col has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the position and has started to streamline a range of processes and introduce some welcome innovations. His support for the Executive is invaluable.

The Deputy Principal Induction Conference was held in the last week of the Autumn holidays in the William Wilkins Gallery at Bridge Street. Over 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 six years. We were very pleased to co-host (with the Primary Deputy Principals Network) a cocktail reception for the participants on the first night.

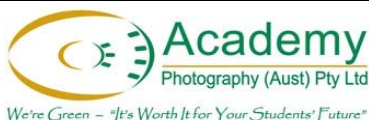
This AGM sees the award of Life Membership to four deputies – Ray Linabury (Mullumbimby HS), Steve Barnett (Kotara HS), Alan McInnes (Warilla HS) & Steve Ramsey (Ryde Secondary College). Congratulations to these outstanding deputies for their tireless work for the Association and public education in NSW.

While congratulating Life Members, I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the 28 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.

Last year, we awarded two Academy Fellowships as part of our fellowship program.

Darcy Moore (Dapto HS) and Jenny Parrett (James Fallon HS) are or have presented their findings at this conference.

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It is unfortunate that no members applied for the Academy Fellowship this year and points to a couple of possible reasons – the very busy life of a secondary deputy or not enough publicity. Either way, I ask you all to get the message out about this great initiative. Academy is very keen to continue supporting this initiative.

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.

The Association's website continues to develop and evolve. The Association is greatly indebted to Miriam Wride for her tireless work in this area – it is amazing how little retirement is evidenced in her output. Thank you Miriam.

In closing I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution of number of other key players in 2010.

I would like to thank our 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.

The 2010 Executive of Steve Barnett, Margaret McLelland , 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.

Col Ekert, thank you for your work with the Association in this your first year a Executive Officer. Your assistance to the Executive and the innovations you are introducing, will have angible benefits for DPs in the future. Thank you.

Barry Lovegrove, thank you for all your work in 2010. The secondary deputy principals in NSW are indeed fortunate to have a colleague as approachable, understanding, and compassionate as you. Thank you most sincerely.

I would also like to thank the whole of the Northern Sydney Region organising committee for such a great conference here at the Sydney Hilton – it has very professionally organised with an exciting and engaging program. To have a record number of delegates (over 430) is testament to their dedication and commitment to providing the outstanding professional learning opportunities offered. Well Northern Sydney Region!

Steve Ramsey
President
2 September 2010



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