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JUNIOR
SCHOOL HEADS'
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

newsletter

Lighting the Flame in Ethiopia

One of the most unusual applications for a Grant-in-Aid was received from St Stephen's Junior School Principal, Noel Nethery. Noel was granted \$1,200 to assist in a dream becoming a reality. Noel writes.....

The project I am about to describe to you is, I guess, a little unusual. At the recent Queensland Branch State Conference held in Mackay, I found the time to speak at our JSHAA meeting on my project, and urged those members present that no matter what project they may wish to undertake, it was worth an application to the Grants-in-Aid.

The TSION Marion School is situated in the heart of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. The population of Addis Ababa is approximately 7 million people. It's a sprawling, unplanned and extremely poverty stricken city. Ethiopia, unfortunately, ranks in the top 5 poorest countries in the world.

The TSION Marion School is a school run by volunteers catering for the needs and schooling of underprivileged students. The principal of this three-classroom school, Sister Ardenedge, has three other volunteer staff (much in the vein of a Mother Teresa style set up).

The school, when I visited, had 180 students ranging from 3 / 4 years old to 12 years old. Approximately 60 students per room, rooms are 6m X 4m with single wooden planks as desks and seats, and rock and dirt floors.

Scenario

The TSION Marion School is in danger of being shut down due to the fact that local authorities want the small block to build a hostel or other commercial venture. Local Council is citing

a lack of infrastructure in the school meaning that it is unfit to school 180-200 students, eg the school does not have toilets, drinking facilities, has stone and mud/dust floors, one swing muddy dusty playground 13m X 20m, etc. The principal has been fighting local authorities, making amendments with loans of her own to keep them at bay, however it was appearing to be a losing battle.

My involvement with this project.

There are many schools in Addis Ababa under similar circumstances, and good Samaritans cannot look after them all. However, this scenario is slightly different which is why it motivated me to be proactive.

Background

My wife and I adopted two beautiful Ethiopian children (boys and brothers) and consequently have an immediate affinity with Ethiopia.

The TSION Marion school has an orphanage attached to it, of which 43 students have been adopted over the last decade to Australian families. Thus, there is an obvious connection to Australia. If the school closes, the orphanage closes, as does the connection with Australia. The loss of this orphanage to Australian couples/families waiting to adopt Ethiopian families, obviously has far reaching implications for all concerned.

Action Plan

I had video footage of the school flown back to Queensland from an Australian family who had recently adopted children from the orphanage. I showed the students of the Junior School this footage and discussed with them my vision of saving the TSION Marion School. I also shared this vision with our College Chaplain who agreed it would be a most worthy cause. Sharing this vision with the staff also gained full support of the Junior School community.



'Thank you to students from St. Stephens, Australia'



In addition to raising the hard currency (which would enable us to carry out the necessary projects) I also asked for donations of aid, mainly medical and pharmaceutical in nature.

On leaving Australian shores I took with me 42kg of pharmaceutical aid and \$3500 in cash raised by the students of Saint Stephen's College. Most of the aid I purchased cheaply from OPAL (Overseas Pharmaceutical Aid for Life), a company based in Adelaide supporting all world wide causes.

On arrival in Addis Ababa and at the TSION Marion School I realised the project would be considerably larger than first anticipated, and thus it was at this point that I pledged Saint Stephen's College's long term support for the TSION Marion School.

The first task was to build toilets for the students and staff, who all shared one pit toilet at the back of the playground. It took a number of weeks to secure the services of a builder and his team, formulate contracts of sorts, and then commence construction. The toilets took approximately one month to complete, during which time I had to fly back to Australia. Final photos of completion of the project are still in transit. Needless to say, the gratitude of the small community was overwhelming.

On arrival back in Queensland, I showed the students of Saint Stephen's College video footage of their accomplishments. Once again, the satisfaction of completing a real task for a school in need in a third world country was overwhelming.

The students took to the project with gusto and excitement. They felt a real sense of being able to make a difference in some young Ethiopian children's lives.

The Senior School of the College has since supported the project and recently at our House Chapel services, the students of the College raised another \$1,000 to go towards the second phase project for this school (this being paving of their playground which is currently dust or mud, depending

on the season) and also construction work on the roof.

The benefit to Saint Stephen's College in being involved in such a project is simply quite amazing. Over 1130 students and staff have given their overwhelming support to this project. It has not only allowed these students to feel real success in being able to make a difference, but in the chain of events, has also allowed this Ethiopian community to maintain strong ties with the Australian adopting families community. As well, St Stephen's College maintains a long term relationship with the TSION Marion School. It is possible that this school project, over time, could be built up to a point where the TSION Marion School becomes a school of some prominence in the years ahead. Certainly our commitment at this stage is unwavering.

This was a journey which allowed me to indulge in satisfaction in its purest form. The satisfaction of seeing the smiles of appreciation on the students, teachers and principal's faces at the TSION Marion school was indescribable. The satisfaction of seeing the smiles on the faces of Saint Stephen's College students as they accomplished their goal and vision was indescribable. To meet the needs of others without condition, in itself was a project worth embarking on.

End result to Date

5 flush toilets (2 boys, 2 girls and 1 staff)

The 3 classroom floors concreted.

Red Ash put down as a surface precursor to paving their play area.

Immediate Future Project

Reconstruction of roofing and walls of school

Once again, I thank the Grants-in-Aid team for their generous contribution in allowing me to successfully implement a small dream.

Mr Noel Nethery

Head of Junior School
Saint Stephen's College

Notes from the Federal Chairman

The Federal Board met for the second time in this biennium, at the end of May in Melbourne. **This meeting was scheduled to enable Board members to attend the Victorian and South Australian annual refresher held at Halls Gap.**

The Board meeting was squeezed into a day, but we were able to complete all agenda items.

Issues discussed and presented included reports from individual Board members. **Branch reports are always of immense interest and it is truly amazing to think of the breadth of this association's interests. In NSW for example there are approximately 13,000 children playing sport organised by the JSHAA each week.** In addition this branch has a highly effective and very active PD and academic committees as well as a recently formed social issues committee. The Tasmanian Branch, although small in comparison, enjoys a **wonderful intimate collegiality.** This year's focus is on professional

development related to teaching and learning. SA is in 'hyper' mode as it prepares for the event of the year- the APPA conference. This joint event co-convened with the government and catholic primary principals promises to be packed with professional and personal highlights. **The SA Branch is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity of getting to know colleagues in the other sectors, which tends to be a spin-off during conference preparation.** An interesting change in this state is that the Aurora Camp, which was peculiar to SA and provided for the gifted and talented students in our schools, will not be held this year. Following 10 very successful years it was decided that it was time to look at other ways of providing for students. A busy branch indeed!

In Victoria member numbers continue to grow and branch meetings are always well attended. This branch has focussed on Membership and the updating of records this has resulted in the Membership secretary role being split into three roles; new members, renewing and resigning members and data management. **At the end of May over 200 students from 50 independent schools in Victoria took part in a Biennial Leadership Conference at Parliament House.** What a wonderful way to develop leadership opportunities in our schools!

The Queensland Branch is going from strength to strength. **A highly successful branch conference was held in May in Mackay.** This well remembered 'institution' in Queensland has not been held for four years. Lots happening here; a deputies group has been formed and a chess day planned as well. **The conference was such a success that it will become an annual event and will be held in Townsville next year.** When we consider that over 2000 kms separates the members in this branch from north to south, it is a great way of ensuring our far northern members feel included.

Over in the WA a new meeting format is being explored which has included an informal and brief report from the State Chair, the APPA representative and the Federal Chairman. Following this a delightful dinner was enjoyed at PLC and this was accompanied by a very humorous but poignant speaker Jon Doust. Those of you who attended the APPA conference here in Perth last year will remember Jon; **he was the chap who put the expander into his mouth!!** Whilst changes are on the agenda, WA has also decided to bring forward its annual dinner to July from November. Following a poor turn out over the last few years, probably due to the hectic time for schools in November, it is hoped the July date will suit more members.

Obviously our association is an important and vital one for its members and their schools!

At the Federal Board meeting we **reaffirmed our support of School Aid** and agreed to include a focus on School Aid as a part of our local and national key targets 2002-2004. I am aware that a great many of our schools participate in this annual fundraiser, but if you do not please take the time to check it out. Our website will provide you with contact details as does the APPA website www.appa.asn.au. **School Aid so capably nurtured by one of our own members, Sean Gordon (Qld), certainly deserves your support.** In 2003 School Aid will be supporting the Fred Hollows

Foundation. At my school this year the Yr 7s organised a crazy tie day. For the donation of a gold coin my girls were able to wear a weird and wonderful tie to school with the otherwise conservative uniform. **Staff joined in as well.** A fun day and an easy way to raise a few hundred dollars!

Guidelines have now been written for our state chairmen and these are worth exploring if you are contemplating putting yourself forward for this role in the future. They will be posted on our website. Most State Branches have now updated their handbooks. This has included a look at the association's *Memorandum and Articles* and the *Principles and Practices* (both available on our website www.jshaa.asn.au) to make sure that branch operation is in line with Association requirements. Our website continues to grow and improve. **The database of membership is all but complete and David Hine's untiring work has come to fruition.** Other items discussed at Board level were the impending national sample testing for Science at Yr 6 this year, with Civics and Citizenship to follow next year. **Dare to Lead- Taking it On was also a focus.** Many of you will be well aware of this programme and will have attended a forum in your state. Further information is **available at the APAPDC site www.apapdc.edu.au I encourage you and your staff to take this issue onboard.**

The Halls Gap refresher was a tremendous experience. The journey from Melbourne is along some of the most beautiful country side in Australia and **there was ice on the cars in the morning!** This activity is reported on in this copy of the Link, but suffice to say it was a marvellous opportunity for the Board to spend quality time with members from the Vic and SA branches and even some Tasmanians who ventured across.

Finally, as your Federal Chairman I continue to have the privilege of being able to attend the APPA National Executive Council meetings. I was able to travel to Canberra in late June to join with the APPA NEC when they met with the Federal Minister, Dr Brendan Nelson and key officers from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Major items discussed were; performance measurement- **and we secured an assurance from the Minister that data from the benchmark Assessments will only be used for the improvement of outcomes for students and that 'League tables' will not be developed by the Commonwealth.** Other items included, resourcing primary schools, school age entry across the nation, the leadership institute, the Disability Discrimination Act and the National Curriculum. **Our attendance and involvement at the national level remains essential to ensure the voices of independent primary educators are heard.** Once again thank you to all members who take on additional roles and keep our members well informed.

The Chairman-elect, Michael Dunn will be my representative at the APPA conference in Adelaide in September. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend as I will be representing the JSHAA at the ESHA conference in Asheville, North Carolina, USA (20-22 September) and then onto the IAPS conference in York, UK (23-26 September).

Leonie Drew



Leonie Drew
Federal Chairman



NATALIE VANDEPEER

Nomination for Association Fellowship

NATALIE VANDEPEER

Natalie was invited to join the South Australian Branch of JSHAA when appointed as Head of the Preparatory School at Westminster School in Adelaide in January, 1987.

Natalie enjoyed the supportive and collegial nature of the group and found it a very positive way to get to know other professionals in the field, especially as she had just arrived in SA, from 18 years teaching experience in Queensland. In 1987 Natalie attended her first joint SAVIC weekend retreat at Ballarat. **A strong believer in developing collegial networks for Junior School Heads, Natalie worked tirelessly on the organising committee for the very successful Halls Gap seminars in 1989, 1991 and 1993.** While in SA, Natalie attended every inter-state seminar, always offering her support and assistance to 'new' heads entering the field.

In 1988, while attending the JSHAA National Conference in Sydney, Natalie discussed with Graham Whisker, the idea of initiating **a camp for gifted and talented students** within the JSHAA (SA Branch). As a result of these talks a visit was organised to SCEGGS Redland to see special programs at work. In 1989 the JSHAA (SA Branch) **began the first Aurora Camp for Gifted and Talented students.** Natalie was a strong supporter of the camp for many years. Westminster School has continued her legacy in this area, still strongly supporting the JSHAA (SA) Aurora Camp.

During these years Natalie continued to be an active committee member of the JSHAA (SA Branch). **Working with the music teachers from JSHAA schools, she developed their idea for a Music Festival.** These early Music Festivals became the fore-runner to our now very successful JSHAA Music Festivals, which involve a growing number of member schools with the involvement of hundreds of primary students as singers and musicians. Natalie also chaired the Orchestra Committee for a period of 3 years. This involved bringing talented instrumentalists together from a wide range of schools to practice and perform together.

Debating was also an interest for Natalie and she chaired the Debating Committee for a period of 2 years.

In 1990 at the highly successful Hobart Conference, Natalie **joined the Federal Board as Projects Officer.** During her four years in this role she completed two Federal Directories. In 1994 Natalie became the State Chair in SA. During this time the Association was going through a great period of change which included the incorporation of the Association. It was also a time when, with Natalie's support, the Association developed strong links with AHISA and comparable associations overseas.

During this time Natalie initiated a Federal Newsletter which was the fore-runner to the 'Link'.

1996-1998 Natalie represented the Association at MCEETYA on the Gifted and Talented frameworks discussion group and has also worked on an Inter-Parliamentary Inquiry into Teacher Education.

Before leaving South Australia in early 2001 to take up a new position as Head of the Junior School at Canberra Girls

Grammar, Natalie was Chair of the Public Speaking and Poetry Recital Committee. In this capacity she always offered her tireless support to both students and staff.

More recently she has represented the Association at MCEETYA Lote Enquiry, and is presently on a committee to develop a National Safe School Framework.

Written on behalf of the JSHAA (SA Branch) to support Natalie Vandeppeer's Nomination for Association Fellowship.

GEOFF CARROLL

It is with pleasure that I present this nomination for Mr Geoff Carroll who has been **a member of the Junior School Heads Association since 1984.** It was in that year that he was appointed to the position of Master in Charge of the Junior School at Rostrevor College in South Australia.

In 1985 Geoff took over the leadership of the South Australian Branch mid term when the current Chairman resigned. **He was then elected as South Australian Branch Chairman for the Biennium 1986-88.**

Whilst in South Australia, Geoff was responsible for **overseeing the process of inviting into the Branch the Heads of Girls' Schools.** It was also during his Chairmanship that the Halls Gap Joint Seminar with Victoria was established. Several other initiatives were undertaken during this time and these included: the establishment of the State Music Festival and a JSHAA Student Orchestra, a performing Arts Day at Wilderness School and Branch Country Retreats for members.

In 1989, Geoff became a member of the Victorian Branch of the JSHAA when he was appointed Head of the Junior School at St Michaels Grammar School. He joined the Music Festival Committee in 1990 and continued on that committee for 4 Music Festivals. During that time he also served on the Halls Gap Seminar Organising Committee for several years.

Geoff served as Treasurer of the Victorian Branch for two Bienniums, 1992-96 and became Branch Secretary for the 1996-1998 Biennium. **In 1998 he was invited to join the Federal Board as Projects Officer.** He has represented the Victorian Branch in that role until the completion of his term in September 2002. **His contribution in the role of Federal Projects Officer has been outstanding. He has very capably managed his responsibilities for the Association membership, membership database and the production of the Association Directory for the past two bienniums.** Geoff is known and respected for his wisdom, insight and reliability. He has a depth of knowledge and excellent understanding of Junior School education from a national perspective. His long association with JSHAA and his knowledge and understanding of the important role it plays has been valued and appreciated by us all.

Geoff has committed a great deal of time, energy and expertise to ensure the smooth running and ongoing success of our organization. He is an outstanding educationalist who has willingly provided leadership and support to all members of the Association.

I am proud and pleased to nominate that Geoff Carroll be awarded a JSHAA Fellowship for his contribution to primary education and to the Junior School Heads Association of Australia.

Jody Neylon

Head, Malvern Campus
Caulfield Grammar School



GEOFF CARROLL



VICKI SIMMONDS

VICKI SIMMONDS

It is with pleasure that I present this citation for Mrs Vicki Simmonds who has been a member of the **Junior School Heads Association of Australia since 1990**. It was in this year that she was appointed to the position of Head of the Junior School of St Margaret's School Berwick, Victoria.

Vicki initially joined the JSHAA Victorian Executive in 1990 and remained as an active member until 1998/99. During this period Vicki was a member of two Refresher School Committees and chaired two others, working tirelessly to ensure their success.

Vicki carried out the duties of Project Officer for four years providing a stimulating programme for the JSHAA. She accepted the position of Secretary of the Victorian Branch from 1994-96, during Pat Fernandes' Presidency, a role to which she was totally committed and in which she provided valuable support and leadership to members.

In 1991 Vicki took on the role of National Executive Council with APPA and APAPDC and has represented the JSHAA in this position since that time. When Vicki first accepted this position the relationship between the two organizations had a formality which Vicki not only managed to soften, but forged a positive friendship between the two groups through her work on the APPA National Executive Council. One of the most positive results of her contribution to both groups has been the outstandingly successful joint conference held in Perth in September. **It was with great pride that the JSHAA members watched, as Vicki was awarded Life Membership of APPA at the Conference,** and listened to her citation there, which reflected the high regard in which she was held by both organizations.

In 1988 Vicki was on the organising committee of the JSHAA Conference in Melbourne.

Vicki became Head of Kingswood Junior School in June 1999, and after a short break from the JSHAA Executive she returned in 2001 and continues to play an active role, representing the JSHAA on APPA Executive and APAPDC, a continuous role she has held since 1991. **She is currently on the organising committee of the APPA Conference in Melbourne in 2004.**

Vicki has a passion for gifted education and while still a teacher at PLC in the 80's she spoke at a Melbourne Conference of the VAGTC, served on the organising committee of the VAGTC Conference and was Vice President of the VAGTC for two years.

Vicki is an outstanding educationalist who provides leadership and support to all members of the JSHAA, she is an exemplary model for the teaching profession, demonstrating commitment and professionalism to all who come in contact with her.

It is an honour to present this nomination in recognition of the outstanding contribution Vicki has made to the JSHAA and to education.

Pamela Carder

Head of Fintona Junior School



Rosalie Ramsay

Queen's Birthday Honours 9th June 2003

Rosalie Ramsay appointed as a member of the Order of Australia – General Division (A.M.)

Citation – "For service to education, particularly as Head of Pymble Ladies' College Junior School and through professional organizations, and the community."

Information provided to the Media by Government House of Rosalie's service:

'Head of the Junior School of Pymble Ladies College, 1973-2002

Member of Junior School Heads' Association of Australia (JSHAA) Ltd since 1980's.

JSHAA - NSW Branch

Secretary 1991-1992;

Chairman 1993-1994;

Organiser of four Annual Music Festivals at Sydney Town Hall;

Convenor of Several Sub Committees.

JSHAA - Federal Member

Federal Chairman Elect 1994-1995

Federal Chairman 1996-1998

Immediate Past Chair 1998-2000

Inaugural NSW Independent Schools representative on the National Executive Council of the Australian Primary Principals' Association: 1998-2002

Appointed to the Board of Directors of Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University in 1987. Secretary to the Board of Directors : 1990 to present.

Elder of St Stephen's Uniting Church Macquarie Street, Sydney for over 15 years.

Superintendent of the Sunday School since 1986. Formerly Secretary and later Chairman of the Parish Council. Currently Chairman of the Congregation, Member of the Church Council, Secretary of the Elders' Ministry of the Church Council. Member of selection committee for the past two ministers. Formerly a member of the Sydney Presbytery Candidates' Committee for five years.

Member of Ku-ring-gai Council's organising committee for Seniors' Week for over ten years; organiser of Council's Intergenerational Public Speaking Competition for the last eleven years.'

We join with members throughout Australia in congratulating Rosalie on this prestigious achievement.



JSHAA Membership

I am delighted to report to members the current state of membership as at 15 August, 2003 :

Full Members	320
New Zealand Members	23
Associate Members	28
Honorary State Life Members	22
Honorary Federal Life Members	17

Members may be interested to know the membership of the respective States.

New South Wales	94
Queensland	56
South Australia	32
Tasmania	12
Victoria	87
Western Australia	38

Of the 320 Full Members, 152 chose to take out 'Linked Membership' with the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools in the UK this year; that is 48% of the membership. This is a significant increase on last year; which was about 30%.

I am currently working with a company in Adelaide to update our Association database quite significantly and all Members will be contacted shortly to provide new information for this process to be completed by the end of the year. I seek your assistance in responding to the request for information by the due date highlighted on the form sent to you.

David Hine

APPA Report

NEC met with Dr Nelson and his advisors in late June. It was a very beneficial meeting. We were given a joint hour with the State secondary principals and the Minister before some time by ourselves with his advisors.

The major items of discussion included:

- Performance Measurement – we secured an assurance from the Minister that data from Benchmark Assessments will only be used for the purpose of improvement of outcomes for students and that 'League Tables' will not be developed by the Commonwealth. This was an important issue given developments in both the UK and US;
- Resourcing Primary Schools – The Minister supported the

current Resourcing Reviews. Stage 2 of the review is unlikely to be complete before 2004.

- School Entry Age – we raised the issue of common starting age for schooling and are combining with the Department of Defence to push this issue as 80,000 children a year move interstate! This has taken a life of its own with considerable press and a paper now emanating from MCEETYA by year's end.
- Leadership Institute – this issue has 'zoomed up the charts' as the Minister indicated his strong support for it. All principals will receive a Draft Discussion paper during Term 3 as part of the proposal.
- DDA Standards – MCEETYA will definitely clarify at its July meeting what is required in this area.
- National Curriculum – this has already received considerable press as a result of the MCEETYA meeting. There is a big push in this area from the Commonwealth.
- LOTE – we expressed our need for an urgent national policy. This is an area in which JSHAA can show considerable leadership.

Other issues flowing from the NEC meeting in Brisbane in early June included:

The need to continue to push the Commonwealth resourcing campaign (not to be confused with the MCEETYA Resourcing Taskforce which has completed Stage 1 and a Draft Report has been prepared for the MCEETYA Perth Meeting on 10 July.) Further detail on these issues can be accessed on the website.

APPA's financial position which will continue to be poor; (thus limiting its work) while it charges such a small levy.

APPA has been invited to be a member of a Project Steering Committee to select a tender to examine governance arrangements in non-government schools (those not belonging to school systems). We are awaiting further details of the project that will be completed by December 2003.

Summary:

In general, the move to pushing issues through different pillars is leading to some success (eg school age issue) while the rotation of meetings has offered the opportunity for state associations to become more engaged. By year's end the secretariat or the NEC will have met in 5 states plus the ACT.

I would encourage members to visit the APPA website which has been seriously revamped (<http://appa.asn.au>) as it contains much greater detail on the resourcing campaign and the choice of schools to be studied. Also look for the new Principal magazine which is being launched as a wrap around on Classroom magazine. It is hoped that schools will take a second subscription for this rather than replace their Classroom mag subscription. Scholastic are supporting 4 issues before they determine whether it will be a commercial reality. Finally, consider seriously becoming an APPA gold member as a way of supporting these national initiatives. I look forward to seeing many of you in Adelaide in September.

Roderick HW Crouch

Treasurer APPA
Chair
JSHAA Qld

APAPDC 1993 – 2003

The four peak bodies representing principals in Australian schools — the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA), the Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA), the Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools of Australia (APCSSA) and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) – formed the **Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council (APAPDC) in 1993** to provide a single national point of contact in the context of national education goals, and commonwealth government commitment to supporting principals' professional development as a key factor in pursuing these goals.

The APAPDC appears to be unique in world terms.

The peak national associations of principals work together, through this formal structure, to help address national educational issues **through providing professional learning for all Australia's school principals**. The APAPDC provides programs and activities where principals from all sectors and levels of schooling come together as equals, where their common needs and aspirations as principals are the sole concern.

In considering the achievements of the APAPDC, first among them is the fact of its continuing existence and growth to become an important component in principals' professional lives. **It provides a forum that has gained respect from all quarters. It enables principals of all types to come together and learn from each other on equal professional terms.** It is a practical demonstration of the importance of the role of the principal as leaders in the educational changes desired by the community in Australia.

The APAPDC is an organisation of principals that exists for principals — in particular their professional learning. The Council of the APAPDC is its governing body. It consists of eight practising school principals — four representing principals in government schools (two primary and two secondary); two from Catholic sector schools (one of each); two from the independent schools (one representing the heads of major K-12 schools and one on behalf of the heads of independent primary schools).

Each state and territory has an APAPDC Branch, generally constituted along the lines of the National Council. The Branches are responsible for programs at the local level — **although the APAPDC programs are focussed on national issues, elements of the programs need to be localised to ensure that they meet principals' needs in the context.**

An Executive of three acts on behalf of the Council on a more regular basis, with a crucial role being the oversight of the work of the APAPDC Secretariat. This consists of an Executive Officer who has a background as a professional educator, and two permanent administrative staff. In addition, staff (professional and administrative) are employed on a contract basis for specific projects. The Secretariat is in Adelaide, and until the end of 2002 was co-located with the South Australian Centre for Educational Leadership. This situation changed at the end of 2002, with the APAPDC moving to its own premises at Hindmarsh.

Susan Boucher

Executive Officer
APAPDC

APAPDC Projects

Year	Project Outline	Number of Principals
1993	APAPDC Quality Schooling Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Education Agenda Workshops Best Practice Professional Development (Information and Communication Technology) A Professional Visits Programs for Principals (Mentoring) 	4,450
1994 – 95	Principals Professional Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice Professional Development Workshops 	3125
1996	Quality Schooling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Learning – use of Satellite Technology for professional development Mentoring and Collegial Learning Programmes Australia wide Managing Change in Australian Schools – Kit, Video and Workshops 	3804
1996 – 97	NBEET School Council Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading and Managing in Australian Schools – series of workshops across Australia – targeted involvement 	450
1997 – 98	Quality Schooling Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Principals and the World Wide Web – hands on training Leadership for the 21st Century – 'face to face' workshops and research into quality leadership 	3944
1997	Education Network Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School principals and their use of information and communication technologies 	225
1998 - 99	Civics and Citizenship Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovering Democracy National Broadcast Program linking Australia's School Principals 	1400
1999	Mental Health Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing school appropriate guidelines for the prevention of suicide in Australia's secondary school. 	120
1999 – 2000	DD Snapshots Publication – dissemination to all Australian schools	9754
1999 – 2000	Principals for the 3 rd Millennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APAPDC Principal Competencies 2000 Face to Face workshops – quality leadership Information and Communication Technology 	4703
2000 –2001	Dare to Lead – Indigenous Education Program for School Principals	1254
2000 - 2004	MindMatters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health in Secondary Schools professional development strategy MindMatters Plus – a program for at risk students In excess of 23,000 educators have been involved in MindMatters professional development 	23,000
2001 - 2003	Leaders Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Leadership Focus – State and Territory Workshops Succession Planning The Principal Resource Publication – Beyond the lost sandshoe 	3500
2002 – 2004	Taking it on – 2 nd Phase of Dare to Lead (anticipated coverage)	5000
2003 (Feb – June)	Discovering Democracy Information Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poster and National Education Agenda Update sent to all Australian Principals 	9573
2003 (Feb – May)	Enterprise Education Seminar Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 State and Territory Forums 	650



Delegates at the 'Country Weekend'



Delegates arriving at 'Belltrees Homestead'

NSW 'Country Weekend 2003'

Friday, 23rd May - Sunday, 25th May, 2003

A record number of fifty-two JSHAA members and thirty partners attended this year's Country Weekend hosted by Graeme Feeney of Scone Grammar.

Scone is located in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, approximately four hours drive from Sydney and within easy driving distance to some of Australia's best known wineries, horse studs, historic homesteads and townships.

The Conference began on Friday morning with an introductory seminar for new members, entitled "JSHAA Revealed". Following Committee Meetings and the General Meeting, members and partners enjoyed drinks and a leisurely evening meal in Scone's Art and Craft Hall.

The theme for Saturday's Professional Development was 'Creating Sustainable Schools' presented by Guest Speaker, Jenny Lewis, President of ACEL. Saturday evening's conference dinner was held in the rustic surrounds of a local woolshed and included wood fires, fine country fare, bush ballads and poetry.

The Conference concluded on Sunday morning with a country breakfast and a Worship Service at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Scone.

SA-VIC Halls Gap Conference

29th-31st May 2003

Learning with the Brain in Mind, presented by John Joseph

At the end of May the South Australia and Victorian Branches held a professional development weekend at Halls Gap; chairs of each state branch also attended.

Our conference, Learning with the Brain in Mind, was presented by John Joseph. Below, Chris Riemann, Head of Pembroke Junior School, summaries the main findings from John's research:

There is a tenfold difference in the amount of time it takes for anyone to learn something. Some brains work at 35kph, others 350kph, **so adults need to provide time for a range of children to achieve their learning.**



Host, Graeme Feeney (Scone Grammar) with Jenny Lewis (President ACEL), Conference Speaker and Joy Hill (Tara Junior School)



Delegates prepare to visit 'Belltrees Homestead'. Front seat - Laraine Lucas (Danebank), Rosalie Ramsay (Hon. Federal Life Member) and Sharryn Naylor (Kincoppal), David Browne (Wenona)



'The Two Tenors' (Keith Dalleywater and Michael Dunn) lead a musical birthday greeting to John Cooley at the 'Welcome Dinner'.

The brain of a child needs 225% of the glucose of the adult brain to facilitate learning and this is carried by the 35 litres of blood per hour.

Children must have breakfast every day to provide the glucose needed for learning. Top brain foods include fish, broccoli, eggs, brazil nuts, garlic, green tea, strawberries/blueberries, spinach, tomato products (eg sauce, paste) and prunes. **Top memory foods include fish eggs, soya beans, lean beef, chicken livers, whole wheat products, chicken, bananas, low fat dairy and avocado.** Parents should therefore be aware of the relationship between children's learning and brain food. What do your children eat for breakfast? What do your students have for a snack for morning recess? What do your children have for lunch? Is there enough water available to hydrate brains throughout a school day?

Lots of sleep is very important for children. The brain eliminates and strengthens information thereby making memory during REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep. Suggestions included early to bed for children, very little excitement (eg videos) before bed and debriefing the aspects of school day just prior to lights out (eg learning tables).

Boredom is the brain's worst enemy. The absence of stimulation and enrichment leads to a withering of dendrites and a decline in brain function. However, the brain needs 'down time' to process learning and this needs to be built into the school day and home life. Some kids are so busy and/or play video/computing after school that their brains do not have time to process the learning of the day.

The American paediatricians group has recommended children under the age of 7 watch very little or no television/video games. This may cause some discussion at your home!

Children's thoughts have a significant effect on how they learn. If the adults in children's lives can assist to change thoughts ... from a despair cycle (excitement, boredom, guilt and frustration), to a hope cycle (excitement, enjoyment, reward, satisfaction) self esteem and learning are progressed.

Specific advice for parents included

Provide an audience for your child to talk about his/her learning, achievements, and concerns. Let them teach you what they have learned - teaching others is a powerful way to learn.

Ask questions, particularly the kind that encourages children to reflect on their learning performance. When they come home from school, ask them to talk about the two most important things they learned at school, or the two most enjoyable moments they had during the day, or something they found interesting and worth finding out more about.

Encourage reading - it builds knowledge, expands vocabulary, stimulates imagination, fosters emotional growth and stimulates the brain's language centres. Read to and with your child regularly.

Talk to your children often. Busy schedules and the stress of everyday living can cause tiredness and a tendency to want respite from communication with others. Having a regular time each day to talk with your children is vital for their intellectual development. With younger children, don't be frightened to use longer sentences, larger vocabulary and various contexts.



Lachie Wright & Jody Neylon



Andrew Ponsford & Deb Dalwood



Robert Hoff & Chris Lange



Gordon Forest, Andrew Boyd, & Jo Mason.



Sue Ramsey & Jody Neylon



The piano man



Halls Gap early morning



Book table

Annual Dinner

The SA Branch held its annual dinner at Katts Restaurant in North Adelaide on 20 July. Fifteen heads of Junior Schools, SA life member, John Higgins and their partners enjoyed a pleasant meal and evening together. **Former South Australian Labor senator, the Hon Chris Schacht, was our guest speaker.** A passionate South Australian, Chris outlined his *Ideas for South Australia*, a vision that SA could become a boutique information economy, strategically distinct from the other states and positioned economically to secure its future. **Concerned that SA with its ageing population may be a state in gentle decline, Chris invigorated his discussion with some powerful ideas about what the state could become with greater vision and leadership.** One of his ideas would be to build an iconic building dedicated to human rights. He also suggested that SA not imitate the other state governments by reducing the number of government department to six, and amalgamating the myriad of local councils into larger, robust bodies to achieve economies of scale.

Chris trained as a teacher in SA and knew a number of Heads from his old teachers college days.

Chris Duncan
Pulteney Grammar



Victorian Executive -Jody Neylon, Sue Ramsey, Andrew Boy, Sheona Carter, Maxine Driscoll (Left foreground)

Victorian Branch Report

A number of members and their partners attended a very enjoyable Annual Dinner at the Panda Restaurant, Hawthorn in May. It **provided a number of new and existing members the opportunity to socialise and get to know one another.**

The June Meeting held at Wesley College Glen Waverley Campus was very well attended by **both Heads of School and Deputies.** Jason Yet-sen Li was the guest speaker. Jason is an international lawyer and corporate social responsibility specialist. He has worked for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and in The Netherlands and with Sir Ninian Stephan on a number of pioneering cases in international law on genocide and war crimes. Jason is presently a board member of the Sydney Institute, the Asia-Australia Institute and the Australian Republican Movement as well as a Governor of The Smith Family.

Jason gave a stirring address in promoting social change. He was both compelling and insightful as he encouraged us to build an inclusive Australia through reconciliation, multiculturalism and republicanism. He reminded us that we are the leaders of the future and it is our duty to instil optimism in our youth and a belief that they can have an impact on the world.

New members announced at the June meeting were: Tony Doyle, Christine Robertson, Lyn Watts and Jenny Williams

The biannual JSHAA Victorian Branch Student Leadership Forum was held at Parliament House, Melbourne in May this year. This was again a very successful event organised by Dennis Garoni. Christine Nixon was the guest speaker. A report will appear in a future edition of Federal Link.

The Halls Gap Conference also held in May was extremely worthwhile. John Joseph presented "Learning with the Brain in Mind" and both Victorian and South Australian members agreed that he was incredibly motivational. All gained a wealth of knowledge from this humble, unassuming but inspirational man. A number of Heads approached John to present at their schools in the future.

We are looking forward to the upcoming JSHAA Staff Conference (formerly known as the Refresher School) which will be held on August 9th at Carey Baptist Grammar, Kew.

APPA/NZPF 2004 Joint Conference

Planning is still underway with a number of members volunteering to join the organising committee in Semester 2. Mrs Vicki Simmonds (co-convenor of the 2004 Melbourne conference) attended the recent New Zealand Conference in Auckland and met with the New Zealand Federation of Principals to glean some ideas for the Melbourne Conference. Members need to pencil dates into diaries (24th June – 1st July) because **the Melbourne Conference promises to be exciting, creative and inspirational at national, international and futurist levels.**

Tasmanian Branch Report

The Tasmanian branch has been busy with a variety of issues and discussions at the last 2 meetings held in Hobart and Launceston. This year members have presented on the following conferences they have attended or 'happenings' at their schools:

I. Dare to Lead "Will You Take It On?"

Members who attended made the following points that if you are 'fair dinkum' why not

- A) join the Coalition schools so that you can either buddy up with a school that needs your help and experience or ask to be nominated to a school so that you may swap ideas and strategies.
- B) Ask your boss about the magnificent "What Works. The Work Program" booklet which they should have received or look up www.whatwork.edu.au
- C) Look up the www.racismnoway.com.au site to find excellent resources, activities and strategies for teachers and students upper primary – middle secondary.

2. National Assessment/Benchmark Testing

Reports back from the National Board indicate more testing in areas such as Science, SOSE and IT and concerns were raised about where the testing is heading eg similar to USA, UK and Canada would be a disaster for Australian education. Do we seek assurances from Federal Minister AND his departments that it does not happen here in Australia? Also timing of testing and how the information is dispersed was raised as major issues.

3. Brain Conference

Reports received about the Halls Gap Conference and due to positive response suggested that we look into using John Joseph early in 2004. The focusededucation.com.au site was mentioned as a great resource.

4. National Board Meeting for 2004

Tasmania is excited to be holding the National Board Meeting on Friday 27th February 2004 with delegates coming from States and Territories and it was decided to try and work this meeting in with our first meeting of the year.

5. Curriculum Reports

Colleges have formally presented a variety of curriculum philosophies including PYP and Reggio Emilia. Members have found these sessions to be excellent as we are always reviewing these areas in our schools and colleges.

6. Appraisal Workshop

Recently a number of members attended Charlotte Danielson's appraisal workshop with again members signifying how successful this seminar was.

So as can be seen from the above, the meetings have been well attended, stimulating and extremely useful in the daily workings of our schools and colleges.

Marty Ogle

Tasmanian Branch Chairman



Mrs Christine Robertson



Mrs Jennifer Williams



Ms Lynette Watts



Mr Tony Doyle

New Members

A special welcome is extended to all the new, Full Members of our Association.

New South Wales

Mr Paul Smart

Macarthur Anglican College

Mr Glenn Turner

Manning Valley Anglican College

Queensland

Mr Simon Bedville

Mackay Christian College

Mrs Verna Hall

Toowoomba Christian College

South Australia

Miss Linda Douglas

Annesley College

Tasmania

Mr Robin Direen

Sacred Heart College

Victoria

Mr Tony Doyle

Firbank Grammar

Mrs Sharyne Rankine

Kilvington Girls' Grammar

Mrs Christine Robertson

Wesley College Preparatory School

Mr Andrew Ward

St Margaret's School

Ms Lynette Watts

Haileybury College

Mrs Jennifer Williams

Beaconhills College

Western Australia

Mrs Anne Hey

John Wollaston Anglican School



Mr Peter McNamara

New members Photos corrections

Corrections to the New Members photos in the May 2003 edition of the Federal Link, which were incorrectly named are as follows:

Mr Peter McNamara
Christian Outreach College, QLD

Ms Sally Clayton
Fintona Girls School, VIC

Ms Cheryl Penberthy
Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School
Essendon VIC

Ms Jan Senior
Lauriston Girl's School, VIC



Ms Sally Clayton



Ms Cheryl Penberthy



Ms Jan Senior

Book Review

Boys and Girls Learn Differently!

Gurian, Michael. *Boys and Girls Learn Differently!*
New York: Jossey Bass, 2001

Michael Gurian is an educator, family therapist, and author of three USA best sellers, including *The Wonder of Boys*, which has been published in ten foreign languages. *Boys and Girls Learn Differently!* is his fourteenth book.

From the outset Michael acknowledges the groundswell of brain based research undertaken in the 90's, and its application to growth differences in the brains of each gender. For instance, girls talk sooner; develop better vocabularies, read better; and have better fine motor skills. Boys, on the other hand, have better auditory memory; are better at three-dimensional reasoning, are more prone to explore, and achieve greater abstract design ability after puberty.

In a comprehensive 6 page table he shows 35 differences between girls and boys in the development of the brain and extrapolates to show the impact of these differences on learning style.

Throughout the book he uses clear examples of intuitive and clever pedagogy to cater for these differences in girls and boys, mainly within co-educational settings. Practical summaries of the *ultimate* settings for co-educational classrooms at different age levels, are given throughout the book.

Although this book is written in the States and uses examples of American culture as its illustration base, I found it easy reading and most applicable to Australian school conditions.

The book was recommended to me by Steve Biddulph, internationally recognised author on boys and their growth. The book is readily available through amazon.com at \$13.97 US, currently \$23 AU.

Review by Jon Hosford
Launceston Church Grammar School

Queensland Branch Refresher Weekend

From 16 – 18 May, 30 members of the Queensland Branch gathered in the beautiful Whitsundays for a weekend of professional development, collegial support and relaxation.

Our host, Fay Woodland, who is Head of Junior School at Whitsunday Anglican School, prepared an exciting professional development program with key presenters, Frank Crowther and Bob Hince. This was complemented by a very moving Ecumenical Service and extremely enjoyable social activities, including a BBQ on the Beach and drinks at the famous Eimeo Hotel, which overlooks the Whitsunday Islands. A number of partners joined Heads for the weekend, which proved so popular it is intended to make it an annual event, as we seek to visit our colleagues in the more distant cities of Queensland.



Bob Hince with Simon Bedville, Head of Primary – Mackay Christian College.



Marilyn Wagland, Rick Hodgson and Bruce Winther



Angela Drysdale, Roderick Crouch and Louise McGuire.

The 'Bobince', No Frills...

LEADERSHIP MODEL

Daring; Sharing; Caring;

'Leadership is all about creating a new and better way of life, or, a new and better way of doing things.'

Your Head makes you a Good Manager

Your Heart makes you a Good Leader



LEADERSHIP requires *guts* to get oneself out of his / her comfort zone.

Leadership means creating a risk environment.

Leadership is about *what you do*, not what you say. It is an action not a title

LEADERS take *calculated risks* and reduce the risk by:

Involving others (the team)

Learning from mistakes

Acting naturally

Planning and analysing

Becoming outstanding / an expert



LEADERS explain / share their vision / proposal *clearly*.

They realise their proposal can only move forward if others (the team) help make it happen.

They communicate their ideas / proposals to the team in ways that generate acceptance and enthusiasm.

They translate their vision / proposal into challenging but realistic plans / action steps. Leaders understand and compensate for the barriers to effective communication.

They persuade and convince the conservatives and negate the effects of the swamp dwellers.



LEADERSHIP is not necessarily logical, but rather it is about tapping into people's emotions and feelings. It is about creating a *passionate* following. Emotional Intelligence (E.Q.) rather than I.Q.

LEADERS recognise that people are made up of *Heads and Hands*, which you can hire; but they also comprise *Hearts and Souls*, which you must win.

Leaders know that people follow other people, not for who they are, but for how they make them feel.

“However apart, we are together”

*The paper, subtitled **Addressing the Need for Connectedness in our Young People, was the Dorothy Knox lecture 2002, presented to the Annual Conference of the Teachers Guild of NSW. In it, its author, Fr Chris Gleeson SJ considers how teachers can nurture a sense of meaning in a world, where alienation and despair often assail the young. Chris Gleeson is the Immediate Past Chairman of AHISA.***

In drawing the paper to a conclusion, schools which are helping students to develop the five qualities, reflection, imagination, compassion, prayerfulness and discernment – will be making a major contribution to forming graduates with true quality of soul. It is a splendid challenge and one requiring teachers to draw on all their spiritual resources as storytellers, sowers, authors, companions, liberators, listeners and initiators. Indeed, we need to develop a spirituality for teachers and teaching which might contain some of the following images:

The Teacher as Storyteller – Susan Ohanian (1989) once observed, “The more I teach the more I realise that we teachers are nothing but our anecdotes, our reflections on experience. As teachers, we become the stories we choose to tell”. Elie Wiesel, the great Jewish author said that “God made man because he loves stories”. Teaching and storytelling are ennobled because they are part of God’s work as the supreme weaver of stories. Teachers need to offer stories of transcendence, not ‘thin stories’ as Neil Postman calls them. C.S. Lewis captures this so well: “Literature enlarges our being by admitting us to experiences not our own. They may be beautiful, terrible, awe-inspiring, exhilarating, pathetic, comic or merely piquant. Literature gives the entrée to them all. Those of us who have been true readers all our life, seldom fully realise the enormous extension of our being which we owe to authors. . . . In reading good literature, I become a thousand men, and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in a Greek poem, I see with a myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in mortal action and in knowing, I transcend myself: and am never more myself than when I do”. Through literature we teachers can provide our students with ‘big stories’ transcendent stories, stories that provide a whole picture or framework of meaning for our cynical postmodern world.

The Teacher as a Sower – teachers are spring-time workers, planting the seeds of right judgement and discernment for the future, often not seeing short-term rewards for their work but knowing that they are contributing something to the wider community for the long term. Teaching is an act of faith.

The Teacher as an Author – To teach ‘with authority’ is to add, increase (from the Latin word *augere*). The Teacher, therefore, must be a nurturer, a cultivator and a builder. Putting down or tearing people down are foreign to the effective teacher. Our words have the power to build or destroy.

The Teacher as a Companion – St Luke’s Gospel story of Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus with those two slow learners provides a powerful model of teaching – listening, instructing without imposing, building up those two disciples

to return strengthened to their community. Good teachers help their students to realise that truth is a journey of discovery rather than a possession.

The Teacher as a Liberator – When Michelangelo was asked once what he was doing, he said: “I’m releasing the angel imprisoned in this marble.” True teachers are liberators, freeing their charges from the bonds of prejudice, fear, false assumptions, and resentments.

The Teacher as a Listener – ‘Listen you who have ears to hear.’ Listeners are ongoing learners, true teachers are scholars, and true scholars are always humble before the truth. Far from knowing it all, the true teacher eschews neat categories and pigeon holes, striving constantly to attain the truth always beyond his reach. Good listeners are hearers and are prepared to be changed by what they hear.

The Teacher as Initiator – Teachers must be prepared to innovate, to search for new ways to present their material “I have come not to abolish the law but to present it”.

There are other images of teaching I could mention, like the Teacher as Healer. Suffice it to say here that, despite the poor public press teaching receives, it is more important than ever: It is a vocation rather than a profession. Pope Paul VI said once that young people will listen to witnesses before they will listen to teachers, and to teachers only if they are witnesses. Robert Bolt’s words in the play *A Man for All Seasons* remain as true as ever. Thomas More asks Richard Rich ‘Why not be a teacher – you’d be a fine teacher, perhaps a great one?’ Rich replies, ‘And if I was who would know it?’ To which More responds, ‘You, your pupils, your friends, God – not a bad public that’.

Reprinted with the kind permission of Chris Gleeson.

Postcard from Turkey via New York

Fasten seat belts, get the coffee cup topped up, take your shoes off and settle back for another lengthy epistle from the wanderers.

Whilst we have been back in NY for a week we are still awash in the emotion and joy that is Turkey. **It is my opinion that if God was to nominate an “Australia” for the other side of the planet he would choose Turkey.** The nature of the people, their sense of humour, their preparedness to ‘have a go’, their ability to be at home with many other groups and cultures, their sense of larrikinism all reminded me so much of Australia. The fact the country was knee-deep in young Aussie pilgrims to Gallipoli added to the feeling of being amongst friends.

Turkey is a unique blend of Moslem piety, full coverage burkahs, and with Mullahs calling the faithful to prayer 5 times each day. **It is a land populated by gorgeously friendly kids who want to know your name and to practice their quite super English on a ‘real live’ English speaker.** It is a place where men unashamedly embrace or walk arm in arm with no hint of sexual innuendo. Turkey is the grand bazaar, where even Christine, who has a black belt in shopping, was suitably overawed by variety and volume of goods. Turkey is delicious smells,

baths of steam and incense, opulence in the palaces on a level that defies imagination. It is a place where religious tolerance is amazing... a vast mosque where Christians have worshipped and where, even today, an image of Jesus and Mary stare down from behind the Islamic altar. There is a place for Jews to pray in Hagia Sophia, a huge mosque in Istanbul. The place was a basilica in the time of Constantine and then a mosque in the times thereafter... it has spirit of place. **To walk in the shadow of Uluru or to kneel at graves in Anzac Cove is to sense the same.**

In Istanbul we smoked water pipes with aromatic extracts.. not curiously shaped leaves of a variety well known to many Aus folk... rather apple leaves fermented in some nose-tickling concoction which produced unique insights into why such devices are smoked... you draw your own conclusions! We saw belly dancing, folk dances, we saw a million carpets, we feasted on Turkish delight and real raw fruit as opposed to the stodge masquerading as fresh fruit in NY. We had a bath where Mark Anthony and Cleo had it done to them.. a bath-house more than 2500 years old.... stunning.

To walk the walls of Troy, to promenade the alleys of ancient Aphrodisia, to pause and appreciate the artisans in an Ephesus built before the Romans, to shout in an amphitheatre where Aristotle engaged in debate is to reach back into time and grasp understandings as to the roots of culture.

Climbing a hill to the house where the Virgin Mary died, and to see her venerated in a mosque is to see how faith shapes people and events. To stand in a ruined basilica in Nicea, where the Nicean creed was written and to travel Ephesia (Ephesians in the Bible) and to pay homage at the grave of John the Evangelist add dimensions that simply do not leap from the pages of a book. I knew very little as to how important Turkey was in Biblical times.. Oh! and Paul of Tarsus did stuff here too!

I had no idea Jews were asked to migrate to Turkey (as it was then) to escape persecution after the fall of the Moors in Spain.... admittedly it was a local sociologist who was relating this info to us but it sounded OK to me. **They all seemed to project a sense of how privileged they were at us coming to their country.. it is something Australia could learn from.**

And on to Anzac Day.

A bleak and biting wind greeted us on the 7km.. yep! ... walk to the Cove. 30,000 Aussies make for lines of buses and coaches. We stood for 5 hours until the ceremony commenced, at **which Peter Costello was by far the most eloquent and moved speaker. He was excellent and made us all feel a little taller and yet humble.**

It is an ethereal feeling to be one of 30,000, yet alone in a sea of emotion. I believe the spirit of place transcended the yahoo-factor of so many at one venue. It was an eerie silence: the impact heightened by the whistle of the wind, the flapping of the flags and the diminished light. A special moment. **A lone piper and the last post blown in the semi-light reduced many to silent tears.**

Having said that about the Dawn Service, the following

day we meandered the battlefields alone. To stand on the pebbles at Anzac Cove and see the utterly daunting slopes and crumbling cliffs ahead is to somehow share the landings with the troops. **It must have chilled them to the bone to see this 'fortress' looming out of the early morning light.** To suddenly be confronted by a wall of bullets must have caused many to think they were in hell. I felt gutted on a few occasions ...to crouch where a 17 year old from the south east died for a king and a country is to be pained inside. **To know he did not fire a shot in anger and died before he left his boat, before he even made the beach, is to almost feel 'cheated'.** I felt frustration, futility, anger, dismay, proud and an avalanche of other agonies.

To know boys faced each other, trenches were 9 m apart, clearly understanding the lifespan of a frontline soldier here was 3 minutes is to be awestruck. It is incomprehensible at first and then the stupidity overwhelms and tears of rage mix with tears of absolute pride. Turkish soldiers died in the 100,000s, Aussies in the 10,000s, NZ lost almost 50% of its young men. Indian soldiers, used as muleteers numbered in the 1,000s. British troops numbered in the 10,000s. Carnage!

Lone Pine, The Nek, Suvla Bay, Chanuk Bair, The Gap, The Sphinx, are all indelibly scribed in my understanding of what it is to be Australian. **I have been to war cemeteries and battlefields in Europe, but Gallipoli is different.** It reaffirms what it can be to be Australian and I see that as the reason so many younger people travel to the site. Having been there I feel more Australian.

I just wonder what impact a visit to such a site has on a leader or political aspirant.. cos we don't seem to learn from the mistakes of war do we? Would our national and world leaders be deepened in understandings or strengthened in compassion or reaffirmed in the wastage or buoyed by the courage of youth were they to feel the spirit of these places ?

Colin and Christine Murray are both serving as Literary Advisers in New York. Colin was previously Principal of Massada College in Adelaide and an enthusiastic member of JSHAA.

His regular postcards from New York are happily received.



The Library of Celsus at Ephesus built by Julius in honour of his father in 135AD.



APPA/NZPF Conference Melbourne 2004

Sunday, 27th June to Thursday, 1st July 2004

Melbourne Convention Centre

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) is proud to be hosting the second joint conference in association with the New Zealand Principals Federation (NZPF) in 2004.

Currently the program for this international conference is being developed by the Victorian APPA Chapter Conference Committee in consultation with APPA National Executive and NZPF.

The following have been booked for the Conference:

- Melbourne Convention Centre
Multi-award winning international convention centre
- A variety of international hotels throughout the city
- Keynote speakers

It is planned to make this conference a rewarding experience for all. The program is being designed to include educational, cultural and social experiences.

The Conference program will include:

- High calibre keynote speakers
- A celebration of our work as educators
- An opportunity to share trans-Tasman expertise
- Future directions in education
- An opportunity for participants to take in the sights of our beautiful city



Fred Ackerman (VPPA)
Conference Convenor



Joan North (VIEU)
Co-convenor

Vicki Simmonds (JSHAA)
Co-convenor



CoEditors

Robert Hoff

Jon Hosford