

Citation for Chris Lawson – Fellowship of the Victorian Branch of IPSHA 2018

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge Mr Chris Lawson for his years of service to IPSHA. Chris is currently Head of Junior School at Yarra Valley Grammar School. This citation is testament to the enormous influence Chris has had as a dynamic leader and advocate for primary education throughout his career and especially in over 20 years with IPSHA.

Chris' first involvement in IPSHA was through the Deputy Heads Group and with his appointment in 1998 as Head of the Preparatory School at Geelong College, he joined as a member of IPSHA. Chris remained at Geelong College for nearly nine years before moving in 2006 to his present role at Yarra Valley Grammar as Deputy Principal – Head of Junior School.

Chris has been an active and passionate member of IPSHA, undertaking a number of key roles in the Victorian Branch. He served as Treasurer from 2008 – 2010 and was elected as President Elect from 2010-2012. This was followed by his term as Victorian President 2010-2012 and subsequently immediate Past President from 2014-2016. . As a President, Chris's tireless efforts ensured that our association delivered and facilitated quality professional learning opportunities for members and their schools by providing opportunities for professional development and networking for staff.

During these years of service Chris undertook to organise the sponsorship for the IPSHA Conference at Crown Casino. This was a challenging task but he took it on with his usual gusto. He was also active in his sponsorship involvement in some of the Tri State seminars. Another of Chris' many achievements was the daunting task of moving our association away from paper based to spreadsheet accounting in 2008. This involved some serious new learning and consultation with numerous accountants!

On reflection about his time in IPSHA, Chris speaks of the strong collegiality he has valued in over 20 years. Even as a new Head, despite the distance travelling from Geelong, he always made time as he benefitted from the support. As he gained experience and subsequently moved back to Melbourne, he relished the opportunity to contribute as a member of the branch Executive. He feels lucky to have some positive influences from among the IPSHA members over this period. Past Presidents Guy Mason, Andrew Boyd and Sheona Carter and long serving Executive members such as Jill Bosanquet, Rod Davies, Vivienne Wearne, Jon Abbott, Kerry Bolger, Jane Britten and Grant Nalder. Chris has also valued a professional and collegial relationship with Howard Kelly that was initiated when Howard chaired several Tri State Conferences and this has strengthened as they are now both in AGSV schools.

For all who know Chris, it is no surprise to also know that he loves working with people and especially the children and community in his school. Chris is also committed to IPSHA and balances his busy work schedule so he can contribute to the Association and is rewarded with the quality relationships he had developed with other Heads that provides a safe and confidential environment to share problems. Pat Kenny, former President of the Victorian Branch and also a friend and colleague of Chris' for over ten years is also pleased to offer his strong endorsement, noting Chris has been fully engaged and committed as a member of IPSHA, with his signature enthusiasm and passion. He is, as many know, always approachable and is certainly one of the 'go to' Heads of Junior School whenever one needs advice. He cares for those he works with and cares deeply about IPSHA as an organisation.

It is a privilege to nominate Chris Lawson for a Fellowship with the Victorian Branch of IPSHA for his sustained and enthusiastic leadership, broad contribution and commitment to the branch.