

Citation for State Life Membership of IPSHA (WA Branch) for Leonie Drew (1991 - 2010)

Mrs Leonie Drew became a member of the Junior School Heads' Association of Australia (WA Branch) at the beginning of 1991 as Head of the Methodist Ladies' College, Claremont, Western Australia. Leonie was already well-known to members of the WA Branch as the wife of Philip Drew, who from 1987-1989 had been Head of the Junior School of Wesley College. Leonie's enthusiasm and industry were immediately recognised and she was quickly co-opted to the WA Branch Executive. She was Project Officer in 1992, Treasurer 1993-4 and Chair elect 1994-6. After gaining experience as a member of the Planning Committee for the 1993 APPA/ACPPA Conference in Perth, Leonie took on the role as Conference Convenor for the WA Branch's third JSHAA Conference in 1996, a landmark conference in JSHAA history, as the first conference based in a hotel, in this case the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. The conference was hugely successful, and all those attending commented on the improved surroundings, the excellent programme and the warm hospitality epitomised by Leonie and her committee.

Later that year Leonie not only started her two year term as Chairman of the WA Branch of JSHAA (1996-8), but she also took on the onerous responsibility of being the Independent Schools of WA representative on the APPA National Executive. Here, too, her qualities were immediately recognised. Leonie was elected Treasurer of APPA from 1998 to 2002. In the WA Chapter of APPA she was Treasurer 1996-7 and Chairman from 1998 to 1997. From 1997-2002 Leonie was a member of the National Council of the Australian Principals' Association Professional Development Council (APAPDC) becoming Deputy Chairman from 2000-1. For her extensive contribution to the Australian Primary Principals' Association particularly she was awarded a Fellowship, an award which was renamed as Life Membership of APPA soon after.

The Junior School Heads' Association of Australia was aware of Leonie Drew's highly decorated association with APPA and APAPDC, and she was elected Federal Chairman Elect from 2000-2002 and subsequently, Federal Chairman of JSHAA (2002-4). At the beginning of 2004 Leonie accepted the position of Principal, Primary of the Australian International School in Hong Kong, a school with 640 children, so was unable to complete her term as Federal Chairman of JSHAA. She remained an Overseas Member of JSHAA until 2010 when being made Co-Head of the International School, she had to relinquish her membership.

Leonie was also on the Education Committee of AISWA from 1997 to 2003 and a member of the Professional Development Committee of AISWA from 1997-2001. For her outstanding contribution to JSHAA both at State and Federal level and particularly for her work in promoting the voice of Independent Schools in the Australian Primary Principals' Association and at Federal Government level, Leonie is to be lauded and congratulated. Leonie is a worthy recipient of the WA Branch's Award of State Life Member.

Paul Aldred

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