

Honorary State Life Membership Nomination

Citation for Craig Wheatley

Since its inception there have been members of the Junior School Heads' Association, now known as the Independent Primary School Heads Association, who have made an incredible professional commitment to the Association and dedicated an amazing amount of time, energy and expertise at both State and Federal levels. Through these individual efforts every member has benefited and our Association has grown and become recognised as the voice of independent primary school education on national education platforms. Craig Wheatley is undoubtedly an outstanding one of these rare individuals.

After some exciting years teaching in the Government system, including a spell with his wife, Penny, in Halls Creek, Craig joined the independent school system at Christ Church Grammar School where he was appointed as the Deputy Head of the Preparatory School. In 1992 he was appointed to the Head of Primary at St Mark's Anglican Community School and joined the Junior School Heads' Association of Australia at that time.

In 2000 Craig was appointed Head of Preparatory School at Guildford Grammar and in that year he became President of the West Australian Branch of JSHAA. In this role Craig was the consummate gentleman and fulfilled his duties with utter professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. His warm, sincere welcome to new members and his respectful friendship to all, created great camaraderie throughout the branch. Everyone from the newest members to the retired Life Members were greeted individually by name and made to feel a valued part of the Association. On a number of more informal social occasions members have been treated to examples of Craig's wider talents with his impressive vocal and guitar-playing skills honed in various tavern scenes around Australia.

In 2002 Craig was elected Federal President Elect, becoming President from 2004 to 2006 and for the last two years he served as the Immediate Past President. During this time of national involvement Craig never neglected his local responsibilities to the West Australian branch. He enthusiastically supported all state occasions and actively pursued every opportunity for his girls and boys to be involved in sporting, cultural and spiritual events. He also kept our Branch up to date with all Federal business and decision making.

In 2002 Craig was elected as the Western Australian independent school or JSHAA representative on the National Executive Council of the Australian Primary Principals' Association. For JSHAA members this meant our voice was heard clearly on major national educational forums and the West Australian branch was well-informed of major developments and directions in education at the national level.

If Craig's exemplary contribution to our State Branch of JSHAA / IPSHA could be typified in one behaviour, it might be the fact that Craig has always been the first to publicly and generously acknowledge the efforts of Heads who have coordinated an event

for the Branch or the students. Craig's gentlemanly presence, wise counsel and musical talents will be greatly missed by IPSHA (WA) and we join together in wishing him and Penny every health and happiness as they embark on their next adventures.

Craig has made an extraordinary contribution to the Western Australian Branch of our Association both here in Perth and by representing us in various forums at a national level. It was under his leadership that strong links between the Association of Heads of Independent Schools and JSHAA were formed which was seen as extremely beneficial to our members and to independent schooling in Australia. Craig is highly regarded by his state and national colleagues and therefore it is with great pleasure that the Independent Primary School Heads Association (WA Branch) nominate Craig Wheatley for an Honorary State Life Membership.