

CHAIR'S REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2021

Our Financial year of 2020-21 (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021) has been a year of upheaval and change for many schools as we worked through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has had a large influence on the work of the association and our related activities.

MEMBERSHIP TO IB SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA

Our membership remained steady during 2020-2021 with 146 full member schools and 17 Associate member schools at the end of March 2021 as compared to 145 full member schools and 18 Associate member schools in April 2020.

We would like to thank all our schools for maintaining our association during this most challenging of times.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

While 2020 was going to be a big year for the association with the re-introduction of our association conference ***IBSA2020: Understanding Local to Embrace Global*** scheduled for September 2020, this event was first postponed until 11-13 June, 2021 and then due to the ongoing uncertainty around lockdowns, interstate travel and overseas travel, the decision was made to cancel the event.

We hope to bring back our in-person events including the Speaker Series, Leadership Symposium and planned bi-annual association conference once restrictions ease and in-person events become viable once again.

In the meantime, the Standing Committee has been working hard to pivot our services to our member schools.

The Standing Committee continues to be committed to providing services to meet the needs of member schools. This has continued to be a major focus of meetings held in 2020 and early 2021.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Standing Committee Members for 2020-2021 were: Ashley Coats (Chair), Fiona Godfrey (Treasurer), David Boardman (Secretary), Karen Abraham, Chris Burch, Nicole Jagers, Nick Jolly, Natalie Kunst, Antony Mayrhofer and Judy Rutter.

In addition to the elected members of the association the following members were co-opted for 2020 - 2021: Assoc. Prof. Kay Margetts and Kathy Saville.

Assoc. Prof. Kay Margetts and Kathy Saville continue to make a valuable contribution with regards to their respective specialties. Kay with her constitution and governance knowledge and Kathy with her knowledge and specialty within the PYP. We thank them for their continued contribution.

We were pleased to welcome three new members to our Standing Committee for 2020-2021 with the elections of Chris Burch, Nicole Jagers and Natalie Kunst to the Standing Committee.

While this year has been one of upheaval and with all our Standing Committee Meetings going online to Zoom, we are thankful for everyone's continued support and commitment to the work of the Association and to our member schools.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE, IB SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA

Rebecca Hammond continued her position as Executive Assistant of IB Schools Australasia during 2020 - 2021.

Rebecca has continued to deliver our services to our member schools including our increasingly popular Careers service, website updates, newsletters, membership renewals, supporting the work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the efficient operations of our professional learning events, marketing and advertising opportunities to our member

schools, providing schools with their certificate orders, liaison with the IB and documented policies and procedures of the association.

Rebecca has assisted Fiona Godfrey with attendance to compliance matters for both the Association (IBSA) and the company (AAIBS Ltd).

ADDITIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS USED BY IB SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA

IB Schools Australasia has continued to utilise the web development and hosting services of Two Brown Shoes, Daniel Weatherhead and Myles Carrick have continued to maintain and further develop our website in line with the Standing Committee's priorities.

Ian Thomas of Ian Thomas and Co, continued to be our auditor throughout 2020-21, sadly Ian passed away unexpectedly on the weekend of 22-23 May, 2021. Ian was a very willing and able auditor who served the association well over a number of years. We would like to extend our condolences to his family at this very difficult time.

The casual vacancy left by Ian's death was filled by Simon Graetz of Messenger Zerner Chartered Accountants.

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual General meeting was held on Monday 28 September, 2020 at 12.00pm (AEST) via Zoom. This was our first Zoom AGM and was found to be well received by those attending. With our member schools being from all states and territories of Australia as well as New Zealand it was beneficial to have everyone able to attend without the associated costs and time away from our member schools for travel. We look forward to continuing to host our AGM's online or in a hybrid model to ensure that all our member schools can participate fully.

Following the formal business of the AGM, Steven Wishart provided attendees with an update on behalf of the IB.

OUTLINE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS 2020-2021

COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS:

Our regular Newsletter was sent electronically to Heads, Coordinators and other interested staff members at member schools in 2020-21.

Our newsletters have regularly outlined the details of professional learning events, IB workshops, marketing opportunities including the website and administrative matters relating to the Association and the Annual General Meeting.

In addition to our regular newsletter, IB Schools Australasia also has a separate Employment Opportunities bulletin, which is sent to those interested in employment opportunities within our member schools.

Due to the development of the employment services IB Schools Australasia has also developed a separate database for the weekly employment bulletin. At the end of the 2020-21 Financial Year the Weekly Employment Opportunities bulletin had 1086 recipients an increase of 24% from the previous Financial year.

In 2020-21, IB Schools Australasia continued with the provision of a letter to the networks within our region each term to provide them with an update on our services and news from the IB and from other Australasian networks. This information has been very well received and will continue to be provided to networks on an ongoing basis.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS:

IB Schools Australasia has continued our productive ongoing relationship with the IB.

We would like to thank all of the team at the IB for their ongoing support of the association. In particular, we would like to take this opportunity to thank: Steven Wishart, Abigail Santilian, Indra Ang, Stefanie Leong and Pei Wen Cheong. While Abigail has now left the IB, her assistance with association matters has been greatly appreciate over the years.

Their ever-present assistance for the association and for matters of importance to our member schools ensures the strength of the IB programmes in our region.

WEBSITE UPGRADES:

Our Website has been undergoing a number of upgrades for the benefit of our member schools.

For schools and the broader public this has meant:

- The introduction of videos and school tours on our member school pages, together with more information on our member schools visible on the website.
- Improved site speed
- Increase in organic search share

Throughout 2020-21, there has been a large amount of planning in regard to improved website functionality and 2021 will see a re-design of the navigation of the website, site security and enhancements review and creation of a member's area for Member Schools to access further resources.

IBSA WEBINARS:

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our scheduled Sixth Annual Speaker Series with Louka Parry was cancelled.

In lieu of the Speaker Series, Louka presented some webinars for our member schools.

- *Activating Agency - Student Agency* (27 October, 2020)
- *Shifting Pedagogy: How might we craft opportunities to expand learning experiences in an increasingly blended world?* (13 October 2020 and 4 November, 2020)

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:

Throughout the 2020 - 2021 financial year our employment service has continued to grow. To assist schools with sourcing the best candidates for positions, IB Schools Australasia continues to provide advertising on our website, in our weekly bulletin and on our Facebook page and LinkedIn page free of charge to our member schools.

The careers page has increased our reach to potential candidates outside of our database. As of 31 March, 2021, IB Schools Australasia had advertised 1298 positions within our member schools, with 466 positions advertised in the 2020-21 financial year.

In September 2021, our advertising of employment opportunities received a further boost with the introduction of Hootsuite used to schedule our employment opportunities. This ensures they become more visible to our followers on both Facebook and LinkedIn as they are scheduled for optimum times.

In September, 2021 IB Schools Australasia had 63 member schools signed up to advertise employment opportunities through our website.

IB SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA CERTIFICATES FOR STUDENTS:

In 2020-2021, the IB Schools Australasia Certificates were sent as electronic files to schools. Orders were facilitated through the inclusion of order forms in the IB Schools Australasia newsletter, distributed towards the end of the school year.

The following range of Certificates were available to member schools:

Career-related Programme

- *Certificate of Merit* for CP graduates who have achieved 6+ (only 2 taken)
- *Certificate of Merit for the Reflective Project* for CP graduates who have achieved a B or above
- *Certificate of Outstanding Career Related Studies* for CP graduates who have achieved the highest level in their chosen professional course

- *Certificate of outstanding Service.* This Certificate is to be presented within schools as they see fit for a small number of students whose service embodies the IB mission statement ideal. It is anticipated that there would be only one of two of these awarded in any one school.
- *Career Programme Achievement.* This Certificate is for CP graduates who have completed the requirements of the Career-related programme. This certificate could be used by schools or Networks that have ceremonies where all students who pass the Career-related programme are recognised.

Diploma Programme

- *Certificate of Distinction* for DP graduates who have achieved an IB score of 40 points or more.
- *Certificate of Merit* for DP graduates who have achieved at least one Grade 7 in one subject or an 'A' in EE/TOK.
- *Certificate of outstanding Creativity, Action and Service.* This Certificate is to be presented within schools as they see fit for a small number of students whose CAS embodies the IB mission statement ideal. It is anticipated that there would be only one of two of these awarded in any one school.
- *Diploma Achievement.* This Certificate is for DP graduates who have completed the requirements of the Diploma. This certificate could be used by schools or Networks that have ceremonies where all students who pass the Diploma are recognised.
- *Diploma Awards Booklet Template*

Middle Years Programme

- *Certificate of Distinction* are for students who have achieved an overall average score greater than 6 across all subjects.
- *Certificate of Merit* for students who have achieved a score of 7 in one or more subjects.
- *Certificate of outstanding Service as Action.* This certificate is to be presented within schools as they see fit to a small number of students whose Service as Action embodies the IB mission statement ideal. It is anticipated that there would be only one of two of these awarded in any one school
- *Certificate of Participation.* This Certificate is for students who have participated in the Middle Years Programme and been involved in the Personal Project or the Community Project in their final year (Please select the relevant option). This certificate could be used in schools which are moderated as well as those that are not.

Primary Years Programme

- *Certificate of Participation* for students who have participated in the Primary Years Programme and have been involved in the Exhibition in the final year.

IB Schools Australasia remains as committed as ever to supporting our member schools.

We look forward to working with our member schools over the 2021-2022 year.

Ashley Coats
Chair
IB Schools Australasia Standing Committee