



'NO WORRIES MATE'

NEWSLETTER



VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

www.ita.vic.edu.au



Term Two, 2017

Holidays: JUNE 12TH - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND.

TERM TWO WINTER BREAK - JULY 3RD TO JULY 14TH

Welcome to the Term Two update. Thanks for continuing your membership. Only ITA members receive newsletters as we aim to KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE! Keeping in touch is one to do this. Our Victoria International Teaching Fellowship and International Teachers Association face continuing challenges each year to stay afloat. We have our smallest contingent this year, and whilst next year is looking a lot more promising for the VITF, our ITA exists on the smell of an oily rag thanks to new members and renewals of past members. So PLEASE, if you know someone who has not renewed or is not a member and could be, please give them a subtle hint that the ITA needs them!

We recently had our Annual General Meeting - what a great evening followed by our monthly social dinner. [see notes below] It was lovely to hear of Sophia's stories as her exchange year comes to a close in July. She has certainly travelled throughout Australia and a second visit to Tassie is coming up for her. 

Our 2017 teachers are almost half way through. Do you remember how that felt? So excited for the annual break - the dilemma of whether to take off and explore or mix with the locals. What did you get up to on your 8 [or even 12] week break?

Our 2017 visiting exchange teachers: Colin Schroeder and family [Yendon]; Brian Verlaan and partner [Canadian]; Stephanie Carson and partner [Hamlyn Heights]; Anne Shuch and family [Shepparton North]; Lisa DeLuca [Wodonga], Sophie Lugard [West Preston].

Dates:

- **June 8th - Thursday social dinner at the Carringbush Hotel, Collingwood. Please come along and say farewell to Sophia. 6:30pm**
- **June 12th - Long Weekend. Have a look at our homestay options available to ITA members.**
- **July 17th - Term Three starts.**
- **July 20th Thursday social dinner at the Carringbush Hotel.**
- **June 30th - Term Break begins**
- **August 3rd - Father's Day**
- **September 14th - ITA Social dinner at the Carrinbush Hotel**
- **September 22nd - Term Three ENDS.**

President: Mary Moore – moore.mary.mk@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Annual General Meeting 2017

Reports were all in and discussed and tabled.

All positions up for grabs. Nominations in, seconded and passed. Here is your 2017 -18 committee:

President: Mary Moore; Vice President: Barry Beechey; Secretary: Barry Beechey; Treasurer: Di Leighfield; Membership: Maurene Bodie; Social: Alice Bray. General members: Sheena Angus, Glyn Wilson, Julie Rothman.

Thankyou to committee members who retired during the year:

Stephen Schneider - thankyou for the many years of newsletter and input into the success of the ITA; Chrissy Temple - thankyou for taking over the Presidency

Lesley Hall - thankyou for many years of Presidency and commitment to the ITA.

Daniel Riley - thank you for the input given to the ITA.

We are always seeking members for the committee - it's an opportunity to give back and support the office bearers :-)

MARCH was MEMBERSHIP MONTH:

March saw a lot of interest in becoming members, with a lesser proportion following through and paying their fees.

What is the ITA (International Teachers Association)?

The ITA is an alumni, supporting teachers and their families who have been awarded a VITF (Victorian International Teaching Fellowship). The ITA has links with similar groups interstate and overseas. Members can network, make new friends, enjoy reduced prices at some events and make links to other Fellows while travelling in Australia and overseas.

Membership is \$60 for 5 years. \$30 to renew. A bargain really for keeping the dream alive and supporting International Teaching.

Email Maurene today. bodie.maurene.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

[If you are not a current member, you will no longer receive these newsletters]

March is Membership Month – prizes for the 10th new member and 10th renewal. Refer a friend. Watch this space or email Maurene - OFFER STILL APPLIES.

“Keep the dream alive!”

WHAT IS THE VITF? [Victorian International Teaching Fellowship]. Information was given in the last news update and can be found on our web page. In brief: The Victorian International Teaching Fellowship (VITF) Program is a high quality professional learning opportunity that enables Victorian teachers and school leaders to spend a year teaching in a school overseas.

Coming up: Footy weekend

FOOTY FOOTY FOOTY

We have tickets for Saturday August 5th at 2.10 at the MCG.

**Teams playing are Essendon vs Carlton.
Should be fun-spread the word.
Thanks to Alice for organising this annual
event.**

**This year, we are meeting for lunch at an
iconic pub prior to the game.**

**A must event for those who wish to
experience footy or share their love with our
international teachers. Tickets are free, so get
in early to book your spot. Email Alice -
bray.alice@gmail.com**

Spare Weekend?

The following past ITFers offer their homes and/or advice on their districts:

South Gippsland:

ITF teachers from previous years offer to billet Fellows and their families while you travel around the South Gippsland area. Check out Wilson's Promontory for bushwalking, rail trail and cycling. Visit a wildlife park, enjoy beach activities, camping and indulge in a surf lesson.

Contact - Gary & Sue McGrath on 56624233 (Home) gary&sue@aanet.com.au

Want to visit the magic of Koonawarra? [the turn off to Wilson's Prom and a GREAT cafe]- Gene Vanderzalm says "If you are heading down to South Gippsland, look us up. We're happy for exchangees both International and Australian to stay with us while they explore this beautiful part of the country. My Mobile: 0447491298 or email: vanderzalm.gene.p@edumail.vic.gov.au Gene and his family will feature in our next newsletter's Where Are They Now? column.

Geelong:

A satellite city with a country feel. It's the gateway to the Great Ocean Road. Enjoy fish n chips by the sea, taste local wines, visit an Aboriginal co-operative, walk along the waterfront and see the artistic bollards. Contact - Sue Strong –

0437741077 susannestrong@hotmail.com

Bendigo:

The Bendigo Chapter is happy to assist with information and accommodation if you decide to visit this beautiful and historic area. Visit Central Victoria, Bendigo with its wonderful architecture – a city founded on gold in the 1850's. A ride on the Talking Tram will help you see the sights. A journey down the Central Deborah Gold Mine is a must. The area is surrounded by many award winning wineries.

Contact – Doug Jamieson 0488536671 dbjamo@yahoo.com.au

Wodonga:

Plenty of homestay is available when you choose to explore this area or stop off on the way to Sydney or Canberra. Activities can include a visit to historic Beechworth, Ned Kelly sites and Rutherglen Wineries. See Aboriginal art, canoe along the Murray River and /or cycle along the rail trail across Lake Hume.

Contact – Jan Bedson (02) 561070 yackqueen@gmail.com

Phillip Island:

Explore the beaches and wildlife of this popular island. Visit the fairy penguins, koala park and Churchill Island which has early history of white man in Victoria.

Contacts – Kylie Carlson 0423166311

Nick Carlson 0423166277

carlson.kylie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

nrkcarlson@bigpond.com

Healesville:

If you've missed the Yarra Valley weekend or would like to visit the world-renowned Sanctuary or the many wineries or go for a walk amongst the hills, contact the Yarra Valley chapter via Mary and Adam - 0421252266 contrary33@gmail.com

Appollo Bay:

Barry and Sue are featured in this week's Where Are They Now? column. They offer their place to ITA members who'd like to KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE! Close to the beach and lovely shops and of course, the Great Ocean Road, this is a great place to share the memories of the exchange. Contact Brian and Sue -

brian.mckenzie6@gmail.com

INTERSTATE CONTACTS

We often receive requests from current exchangees, especially from those living near state borders, asking how they can contact Exchange Leagues in other states. Exchange Leagues in other states welcome the interest of exchangees and the following states can be contacted through these connections:

NSW: ETL [Exchange Teachers League – Barry and Trish tba.pecar@bigpond.com

Victoria: ita.vic.edu.au

Queensland: Helen Leben – Email: hele@optusnet.com.au

South Australia: www.sael.sa.edu.au or contact: Martin Downing (President) Phone:

(08) 8270 5928.

Where Are They Now?

Keeping the dream alive is an important role of the ITA.... so how do some of our past exchangees go about keeping the dream alive? Where are they now? This newsletter, we feature Brian and Sue McKenzie. 17 years ago, at the turn of this century, [although it only seems like yesterday], Brian took his family - Sue, his teacher wife, children Melinda and Alastair to Minnesota. From the coast of southern Australia to the snowy climate of inland Northern USA.

Here is his story:

Minnesota 2000

In the year that Sydney was hosting the Olympic games the McKenzie family from Apollo Bay were off to Minnesota on an ITF for the year. Arriving in the twin cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) in late January was a shock to the system, temperatures well below zero with icicles forming on your nose. I am glad we had the support of a network of past exchange teachers and buddies to help us out. Our exchange house was in Maplewood and my school was 18 miles away driving on freeways through the cities on icy roads; wow steep learning curve.

Our children attended a senior high school of 2000 students, and that was a big change for them coming from Apollo Bay P-12 College but they adapted very well and they were able to link up with like-minded students and join in activities such as Athletics, swimming, golf and knowledge bowl. Ice hockey and gridiron were a bit beyond them.

The Australian dollar was at an all time low compared to the American dollar and we

only survived by my wife Sue gaining registration to become a relief teacher. This process took all of first term so she took our children snow skiing, did some quilting classes and volunteered at some nearby schools. Whilst walking to a school one morning she walked across an open area covered in light snow, it was only when she came upon a clear area of ice that she realised she was walking on the centre of a lake.

By going on exchange to a different part of the world it gave the family a chance to discover new things and explore another country. We travelled extensively during school breaks and one such adventure was following the Mississippi river from its source in Park Rapids, Minnesota right down to the delta in New Orleans. Canoeing for a week in the boundary waters was another highlight

An interesting place we visited was Deadwood, South Dakota. Sue had booked our accommodation about 2 months in advance and the lady said "You do know there is a bike rally on at that time?", but we went ahead anyway. To my surprise when we arrived there were 400 thousand Harley Davidson bikes and about 750 000 people in the area."

Teaching in the Minneapolis school district was hard work but I was supported to the hilt by wonderful staff, the Principal and the ITF network that was operating in the State. We had several teachers from Australia and we got together regularly to socialise and exchange experiences.

Ofcourse an exchange isn't all about work and it can be experiencing something out of the ordinary. My mentor Doug took Alistair and I ice fishing to Lake Milac and with the 4 wheel drive on the edge of the frozen lake he said take your seat belt off. It is law in Minnesota if you are going onto a frozen lake, we proceed onto the ice, we are going out to the 5 mile, oh we just ran over a crack in the ice and I saw water bubbling up. That's all right says Doug it will freeze over. We arrive at a caravan on ice, we go inside and it is toasty and warm. Doug goes to a cupboard and pulls out an auger and proceeds to open up a hole in each corner and one on each side of the centre. The ice is over a metre deep, amazing and we fish and sleep out on the ice for the weekend. Early morning and I hear a big rumble and it feels like waves under the cabin. Only the gas truck coming out on the ice to deliver gas. What an experience, fairly normal for a Minnesotan.

As Sue and I are now enjoying retirement from the education system and focusing more on family and grand children we still keep in contact with our Minnesotan friends and our fellow ITF colleagues even though it is 17 years ago.

Cheers from Brian, Sue, Melinda and Alistair.







See if you can pick Sue and Brian [and Alastair and Melinda] from their exchange in 2000 to now in 2017. Sue and Brian are proud grandparents and their international exchange experience has influenced their children in many ways.

Next newsletter: We hear from Gene and hear what his family are up to after their exchange in 2014 to Canada!

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You are receiving this email because you have been involved or interested in the Victorian International Teaching Fellowship [teacher exchange]

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