



# 'NO WORRIES MATE' NEWSLETTER



VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

[www.ita.vic.edu.au](http://www.ita.vic.edu.au)



## Welcome to all our frequent followers and newbies

It's amazing to think that we are at the other end of another great year of teacher exchanges. The International Fellowship was quite unique this year as we have had only one teacher in the city area and only to June. The rest of our international guests have been around the more regional and rural parts of the state.

We hope they all survived our winter and are looking forward to Term 3 break and summer holidays. We wish all our Northern Hemisphere teachers and families a lovely start to their new year.

## Welcome

We welcome new coordinators in both Victoria and Canada.

Victoria: Welcome to Louise Freeman who is now leading the management of the International Teaching Fellowship. A bit about Louise: *For most of my career I've worked on international issues in one form or the other. This includes teaching English in Japan and working as a student exchange coordinator at Deakin University. More recently, I have spent the majority of my career working for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and with overseas stints in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. I joined DET in early 2016 and worked on a number of domestic policy issues, including STEM, before recently moving to the International Education Division.*

Canada: Welcome to Melanie Lindayen who is the new Teacher Exchange Coordinator for Canadian Education Exchange Foundation [CEEF] - you can find out more about Melanie and CEEF on their FaceBook page. Lots of good advice there.

## Coming Up:

Briefing Day. How exciting to see all our 2018 exchangees together. I'm sure those of us who have been on exchange recall the excitement, fear, anticipation, worry - the whole range of emotions - when we all met on this day. The ITA will be presenting sessions on coping with change, what to expect [or not!], hints to help you prepare and answer any questions you may have. We will also be hosting a small refreshment session afterwards to mix and mingle.

## Been and gone - NCIITE conference

This ITA President attended this conference via video link. Ah, the wonders of modern technology. It was great to hear from the attendees who were from all states in Australia involved in exchange programs and also to hear the Canadian and USA representatives.

Some notes that came out of this conference: All chapters are working really hard to keep the program active. With different reasons across the globe, it is challenging to attract and then match exchangees. There is also an issue of aging committees in both experience and age. Victoria is doing well so far - it will be up to all of us to continue to spread the word about the Victorian ITF and to keep the momentum going when we get back. Looking forward to next year's conference. [Thanks to Kay Holloway for organising the conference and speakers].

## Been and gone:

Our footy match was a great day. Several of us who had 'been there, done that' met up over lunch and reminisced on tales and enjoyed the memory sharing. We met up with Matthew and his family who are heading off in 2018.



## RIP

We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Nick Le Souef recently. Nick has been a long time and passionate supporter of our ITF. You might remember our earlier news update this year of the escaped reptiles? That was Nick. Or the ITF farewell functions where opals mingled amongst all sorts of creatures you got to hold whilst waiting for dessert. That was Nick. His daughter described him as "larger than life." Condolences to his family.

## Retirements

Whilst this doesn't quite fit the retirement stereotype, we had an email from a long time member and follower, Malcolm Cocking. Malcolm was on exchange in Colorado in 1978. He has been a member of the ITA ever since. Now you might remember Malcolm from his posts in past newsletters, including April/May of 2014. He assures us that it was not 'rent-a-word' - he really did love his exchange and his memories are sincerely positive. Here are some last words: *I am an old guy, went on exchange to Denver in 1978 and have kept up my ITA membership every year since then. The news has been interesting but I have been otherwise inactive for maybe 25 years or more. It is time for me to bow out completely. This is not an expression of my dissatisfaction, but more a recognition that the ITA is essentially most relevant to those who have a more immediate connection to the exchange and the current nuances which apply. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity for me to participate in the exchange. My response is entirely positive and it was one of the highlights and formative experiences of my life. I also commend all those who have been involved in exchanges over the years who have contributed to the exchange experience through their participation and also commend the various representatives from the Dept of Education who have also enabled the exchanges to occur. In particular, I commend those on the ITF / ITA committees over the years who have sustained the association and through their time and effort provided opportunities, advice and support for the many (now) thousands from Victoria and overseas who have been afforded this unique and memorable experience.*

*My exchangee was originally from Minnesota. My wife and I have had the more unusual privilege and pleasure of meeting her, firstly in the two days before our exchange commenced and about 10 times since most recently last year when we stayed there. Next month, at her suggestion, she is house sitting for us in Melbourne while we vacation overseas. This is another enriching outcome of the exchange.*

Mal is 'hanging up his pen'. No longer will we see his letters to the editor or his fine words in print. A fine retirement indeed. Thanks Mal for all your encouragement and positive words about the ITF and ITA. I'm sure we haven't really heard the last from you. :-)

## Where are they now?

### Gene Vanderzalm

Hi Everyone,

Exchange has been a massive part of my life and is something my family and I are very passionate about. As a teenager, two of my brothers and I were Rotary exchange students so it was only natural when I heard about the opportunity for teachers to exchange I was all in. In 2014, my wife Tracy and I travelled with our 4 children to Calgary for the year. I was prepared personally for the rollercoaster of emotions but it was a totally different experience exchanging with your family. Working through all of their ups and downs as well as managing the teaching load was a totally different experience to my student exchange but equally fulfilling and liberating.

Every exchange story is different. Each has its great points and each has its lows. But the one thing that binds them all is that amongst the great points are some moments that we as individuals cherish. I love hearing people's exchange stories, sharing my own and finding the commonalities amongst them. Our family home is in Meeniyana, the point where you turn off for Wilson's Promontory. 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

Enjoy your exchanges and hopefully we can meet up at some stage!

Regards,

Gene

## Global contacts

It's a bit quiet as summer holidays have preoccupied our Northern Hemisphere exchange leagues. You can find the **British Columbia Exchange Teachers' Association** June newsletter here: <http://feb122010.wordpress.com> Click on the section called On Exchange. This newsletter has memories of Canberra and if you are heading to Vancouver this year or next, some great info. If you want the PDF version, please email me.

### What are they up to?

Colin and his family are here in Ballarat for 2017. He says: *It is really hard to believe we are over half way finished the exchange. It is starting to set in a little and we are revising our "to do" list to try and fit in as much as we can! We just returned from Hamilton Island where we had an absolutely amazing time. Snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef was at the top of my list and it didn't disappoint! It was also very nice getting some more time in the sun up in Queensland.* Colin was unable to attend our Saturday footy match as his boys have really taken a liking to footy but unfortunately barrack for a rotten team (Hawthorn) and I promised to take them to the match on Sunday, We have been posting some of our photos on a photo blog. There is not a lot of reflection or written material, but you are welcome to share our blog address if you wish: <http://schroederusaadventure.blogspot.com.au/> Thanks for keeping in touch with us. We hope to get together with everyone again at some point before the final event.

Brian in Ballarat says: *Things are going great and looking forward to the second break. Natalie and I are headed off to the Whitsundays region for a relaxing time in Hideaway Bay.*

Anne in Shepparton says: *We are staying very busy and can't believe it is half over! We are heading to Sydney for the first week of the break and then up to Cairns for the second week. My brother and his family are joining us (from Kentucky, USA). Our kids are staying busy and enjoying their new sports of footy and netball.*

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One of my favourite photos. "Put your bats out". So we did - King City, Ontario, Canada. 2014

