

Nomination for Judith Butcher

IPSHA Fellow

Judith Butcher became a member of IPSHA (formerly JSHAA) in 1998, when she became Head of Hillingdon, the P -2 Preparatory School at Ascham and, when the Preparatory and Junior Schools were combined, the Head of Junior School P - 6. Prior to her appointment at Ascham, Judith taught extensively at a range of schools with the NSW Department of Education. During over 20 years of devoted leadership at Ascham, Judith has been a valued leader within her school community as well as within both the NSW Branch and at Federal level.

Judith has made a sustained and high level contribution to the Association as Liaison Head for the NSW Branch Early Childhood Teachers' Umbrella Group (2006 – 2010), Chair of Professional Development (2008 – 2012), President Elect, President and Past President (2012 – 2018) within the NSW Branch and currently serves as Federal Secretary. Judith has been a member of the NSW State Branch Executive since 2008.

Judith's leadership within NSW has seen the quality of professional learning for members continue to grow and expand under her leadership through her consistent and tireless sourcing of the highest quality presenters for each state branch meeting. The quality and value of professional learning was always strongly appreciated in the time that Judith served as Chair of Professional Development. Judith's passion for professional learning was also reflected in her work as a member of the AIS NSW Professional Development Advisory Panel from 2009 – 2013. Judith also chairs the Professional Development Committee at Ascham.

As State President-Elect, Judith continued to grow our mentoring program for new Heads and members which enhanced the professional capacity of our Branch noticeably, built wellbeing and morale and grew the collegial flavour of which we are so proud of an Association.

During this time, Judith was also a key member of the 2014 IPSHA Federal Biennial Conference (Sydney) Planning Committee, where she was responsible for overseeing keynote speakers for the conference, most notably Sir Ken Robinson which is a strongly remembered highlight by all those who were in attendance.

Judith was a worthy recipient of the John Laing Award in 2017 which recognised the significant endeavour and achievement that she particularly made in these two areas.

As State President, Judith's tenure was notable for the smoothness of the running of the Branch, the continued quality of all of our offerings for Heads, teachers and students alike, the continued growth of our collegial feel and for the strong focus our meetings held on outstanding professional learning and building of professional networks. Judith's leadership brought about growth in both membership and meeting attendance levels and strong satisfaction within our branch.

Judith has shown a strong passion for growing the independent education sector through the vehicle of professional learning – for leaders, colleagues, teachers and students alike. Judith has been equally passionate about encouraging and supporting colleagues to be involved in IPSHA, growing a supportive and collegial network, and focussing on mentoring and supporting new members. Judith has keenly supported the growth of the students under her care, encouraging their involvement in various IPSHA opportunities encompassing Debating Gala Days, Social Action Expos and School Aid Kids Action Teams.

Judith has continued to contribute strongly to the Branch following her Presidency as Past President where her wisdom and insight was highly valued by the State Executive, and as a wonderful mentor to newer members of the Executive. Judith has also given of herself to IPSHA extensively at Federal level with significant work in updating and maintaining the Association Memorandum and Articles of Association and Principles and Practices. Judith has been an exception contributor to good governance at the Federal level and has managed compliance, legal, risk and due diligence matters with an admirable level of insight and experience.

Judith has consistently attended Federal Conferences, APPA Conferences, State Executive and Branch Meetings and Country Weekends where her warmth, sage advice, good humour and companionship have been warmly received and admired by all.

Judith Butcher has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to IPSHA and it is with great pleasure that I nominate her as an IPSHA Fellow.

The assistance of Martin Lubrano in compiling this nomination is gratefully acknowledged.

Will Wallace
President (2018 – 2020)
IPSHA Ltd – NSW Branch