

IPSHA Fellowship Citation

Laraine Lucas

February 2011

Laraine Lucas is an outstanding and passionate educator, who has contributed to students' learning and staff development through her exceptional leadership at Danebank over the past twenty years. She has also contributed comprehensively to the wider independent education arena, through her significant involvement in JSHAA / IPSHA, since taking up membership in 1991.

Laraine has participated extensively at a NSW State Branch level, in ensuring support to members in all three domains; of members' professional development, staff umbrella groups and student activities. In whichever capacity Laraine shoulders responsibility, one can rely on her organisational skills, strategic thinking, global view and preparedness to drive projects and activities to successful conclusions.

Through the chairing of music festivals, membership of the sports organising committee and liaison head roles in gymnastics and cross country, Laraine has ensured very positive cultural and sporting experiences for large numbers of students throughout our IPSHA (NSW Branch) Association.

Staff professional development has always been of strong interest to Laraine. From the inception of her membership, she joined the professional development committee and shortly after, in 1996, took on the portfolio for resource teachers, to support them in delivering high quality meetings that were of strong benefit to attendees. She created structures and procedures to ensure equity and educational accountability, and which maximised the talents within the Resource Teachers' Group.

In 2000, Laraine became a member of the JSHAA State Executive as she took on the very large portfolio of the Professional Development Group, which involved the organisation of all professional development for members, whilst also overseeing the smooth running of all umbrella groups. Whilst chairing this group, Laraine instituted standard operating procedures for all umbrella groups, to again ensure equity of access, quality delivery of professional development and educational accountability.

Such was Laraine's standing in the Association, that she was elected to stand as President Elect of JSHAA (NSW Branch) in 2004 and subsequently, President, during the 2006-2008 Biennium. Throughout her presidency, Laraine again brought strategic structure, thinking and organisation to the role, as she created the now heavily relied upon Standard Operating Procedures Manual. This has ensured knowledge management, continuity and efficiency of the Association's activities and responsibilities. Laraine was a most kind and professionally supportive mentor to the incoming president as her final responsibility to the President's role in 2008.

In broader educational circles, Laraine has readily taken on and given great time to the representation of our Association. This has included representing IPSHA on the ISTAA Council and the Primary Advisory Group at the AIS. In 2010, she was appointed the Association's representative on the Australian Primary Principals' National Executive Council and nominated to be on the secretariat.

Laraine has always been diligent in attending all meetings, conferences and country weekends. She has taken this same reliability and dedication to her responsibilities as she represents IPSHA in broader educational ponds.

It is, therefore, without reservation that the NSW Branch of IPSHA, wholeheartedly recommends the award of Fellowship, be bestowed on Laraine Lucas, to recognise and honour her outstanding, yet humble service and her extensive contribution to the Association over the past twenty years.

Sally Ruston
Immediate Past President of IPSHA (NSW) Branch

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