

IPSHA Fellowship Citation Sally Ruston

Sally Ruston joined IPSHA (formerly JSHAA) in 2000, when she became Head of Junior School at Abbotsleigh, where she has served with distinction for the last twelve and a half years.

Prior to this appointment, Sally worked in four other IPSHA NSW member schools: All Saints College-Bathurst, Tudor House, Trinity Grammar Preparatory School and Newington College-Linfield.

Sally has always been an enthusiastic IPSHA member, keen to participate and contribute fully, wherever opportunity was available. She served as NSW Branch Treasurer (2003-2006), President Elect (2006-2008) President (2010-2012) and Immediate Past President (2010-2012).

As IPSHA NSW Branch President, Sally's leadership resulted in growing membership and meeting attendance, significant restructuring and development of Executive and Branch Meeting procedures, and maintenance of IPSHA equity at NSW CIS events.

Respect for Sally's wisdom, deep knowledge and understanding of IPSHA; acknowledgment of her extensive involvement in the broader educational community; together with appreciation for her inclusive and collegial perspective; resulted in Sally's successful nomination for the position of IPSHA National President (2012-2014).

In her own school and beyond, Sally's vision, organisation and achievements at Abbotsleigh, are viewed as an inspirational model to others. She co-ordinated an extensive school building project, which commenced with planning in 2006, and which was finally completed and opened in 2010. This included a new Infants and Year 3 precinct; the opening of a Transition programme; and the establishment of a 70 place ELC. Within this context, a strong Reggio Emilia inspired learning environment with a focus on academic excellence, has also emerged.

Sally has always opened her school generously to the wider educational community and particularly to the IPSHA NSW Branch. Office facilities are made available here for the Branch Admin Assistant and Sports Admin Assistant, and Branch Executive Meetings have been hosted here over the past four years.

As well as running a school which provides leadership in many curriculum areas to the Independent sector, Sally has also fostered Professional Development for IPSHA colleagues and their staff, including the organisation of local link-ups. She has been an advocate for high quality professional learning, participating in and leading the development of strategies to support such opportunities for colleagues, which consistently focus on improved student learning and leadership.

Sally has consistently used her many personal attributes for the benefit of education, her students, staff and colleagues. She has always applied her ability to analyse and think broadly on issues, encouraging others to consider the wider perspective. Sally has always ensured professional dialogue within her professional learning networks is informed by valid feedback and analysis of current research and practice, in order to improve the educational outcomes for students. Sally has a wonderful capacity to run with new challenges, and her excellent organisational skills have contributed significantly in a wide array of areas.

Sally has given extensive leadership at state level in many professional and community networks. This has involved working at state level on BoS, ISTAA, AIS and NSW CIS committees and working groups, in academic, professional development and sport projects. Sally has also contributed extensively through her membership and involvement with APPA, ACE, ACEL, PETA and AITSL (particularly the AITSL Working Group developing National Professional Standards for Principals 2010-11).

Sally has been passionate about mentoring others, and values highly this area. She has initiated new mentoring structures and opportunities at IPSHA NSW Branch level, which have been used as a model in other state IPSHA branches. Her encouragement, friendly and interested manner, has been highly valued by her peers in leadership as well as at her school level.

PRESIDENT | Mr Graeme Feeney

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Sally has always acted on behalf of IPSHA, with courage, tenacity and integrity, having a clear vision for the ethos, promotion and development of the Association. She has modelled exemplary ethical behaviour and exercised informed judgements in all professional dealing with colleagues and the community, at times in complex and challenging situations.

Sally Ruston is a highly regarded and respected IPSHA member, well deserving of this acknowledgment through the awarding of an IPSHA Fellowship.

Graeme Feeney
President – NSW Branch
17 August 2012

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