

IPSHA Fellowship Citation  
2020  
Howard Kelly

Howard has worked as a teacher for 38 years, 31 of them as a principal. He has been fortunate to have worked in a variety of schools in different states and overseas.

He began his teaching career in Tasmania where he taught in housing commission schools and where he says managing the challenging behaviours of the children helped him develop his teaching skills and become a better teacher. Howard says those years still rank among his favourite classes.

Howard's first principal appointment, after teaching for 7 years in the Tasmanian State Education system, was as principal of a small country school in a remote corner of North East Tasmania. Gladstone Primary School had 32 children from K-6 and a town population of 156. Many children were bussed in from surrounding farms. Howard spent two years with the school enriching community life with dance classes, fairs and comedic newsletters. During his time at Gladstone he remembers with pride the Gladstone Gallop, a picnic horse race around Mt William National Park, which he says was better suited to the farm kids and their families but not the insurance company. He was also asked to join the Gladstone Pub dart team on his first day in the town, which he accepted and saw as an indication of acceptance by the people of the small community. He also recalls having numerous professional development get togethers with other country principals fly fishing or out in a tinny pulling in monster flathead and coming home to find a local had left him some crayfish.

Howard's first connection with IPSHA, or JSHAA as it was known then, was when he was appointed Head of The Hutchins Junior School in Hobart. Highlights of this part of his career included his first JSHAA conference in Adelaide where he says he immediately felt part of something very special, and not just because of the opportunity to sample many of South Australia's finest wines. It was during this time Howard says he was able to form friendships and networks that still continue today. He feels these were powerful, formative associations that opened up possibilities and built his capacity and confidence as a principal and educational leader. He made sure he attended every conference thereafter. Through his association with IPSHA Howard had the opportunity to spend a month in the United States on a fact finding mission establishing staff and student exchanges. Howard says that he loved working with his colleagues in the Tasmanian Branch of JSHAA and was their State Chair for a period.

Midway through 1999 Howard accepted the role of Director of the K-8 campus of University School in Cleveland, Ohio – a college prep school for boys. During this time he was conferred the additional roles of Associate Headmaster and Director of International Projects.

During this period Howard experienced many highlights including: living and travelling in a different country with road trips every summer and abundant opportunities to visit other

countries. A road trip in a convertible with his son to Newfoundland remains a very special memory.

Howard also established a 'Heads Conversation Group' with colleagues from Canada and across the States, and one of his most rewarding projects was his role as Director of International Projects where he established a working relationship with an orphanage in Honduras. Howard's students would spend part of their summer there helping with building projects and establishing a sustainable fish breeding program.

In mid 2007 Howard returned home to Australia to take up the appointment of Head of Camberwell Grammar Junior School, commencing 2008. He immediately reinstated his IPSHA membership and reaped the myriad benefits of camaraderie and professional development. Since his return to Australia and the IPSHA network Howard has had numerous highlights including:

- Regularly attending IPSHA conferences, biennial seminars, dinners and meetings. Howard states that "Our association is brimful of kind and generous people who enjoy getting together."
- Being a key organiser for the 2011 Hobart Tri State Seminar and the 2015 Sorrento Tri State Seminar. He feels there is nothing like working together with colleagues to create something special for others to share.
- In 2015 Howard was very proud to have been awarded The John Laing Professional Development Award which he said was very much an unexpected honour.

Howard says he works in a wonderful little school with an incredible team and despite everything the world has thrown at us in 2020 he is enjoying this final chapter of what he feels has been a very fortunate journey.

As a final comment on this acknowledgement of his service to IPSHA Howard says, "There are so many aspects of my professional career and associations for which I am grateful and I welcome opportunities to repay the care and kindness given so generously to me throughout my career."

We have all come to know and love this roguish man who is blessed with the driest sense of humour and always a sparkle in his eye, indicating that some sort of high jinks or laughs are never very far away. He has regaled us with his stories and anecdotes, titillated us with his naughty schoolboy charm and entertained us with his revelry and dancing skills at conference dinners. However, above all of these qualities, Howard has enriched each of our careers with his example of an educator and leader who has a profound love for his profession and for those who come under his watch.

Congratulations on your IPSHA Fellowship Howard.