

My very good friend and colleague, Vivienne Wearne has been a member of the Victorian Branch of IPSHA since 1994. Vivienne was a member of the Executive for ten years and acted as Project Officer for much of that time. As a Branch, one of the significant roles of IPSHA has been to provide both collegial connections and strong and meaningful professional development opportunities. In her role, Vivienne ensured both elements were achieved.

One of the key events on the IPSHA Calendar has always been the VIC/SA/TAS Retreat. Back in the day, the retreat was a joint venture of the VIC and SA Branches and held in Halls Gap – a halfway meeting place. Vivienne was instrumental in reinvigorating the retreat and in moving the location to other regional areas. Our first venture away from Halls Gap was to Mildura. The change in locations saw the inclusion of the Tasmanian Branch. Since that time, the retreat has moved around each state.

Vivienne worked on many other IPSHA activities including the Staff Refresher School where staff from across IPSHA schools gathered together to share in PD. She has supported and helped coordinate conferences and has been instrumental in supporting the quality PD the branch has always enjoyed. Vivienne also acted as the Branch Representative on APPA for many years. She was thus supporting the vital voice of the independent education sector at a national level.

Vivienne's long-standing association with Independent schools is steeped in history. Herself a former student of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar, Vivienne's teaching career began at St Paul's School, Minimbah before she moved to Penbank in 1982 to take over as Principal. In 2022, Vivienne will have been at the helm for 40 years which is a mighty achievement!

Partnerships have always been important for Vivienne, and ours began in 1996 when I moved from Scotch College to St Paul's School, Minimbah. Our connection through IPSHA has always been strong. We have shared the drive to meetings and 'chewed the fat' over many shared issues. Our children have grown up together and have enjoyed road trips as we have attended IPSHA conferences across our country.

As a long time, stand-alone Principal of a primary school it was always crucial for Vivienne to look beyond her school environment. At home on the Mornington Peninsula, she was particularly interested in extending the children's experiences beyond their local environments. Vivienne was one of just a handful of principals to participate in the joint professional learning program between the ISV and Harvard University through the Leading Learning that Matters Program. Visits to the US and the UK as well as guided professional learning here in Australia strengthened Vivienne's resolve to ensure Penbank was a highly regarded independent school. Harvard University spoke in glowing terms of the work the school was achieving under Vivienne's Leadership.

An absolute passion for Vivienne has always been embedding indigenous perspectives into the children's learning. This passion resulted in her sending staff to a remote community in the Northern Territory to teach and thus began the school's partnership with Wugularr School, part

of the Beswick community. Building such a relationship was unheard of especially between two small school communities. Students and staff from both schools have travelled each way to experience life either within the Beswick community or on the Mornington Peninsula

In always committing to partnerships, Vivienne and Woodleigh School had long enjoyed a shared relationship which supported the transition of students from Penbank into the Senior School of Woodleigh. This partnership was formalised when the two schools merged which saw Penbank become a second junior campus of Woodleigh School.

I have been very fortunate to work with Vivienne over the years, both as IPSHA Colleague and now as a professional partner in crime! I am honoured to have been able to share this statement with you and honoured to call Vivienne my friend.

Congratulations on the award of Fellowship of the Victorian Branch of IPSHA.

Rodney Davies
October 2020