



Incoming National President's Address Biennial National Conference :

Melbourne, May 24, 2024

“Let us embark on this journey with a spirit of unity and an unwavering commitment to excellence in independent primary education.”



It is an honour to be stepping into the role of IPSHA National President for the upcoming biennium. I am deeply grateful for the trust that is placed in me, and I am committed to serving IPSHA with enthusiasm, integrity and grace.

I have been a member of the association for 21 years and in that time have gained far more from my membership than I have given. We are at our core a collegial and inclusive organisation. I have made many wonderful friendships throughout the years and value the connections with educators of immense capacity from across the country. We share a common understanding of day to day life in an independent primary and middle schools and there is always someone with whom we can share a story, seek advice or offer support.

I follow in the footsteps of a history of incredible IPSHA Presidents and hope that I can do the role justice and serve the association admirably.

I would like to extend the heartfelt thanks of the Association to our outgoing President, Wayne Revitt, for his leadership and effort in advancing the vision and strategic intent of IPSHA. Under Wayne's leadership the Board has established the IPSHA RAP, completed the revision of the Constitution, investigated a new member management system that will be implemented moving forward, upgraded employment processes and agreements as well as benchmarking of employee salaries, completed the IPSHA Risk matrix, brought a National mindset to the Association business and consolidated the banking accounts. His contribution has been appreciated at both IPSHA and on the APPA Board and NAC, and I hope that the new Board can continue to build on the work undertaken through his Presidency. I invite Wayne to receive a gift of appreciation on behalf of his colleagues and the Association.

First and foremost, IPSHA is an association for us, Heads of Independent Primary and Middle Schools. We value connecting with each other, growing professionally, advocating for Primary Schools and primary education, partnering with organisations to pursue our goals and provide opportunities for students, and to sustain IPSHA as an important voice within the Australian Education landscape.

In this dynamic environment, IPSHA's role is more crucial than ever. We must be at the forefront of advocating for excellence in primary education, ensuring that our schools remain a key voice in the education discourse. As a member of APPA, we provide a national voice representing primary education and through advocacy and support, advance the education and wellbeing of primary school leaders, students and communities.

I would like to continue to strengthen the bond of our association. IPSHA has a rich history of collegiality. It is a strength of the Association. Connecting our past with the current and future generations of Heads of primary and middle schools allows us to learn from each other and build a stronger future. I thank the esteemed Honorary Federal Life Members Robert Hoff, Michael Dunn, Janet Wilmont, David Hine and Lachie Wright who have joined us for this conference. Your contribution and support is so valuable to us.

As a key focus of this Board, I would like the Biennium to be marked by a commitment to empowering a more reconciled nation that understands the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures to embrace a brighter and stronger future for our country. Connecting our young students to the enormous heritage of first nations people can only enhance a more inclusive and reconciled nation. It is with the students in our schools that this commitment needs to start.

The IPSHA RAP, developed over the last 2 Years by the current Board under the leadership of Penny Crane, Steve Coventry and I, is all but approved by Reconciliation Australia, and I hope that it forms a foundation and valuable resource for IPSHA schools in our quest to develop knowledge, understanding and respect across the community. As a leader in education, IPSHA has an important part to play.

I know that many schools are doing incredible work in this space. I would love to see us share our knowledge and the work we are doing. A collective approach allows a broader and more impactful commitment to building greater respect and understanding for First Nations people and communities.

I am excited about the next two years. Your insights, expertise and passion are the driving forces behind IPSHA's work, our commitment to each other and realising our vision.

In closing, I reiterate my gratitude for this opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to leading the National Board and collaborating with you through our state branches.

Let us embark on this journey with a spirit of unity and an unwavering commitment to excellence in independent primary education.

Martin Lubrano
IPSHA National President