

### **Citation for Honorary Federal Life Membership: 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 25 years retiring at the end of 2024.

In a career of over 40 years, Sally has worked across a number of Independent Schools in NSW; All Saints College-Bathurst, Tudor House, Trinity Grammar Preparatory School, Newington College-Linfield and Abbotsleigh.

Sally has been an outstanding IPSHA member and an example to other primary school leaders across the Association. Throughout her career, and in an ongoing capacity, she has served IPSHA as well as serving on a number of education boards. She has modelled the value of contribution to the wider work of primary school education across the nation.

Serving with enthusiasm, Sally has contributed fully to the life and work of IPSHA for 25 years. She served as NSW Branch Treasurer (2003-2006), NSW President Elect (2006-2008), NSW President (2010-2012) and NSW Immediate Past President (2010-2012), IPSHA Federal President (2012-2014) and Federal Immediate Past President (2014-2016). She served as NSW Representative on the APPA National Advisory Council, and the APPA Board, appointed Vice-President in 2021. She was a key driver in the organisation of the 2014 IPSHA Biennial Conference in Sydney and served on the organising committees of many APPA Conferences.

Sally's outstanding understanding of governance, procedures and protocols has seen her lead at State and National level with purpose, efficiency and an unbounded determination to prioritise primary education and to ensure IPSHA is a more effective and inclusive organisation.

Sally has been widely respected for her incredible IPSHA knowledge and understanding. She connects across generations as well as across education sectors, highly regarded in the primary school education field. Her advice and counsel have been regularly sought by colleagues and policy makers. She has ensured that she has been across education dialogue, direction and perspectives. She has always shared openly with colleagues and provided opportunity for connection and growth. Her encouragement, and friendly and interested manner, have been highly valued by her peers in leadership.

Sally has given extensive leadership to 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, serving as Deputy President, ACE, ACEL, PETA and AITSL (particularly the AITSL Working Group developing National Professional Standards for Principals 2010-11).

Whilst maintaining a rich contribution to IPSHA and APPA, Sally has maintained a vibrant and strong Abbotsleigh Junior School. She was highly regarded within the school community where she was a transformational leader. She co-ordinated extensive school building projects, initiated an Early Learning Centre from birth to 5 year olds, and provided the opportunity for the girls of Abbotsleigh to be bold, courageous and prosperous. Learning was at the forefront of all her decisions and the students were well placed to have successful futures having been well led,