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President's Message

At the presentation ceremony for the Award for Excellence in the Administration of Public Education, there was a sense that, at the third such event, the ISEA has reaffirmed one of its key charter aims. The support of public education is central to our organisation's purpose. At the ceremony our Director-General recognised and congratulated Cheryl Ballantyne as a Chief Education Officer leading one of public education's flagship



Cheryl Ballantyne receiving her award from Michael Coutts-Trotter

programs. He graced our organisation's initiative with his support and enthusiasm. Trevor Fletcher was also there and I reminded the assembly that one of the themes of Trevor's incumbency is that excellence comes from the intertwining of passion and professionalism. That's precisely the quality so clearly shown by Cheryl and many other ISEA members across the DET.

A cheery crowd of members accompanied Cheryl and family to dinner after the ceremony, where we also farewelled Brian Jarman on his retirement from DET. The fellowship of such events is one of the other aims of the ISEA. We hope many members will come together for the next dinner which will be addressed by Peter Hill, now the CEO of ACARA. In the hustle and bustle of the life of a leader in DET, don't forget to breathe; the ISEA provides space to do that!

Barry Laing

Excellence Award Ceremony Report

The ceremony to present the third annual ISEA *Award for Excellence in the Administration of Public Education* was held recently in The Atrium, Bridge Street. At what has become a feature event for the ISEA, the Director-General, Michael Coutts-Trotter, presented Cheryl Ballantyne with the ISEA's 2009 *Excellence Award* at a well attended ceremony, and commented that Cheryl was a worthy winner among previous

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winner of the Award – Pam Ryan and Laurie Murphy (2007); and Robert Cordaiy (2008). He said that the time would come when the speaking of Mandarin and an understanding of Chinese culture would be common among Australians and that eventually the Director-General of Education in NSW would need to be proficient on both scores.



Past and present Award Winners

Cheryl Ballantyne with Greg Prior and Trevor Fletcher

Cheryl, a School Development Officer in Western Sydney Region, nominated *Bridges to Understanding: The Western Sydney China Strategy* as her project for the Award. The China Strategy was initiated in 2006 by the former Western Sydney Regional Director, Lindsay Wasson, with an agreement to pursue joint projects of cooperation between the Region, the Ningbo Municipal Education Bureau in China, and the University of Western Sydney.

The Regional Director for Western Sydney, Greg Prior, explained the current status of the China Strategy and the plans for its expansion. The success of the various elements of the Strategy was attributable to the cooperation among the partners and to Cheryl's management of complex communication and arrangements.

Representatives of the partners in the Strategy, Professor Michael Singh (University of Western Sydney) and Ms Weng Yi (Ningbo Province), a volunteer in Western Sydney Schools, spoke of the significance of the Strategy to UWS, the schools of the region, and to the nation, the strength of the partnership, Cheryl's exceptional attention to management details, and the prospects for future expansion of some of the Strategy's elements.

Ron Ikin, ISEA Executive Officer, announced that the *Excellence Award* would be offered again for 2010 and that there would also be an ISEA Award for DET staff members who showed outstanding potential to undertake a senior educational administrative position sometime in the future. The *Potential Award* would be

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presented in 2011 at the same ceremony as the *Excellence Award*, together with any ISEA Life Membership granted during the year. Thus the ISEA would be recognising performance from the past, present, and future at its 2011 ceremony.



Partners in Bridges to Understanding

UNION SHOPPER: Have We got a Deal for You

Unions NSW has launched a new service called *Union Shopper* which has operated in Queensland for 30 years and aims at helping financial union members save on the purchase of a wide-range of consumer and lifestyle products and services.

Through its collective bargaining power *Union Shopper* can often identify exceptionally competitive prices for such purchases as:

Home and Office: Furniture, Electrical and White-goods, Cameras, Mowers, Floor coverings, Computers and Office equipment etc.

Insurance and Professional Service: Insurance, Banking and Finance, Loans , Taxation etc.

Leisure: Accommodation: Travel, Car Hire, Golf, Entertainment, Music, Liquor, Books, Camping etc.

Motor Vehicles and Accessories: New and Used cars, Tyers and batteries, Windscreens etc.

Personal, Health and Beauty: Adventure gear, Florist, Gym Membership, Jewellery, Mobile phones, Optical, Pharmacy, Perfumes, Photography, Health equipment etc.

Groceries: Full range at wholesale prices.

Union members can go direct to *Union Shopper* to purchase these products or services or, if a member has identified a product and a price, he/she can check with *Union Shopper* prior to making a purchase.

As the ISEA is an affiliate of Unions NSW all of its members are able to have full access to *Union Shopper* and its range of products and services. Members should contact the Executive Officer on ron.ikin@bigpand.com to gain a copy of the NSW Directory for *Union Shopper* and details on how to access the products and services.

ISEA Membership Always Available

DET Staff are invited to access the ISEA's website www.iseansw.org.au for details of membership options. There is a range of options to suit many DET staff members. The ISEA has many programs and services including personnel support, professional development, private health cover, financial and legal advice, and now purchasing support.

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Curriculum-CLI Merger: the Silence is Deafening

As reported in previous Newsletters the DET is planning a merger of the Curriculum K–12 Directorate and the Centre for Learning Innovation. The schedule for the implementation of the merger indicates that the new entity (whatever it is to be called) is to be in place by July 2010.

Despite the looming cessation of the present units and the commencement of the new entity, with the enormous personnel and personal implications that carries, neither the staff of the two units, the NSW Teachers Federation or the ISEA are any the wiser as to the structure or responsibilities of the soon-to-be-born new entity. The silence is deafening with the DET refusing to reveal the contents or directions of an interim report (apparently compiled by Lindsay Wasson, the coordinator of the review) conducted to establish the merger.

In October 2009 the ISEA was given an undertaking that the staff of the two units would be consulted and that the Institute would be kept informed of the progress of the review. It was not until January of this year that a schedule for the merger was provided but most of the actions listed for Term 1, 2010, have occurred. There has been no meaningful communication or consultation with the staff or the ISEA.

With the launching of four Australian curriculum courses, the work of the two units has intensified considerably. It is a credit to the loyalty and professionalism of the staff in the units that they have continued to attend to their significant responsibilities while being totally unaware of their futures, come July 2010.

There are significant educational and personnel matters at stake here. Apart from implementing the first four Australian curriculum statements, there are yet-to-be-completed statements in the years to follow. State-tailored support documents and materials will be needed as well as a massive professional learning program. This is a huge task and not one to be tackled with a reduced or emasculated State-office-level curriculum workforce, if that proves to be the outcome of the review. The already stretched regional curriculum staff cannot be expected to assume responsibility for the massive implementation program and materials that will be needed. There should be no reduction in the staff at this very demanding time.

The ISEA will continue to press the DET to properly communicate and consult with the staff of the units and the ISEA.

Be Quick — Two Vacancies for the ISEA Tour to Hong Kong and Singapore

The ISEA has two vacancies for members or colleagues to join the study-tour to Hong Kong and Singapore to be conducted during the 2010 NSW second-term school vacation which extends from Monday 5 July 2010 to Friday 16 July 2010.

The tour will visit schools, education systems and universities while leaving sufficient time to take in the cultural attractions of both locations. Arrangements for the tour in Hong Kong are being assisted by Allan Walker who is Professor of Educational Leadership at the HK Institute of Education. In Singapore the ISEA tour will be assisted by Mr Michael D'Silva, Director, Leadership Development for the Singapore Ministry of Education.

As for previous ISEA tours it is pleasing that a cross-section of staff with responsibilities in school education have already enrolled to join the tour. Membership of the tour group includes an assistant principal, principals, CEOs, an SEO, a Director and an academic. Membership of the ISEA is not required.

Competitive prices have been negotiated for the tour and, because it is conducted under the auspices of the ISEA, tax concessions should be available. Full details are available upon application to the ISEA's Executive Officer on 9181 5879 or ron.ikin@bigpond.com The tour is assured of being interesting and enjoyable — so be quick as there are only 2 vacancies!

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