

'NO WORRIES MATE'

NEWSLETTER



VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

www.ita.vic.edu.au





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edition: <u>FEBRUARY</u> APRIL JUNE AUGUST OCTOBER DECEMBER 2014

WHAT'S ON:

DATE	ACTIVITIES	CONTACTS
 March 14-16 	Ballarat Weekend	Shelley & Ian Dell ianshelleydell@gmail.com.au
March 22nd	2013 ITF Welcome Back	Deb Armstrong armstrong.debra.d@gmail.com
 April 25-27 	Geelong Weekend	Sue Strong susanannestrong@hotmail.com
Winter	Aussie Rules	Rosemary Chapple rosemary.chapple@marcellin.vic.edu.au
 Sept 5-7 	Wodonga Weekend	Jan Bedson bedsons3@bigpond.com
 Oct 10-12 	Healesville Weekend	Sheryl Allen allemail2007@gmail.com
		Deb Armstrong armstrong.debra.d@gmail.com
Marri II.	2014 Fanaviall Diaman	

Nov t.b.c. 2014 Farewell Dinner

'Time for Reflection'

'It has been a lot like putting on all those old clothes that we had in storage, they still fit comfortably but they are just a bit worn around the edges and you know you aren't the same person as who you were when you bought them.'

Chad Edmonds

Hi to all

Don't the sentiments of Chad Edmonds (Alberta) ring a bell for all International Teaching Fellowship participants. We have been privileged to have a year full of experiences that have a 'lifelong' influence on us professionally, personally, individually and as a family

These comments may well wet the tastebuds of our current Victorian and International ITF for 2014 in anticipation!

'This reflection' is why the members and committee of the International Teachers' Association – Victoria, value the ITF program and work to further enhance the Fellowship and support all participants.

We say **CONGRATULATIONS** and **WELCOME** our **9 International Teaching Fellowship participants for 2014**. It seems to be a common thread that the time of their

landing at Tullamarine is during a lengthy HOT period, and this year has been no different. Our Victorian's have the opposite, landing at minus ??????.

I hope all our members had a 'great festive season' and that '2014' is off to a good start.

This Issue:

- DEECD Orientation Days
- ITA Meet and Greet
- 2014 Home School
- In the Month of February (a collection)
- Proposed China/Australia Program

Stephen Schneider <u>s.r.schneider@hotmail.com</u>

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS 2014







ZONE

ITA members who live near out visitors, please be proactive, phone, drop in, invite them over. We all loved the contact when on our own ITF......!

ITF - BASE FOR THE YEAR



ITF	COUNTRY	SCHOOL IN VICTORIA
	CANADA	
Nancy Chi-Yuen Cole	Alberta	Appin Park Primary School. <i>Wangaratta.</i> 03-5722 1326
Lauren Howard-Tripp	Alberta	St Peter's Primary School. South West Sunshine. 03-9312 3147
Melissa Nagle	Alberta	St Killians Primary School. <i>Bendigo</i> . 03-5443 4071
Kathleen Ross	Alberta	Tarwin Valley Primary School. <i>Meeniyan.</i> 03-5664 7382
Julie -Anna Martin	British Colombia	Pleasant Street Primary School. <i>Ballarat.</i> 03-5332 2598
Marianne Langford	Ontario	Hillsmeade Primary School. <i>Narre Warren South.</i> 03-9704 6313
Luisa Di Giulio	Ontario	Rolling Hills Primary School. <i>Mooroolbark.</i> 03-9726 4454
Andrew Teggelove	Ontario	Trinity Grammar School. <i>Kew.</i> 03-9854 3600
	GERMANY	•
Xenia Braun	Hamburg	Belle Vue Primary School. <i>Balwyn North.</i> 03-9859 6123

ITA COMMITTEE - MEET & GREET - AUSSIE TEA

The ITA committee welcomed the 2014 ITF with some 'Australian treats' on 23rd after a day with DEECD.



IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

A Return to Cowtown.....

It has been almost a month since we returned back to Calgary with our new daughter in tow. Surprisingly we have been enjoying unseasonably warm weather, unlike the east of the continent, thanks to numerous Chinooks and gracious weather patterns. With temperatures reaching the low teens, it has only been the last few days where we have been reminded by Mother Nature that we are living in a subarctic climate.

I have been amazed at how quickly I have picked up where I left off. Old school, old classes, old routines, old jobs; sometimes I wonder if I actually did leave and live in Bendigo for a year. Not that slotting back in has been a bad thing, but sometimes it does feel a bit unnerving, almost as if the last year had been some kind of "Total Recall" experience implanted by the Australian Government to appease some kind of weird experiment on memory.

As my former colleagues in Victoria head back to work I do find myself occasionally wondering what they are up to. Are they enjoying the Tuesday "Super Quizzes" in the Herald Sun and who is crooning the song questions? How are the new teachers settling in to their jobs and are the old staff enjoying their new classes? What is going to happen to Essendon and their ongoing doping scandal this year? Selfishly, and possibly a bit narcissistically, I also can't help but wonder if they miss me, if they sit around the staff room and laugh thinking about things that happen last year or quote odd "Canadianisms" that I tried to get the staff using last year.

I am, to my wife's dismay, getting my quotidian dose of both hockey and basketball games. She is, to her delight, catching up on the television series that were either unavailable or a season behind in Australia. Although we do both rue the fact that we will have to rely on ITunes to download the Australian series "Wonderland" and "Winners and Losers".

Overall we, as a family, are glad to be back in Calgary, in our old house, with our old car, our old friends and our (getting older) cats. It has been a lot like putting on all those old clothes that we had in storage, they still fit comfortably but they are just a bit worn around the edges and you know you aren't the same person as who you were when you bought them. There have been moments (usually involving the frigid temperatures or awful weather) where the thought of being back in Calgary permanently has been a bit difficult to deal with but those moments do pass and we are more than fortunate to have friends and colleagues here who continue to voice their

adoration of our return which has gone a long way in making us feel home, again.

Chad Edmonds

Calgary to Spring Gully Primary - Bendigo 2013

It has been a whirlwind experience coming back to Colorado.

I'm happy to be surrounded by family, friends, and the beautiful scenery I call home.

Work has been exhausting but it's nice to know I have a lot of support from my colleagues at work.

I miss my friends in Australia but I'm hoping to make it back for a visit. I hope everyone is enjoying the summer in Victoria.



Theresa Drewer
Grand Junction,
Colorado to
Korumburra Primary
2013

5 scenes of my first month in Hamburg......

Kids arriving at school in the cold.





- + In the ISH gym, basketball match against the Denmark International School....we won!
- + Looks like a prison, but once inside this school is amazing
- One of many canals in Hamburg
- Hamburg is the second biggest port in Europe

James Hill
Belle Vue Primary, Balwyn North to International
School of Hamburg - Germany 2014

We have had a very cold introduction to a winter in Canada, leaving Melbourne when it was 42 and arriving in -20 degrees.........

Our family travelled to LA first and we spent 5 wonderful days at Disneyland where the kids and adults had a great time.

I am teaching at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School in Scarborough Ontario which is about 10km out of Toronto's CBD.

The school, staff and the

students have been very friendly and the transfer into a different system has been smooth.

The Physical Education department are a great bunch of staff to work with and I have been seconded into the rugby coaching fraternity as well.

My teaching load is not too heavy with two math class and 1 PE class per day. I am just now getting used to the fact that the school runs a timetable that is the same every day. Coming from a rotating 10 day timetable in Melbourne was a big difference.

The family has had a thorough introduction to the snow season with skiing trips on weekends and skating lessons.

My children are loving the snow, being able to walk to school and the attention they are receiving as the 'Australians'. Watching the Winter Olympics when it is snowing outside makes it all seem more realistic and Canadians are very patriotic which is very infectious.

We are off to the Niagara Falls this weekend for the Family Day long weekend so we are looking forward to that.

The snow is still a big novelty



Regards,

Brendan Mahony
Trinity Grammar School, Kew to Toronto 2014

How does it feel to be back?

A month after landing back in Canada we're still not sure how to answer that question!

We got home safely, had a lovely warm reunion with our family and friends, received our shipped luggage shortly after, got the cupboards and the fridge stocked, made sure we had working



transportation, got back to work and the kids back to school with their friends all pretty smoothly.



But something is missing and we can't quite put our finger on it. It could be the wildlife, we live very rural, but there are no kookaburra's to be found; I had to buy a lemon at the supermarket the other day - that was different than

picking it off the tree in our backyard; and we still see our Aussie friends and family regularly with the help of Skype; but still - there's something different.

We reckon it's us that are different. This experience has changed our entire family in ways that we simply couldn't anticipate, and we are so thankful for all those changes, because we are all better for it.

Scott had an easy transition back to school with a week of review followed by a week of exams. It didn't take more than a couple of weeks to feel like he never left! He's happily settled back in to the old routine for this second semester. Both staff and students have commented that they loved having our Aussie counterpart for the year, but it's nice to finally have Mr. McEwen back in the hallways of OTHS.

In an effort to combat the homesickness we have dove back into our Canadian life. Hannah and Tyler turned 9 and 7 this week. It's hard to believe these two were only 5 and 7 when we landed in Melbourne last January! They've gotten back

into the swing of things fairly quickly, easily transitioning back to their old school, happy to see the snow and plenty of activities with friends to fit into our schedule.



We're talking all the time about when we'll be able to make it back to Ferntree Gully for a visit, when our new friends will be able to come and see us, and of course when and where is our next exchange going to take us. I'm tipping that we won't be able to resist heading back to Australia for another adventure of a lifetime.



Nancy and Scott McEwen
Ontario to St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully 2013

Living with the memories. The end of a truly amazing year of experiences...

My year in Colorado finished off with lots of farewells and Christmas celebrations.



I said "Ooroo" to Colorado for the time being on December 28th and flew to Vancouver for a few days of sightseeing, flying out on Air NZ at 6:30pm January 1st and arriving in Melbourne on January 3rd at 10:30am.

I was very happy to be back on Aussie soil - but I did experience a really weird moment as I was lining up with my suitcases to go through customs when I realised that this was it. This was the end of the year. I was not returning to the States, or getting on another airplane.



My year of adventure and travel was over. *My life in Colorado was complete.* My exchange year was done......it was a very bittersweet moment for me. However, hopefully my adventures are only put on hold while the bank balance builds up again - many more plans and dreams afoot!!

There are times when I have to stop and really remind myself that I did spend last year overseas teaching! There are times I feel like I have never left and then there are times I feel like I was away for longer than a year. But, this last month has been all about getting "back to reality".

Back to school - new grade level, new principal, new changes - which will make it an interesting year :-) Back to my home, back to my life here. There is still a small part of me that wishes I was walking the halls of Nisley, seeing my wonderful US friends every day. But fingers crossed life will continue to be filled with exciting and interesting adventures even here in Oz!



Candice Huntly
Korumburra Primary to Grand Junction – Colorado
2013

www.teachingsandtravels.blogpost.com

Our month has been full of ups and downs as we adjust from an urban city of 1.2 million people to a rural town of 18000......

My school staff has been so wonderful in helping me get setup and afloat this month. My unit team of teachers have been so supportive with encouragement and resources.

Even though it's been 20 years of teaching, I feel like a first year teacher all over again in this exchange.

One thing, however, that will never change is that kids will be kids no matter the country. The first week of school, my students tested my boundaries like every class I have ever taught. LOL. It's been an exciting month!

I've attached a few pictures of some 'funnier' things we have found in the grocery stores.



- 1. Vegemite in a handy snack cracker pack. ew.
- 2. Pancake mix in a bottle! "Easy as Sunday", it says. LOL.
- 3. **Plastic swatter.** It was so big that we didn't want to find out what it killed!

Nancy Cole

RJ Hawkey Elementary, Alberta to Appin Park Primary School - Wangaratta 2014

After a truly memorable year away in Ipswich, England, it was certainly bittersweet for my wife and I to return home to Hamilton in late December.....

So many great friends and memories left behind but still wonderful to be home to see our families and local friends. Our two daughters had returned from Melbourne and Ballarat to live in Hamilton during 2013 and it is great to have them so close to us again.

I have already received a wonderful bundle of letters from my Year 4s at Claydon Primary School and I have replied with emails and a PowerPoint presentation of my January holiday. The children love hearing about my life in Australia and our correspondence will continue for the remainder of this year at least.

I have returned to my old school, Gray St, to teach a Grade 5/6 class. It certainly takes some time to readjust to the different routines but the experience of last year has already shaped some of my recent lessons, especially with teaching writing.

The photo attached is taken on the beach at Port Fairy and I am wearing (backwards) the Ipswich Town Football Club shirt with Claydon Primary School written on the back. This formed part of the very generous selection of gifts I received when I departed. I will treasure my exchange year memories and experiences forever - a very special time.



Anthony Hill Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School to Claydon, Suffolk -England 2013

We are back.....

The 27th of December saw us pack our 7 big suitcases, one big box of skis and snowboard, a bag of boots, our

hiking backpack, 2 carry on suitcases and 2 backpacks, into our van along with our 3 children and head off towards Calgary.

We had some last minute shopping to do at the Boxing Day sales, as well as a lunch date with our exchange partners. It was great to catch up with Sheena, Brad and the kids to swap stories, information and say farewell.

It was then off to Calgary airport to catch our flights home. We had some excitement with our youngest Lexie vomiting all over the airport floor and getting Greg as well. Luckily we hadn't checked our luggage in, so a change of clothes was had and a few extra clothes in the carry-on luggage to hopefully get us through 24 hours in transit with a sick kid.



Thankfully Lexie was ok and we had very smooth flights home, easily making our connection in LA which Michelle was very worried about.

When we arrived in Melbourne the kids got to go into the cockpit, which was pretty cool.

At the airport we were greeted by family and friends. We had very mixed emotions about being home.

Our house was still standing although the garden was very



overgrown. We spent the first week catching up with friends, family and doing the garden whilst the weather was relatively cool.

We then headed up to the Murray River for 7 nights,

swapping the snow skis for water skis and loved that we were on the banks of the river on that week of 40+ temperatures.





Zach has had a great start to school, loving prep and quickly making some friends. Lexie and Michelle are enjoying being at home, catching up with friends, getting life sorted and getting back into sport. Michelle is back to work (teaching) in term 3 so she is enjoying her freedom whilst she can.

We have survived the transition from cold to hot weather and are now thinking about what our next adventure will be. No doubt it will involve snow!

Greg and Michelle Cowan

Vermont Secondary College to Red Deer, Alberta –

Canada 2013

INTERNATIONAL POSITION - CHINA

- Have you thought of teaching in China?
- Are you currently teaching
- Are you nearing retirement?
- Have you recently retired?

BACKGROUND:



Allan Wilcox is an Australian educator who has had 50 years' experience as a teacher, administrator and Consultant in international schools in North America,

Europe, Australia and Asia.

He has been an elected member of the International Baccalaureate Council of Foundation (1981-86), an IBNA Board Member (1977-79) and a Board Member of the European Council of International Schools (1986-92). He served on several committees for the IB Organisation.

In recent years, he has served on the Advisory Committee for IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) for Cambridge University (UK), has served on the AAIE (Association for the Advancement of International Education) College Board Advanced Placement Diploma Committee, served on the ECIS Board Long Range Planning Committee and during 1994 – 2007 was the CIS Australasian Representative serving the Asia Pacific region.

Since retiring from CIS in 2008 Allan has served on the Board of the Beijing City International School and the Board of Yue Cheng Education, a NFP International Group which has as one of its goals, the internationalization of education in National Schools in China.

In recent years, as more and more Chinese student have sought, and been granted, entry into Tertiary institutions in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and NZ, many of the top level Chinese Secondary schools have introduced English language streams in their senior levels to support the acceptance of their students entering sought after 'western' Tertiary Institutions.

In addition, a growing number of independent organizations have developed in China which prepare students in their final two years of Secondary Education using specific national and international university entrance programs such as IBDP, A Level, CIE, AP, & VCE for entry into specific 'western ' Universities and Colleges.

After discussing this development with several colleagues involved in these institutions at various levels, it became apparent that almost all have one challenge in common – the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified and experienced teachers and administrators.

For the past 30 years, Mavis & I have worked closely via ITESP (the International Teachers Exchange and Secondment Program) with the exchange divisions in Education Departments in Australia, Canada, UK,US, NZ and Germany, arranging Exchanges and an occasional Secondment when requested. We were recently asked to consider using the ITESP Secondment Program to assist with this specific recruitment concern in China.

At a recent ITF orientation session, I realized that the ITF Association has access to both teachers and administrators who have extensive teaching experience as well as already having had experience teaching overseas.

As we will be continuing the discussions next month which began last November in Beijing and are currently considering a Pilot Secondment Program using schools in Victoria, I've asked the ITA Committee to help circulate this information to ITF teachers and administrators via their Newsletter.

PROPOSED:

ITESP Secondment Program (China/Australia)

Obviously we are in the very early stages of development but I'm confident that this could develop in much the same way as we have arranged the Secondment of Victorian Education Department Teachers via the ITF Program in the late 70's and the 80's.

This would require the setting up of a Pilot Program involving an MOU between the Chinese Organization and the participating Education Departments in Australia.

This would require the Education Dept to grant the Seconded Teacher 2 years leave (without pay) and the Teacher would be guaranteed to return to the same (or comparable) position. The teacher would undertake a full time position at the Recipient school for 2 years in line with the normal Teaching workload.

The approved Recipient School (or Educational organization) would provide the teacher (and approved accompanying family) with the same salary and benefits package for 2 years as that provided for an internationally recruited teacher.

These benefits would normally include:

- Transportation expenses to/from the school at the beginning and end of the agreement as well as any home leave agreements
- Appropriate and acceptable accommodation
- Medical coverage
- Retirement fund contributions

Applicants for Senior Administrative Positions would most likely be required for longer period (initially up to 5 years) so are more likely to be Senior Administrators currently nearing Retirement themselves (55+??)

ITA colleagues who may wish to be kept informed of developments as this program develops or who have any general enquiries or comments about this program are welcome to contact:

Allan or Mavis Wilcox at ITESP: cumburri@bigpond.com for additional information.

Note from editor: Updates on this very exciting program will be included in our ITA newsletters for your consideration and to also pass onto other interested persons.

International Teachers Association Social Calendar 2014



South Gippsland

ITF teachers from previous years offer to billet Fellows and their families while you travel around the South Gippsland area. Check out Wilson's Promontory for bushwalking, rail trail and cycling. Visit a wildlife park, enjoy beach activities, camping and indulge in a surf lesson.

Contact: Gary & Sue McGrath on 56624233 (Home)
Korumburra SC 5655 1635 (Work)
mcgrath.gary.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
mcgrath.susan.c@edumail.vic.gov.au OR
Peter McCaughan Ph 5662 4098 (Home)
Leongatha SC 5662 4333 (Work)

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th March

Ballarat Weekend

Ballarat in Central Victoria is most significant from an historical point of view as it was a major gold rush centre. Sovereign Hill Settlement and Gold Museum is a highlight of this weekend away. Enjoy an Aussie BBQ for dinner on Saturday and a visit to the wildlife park on the Sunday to complete the weekend.

Contact: Shelley and Ian Dell 0419152992 ianshelleydell@gmail.com.au

Early winter (date to be confirmed)

mccaughan.peter.w@edumail.vic.gov.au

Aussie Rules Football

Enjoy a game of Aussie Rules at the world famous Melbourne Cricket Ground, site of the 1956 Olympics and 2006 Commonwealth games.

This game takes a degree of courage to play but not to watch so come along and experience the atmosphere.

Contact: Rose Chapple 0407 782 433 rosemary.chapple@marcellin.vic.edu.au

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th April

Geelong Weekend

A satellite city with a country feel. It's the Gateway to the Great Ocean Road. Enjoy fish n chips by the sea, taste local wines, visit the Aboriginal co-operative, walk along the waterfront and see the artistic bollards. Meet up with fellow ITFs at an Aussie BBQ on Saturday night. Adults and children all welcome. You will be hosted in local homes.

Contact: Sue Strong 5222 1460 susanannestrong@hotmail.com

Bendigo

Whilst there is no specifically organised weekend in 2014 the Bendigo Chapter are happy to assist with information and accommodation if you decide to visit this beautiful and historic area. Visit Central Victoria, Bendigo with its wonderful architecture- a city founded on gold in the 1850s. A ride on the Talking Tram will help you get to see the sights. A journey down the Central Deborah Gold Mine is a must. The area is surrounded by many award winning wineries.

Contact: Doug Jamieson 5441 5873

jamo@netcon.net.au

Friday 10th - Sunday 12th October

Healesville Weekend

Visit the Healesville Sanctuary and get up close to some Australian wildlife. Bike along the Centenary Trail to Warburton. Visit some wineries and enjoy a campfire and pizza dinner. Celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving with a BBQ lunch on the Sunday.

Contact: Sheryl Allen 0400 126 011

allemail2007@gmail.com

OR Debra Armstrong 0417 315 801

armstrong.debra.d@gmail.com

Friday 5th- Sunday 7th September

Wodonga Weekend

Activities include a visit to historic Beechworth, Ned Kelly sites and the Rutherglen Wineries. See Aboriginal art, canoe along the Murray and/or bicycle along the rail trail across Lake Hume. Bonfire and BBQ Saturday night, wood-fired pizza Sunday lunch. Homestay and all activities free!

Contact Jan Bedson (02) 6027 1664 or 0419 561 070 bedsons3@bigpond.com

Friday 21st November

Melbourne Farewell Dinner

(Immediately after the DEECD presentations)

This is an opportunity to celebrate the year that was. It is a night to say your last goodbyes and plan your reunions back home. It is a night without the kids where you can celebrate your year with other overseas ITFs, ex-Aussie ITFs and the committee. An event NOT to be missed!

Contact TBA - when advertised via email and newsletter

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA

- MERCHANDISE -



POLO SHIRTS

Printed ITA logo with Navy Trim

Men XXL, XL, L, M

Women 12, 14, 16, 18

\$35:00





POLO FLEECE VESTS

Embroidered ITA logo

Men Sizes XXL, XL, L, M

WomenSizes
12, 14, 16, 18

\$40:00





BASEBALL CAP

Embroidered ITA logo

\$15:00



AUSSIE PINS

Koalas or Kangaroos

Bag of 15 \$10:00



CONTACT:

Sheena Angus angus.sheena.p@edumail.vic.gov.a



TRAVEL MUG

With printed ITA logo

\$15:00

ITA - COMMITTEE

President: Lesley Hall cljthall@optusnet.net.au

Treasurer: Di Leighfield leighfield.dianne.d@edumail.vic.gov.au
Secretary: Maurene Bodie bodie.maurene.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
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Christine Temple ctemp81@yahoo.com.au
Alice Bray alice.bray@gmail.com

Website:Sheryl Allenallemail2007@gmail.comDEECD:Margaret Ormeorme.margaret.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

ITA COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2014

Fairfield RSL at 5.15pm. Railway Place. Fairfield

www.fairfieldalphington.rslvic.com.au

2nd Thursday of the month:

13 March. 8 May. 12 June. 14 August. 11 September. 9 October. 13 November. 11 December

OPALS OPALS OPALS OPALS

LIGHTNING RIDGE OPAL MINES

Thinking opals....see Nick Le Souef at ...

Ground Floor Alice Springs Address:

175 Flinders Lane 75 Todd Mall

MELBOURNE 3000 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

between Swanston & Russell Streets

(03) 9654 4444 (W) (03) 9654 4870 (F) 0419 383 315 (AH)

Nick is a keen supporter of the ITA so if it's opals you want give NICK a call

