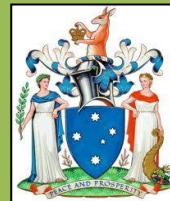




'NO WORRIES MATE' NEWSLETTER



VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

www.ita.vic.edu.au



edition : FEBRUARY_ MAY JUNE AUGUST OCTOBER DECEMBER 2015

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DATE

ACTIVITIES

CONTACTS

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|----------------------|------------|--|
| • Nov | t.b.c. | 2015 Farewell Dinner | Anne Casey | racasey@optusnet.com.au |
|-------|--------|----------------------|------------|--|

Hi to all

The April edition was held over to cover pertinent issues from our ITA Committee – AGM, held May 14th.

Lesley Hall:



The Committee members, both past and present, wish to say a **HUGE THANKYOU** to **Lesley Hall**. After a number of years as President of ITA – Victoria, Lesley has declined nomination as President for 2015. As an ITF recipient, member of committee and as President, Lesley has been a very active and vocal supporter of the International Teaching Fellowship, working closely with the DEECD representatives, Mary Kelleher & Margaret Orme, to ensure the ongoing success of our wonderful program. Lesley has accepted our invitation to remain on the committee for the coming year to assist **Chrissy Temple's** smooth transition into the President's role. Please refer to Lesley's President Report.

A HUGE THANKYOU also to Joan D'Elia, Rosemary Chapple and Alice Bray who have resigned from committee after a number of years.

Committee for 2015:

We warmly welcome new members to our committee:

Kristin Davey - ITF to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – 2014
Wendy Painting – Guelph, Ontario, Canada (currently teaching at Brunswick East Primary School) as our International Teachers Representative

This Issue:

- **President's report**
- **Ballarat weekend**
- **Aussie Rules weekend**

- **Yarra Valley weekend**
- **ITF memento**
- **Accommodation during the year**
- **ITA committee for 2015**
- **Sponsor: LIGHTNING RIDGE OPAL MINES**

A REMINDER: When your 'flash of inspiration' hits, after reading an item in the newsletter, please send me your thoughts or photos on your ITF year!

Look forward to reading your items...

Cheers

Stephen Schneider
editor ITA newsletter
schneider.stephen.gardening@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014 - 2015

This year has been one of turmoil for the executive. Many members of the committee have been impacted by events in the personal lives, which have seen either a disruption to their participation in ITA activities or the need to resign.

I would like to **acknowledge and thank** them for their service in challenging times and for their support to this organization both during this year and over the past several years.

With the diminishing number of VITFs and the loss of these key people from our organization now more than ever their loss to the organization will be felt by all.

On behalf of the committee I would like to say thank you for your work on behalf of teachers both here and overseas. If your circumstances change or if you find that you really miss the camaraderie of the ITA please feel free to nominate again you will be more than welcome.

With the changing of the guard it is important to also acknowledge the members of the committee who have agreed to continue their work supporting both DET and Fellows to create a professional and personal experience unmatched elsewhere in their teaching careers. **Corporate memory is vital to the sustained work that we do.**

Looking to the future we will need to rationalize our activities and expectations in order **to ensure that we still provide the quality of service** in the context of a reducing body of workers.

Thank you to all of our chapter groups. Like us they have been impacted by personal circumstances and reduced numbers of fellows attending the weekends. Their work however is what most fellows take home and carry with them forever. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the central committee who give up many weekends and days in their holidays to participate in briefings, going to the football, the welcome home event as well as attending some of the chapter weekends.

Promotion of the program overseas continues to be a limiting factor. The number of teachers applying in Victoria remains fairly consistent unfortunately we are not getting the matches for them. We need to lobby our politicians to engage with education jurisdictions overseas to expand opportunities. It has been promising to hear the words of Deputy Premier Molino talking about the internationalization of education; he needs to be our first point of contact.

I would like to thank the executive for the honour they have bestowed upon me electing me President of the ITA for the past 5 years, I feel that it is time for a change so I will not be re-nominating for the position.

Lesley Hall
President

BALLARAT WEEKEND

Wild Ballarat - Frontier Towns and Wildlife

On March 14-15, the Ballarat branch of the ITA hosted a wonderful weekend for all the incoming teaching

Fellows. **For those of us able to attend, it was a fantastic opportunity** to learn more about the history of Victoria and meet some of the unique wildlife of the country.

Saturday morning we met up at Sovereign Hill, a gold rush era town that gives visitors a chance to learn more about the influence that gold and mining has had on the area. With period costumes, dramas, mine tours, Red Coats, coach rides, candy-making demos, and even a school, it was fascinating to see what life was like for the first European and Chinese miners and settlers. I was surprised to hear how much gold was actually found here - in the first 9 years of mining, more gold was discovered in and around Ballarat than in the entire rest of the world combined. We were able to watch how gold bricks are made, from the initial melting of the nuggets to the pouring of molten gold into the mould, all using period-appropriate tools. For me though, the hands-on experience of getting to pan for gold in the stream myself made a huge impression. Although I won't strike it rich with the fragments I was able to find, it was very neat to be able to find and pull real gold from the water, right in the middle of Victoria!

After a busy day at Sovereign Hill, we all met up again for dinner at the Ballarat Leagues Club. The food was amazing, and the laid-back environment gave us all a chance to mingle and catch up. **For most of us, this was the first time we'd seen each other since orientation, and it was great to swap stories and talk through challenges that we all were facing.** With great turn out from the returned Fellows, we were able to make new contacts and hear advice from those who had been through similar experiences and lived to tell the tale! By the end of the evening, there had been many laughs and lots of numbers exchanged, many of us feeling a bit more re-energized and richer for the experience.



The next morning we all visited the Ballarat Wildlife Park, for a chance to see and learn more about some of Australia's native wildlife. For many of us, one of the highlights was being able to hand-feed kangaroos, a few of whom had a joeys in their pouch! A tour of the park gave us all a chance to see the animals before some had to head off to catch trains or rides back home. **For those of us lucky enough to be able to stay a bit longer, encounters with Pickles the wombat and Molly the Koala left a real impression** - one sure to be remembered long after the year is over!

On behalf of all the Fellows who attended, thanks again to **Gaye Corrigan** and helpers who organized and host such a wonderful weekend.

Wendy Painting
International ITF – 2015

AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL

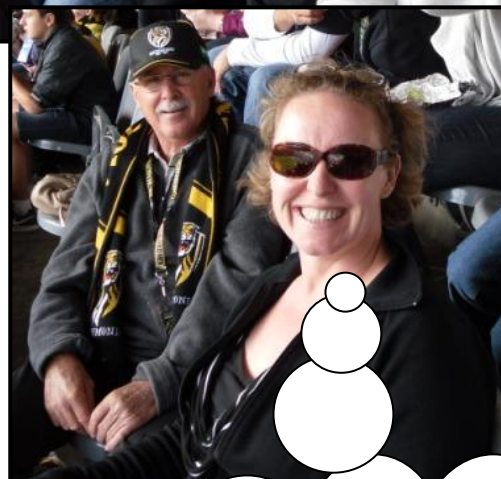
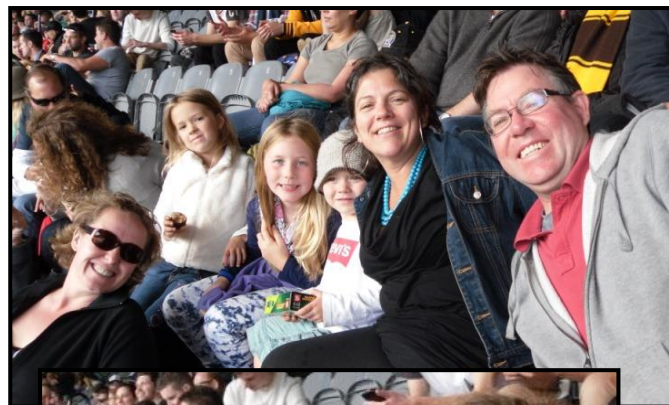
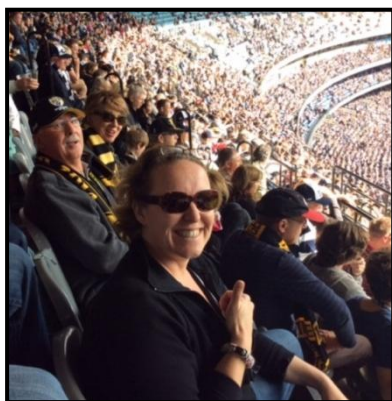
MAY 2ND - 2015

RICHMOND 11.10.76 - GEELONG 12.13.85

Once again, Alice Bray and Rose Chapple organized free tickets for our group of visiting ITF to enjoy a special day at the 'G'.



A sunny day saw approx 20 people - families, fellows and committee members - become part of a good vocal crowd and they enjoyed a close finishing game that was new to most observer.



I am sitting with Rod Casey..... a loooooooooooooong time Richmond supporter, who travelled with his wife Anne (ITF) to Kingston, Ontario, 2009. They are keen to attend the ITA Aussie Football weekends and share their passion/knowledge of the game ..

Richmond has played in each one ...
Richmond has lost each game..!!!

Thanks to
Alice and Rosemary



YARRA VALLEY WEEKEND

The weather was superb for this weekend, although during the week prior there was snow falling in the area.



This year we combined the ITA Yarra valley weekend with Mary's Minnesota exchange gathering. The international student exchange program was also represented, so it was truly a global exchange gathering.

On Saturday we explored the Healesville Sanctuary with a lunch break of a traditional BBQ lunch at Badger weir. The local kookaburra chose to join us for lunch and share the sausages - to the delight of many.



PYTHON !!



In the evening it was a perfect night to enjoy the campfire circle, after sampling Pizza and ice cream for dinner. Marshmallows were also toasted on the campfire.

On Sunday **everyone chose the wine tour**, so after meeting at the visitor centre we set off in a car convoy to sample the wines of the Tara Valley, visiting Oakridge, Domain Chandon and Di Bortoli.



This year **we called it Trina's Tour** as she preselected the locations from over 40 possible wineries.

Lunch of **fish and chips in the park at Yarra Glen gave the children an opportunity to explore the playground**



with the last stop being the Chocolaterie for treats.

The bike ride along the famous Warburton rail trail was



postponed to another time and Rod suggested that bike riders need to start training to participate in the Round the Bay in a Day ride to be held in October. The organisers were both ready for a ride.

Even without the bike ride, it was a fantastic weekend.

A big thanks to the participants, the home stays and the organisers . **It was a group effort and there were 31 people involved this year.** The special efforts of some individuals, such as Ron cooking the BBQ and lighting the campfire, and Mary and Adam organising the Badger Weir venue are worth a mention. The combined contributions of ITA members, previous VITF participants providing home stays and current visiting members and past participants of **the global exchange community enjoying the weekend made it a huge success. Everyone loved to get together and share stories of teaching and travel.**

A big thank you, to **Deb Armstrong** for her **10 years** of support in organising this annual event. It was also great to have ITA committee members able to join in, including a visit by the newly elected ITA President, Chrissie Temple at Di Bortoli winery to meets the visitors.

A weekend like this is such a rewarding reminder of the huge opportunities the exchange program offers.

Thanks to

Sheryl Allen, Deb Armstrong and Mary Moore

ITF - MEMENTO

When planning your ITF year, you always put a lot of thought into what is the ideal gift for the school/staff who warmly welcomed you to their country and school.

My ITF partner, Cliff Williams, from Belleville, Ontario, Canada, decided to plant a Maple Tree in Somerville Primary School's front garden.



Looking healthy .. planted 2009

I wonder if Cliff will return and celebrate Fall!

I purchased a painting from a local Mornington Peninsula artist .. Terence Hadler .



The theme of trees was an uncanny coincidence, as the student/staff at my school gave me yes ... a handmade tree, on which each student placed a bead/leaf to represent them!



ACCOMMODATION DURING THE YEAR...

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE (Homestays) AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO VISIT:



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

Geelong

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. Adults and children all welcome. You will be hosted in local homes.

Contact: Sue Strong : 5222 1460 (not available June and July)

susanannestrong@hotmail.com

Bendigo

Whilst there is no specifically organised weekend in 2015 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.

Doug Jamieson 5441 5873 jamo@netcon.net.au

Wodonga

No weekend is planned for this area in 2015, but plenty of homestay is available when you choose to explore the area or stop off on the way to Sydney or Canberra. Activities can 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.

Jan Bedson (02) 6027 1664

0419 561 070 yackqueen@gmail.com

Phillip Island

Explore the beaches and wildlife of this popular island. Visit the fairy penguins, koala park and Churchill Island which has early history of white man to Victoria.

Email 1. Carlson.kylie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au 2. nrkjcarlson@bigpond.com

Kylie Carlson: 0423 166 311 Nick Carlson: 0423 166 277

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ITA COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2015

Fairfield RSL at 5.15pm. Railway Place. Fairfield

www.fairfieldalphington.rslvic.com.au

2nd Thursday of the month:

11 June. 13 August. 10 September. 8 October. 12 November. 10 December

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