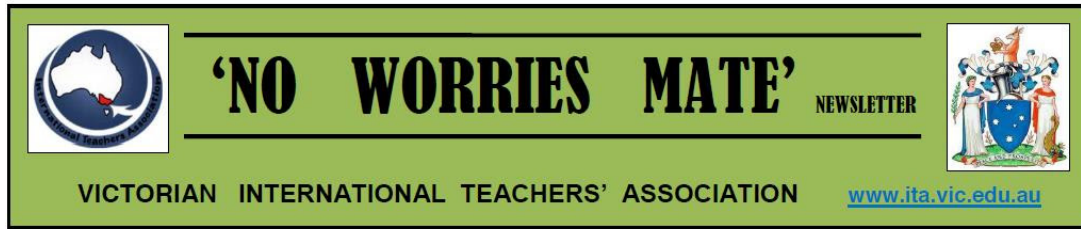


Fwd: Fw: Welcome to the Winter ITA newsletter

1 message

BC Exchange Teachers <bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com>
To: bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com

Sat, Jul 21, 2018 at 12:33 PM



Welcome to the ITA's winter newsletter.

www.ita-victoria.com



President's report

It's not often that I write a president's column for this newsletter, as the ITA is a team approach. However, I have just returned from 9 weeks in North America and felt it appropriate to reflect on the impact of an International Teaching

Fellowship [teacher exchange]. When I first was awarded an ITF in 2000, there were over 70 exchanges heading off from Victoria alone. Four of us were matched to schools in Minnesota. The wealth of knowledge gained in that year was enhanced due to their being several of us [also 2 from NSW and 1 from Qld] to share school tales and professional learning. My second exchange was much different - only 7 of us spread across Canada and Germany. Next year, there are only 2 teachers, at this stage, heading abroad from Victoria.

Since 2000, communication and information sharing has changed greatly. Emails, social media, especially Facebook have allowed the sharing to take a different forum. I love having input and checking out the concerns, appreciations and thoughts on the different exchange teacher FB pages - South Australia, NSW, BC Canada and CEEF Canada.

Thanks to these forums, I have kept contact with the teachers and organisers from Canada and USA and was able to make contact with many over the past 2 months. How exciting to be able to share positives and angsts of our roles as exchange organisation presidents with Catherine in BC. To speak with Melanie and organise a skype session for our return from Ontario. To visit with Scott and Nancy in Ottawa, our lifelong friends we met over 3 exchanges and 2 holidays. To visit my school in Ontario and see my students as they practised for their graduation. To visit with Carol and Bev in Toronto who would love to do another exchange. Then down to Minnesota to catch up with Dan Mikel, the amazing coordinator of the MN program after exchanging to Castlemaine many moons ago. All the coordinators for exchange programs have such empathy and understanding as they have been there themselves and their passion for 'keeping the dream alive' lives on. I think the MN "Aussie Day BBQs" are entering over 30 years of gatherings. After visiting Bonnie [Qld exchange 2001] I caught up with my colleagues from my MN school. Then it was over to New York where plans were made, on exchange 18 years ago, to celebrate in 2018. What a trip that predominantly focussed around teacher exchanges and promoting this great program to the world. Check out some of the photos below.

Thanks to my patient bus driver husband, Adam. We were barely one year married when I suggested I teach in Canada for a year and he give up his job and come along. He's been a teacher exchange advocate ever since.

Don't give up on the thirst to teach in another country - it's the best learning experience. Consider it for 2020.

Cheers, Mary





FOOTY FOOTY FOOTY

IT'S FOOTY TIME!

The ITA is organising a day at the footy.

When? Saturday, August 11.

Where? Lunch at the Kingston hotel - [55 Highett St. Richmond](#) at 12 midday.

MCG at 1:30pm.

It's Geelong vs Hawthorn so it will be a cracker of a game.

We need to get your tickets for this event. These will be given to you at the ground. Tickets are

FREE and limited. You need to RSVP with your name and amount needed for your family.

Tickets first go to ITA members. Other interested people go on a waiting list.

This is a free event for ITA members and their families.

RSVP to Alice at alice.bray@gmail.com or to Barry at barrytalking@live.com

Go Hawks. **Go Cats.**

Coming Up:

- August 4th Briefing Day. The ITA look forward to working with the Department to inform and support the 2019 exchange teachers who are heading off to BC, Canada. This concludes at 1:00 pm in the city. If you are interested in catching up at a local pub afterwards, please email Mary at moore.mary.mk@edumail.vic.gov.au ASAP.

- August 9th - 5:15 pm Meeting and info session - looking after your finances presented by First Bank, specifically for teachers and travellers.

- August 9th - 6:30 pm - Social Dinner at the Yorkshire Stingo. Cnr Hoddle Street

and Langridge St. Collingwood.

- August 11th - Footy Day. See above.

- September 10th - Social Dinner at the Yorkshire Stingo. Cnr Hoddle Street and Landridge St. Collingwood.

- October 8th and 9th October 2018, NCIITE conference for all those involved in teacher exchanges at a global level. Held in NSW and organised by Helen Gregory.





Been and gone - Yarra Valley Weekend.

This was a wonderful weekend of Aussies and Canadians catching up. Great camaraderie around the campfire. See photos above.

News update:

- Have you checked our new web page: [Congrats to Brian, Jo and Savannah Graham who have won a weekend BnB at "Moira Cottage" in Healesville](#). Brian answered the questions for our FB quiz and did a wee bit better than our ITA committee I might add :-). Thanks to those who entered and for feedback on our new web page. Much appreciated.
- Reports should be over now for teachers in Australia. I hear from both teachers overseas and teachers here how much report writing impacts on their wellbeing. I think it's what we are used to and being on exchange certainly takes us out of comfort zone. Reporting is probably one area where the expectations of all school systems differ the most. What remains the same is that it is an essential part of communicating progress with families. -
- Holidays. The school year is over for those overseas and Term 2 break is here for our visiting teachers. Where did you all go? I know some of you have made the

most of interstate trips to get better weather and our teachers overseas are making the most of the long summer break.

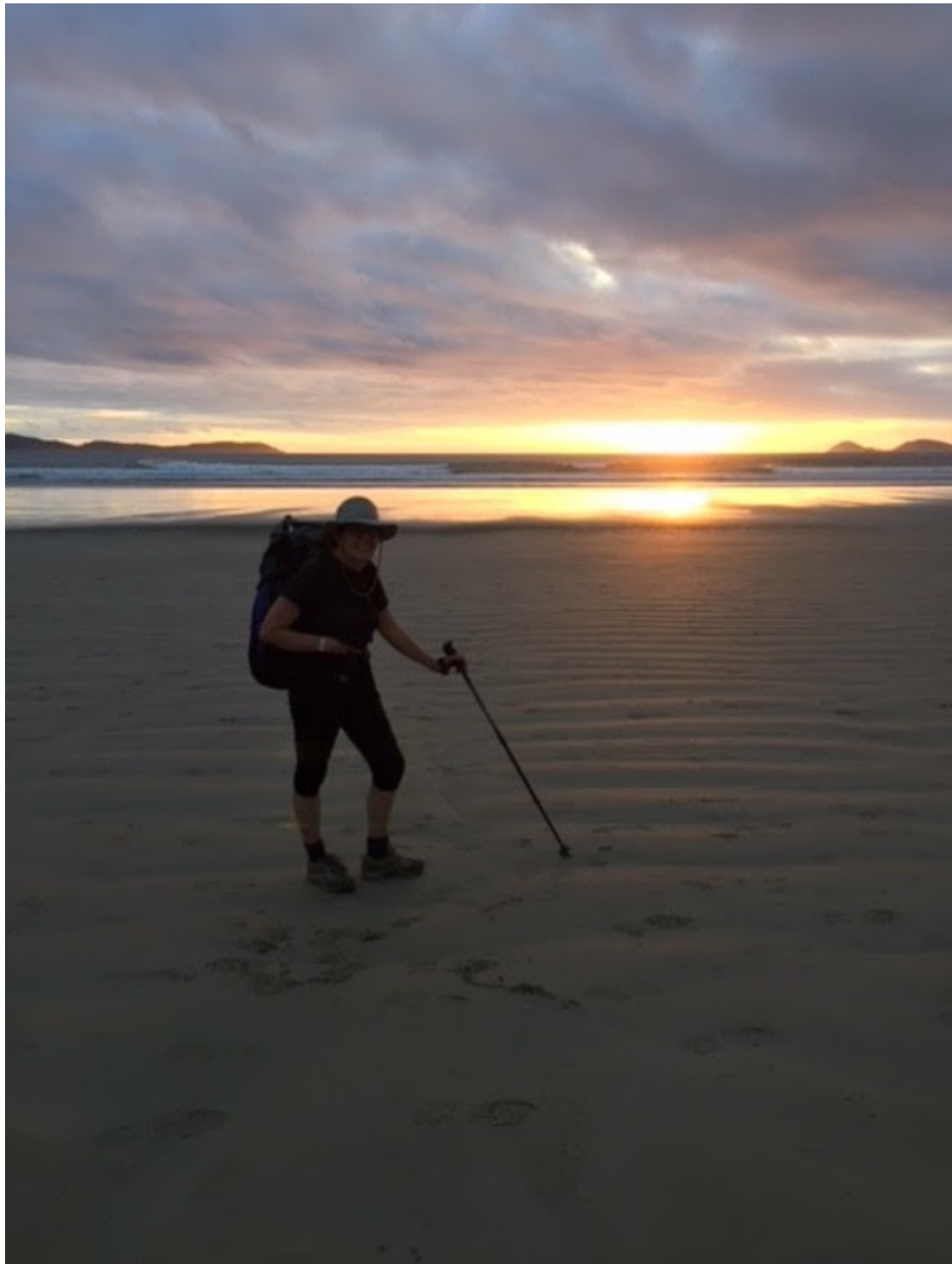
- *Winter. We did warn you that you'd be cold. Our buildings are just not heated and we just don't dress well for winter. It's our own fault. :-). Rest assured. It won't last long before we are breaking out the sun hats and sunscreen again.*
- The ITA AGM was held in May. MInutes are available on request and will be published on our webpage.

OUT AND ABOUT

Nationally:

- Nancy has sent us in some photos. Our web page is full of pictures of SNOW - it's often the thing that is most different between the Northern hemisphere and Down Under. So Nancy and Paul have sent in some beach pictures to balance us out. They are exchanging in beautiful Inverloch where the beach is their backyard. Quite different from their home in Canada.
- The Wilson's Prom weekend was almost agoer. Not enough people responded. Thanks to the 15 who showed interest in Nancy's request.
- South Australia hosted a successful information session for teachers interested in exchanging for 2019 and 2020. There has been some interest through FB for this to happen in Victoria. Please let us know if that's something you are interested in. Below: interested teachers attending the info session.







Nancy and Paul's Aussie Blog

Well, we're back for a second exchange, in Victoria again but in the small sea-side village of Inverloch rather than a busy suburb of Melbourne: we can walk on the beach every day, watch stingrays gliding around the pier, grab (fresh!) fish and chips for dinner, enjoy talking to people on the street, ride our bikes on a network of rail trails, and life is pretty good. We just heard Lake Louise has closed for the season, which makes it official: we've missed a full season of skiing, but we don't actually mind too much! – there is lots to do and see in our area, the Bass Coast.

The rhythm of our lives hasn't altered that much, as we now have Wilson's Promontory, Australia's most-visited National Park, to substitute for our Rocky Mountains. Phillip, French, and Raymond Islands get us close to all the wildlife Australia is famous for. We're happy there are so many backroads in Gippsland: it's great to just get lost for a while, as our GPS is often confused and points out turns that aren't even there.

Our jobs have worked out well for both of us: I'm at Mirboo North Primary school which is a 50 minute drive from our home in Inverloch through beautiful countryside. The school has been very supportive as with any new situation there has been lots to learn: names of approximately 320 students as I'm teaching Physical Education Prep to Grade 6, curriculum differences, colloquial speech, and everything else that goes along with teaching in a new school in a different country. My partner Paul is working and misses his tools that he left behind in Canada, but really enjoys the guys he works with every day.

We have enjoyed the ITA weekends in Ballarat and Healesville as we were able to meet both current and former exchange teachers in Victoria to share stories, laugh together about our differences, and enjoy each other's company. We are looking forward to the next outing which will be a Footy game in August as Australians are just as crazy about footy as we are about hockey.

It's been a great start to the year and we look forward to more adventures in the next 8 months.

We encourage all to apply for an exchange as it is a fantastic opportunity to broaden your experience and enhance your teaching.

Nancy and Paul

OUT AND ABOUT

Internationally:

- Canada. Teachers going on exchange in 2019 met in Barrie in June for their briefing session. The ITA President missed it by a few days, however, reports were that they were most excited.
- Canada. Aussie teachers in BC met in Victoria - the Vancouver Island Victoria. The ITA met up with the tail end of the conference - well organised by Catherine, it was good fun.
- Canada. BC newsletter for summer is out. Go to: <https://wordpress.com/page/feb122010.wordpress.com/1509> to get the latest June newsletter. If that doesn't work for you, email

Catherine Gagnon

President, BC Exchange Teachers' Association

International Teaching Fellow, Australia 2011

BCExchangeTeachers@gmail.com

to be on the mailing list.

- High Commissioner in Canada hosted a gathering of teacher exchange alumni to emphasise the liaison between Australian and Canadian educators. Can you see anyone you exchanged with or know?



Victorian International teaching FELLOWSHIP

DET report for the International Teachers' Association Annual General meeting

DET is pleased to provide a report on the Victorian International Teaching Fellowship (VITF) for the International Teachers' Association (ITA) Annual General Meeting on 10 May 2018.

2017-18 has been a busy year for the International Education Division (IED), with a number of changes and new staff coming to work on the VITF program. We would like to acknowledge the long-standing contribution of our colleague, Marg Orme, who retired in 2017 after managing the program for many years. The new team has appreciated the opportunity to work on the program, learn about its history and the important role of the ITA in supporting VITF participants and alumni.

In 2017, DET commenced an internal review of its Overseas Professional Learning Experiences (OPLEs), including the VITF and two short term exchange programs we run with Aichi in Japan and the Republic of Korea. The purpose of the Review was to ensure that DET's OPLEs are aligned with the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) priorities of professional leadership and excellence in teaching and learning and to complement DET's approach to professional development for teachers and school leaders. We are also committed to ensuring that the VITF (and our other OPLEs) are supporting teachers and school leaders to develop intercultural capabilities and global citizenship skills. In an increasingly globalised world, where international perspectives are crucial to the future success of this next generation, it is essential that we provide teachers with the skills they need to embed global citizenship and intercultural capabilities in their classrooms.

As with previous years, DET ran a number of sessions for inbound and outbound participants including welcome and farewell events, pre departure information sessions and the research presentation day for returning VITF participants. These events have been well attended and supported by the ITA. We prepared evaluations for all of these sessions and are always open to feedback and improving the utility of these activities for VITF participants.

Throughout the year, we also made some changes to the program with a view to reinforcing its prestigious nature and the unique opportunity it provides educators to gain a global perspective on education. This included revisiting the research project that all participants undertake while they are on exchange and building a greater understanding of the project with participants (and their principals), including prior to departure. We employed Associate Professor Libby Tudball, from the Faculty of Education at Monash University to guide the 2018 VITF participants with their research projects. This includes a number of webinars while the teachers are on exchange and culminates in the teachers presenting their research upon return in 2019. Libby has also been working closely with all of the teachers to ensure their projects align with the FISO, their school's

strategic plan and other Education State priorities.

We also encouraged all Victorian participants to include the VITF research project in their PDPs for 2018. Mary Moore from the ITA kindly prepared guidance material for teachers and principals to undertake this. By including the VITF research project in participating teachers' PDPs we hope to further reinforce the important contribution the VITF research project and the exchange itself makes to teachers' professional development.

In 2017-18, we also updated all of the VITF materials for the 2019 application process. The purpose of the refresh was to ensure all materials were current, accurate and conveyed the professional development opportunities offered by the VITF and the research project.

The application process opened later in 2018 than in previous years due to a number of unforeseen factors, which meant we had a shorter application time window than in previous years. We endeavoured to maximise the potential matches between eligible Victorian applicants and overseas teachers. Application materials were promoted on the DET website, through IED's Internationalising newsletter and through targeted approaches to teachers who had previously expressed interest in the program. The information was also provided to Catholic Education Melbourne and Independent Schools Victoria. Recent DET changes to how we communicate directly to schools meant that these channels were the most expedient way to promote the 2019 VITF application process. We will continue to investigate additional approaches for next year. We appreciate the ITA's support in promoting the 2019 program via their communication channels. We look forward to working together with the ITA on the VITF over the coming year as we pursue opportunities to further strengthen the program and the unique opportunity it provides to teachers and school leaders from Victorian schools.

**THANK YOU FOR READING OUR
NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SHARE
WIDELY.**

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE
MEMBERSHIP OF PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE EXCHANGES. WE
RUN ON THE SMELL OF AN OILY
RAG AND MEMBERSHIP IS OUR
ONLY AVENUE FOR FUNDING.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ITA
OR EXCHANGE TEACHING,
PLEASE CONTACT THE
PRESIDENT. WE ARE HERE TO
HELP.**

President: Mary Moore –

moore.mary.mk@edumail.vic.gov.au

Membership: Maurene Bode -

bodie.maurene.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Secretary: Barry Beechey -

barrytalking@live.com

Treasurer: Di Leighfield -

dileighfield@yahoo.com

Social: Alice Bray - alice.bray@gmail.com

Web page: <https://www.ita-victoria.com/>

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/ITA1975/>

[International Teachers' Association]

"Keeping the dream

alive!"



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