

Hostels an Issue in Tassie

I have just returned from the Federal Conference in Adelaide, where I was rejuvenated again with ICPA. The Federal Council are working very hard for that Tertiary access, please keep up your memberships to show your support.

In Tasmania we are trying very hard to get the State Government to realise the importance of more accommodation for Launceston and the North West Coast. I find it quite appalling that the State Government is happy to accept that children in Years 11 and 12 are forced to cook, clean, supervise themselves in some of the hostels, have no internet access and get themselves to school on time, and then wonder why the retention rate is so low.

I have heard of one child who has three jobs to put himself through Year 12, as Youth Allowance does not pay for his board and food due to having to rent a house with two other students, paying around \$400.00 per week board. I am in hope after a phone call from the Finance Department in the Department of Education, asking if they could discuss the situation. Jan Burbury came over from Oatlands, her wealth of knowledge as an ex school teacher was invaluable. We felt very positive after the meeting, but I have heard nothing yet as to a solution, so another email went off today.

Our State Government announced in our local newspaper on Saturday 4th August, "Tassie urged to cash in on opportunity: Asian school kids push" stating Education Minister Mr. David Bartlett would like to find ways to boost public and private overseas student numbers to at least 5000 a year. Mr Bartlett said Tasmania was perfectly positioned to be the "education island", particularly in the senior secondary sector. I am not sure which planet I am on, but if we can't offer hostel accommodation for rural and remote students how are we going to find accommodation for 5000 overseas students?

We will plod on with the Media's support in this and please excuse if you hear me on the radio *again*, but I feel very passionate about this.

Thanks to all members with their support in relaying their stories regarding accommodation situations as well as their emails to Local Government. It is very much appreciated. Hopefully it will lead to a successful conclusion.

*Pip Allwright
Tasmanian State President*



*Right: Tasmanias at Federal Conference.
L to R: Yvonne Stair, Judy Terry, Susan
Jahnig, Jan Burbury and Pip Allright*

Life Membership

At the June meeting of the North East (SA) Branch, Life Membership was bestowed upon Jane Gloster. Jane served as Branch Treasurer, Publicity Officer and President during her time in the district. Jane also served as SA State Council Secretary, Vice President and President, before moving to the Adelaide Hills with husband Richard and son William.

Glennis Crawford spoke of Jane's dedication and commitment, before branch President Colleen Grove-Jones presented Jane with the Branch Life Membership badge at the meeting held at the Burra Hotel. Obviously, an enjoyable lunch followed the meeting.

Jane – who has also co-convened federal conferences - was elected to Federal Council at the 2007 AGM in Adelaide and is sure to continue to serve ICPA well.

Ros Breeding

Publicity Officer, NE Branch



*Right:
North East Branch (SA)
Life Member and new
Federal Councillor, Jane
Gloster, with Duncan
Chessel, guest speaker
at Federal Conference
in Adelaide*



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