



# Lights Out

**Australian Boarding Schools Association Ltd.**

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## The Birth of a Boarding Organisation

In terms of Australian boarding, the birth of the “Australian Boarding Schools Association” (ABSA) is significant. For the first time, Australia has a professional organisation which encompasses both boarding employees and boarding employers. It is also a truly national boarding organisation.

Having employees as part of ABSA is vital, for any national boarding organisation is going to be heavily influenced by the staff it serves. As it has been said, “no school can rise above its common room” and in the same way, no boarding institution can rise above its staff. So I am delighted that ABSA incorporates boarding staff. This conviction is enhanced by the terrific work done by the Australian Boarding Staff Association in the past which, together with The Australian Boarding School’s Association (TARSA), are the two parent bodies that have given birth to ABSA. With this duty fulfilled, both these parent organisations have been wound up and incorporated into ABSA.

Having boarding staff as part of ABSA, gives a utility and practical dimension to the organisation which it so desperately needs if it is to remain relevant to boarding schools and hostels. The excellent staff professional development provided by the Boarding Staff Association must be maintained, for the quality of in-service activity provided by Richard Stokes and his team has been outstanding.

However, for ABSA to have the political influence necessary to deal with such weighty issues as national boarding standards, and to be able to act as the principal advisor to governments on boarding matters, the organisation must also encompass employers. Similar organisations in other countries have boarding organisations which carry significant political weight, and we must also have the broad spectrum of talent and influence which comes from having

a national boarding organisation which embraces both heads of boarding institutions as well as their staff.

ABSA will be the peak boarding body in Australia for school-aged students. It must necessarily be national in its outlook and even international, as it seeks out best boarding practice from around the world. The charter and purpose of ABSA are described elsewhere, but essentially, it includes the provision of professional development for boarding heads and boarding staff. It will arrange conferences and workshops. A web-site will be offered to assist with professional development. Consultancy will become available and a national training scheme for all boarding staff will be put in place. We will lobby government on behalf of boarding schools and liaise with similar bodies from around the world. We will undertake research and advise on vacancies and employment opportunities in boarding.

It is anticipated that ABSA will also become involved with projects such as deciding whether national boarding standards should be introduced and if so, what these standards should be. Close links will be forged with those organisations that control most of Australia’s boarding institutions such as AHISA, CEO, ISCA, NARSA and so on. Most of these organisations will have representatives on the ABSA Committee.

We are lucky to have Richard Stokes as our first Executive Officer, and “Lights Out” will continue as the ABSA magazine. The Committee will form over the next few months so that there is a good representation of both heads and staff. We must also ensure there is good regional representation.

There already exist many strong and active re-  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Birth of a Boarding Organisation (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

gional boarding associations. I think this is excellent, and there will be nothing done other than to encourage the continued operation of such organisations. However, in coming under the “umbrella” of ABSA, these regional organisations can operate not just in regional theatres but in national and international theatres as well.

Finally, I need to record my thanks to all on the foundation committee of ABSA for their energy and commitment in establishing ABSA, and by recording the enormous privilege I feel in being ABSA’s first Chairman.

Dr. Tim Hawkes  
Chairman,  
Australian Boarding Schools Association



## Membership Information

*Membership invitation letters will be sent out with fees during January.*

Membership is in three categories:

**School Membership**—any school or hostel which pays the appropriate School Membership Fee.

**Affiliate Membership**—all boarding staff employed in a school which is a School Member. Affiliate Membership is free.

**Associate Membership**—anyone who pays the Individual Membership Fee but is not entitled to be an Affiliate Member.

## Aims and Objectives

The Australian Boarding Schools Association Ltd was formed with the following objectives:

- (a) To promote high standards of residential care of children in Australia by encouraging interaction between:
  - (i) executives such as school principals and practitioners such as boarding staff;
  - (ii) government and private residential organisations;
  - (iii) schools, hostels and other residential organisations;
  - (iv) primary, secondary and tertiary organisations.
- (b) To provide a national organisation that might liaise with appropriate bodies to:
  - (i) set up professional development opportunities and national training schemes for those involved with the residential care of children;
  - (ii) establish national benchmarks for the effective and responsible care of children in residential care.
- (c) To promote the benefits of residential education to the wider community.
- (d) To encourage collegiality, the sharing of best practice and the exchange of ideas by:
  - (i) communicating with members using means determined by the Board from time to time as outlined in the Regulations;
  - (ii) running conferences and meetings at international, national and regional levels;
  - (iii) providing access to research findings and articles on residential education.
- (e) To represent the interests of members to governments, other organisations and the community.



## Encouraging Careers in Pharmacy

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia encourages ABSA members to recommend that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students consider a career in Pharmacy.

The Guild offers 3 scholarships each year to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to undertake undergraduate and graduate studies at an Australian University leading to a registrable qualification as a pharmacist.

The scholarship scheme aims to achieve a two fold benefit. As well as providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with an opportunity to enter a career in pharmacy, the scheme also begins to address crucial access issues for indigenous communities.

It is widely reported that many Aboriginal patients feel uncomfortable or embarrassed when accessing mainstream health services. This presents a barrier, even if the health service, such as a doctor’s surgery or pharmacy, is readily accessible to them, as in urban and regional centres. The presence and involvement of health professionals who understand the culture and background of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients can be a huge factor in building trust and contribute to better health outcomes.

Three scholarships of \$15,000 per annum are offered each year with funding provided by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Health and Ageing.

Details of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme are available on the Guild’s website at [www.ruralpharmacy.com.au](http://www.ruralpharmacy.com.au)



## Duty of Care Certificate Course Marking Scheme

ABSA has taken on the challenge of providing a marking scheme for schools, and will issue an ABSA certificate of completion for all books completed at a reduced cost to schools. This service is directed at those who do not wish to use their work as ‘prior learning’ for the Associate Diploma Course at A.C.U., but do wish to have the booklet marked and a certificate issued. Each booklet, upon completion, needs to be ‘signed off’ by the person’s supervisor and then forwarded to ABSA for marking. Upon completion, ABSA will issue an invoice for \$50 (plus \$5 GST) to cover the cost of the marking (plus any postage and handling costs). A certificate will be issued to all successful candidates. We encourage all schools to take up this offer as the saving is \$200 per book and should allow all people working in boarding to be certified as completing the course.

# The New Board



## CHAIR:

### DR TIM HAWKES

B Ed [Hons] (Durham), Grad Dip Ed Studies (UNE), Ph D (Macquarie). FACE, FACEA

Headmaster: *The King's School*

Dr Tim Hawkes is a leading authority on educating boys, and is Headmaster of one of Australia's most well-known and respected boys' schools, The King's School, Parramatta.

Dr Hawkes has been a strong contributor to educational debate and is frequently called upon as a conference speaker both nationally and internationally. He was instrumental in establishing *The Australian Residential Schools Association (TARSA)*, writing *Duty of Care: A Certificate Course in Residential Care*, and he is the author of *Boy oh Boy*, a best selling book on how to raise and educate boys.

Dr Hawkes has also written a popular series of books on leadership called *Learning Leadership*.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MR RICHARD STOKES

Richard grew up in Adelaide and completing a B.A. and Diploma in Education at the Flinders University of South Australia. He took on the role of Assistant Senior Housemaster at St Peters Lutheran College, Brisbane in 1982, after working full timer in boarding at Immanuel College, Adelaide during 1980 and 81. He was founding Housemaster of Ludcke House in 1983, and was appointed co-ordinator

of Boarding in 1984. He moved to St Joseph's Nudgee College as Dean of Residential Care (now Director of Boarding) in 1996, and retired from boarding and took up full-time teaching in 2006.

He previously was President of the Australian Boarding Staff Association for many years and was on the organising committee since its formation as the Queensland Residential Schools Staff Association in 1986.

His other interest is basketball, coaching the Nudgee Under 15A's and First V. He is married to Karen, often known as the voice of ABSA due to her answering of the phone and organisational prowess with conferences.

## VICE CHAIR: MS PAULINE TURNER

Pauline is the Director of Boarding at PLC, Sydney and was the Secretary of the Australian Boarding Staff Association inc, having been on that management committee since 2003.

## SECRETARY: MS LIZ CROWHURST

Liz is the Head of Girls Boarding at Pembroke School in Adelaide. She joins the board as President of the Heads of Boarding Association of South Australia.

## TREASURER: MS MADONNA HENNESSY

Madonna is the Director of Boarding at St Vincent's College in Sydney and continues her input from being a member of the old committee since 2006.

## OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:

**MS RACHEL BARTOLO**—Rachel is a member of the Boarding Staff at All Saints College in Albury, NSW. She was a member of the Staff Association committee for the past two years.

**MR NICK BATES**—Nick is a Housemaster at Melbourne Grammar School and joins the board to represent the Victorian Boarding Schools. He was a key member of the committee which organized the AHISA Boarding Conference in Melbourne during 2007.

**MS ROSIE BRODERICK**—Rosie is Head of Boarding at Wilderness School in Adelaide and is a key member of the Heads of Boarding Association in South Australia.

**MR NORRIE CANNON**—Norrie is the past Vice President and Treasurer of the Staff Association, was previously Director of Boarding at Knox Grammar School and now works for Tutoring Australasia.

**MRS MARILYNN FREITAG**—Marilynn bring to the Board the Western Australia perspective, having been the Chair of the W.A. committee of ABSA for some years. She is presently Head of Boarding at St Mary's A.G.S. in Perth, and next year takes up the challenge of being Head of Boarding at Scotch College, Perth. She has been on the Staff Association committee for four years.

**MRS ROSALYN LINDSAY**—Ros has been a member of the Staff Association committee for three years, and fills in on the boarding staff of schools in Tasmania. She has previously held the positions of Head of Boarding at Canberra Girls Grammar School and Principal of PLC, Armidale

**MR BRAD PAPWORTH** - Brad is a Housemaster at The Kings School, Sydney and was previously a member of the Australian Boarding Staff Association committee.

**MRS TINA TWIGG** – Tina is the Head of Boarding at Canberra Girls Grammar School and joins the board to represent the boarding schools in the A.C.T. and surrounding areas.

**MR GARTH WYNNE**—Garth Wynne is the Headmaster of Christ Church Grammar School in Perth. He brings to the inaugural Board of the organisation experience of working within the residential communities of schools in three states of Australia and the United Kingdom. Garth is currently a member the Boarding Reference Group of the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia and of the Standing Committee of AHISA.



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## **Coming Events**

# **INAUGURAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA, A.C.T.**

**Sunday 28**

**September to Wednesday  
1**

**October.**

**Dinner in the Great Hall  
at Parliament House, a  
visit to the A.I.S. and a  
chance to visit Canberra  
during Floriad!**

**Further details to be pub-  
lished early shortly.**

**Have you got an idea for  
a new name for our news-  
letter? Do you have a  
flair for designing a new  
logo? We are looking for  
people to send us ideas  
and designs as soon as  
possible.**

