ISCA Executive Director handover

Last week Stephen Kroker and I attended the ISCA National Consultative Group meeting held in Canberra. This was Bill Daniel's last meeting as the ISCA Executive Director and at the meeting Bill handed over to the newly appointed ISCA Executive Director, Dr Yvonne Luxford.

Yvonne has had extensive experience in the health sector and was CEO of Palliative Care Australia (2010-2014). Previously she has worked at the University of NSW and also held senior positions with the Royal Australasia College of Physicians.

Interestingly, Bill Daniels’ 14 years of ISCA leadership and advocacy was preceded by over 30 years in the federal public service including many years in the federal education department. It was a pleasure to be part of the ISCA National Consultative Group in farewelling and thanking Bill, a key person in independent schooling. Bill’s final comments focused on the early leadership of both Adrienne Jericho (LEA) and Peter Crimmins (Christian Schools Australia), who were instrumental in the formation of the ISCA National Consultative Group.

The agenda for last week’s meeting included:
- ISCA research
- Funding arrangements for 2015
- Federation White Paper
- Taxation White Paper (GST on school fees)
- Students with disability
- Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group
- ACARA
- NAPLAN online

Independent schools’ national representatives who attend these ISCA meetings include:
- Adventist Schools Australia
- AHISA
- AIS Executive Directors
- Anglican Schools Australia
- Australian Association of Christian Schools
- Australian Council of Jewish Schools
- Australian Parents Council
- Christian Education National
- Christian Schools Australia
- Greek Orthodox Schools
- Islamic Schools Association of Australia
- Lutheran Education Australia
- Montessori Australia Foundation
- National Independent Special Schools Association
- Steiner Education Australia
- Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly

Australasian Sleep Association: World Sleep Day

As part of a World Sleep Day initiative, we have developed a FREE sleep education package for schools in Australia and New Zealand. This year, World Sleep Day is on 13 March 2015 and we need your help in spreading awareness and to educate school kids about the importance of sleep. The theme for the day is ‘Sleep Well, Live Well’.

The packages are designed for teachers to provide information to students aged 5-18 years about the importance of sleep and how to get good sleep. For a copy of the education package, please send an email to Sarah Biggs at sarah.biggs@monash.edu with the name of the school, a contact name and email address before Friday 13 March - World Sleep Day.

There are no strings attached.

We are keen to get as many schools involved as possible. If you would consider circulating this offer of involvement to Lutheran schools across Australia, it would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely, Dr Lauren Nisbet, MBBS PhD (Member of Australasian Sleep Association)
Helping Hoops is a Melbourne-based charity that runs free weekly basketball programs for disadvantaged and disabled children.

The Adolescent Success 2015 Conference Organising Committee value the contributions of all educators and believe that sharing your own ideas is an important part of the learning process.

Have you ever...
• developed a great lesson or unit of work and wished you could share it with all middle years educators?
• come to a conclusion about teaching or learning which has changed your practice?
• put into practice a theory or concept which you believe benefited your students?
• made a difference to your students’ learning?

If you answered YES to any of these points and you’ve always wanted to present your ideas/thoughts/practice to an audience of middle years educators, then we invite you to submit an abstract for consideration as an oral presentation (45 mins) or a lightning talk (7 mins) with a focus on one of the following strands:
1. Wellbeing
2. School leadership
3. Curriculum
4. Pedagogy

Abstracts should be a maximum of 300 words. Visit www.adolescentsuccess.org.au/abstract-submission-2015/ for further details and abstract submission instructions or telephone the conference secretariat Expert Events on +61 7 3848 2100 or email adolescentsuccess2015@expertevents.com.au
Have you had a look at the LEA e-library? The old LEAdr has been replaced with an e-library that provides resources for Christian Studies, worship, staff spirituality and ministry personnel. We have excellent educators in Lutheran schools and we look to sharing their expertise among schools. If you have a Christian Studies unit, worship or devotional resource, staff retreat resource or pastoral care policy please email a copy to LEA (lea@lutheran.edu.au) so that it can be shared through the e-library.

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<th>Who needs a Lutheran College? Values Vision and Vocation</th>
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<td>Tom Christenson has a streamlined book that provides a great basis for considering the purpose of Lutheran education for today’s world that faces issues such as global warming, religious extremism, population growth, famine; Who needs a Lutheran College? Values Vision and Vocation.</td>
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<td>Luther maintained that institutions and not just individuals had a divine calling inssofar as they serve real human needs.' Lutheran educational institutions need to be guided by these vocational questions:</td>
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<td>- ‘What deep needs of the world that we are called to address through the process of education?</td>
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<td>- What kinds of persons does the world need in order to serve these deep needs?</td>
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<td>- What are the real needs of students who we are called to meet through this educational process?</td>
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<td>- How do we educate such persons?’</td>
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<td>'Lutheran colleges [schools] ought to be places of vigorous critical discourse where the most serious issues and the most challenging ideas are discussed.’</td>
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<td>This is a must read for Lutheran school leaders. <a href="http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/38516624?q&amp;versionId=51048019">http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/38516624?q&amp;versionId=51048019</a></td>
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<th>Service learning study tour date claimer</th>
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<td>LEA will be offering a Service learning study tour in Melbourne with the support of The Edmund Rice Centre on the 1st and 2nd June 2015. The purpose of the study tour is to provide learning opportunities for school leaders in the area of service learning. It is hoped that during the study tour school leaders will grow in their understanding of what service learning is and isn’t.</td>
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<td>Expressions of interest are to be directed to Anne Dohnt (<a href="mailto:anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au">anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au</a>) .</td>
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<td>Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German pastor and theologian who had a striking journey and public witness against the Nazi regime. Thursday 9th April 2015 is the 70th anniversary of his martyrdom. A series of events have been planned in Adelaide. Please visit <a href="https://bonhoeffer2015australia.wordpress.com/">https://bonhoeffer2015australia.wordpress.com/</a> for further information or contact Di Thiele 0420 945 525 or <a href="mailto:ditheliving@gmail.com">ditheliving@gmail.com</a> for further information.</td>
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[5 March 2015]