



WELCOME



With many new board members in our schools following AGMs recently, it was good to see so many from schools in NSW (and a contingent from Canberra) at the joint AISNSW and MAF Governance Workshop

held at Montessori East in Sydney recently. The importance of not only an understanding of responsibilities of board members but also the obligations to protect the financial affairs of the school cannot be underestimated. Board members are required to take all reasonable actions to ensure that no financial harm comes to the school they govern.

It is also important to think about a sound board self-assessment process whose objective is to help the board improve its own work. This process can develop the board's team building skills, provide structure for problem solving, and increase accountability within the organisation. When did you last carry out a self-assessment of your board?

Are you planning to come to the National Summit to be held in Uluru from 31 August to 2 September? Many school leaders and board members have already booked and I am looking forward to seeing every school represented at this important event. The Summit will provide an opportunity for MAF, principals, business manager and boards to collectively set the future direction for the sector and address key opportunities and challenges. We have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Steven Gould, an inspirational and professional facilitator. Initially from a human resource background, Steve has facilitated a wide range of seminars focused around leadership, people management, strategic business, organisation change and futures

studies. A member of the Association of Professional Futurists and a full institutional member of the World Futures Studies Federation, Steve is currently undertaking his doctoral studies (PhD) at the University of the Sunshine Coast with his thesis titled 'Strategic Foresight Leadership: Critical Elements'.

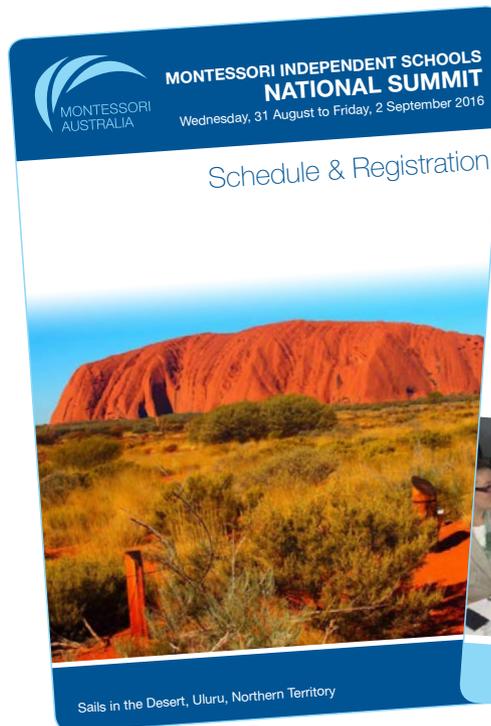
Don't forget the Business Manager's Forum which this year is being held on 11 October in Melbourne and will be hosted by Melbourne Montessori School. This is an opportunity to network with other business managers and look at emerging issues relevant to financial management of our schools.

Christine Harrison

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Government Representation ISCA and VRQA

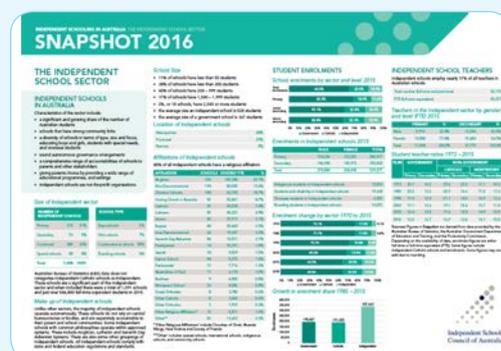
The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) represents the interests of the Independent school sector at the federal level. ISCA regularly runs National Consultative Group meetings, that provide the independent school sector with an update on relevant matters. Click on the link below to read our report from the most recent National Consultative Group meeting:

<http://montessori.org.au/download/ISCA160518NCGMeetingReport.pdf>

With this issue of the Board Bulletin, we have also emailed out ISCA's 2016 Snapshot document, which summarises the current state of independent schooling in Australia. This Snapshot document is an excellent summary that can be shared with school parents.

Montessori Australia also attends state-based government meetings whenever possible to continue its involvement in conversations with regulators and accreditation bodies. Our report on the recent Victorian school regulator's Annual Board and Stakeholder Breakfast can be found at the link below:

<https://montessori.org.au/download/VRQA160512AnnualBoardStakeholderBreakfast.pdf>



AISNSW Governance Workshop for Montessori Schools

A crisp Saturday morning in Bondi was this quarter's meeting place of NSW and ACT Montessori Principals, Business Managers and Board Members for a governance workshop co-hosted by AISNSW and MAF. The purpose was to raise awareness of legal obligations as directors of public companies; to examine the relationships between the School Board, the Board Chair, the Principal and Business Manager; and to promote best practice in the governance of independent schools.

As well, this was a valued opportunity for networking between fellow schools and for all to see the mature environment at Sydney's impressive Montessori East. For NSW attendees in particular, the workshop provided six hours of the mandatory 12 hours of professional development required for NSW Board Members in each three-year period.

- Business Managers and Board Members enthused over the analysis of financial case studies from the wider independent schooling sector, recommended financial literacy for Board Members, standardised financial KPIs, red flag indicators and performance reports.

- Principals buried themselves in standardised reporting frameworks for Boards overall and other recommended governance tools.
- All attendees discussed delegation between Boards and Schools, the documentation and relationships that best support success, and agreed that mutual respect, open dialogue and transparency are key values.

Over lunch, Board Members of the Canberra and Montessori East schools, which both have rich 35-year histories, decided to explore mutual visits to observe and share experiences of different Board meetings and general strategic approaches. Both Boards have since exchanged emails and discussed attendance for the upcoming Montessori



AISNSW Governance Workshop

National Summit in Uluru. This offers another high-value opportunity to form national connections, share experiences, develop best practices and to be involved in shaping the national agenda for Montessori in Australia.

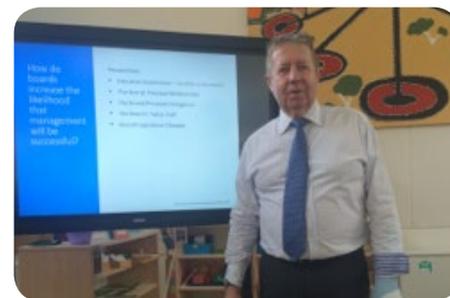
**Antares Wood, Deputy Chair
Canberra Montessori School**

Text from Chris Duncan's slide below:

How do boards increase the likelihood that management will be successful?

Perspectives:

- Executive Supervision
- The Board/Principal Relationship
- The Board/Principal Delegation
- The Board's 'Value Add'
- Recent Legislative Changes



Chris Duncan from AISNSW

Montessori Boards seeking confidential support are advised to contact:

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feature school

CABOOLTURE MONTESSORI SCHOOL



Caboolture Montessori School

A Board Powering Forward...

Christine Harrison recently spoke at the Caboolture Montessori School Board Meeting, offering a talk about Montessori Australia's work to support the Montessori sector and particularly independent schools. Deputy Principal, Jai Bishop also gave a talk about his role at Caboolture Montessori School and the school's plans for the future (including construction of a new building starting soon to cater for growing enrolments). Principal Yvonne Rinaldi wrote a blog about the evening and has kindly offered to share this for our feature school article this term.

Board meetings at Caboolture Montessori School (CMS) are strategic, effective and occasionally even inspiring. Last week was definitely exceptional, thanks to our special guests.

We were honoured by the visit of the President of the Montessori Australia Foundation (MAF), Mrs Christine Harrison. Christine Harrison has been involved in Montessori education since 1985 and was Principal of the Canberra Montessori School, one of the largest Montessori schools in Australia, for over ten years. She is the founding Chair of the Montessori Australia Foundation.

Today Christine travels the globe to carry the message of Montessori and last week we heard Christine recount the enterprising history of the Foundation and the services they offer to all 'Montessorians' and their schools. We heard about programmes MAF staff are developing with persons with dementia, indigenous children, quality assurance programmes for schools, teacher training and much more.

Christine works incessantly with the Australian Government to promote Montessori education and adds a strong voice in the arena of early education and independent schools. MAF has come a long way in a very short time: from a few hard working volunteers to a considerable and professional team of approximately 20 staff members, still working hard. We acknowledge and thank Christine for taking time out of her busy schedule to share with CMS Board members her life's work.

The evening continued with exciting information about progress achieved of

our planned high school. Jay Bishop the Deputy Principal provided the Board with information about his role in supporting the Board's Strategic Plan with the implementation of a CMS Middle Years Programme. Jai spoke about the research he is working on with the Principal, in addressing a forward path to a Montessori secondary environment that includes the principles of Dr Montessori (The Erdkinder) and the contemporary and local needs of our students. Jai shared his experience with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme and how conducive this programme would be in a Montessori context.

Jai also spoke about the work he is doing in addressing CMS curriculum in the learning area of technology and the way we intend to differentiate by integrating and connecting thinking strategies to a hands-on environment. Jai's passion and energy level was felt by all!

Both speakers were inspirational and enriched our knowledge and strategic direction.

We take this opportunity again to thank Christine Harrison and MAF staff for what they do in keeping Montessori alive; we thank Jai for coming onboard and supporting school growth and we thank our industrious and caring Board for the work they accomplish in leading our amazing school to a secure and sustainable future.

Yvonne Rinaldi

Principal, Caboolture Montessori School



Christine Harrison with Caboolture Montessori School Principal, Yvonne Rinaldi



Christine Harrison with Nick Willemsen President of the Moreton Bay Montessori Association – Caboolture Montessori School

UPDATES

For a copy of all MAF updates sent to schools go to
<https://www.montessori.org.au/updates>

Did you know?

Australia's strong population growth has implications for the number of new schools which will be required in the future. The following table projects school enrolment growth over the next decade and estimates the number of new schools that will be required across different sectors.

Projected enrolment growth in all sectors, 2014 to 2023

	2015	2025**	Change (no.)	Equivalent number of new schools*
Government Schools				
Primary	1,484,249	1,637,834	153,585	420
Secondary	942,011	1,112,599	170,588	467
Total	2,426,260	2,750,433	324,173	887
Catholic Schools				
Primary	403,910	437,037	33,127	75
Secondary	361,147	404,810	43,663	99
Total	765,057	841,847	76,790	174
Independent Schools				
Primary	246,917	277,281	30,364	58
Secondary	292,460	360,020	67,560	129
Total	539,377	637,301	97,924	187
All Schools				
Primary	2,135,076	2,352,152	217,076	547
Secondary	1,595,618	1,877,429	281,811	710
Total	3,730,694	4,229,581	498,887	1,258

Source: Australian Government Department of Education and Training

* Based on average school size by sector for 2015 derived from ABS schools data.

** Note: Projections beyond 2015 impacted by shift of Yr 7 from Primary to Secondary in WA & QLD

MAF EVENTS

Many MAF Events may be of interest to Board members.

A full list of events on offer can be found at <https://montessoriaustralia.org.au/events/2016-events>

Date	Place	Event
15 & 16 July 29 & 30 July 12 & 13 August 26 & 27 August	Perth Adelaide Melbourne Brisbane	MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP 6-12 – PETER ERSKINE \$270 subscribers, \$360 non-subscribers
19 August	Melbourne	PRACTICAL LIFE WORKSHOP 3-6 – AMY KIRKHAM \$90 subscribers, \$120 non-subscribers
20 August	Sydney	ENCOURAGING CREATIVE WRITTEN EXPRESSION WORKSHOP 6-12 – FIONA MACKENZIE \$180 subscribers, \$240 non-subscribers
31 August to 2 September	Uluru	MONTESSORI NATIONAL SUMMIT \$660 subscribers, \$880 non-subscribers
8-11 September	Melbourne	MEETING IN THE MIDDLE \$270 subscribers, \$360 non-subscribers
24 September 1 October	Adelaide Perth	SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE WORKSHOP 0-3 – SARA BRADY \$180 subscribers, \$240 non-subscribers
11 October	Melbourne	BUSINESS MANAGERS FORUM \$180 subscribers, \$240 non-subscribers
18 October	Brisbane	MONTESSORI ECEC CENTRE DIRECTORS FORUM \$270 subscribers, \$360 non-subscribers

