



FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

MEDIA RELEASE

Public Education: Building Australia's Future

The Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of NSW's Annual Conference was held on July 31st, and August 1st and 2nd at the Penrith Panthers Club, Mulgoa Road Penrith NSW 2750.

Officially opened by the Hon. Verity Firth, the Minister for Education and Training on Friday, 31st July 2009, the Conference theme showcased the qualities of diversity, inclusion and excellence that make NSW Public Schools, the greatest sphere of change for the next generation.

Hot topics for discussion at this year's conference included the selling of Hurlstone Agricultural school land, an Ethics pilot as an alternative to Special Religious education, unflued gas heaters in schools as well as the contentious League tables debate. Resolutions such as profits from the sale of school land benefitting the school instead of Government coffers, replacement of heaters in schools and the rejection of League tables as they invade the privacy of students and could segregate public schools who are already experiencing difficulty, generated heated debate. Delegates from every education Region of NSW also voted on issues in special education, seatbelts in buses, staffing in schools and the impact of recent changes to Centrelink youth payments.

Delegates were given the opportunity to participate in workshops on topics as diverse as resilience, technology in the classroom, behaviour programs and canteen management.

The Annual Conference Dinner was a great success with guest speakers, Ron Delezio's presentation for the Day of Difference Foundation and the unusual but highly entertaining presentation on Astronomers behaving badly by Fred Watson. This night was also an opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work done by individuals and groups within schools. The annual P&C awards were presented to some enthusiastic and deserving people.

The Federation would like to congratulate the following councillors who have been elected by the Conference delegates: Senior Vice President – Mr Steve Carpenter, Metropolitan Vice President – Mr John Webb, two Country Vice Presidents – Ms Mary Lawson and Ms Tracy Robertson and our new Publicity officer Ms Helen Walton.

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Tuesday 4th August 2009.