



# Board acts on member concerns

**Mark Northam**  
IEU Organiser

**The Board of Studies (BoS) has revised draft syllabuses after consultation and thanks to input by members, achievement standards will be built in.**

Global descriptions of student achievement will be provided to assist teachers. Primary teachers in Catholic systemic schools had a particular interest in the provision of a consistent framework across subjects and this has been reflected in the reworked syllabuses.

The Board also acted on a concern expressed by IEU members (at Council meetings and other forums) that the syllabuses were content heavy.

Further consultation will take place early next year

## **RIP School Certificate**

The School Certificate in its current format concluded with the 2011 exams. Next year school-based assessment (moderated by data from previous years), assisted by an optional online Literacy

and Numeracy task, will be in place. The notion of a broader, cumulative record of achievement has been well received by teachers.

The BoS has developed an extensive document, the NSW Record of School Achievement, to assist the transition to revised arrangements.

The new credential will report on student achievement in Stage 5 using A to E grades (or equivalent) in the same way that currently exists at the end of Year 10. The significant change is the extension of grades to stage 6 preliminary (Year 11) courses.

The NSW Record of School Achievement will not be a 'one point in time' document but a record of achievement until a student leaves school (prior to the HSC).

Of interest to the IEU is the issue of school assessment and the necessary professional development required to apply statewide standards. Consistency of assessment can only be achieved by

workshops which allow for judgments to be compared.

## **A time for thanks**

At this point in the year it is appropriate to extend thanks to the IEU members who represent the IEU on Board committees.

Larry Grumley has continued as the IEU nominee to the NSW Board of Studies in 2011, and is member of the BoS Computers in Examinations Reference Group (a group convened to advise on issues over greater use of computers in external exams).

Larry is a regular attendee at the IEU Education Issues Committee where he has kept members up-to-date with Board issues. Larry's analysis is highly valued, as is his dependable and timely communication with the Union.

Dayle Costello is the IEU representative to the NSW BoS Primary Curriculum Committee. Dayle's informed reports to the IEU Education Issues

Committee ensure that important issues affecting the primary sector are known to the Union.

IEU reps on standing committees in 2011 were Lisa Buxton (Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee), Jayne Campbell (Special Education Advisory Committee K – 12) and Veronica (Vera) Mitchell (BOS VET Advisory Committee).

IEU representatives on the NSW BOS Australian Curriculum Consultation Committees during 2011 were Jane Atalla, Joan Byrne, Mary Hor, Elizabeth-Anne Banfield, Damien Sligar, Carlo Tuttocore, Michael Gallagher, Pat Devery, John Raftery and Peter Moore. Rowan Kelly has recently been appointed to the Information Technology Industry Curriculum Committee.

The Union sincerely thanks all of the IEU representatives for the hours of work, the commitment and the significant efforts they make to ensure that the 'teacher's voice' is represented in these important professional forums.

## A better Christmas gift



Canhelp founder Colin Woodley trains teachers in Nepal.

**By diverting \$15 earmarked for a Christmas present to Canhelp, Pamela Malone has gifted a Nepalese community a trained teacher, an early childhood centre and a playgroup.**

IEU Member Pamela became aware of CanHelp a few years ago when her local paper featured a story about her old primary school teacher Colin Woodley, the founder of Canhelp (formerly Nepcan).

"My children became sponsors of a child in Nepal," Pamela says.

Later, all the teachers in Pamela's TAS Department at Mater Marie

Catholic College, Warriewood, decided to spend the \$15 for staff Christmas presents on sponsoring a teacher in Nepal.

Since then, they have provided enough funds to fully train a kindergarten teacher, who has become the principal and founder of an early childhood centre providing education and a playgroup to the community.

"It's amazing that \$15, which is nothing to us, has had such a huge impact on the community.

"Without the sponsorship, there wouldn't be teachers or classes available."

**It's amazing that \$15, which is nothing to us, has had such a huge impact on the community**

In Nepal, school teachers are paid about \$100 a month, and teaching is not considered a desirable profession. Few teachers are trained or are able to attend professional development classes, and they have difficulty being able to afford professional training.

Canhelp's Sponsor a Teacher program requires a one-off payment of \$175 and for this the Nepali teacher will attend an intensive three-month training program in Kathmandu.

The program is offered by Canhelp's partner agency The Socio Economic Welfare Centre for Energetic Women.

It's planned to start next year with full class of 24 Nepali teachers, so 24 Australian sponsors are needed.

Canhelp will organise the exchange of email addresses between the Australian sponsor and Nepali teacher and ideally the Australian teacher becomes a mentor.

If you would like to learn more about Canhelp's teacher training program, email [teaching@canhelp.net.au](mailto:teaching@canhelp.net.au) or visit [www.canhelp.net.au](http://www.canhelp.net.au).

## Are you a well organised person?

### School Visit Co-ordinator

The Union is seeking a person who will be based in our Parramatta office to schedule visits to schools by the Union's member benefits team.

The applicant ideally will have knowledge of the operation of Independent and or Catholic schools.

The position involves liaison with school secretaries and IEU school based representatives to arrange the most suitable times for recruitment visits to schools.

Duties include general office support and secretarial duties.

Starting date is negotiable, preferably the commencement of Term one 2012.

The IEU offers excellent working conditions and a competitive salary rate.

**Resumes can be emailed to:**

**[joanna@ieu.asn.au](mailto:joanna@ieu.asn.au) or phone**

**Joanna Kotsakis on (02) 9779 3200**

