



Newsletter

December 2023

I hope that the end of the year preparations are going well and that term four has been a good one.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hastings Boys Community and the friends and family of Rob Sturch. As I'm sure you all know now, Rob passed away last Wednesday night. Rob had been battling with throat cancer for a number of years now. Rob has spent the last 41 years working in boys' schools in New Zealand. 21 years as Head of Hastings Boys and prior to that, 20 years at Kelston Boys. Rob's funeral will be held at Hastings Boys High School this Wednesday at 11.00am. ABSNZ is a better association from having Rob involved for so long. Thousands of teenage boys in New Zealand have benefitted hugely from Rob's care and leadership. Rest in Peace Rob.



Our Heads Conference in 2024 will be held in Christchurch in conjunction with Christs College. Dates are the afternoon of Wednesday 15th to lunchtime on Friday 17th May. Thank you to Garth Wynne and Stephanie Kane in advance of the conference. Further details to follow early next year.

There will be an ABSNZ Senior Leadership Conference in September next year in Dunedin. Thanks to Nigel Hunter from John McGlashan plus staff from Otago Boys and Kings High. It should be a great couple of days. Dates will be confirmed early next year.

Thank you to those who were able to bring staff to the 2023 IBSC Conference which was held at Westlake in July. The 2024 IBSC Annual Conference is being held at Harrow School in London from July 1-4 (last week of term two). Registrations are now open. <https://www.theibsc.org/conferences-events/2024ac>

In early November around 15 of us met at Rongotai College for a follow up piece of work with David Hansen following the initial work we did with him in February this year. We will present a plan at the Christchurch Conference in May around the future direction of ABSNZ. Thank you to those members who were able to attend.

One thing that came out of that work (and a follow-up Executive meeting) was that it would be good to hear from all of you about how you see ABSNZ and the direction we plan to go in. Susan Hassall is intending to hold a number of lunch meetings in each region for heads of ABSNZ schools during the second half of term two and early term three next year. This will be your chance to give your feedback and have a say on our Association.

For nearly 20 years now we have held our annual fees at \$500. We will need to increase them next year. We will confirm the amount at the start of next year.

Thank you to all our sponsors for their on-going support of ABSNZ. Please consider them when renewing/reviewing/beginning any connected business at your school.



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