



Seasons Greetings,

The year is just about to end and I am sending New Year and holiday greetings to all of you. This is a celebrating season and the year has been a busy one with an increase in both membership and employment issues.

Reminder

The ISEA office will be closed from Friday 18th December 2009 and re-opens Monday 18th January 2010. We recognise that this might prove inconvenient for some members and so some limited email response will be available during this time. Also, telephone message will be checked periodically. Please email admin@isea.org.nz or telephone 09 833 9796 but please be patient. Don't forget to check our website for employment articles and fact sheets on employment issues www.isea.org.nz.

Redundancies

Unfortunately, there has been a rash of last minute redundancies at some schools creating an immense amount of extra work on our staff and stress on many members. This sudden trend has brought it home to me just how valuable it can be to belong to ISEA for support and advice. In addition, it illustrates the importance of negotiating strong collective agreements. One member, who had worked without an agreement for nearly a decade, told me that she didn't want to negotiate her individual agreement because she didn't want to be seen to be "rocking the boat".

Now the 'captain' has tossed her overboard. So please don't be complacent about your conditions!

But more about this issue next year.

In the meantime, the Executive joins with me in wishing all our members and members' schools a relaxing break, a safe holiday and a fabulous 2010.

Wishing you the peace, joy, and love of the season.

Grant Gillon,

Chief Executive Officer

ISEA

