

Message from Brian Brecht

Founding President of the Federation of Junior Deaf Education

Delivered at the PCDE 40th Anniversary Cocktail Party - March 2002



“First of all, thanks to the Committee for the invitation for my wife and myself. It is a great pleasure to be here and I feel very honoured by the invitation.

Forty years ago the seed was planted and the Federation, as it was then known, came into being. At that time, there were some parent groups associated with particular schools. Mr Rex Crab, a Wollongong teacher, floated the idea of an organisation to which all parent groups could be invited to become members. An initial meeting was held and I believe that this was at our home. From this meeting, the Federation for Junior Deaf Education, now the PCDE, came into being with myself being elected as President.

From then on the road was quote bumpy for a while, negotiating for registration etc. Thanks to the then office holders and my wife things started to come together. It was rough at times. I can remember my then Treasurer, Kevin Summerell, phoning me to say, “ I can’t present a financial statement at the meeting – no money, can’t buy stamps” - so we overcame that ourselves.

Things progressed very well and many objectives were achieved and from my observations, when I read Sound News, this is still happening. Deaf education has come a long way and I am sure that a lot of this is due to the pressures we have brought to bear on various Departments. Well done.

In closing may I say that I feel honoured at having been a part of this and I feel sure that more improvements will eventuate.

My great thanks to my wife and the various committee members that I was associated with over the years that I held the office of President.”

Brian Brecht
March 21, 2002