



socioeconomic status families in the area. Our local schools lose enrolments when parents choose private or public schools in Dubbo, taking advantage of the free daily bus transport, or choose to send high school students to boarding schools.

Like many rural towns, Wellington occasionally finds it difficult to attract faculty-specific staff, but many newcomers fall in love with the picturesque town's peaceful, laidback lifestyle and make it their permanent residence — once they make the brave decision to cross the sandstone curtain! Teachers often stay for their entire career, contributing greatly to wonderful community organisations such as the Wellington Amateur Theatrical Society, Wellington Arts, Rotary, the Wellington Show Society and the Eisteddfod committee.

An added advantage of life in Wellington is that the town has most essential services, is welcoming, housing is affordable and there is as much or as little to do socially as one chooses.

Our teachers: Both the local schools enjoy a mix of young and experienced teachers, but like many primary schools, the ratio of male and female teachers is heavily tilted towards female staff. Some of the younger teachers at the high school are from the Central Coast area and Hunter region.

Our focus: Presently, Wellington TA is focused on informing the community about the need for greater public school funding, encouraging all teachers to be a member of Federation and ensuring staff are informed of their rights and responsibilities.

Members are encouraged to attend any of the training days run by Federation, especially those held in nearby regional centres because other training opportunities can involve great distances, time and expense.

A recent highlight: The Wellington TA held a combined public education/Federation Centenary Dinner in November last year, where we were honoured to host Deputy President Joan Lemaire, who spent some of her early teaching career in Parkes.