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**THE ROLE PLAYED IN THE  
COMMUNITY BY RETIRED SCHOOL  
PRINCIPALS**

A Thesis Presented to  
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In Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Educational Administration

by  
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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not been already submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

Signature

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## ABSTRACT

The approach to the research was influenced by a broad based literature review that covered readings concerning retirement, the aged and the community. Literature indicated that we live in an ageing society, where the aged are active and concerned people. As a change process retirement requires planning, the understanding of the value and importance of leisure and the ability to adapt to lifestyle changes. It shows there are leadership opportunities in the community for active retirees and there is a responsibility for those older adults to show their accomplishments, talents and skills. Literature shows that retirement brings options and challenges. This is the starting point for the research.

The purpose of the research is to investigate if former school principals play an active and influential leadership role in the community, and why they choose to pursue this particular role. Accordingly, the subjects of the study are former school principals who have finished their working lives and have entered into retirement.

The research problem inquires into the retirement lifestyle of each case study, with an emphasis placed on personal interest, work, leisure, organisational membership, self education and community participation and involvement. Highlighted is the fact that retired school principals have much to offer the community. They have time, adequate resources, health and energy, knowledge and experience and the need to spend their lives in a useful and meaningful way.

Former principals found it necessary to adapt to many changes on leaving the workplace. For some the acceptance of their new role was initially a difficult one. The roles taken by retired principals permit them to bring leadership skills to the task, thus giving them influence in the community. There are organisations within the community which support and are supported by retired principals. These organisation have influence in the community. Consequently, former principals' participation in community activities reflect the community's need, attitude and response.

The inquiry into the leadership role played by former school principals was conducted through fifteen case studies. A questionnaire, centred around the search for appropriate data, was formulated and presented as a face-to-face interview. Gathered data was categorised, analysed and conclusions drawn.

The findings from this study suggest that most retired school principals are active in the community, as participants and as leaders. In an endeavour to structure a personally satisfying retirement lifestyle, they use their leadership skills developed in schools in order to focus on activities that encompass all facets of their lives. Clear demarcation between their interests, work, leisure, organisational membership, education and community involvement is difficult to achieve, but former principals exhibit a total dedication to the role they take in the community. They have made for themselves a lifestyle that is satisfying and fulfilling to each individual, while helpful to a community in need of a workforce, direction and leadership