

Tarro PS 50th Anniversary Principals' Speech

Official guests, parents, community, students and staff.

Today we gather to celebrate 50 years of quality public education here at Tarro.

I would like to begin with a very quick history of the school.

50 Years Ago

The establishment of our school was approved by the Minister for Education on the 5th June, 1959.

It was officially occupied on 30th January 1962, and officially opened on 6th July 1962 by the Hon. E. Wetherall (Minister of Education).

The school at the time, comprised of a brick veneer building which contained four classrooms, office, staffroom and clinic.

The construction cost was exactly 20,175 pounds; 12 shillings and sixpence.

Construction while commenced by K. Manning P/L was completed by J. Hutchinson, due to contractual complications.

The beautification of the school grounds included the planting of brush box trees were donated by Newcastle City Council and gums and flowering shrubs were given by the Parent and Citizen Association.

The main school activities of the day, included student performances at a school fete and at Commonwealth Day.

Excursions comprised of visits to the Children's Public Library and Art Gallery in Newcastle.

The key visiting demonstration was that of mouth to mouth resuscitation given by Maitland Ambulance.

The P&C were active in providing a radiogram, public address system, library books, sports equipment and a flagstaff.

The staff were Mr Bowers (Principal) and two teachers.
There were 59 boys and 46 girls. (105 students).

25Year Ago

On 9th March 1987, the then Principal Mr C. Morton, presided over the school's 25th Anniversary.

Highlights from Mr Morton's speech, were that the 1987 school year began for the very first time, with the introduction of the four term year, and that children as young as 4 1/2 years of age were now eligible for enrolment.

There were "betterments" with Ancillary Staffing following the appointment of a full-time Clerical Assistant being Mrs J. Spearpoint.

School photos had just been taken and the Swimming Carnival had been conducted.

Today 2012 and 50 Years on!

The advances in educational theory and practice from the 1960's to today have been profound, not only in Australia, but around the world.

We now live in a global society, where information is instantaneous and demand for quality education as a pathway to better career opportunities, and quality of life, has never been higher.

The classrooms of the 1960's have dramatically changed, with significant advancements in Information Communication Technologies; Pedagogy (which is the science of teaching); National Professional Teaching Standards; Institute of Teachers Accreditation; Professional Learning; Performance Management; Curriculum; Access; and Equity.

For those who have not stepped into a classroom for a few years or even longer, you will see first-hand what I am talking about.
Long gone are the "chalk and talk days"!

However, one constant that hasn't changed is the importance of education in making a "real difference" to lives.

Our mission here at Tarro is to, "Create Opportunities".

The “2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians”, acknowledges the value of 21st Century Australian Education in equipping young people with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values for life.

To this end, schools play a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and wellbeing of all young Australians.

This very point is not lost here at Tarro Public, as we together, as students, parents, community and educators build the future.

There will be, and there always will be, change and challenge ahead for us, such is the nature of life, and I wonder what education will look like in another 50 years given the changes over the past 50, but rest assured, the quality of education, with its innovation, creativity, opportunities, values and standards will not diminish here at Tarro Public.

Thank you and welcome back to Tarro!