



News Articles
-Byamee St

Treasure hunt for time capsule

Way, way back in 1966 (you can say that if you were born anytime after 1967!) a time capsule was buried to mark Dapto Primary School's 90th anniversary.

The idea was that the mementos would be dug up on another momentous occasion in the future. Small problem: the precise resting place of the time capsule has long since been forgotten.

Hence, with Dapto Primary's 125th anniversary celebration fast approaching, the old school yard is looking like a giant gopher colony.

During the term two holidays, local historian Col Rutledge joined the school's general assistant Kim Wall to excavate a number of possible locations, without success.

"It's been a bit like a gold dig, but we haven't hit paydirt yet," Dapto's relieving principal Justin Quinn said yesterday. "We're hoping to hear from a past student, teacher or parent who might remember where it was buried."

They hope to find it before the anniversary celebration on August 30-31, so if you were paying attention in school in 1966 give Short Orders a call.



Dapto Primary School Year Five students Catherine Eman, 10, and Kellie Robinson, 11, join the hunt for a time capsule buried on school grounds in 1966.

Picture: WAYNE VENABLES



DAPTO PUBLIC

We work as a team to provide a quality learning environment

Dapto 1876-1991

Dapto's first teacher, Mr Joseph Bayliss, was appointed to the school on August 7, 1876 with 38 pupils enrolled. The school was situated on the Princess Highway on the site of the present Dapto College of TAFE. In 1877 there were 48 pupils.

By the end of 1895 the enrolment was 164. More buildings were now needed to overcome the overcrowding. It was decided to move Dapto Public School to a more central site in 1900.

Dapto enrolments continued to climb with 300 pupils in 1909 with a staff of five teachers.

In the early 1930s plans were prepared for a new school with three classrooms costing \$250 pounds. It was opened on July 11, 1933 at the corner of Byam and Mowarra Streets where it still stands today. Our class uses one of these original classrooms.

During the 1960s the population continued to increase and further brick buildings were added. Today over 450 pupils attend the school, many coming from the new housing developments at West Dapto.

Research: Suzanne Masella, Dadi Vajic, Shelley Kerr, 6Q

What's in a name...

Although there has been some disagreement about the origin and meaning of the name, it most likely comes from the Aboriginal word meaning "Plenty Water". The western portion of the Biosa lands towards West Dapto was called "Dapto" by the Aborigines.

— by Andrew Hammond and Nathan Dean, 6Q

In tune

Dapto Public School have always had excellent choirs through the years, but this year's choir (of approximately 30) have worked hard and achieved high standards.

We performed at Gleniffer Drive in an Education Week display. Then came Dapto Mall where we performed the 1930s Medley for their Spring Fair presentation.

Next came the Illawarra Choral Festival at the Wallongong Town Hall where our individual item was tremendously successful.

The Instrumental Group is formed from primary students, many of whom are talented musicians. The purpose of the group is to learn to play together.

Many times are being played in rounds with various instruments.

— by Rex Bourne

Helpful parents

Many children's parents come up to help us. Some help with reading, computers, kindergarten groups and sport days.

— by Luke Shipworth — 5 years

Parents and teachers from other countries come to our school to talk about their country of origin.

We learnt about these countries: Finland, Germany, Uruguay, Pakistan, United States and Vietnam.

One man who came from Germany gave us some gingerbread biscuits to taste. Another brought slides to show us about Finland. We liked learning about the customs and the way of life in other countries.

— by Bianca Pritchard — 7 years

Learning to think...

The Thinking Skills Group is for children who really enjoy the challenge of solving problems.

Each week Mr Vernon, our Principal, conducts the 40-minute lesson. So far we have discussed the logic of aggression, performed science experiments and designed a life.

We talk about lots of things too. One debate was whether or not petrol cars should be banned.

We formed and held a discussion and the group had to find ways of solving problems such as how to determine the mass of a dinosaur.

The topics are stimulating, the lessons enjoyable and there are children from all over the school in the Thinking Skills Group.

— by Sue Cass, Rachelle Canale and Daniel Willis



□ ABOVE: Amos Koeller and Megan Pratt with an original stone from the year Dapto Public School was founded in 1876.

□ BELOW: Dapto's school choir in period costume (clockwise from top left): Donna Kerr, Dallas Loomes, Shelley Kerr, Terry Rust, Leanne Caddick, Melissa Booth, Arny Bowditch, Louise Porter and Clifford Ryan.



□ Solving maths problems (front table, from left) Owen Rao, Brad Robinson, Rebecca Zabkar, Mrs S Williams, Michael Mullin, Matthew Clark and Julia Koeller.

Camping out on the farm

Last term Year 5 went on a camp to D-laroo Farm on the Shoalhaven River.

We went on a night bushwalk and the owner told us some alarming stories. Some children were scared so we all stayed together for safety.

We had a talent quest and each cabin had to perform a different circus act. We played games and sketched pictures and went on a 10km hike in the mountains. When we got back we were exhausted. We had a great time singing around the campfire.

— by Leanne Caddick

In July the first class children from Dapto Public School went to see the Bernie Cinders Fire Safety Show at Crown Central, Wollongong.

It was very funny and exciting. There was a puppet called Bernie Cinders-Bernie and a fireman Rex talked to us.

— by Jessica Thornton

Sport has a proud history at our school

Dapto Public School has a great tradition in sport, and many students have gone on to represent NSW and Australia.

For competition within our school we have four sports groups. They are:

DIAMOND named after Bob and Peter Diamond, both ex-pupils of Dapto Public School who represented Australia many times at rugby league and toured with the Kangaroos.

BEACH — William Beach was a Dapto citizen from age four. He was educated at Dapto and became a blacksmith. He trained at Mallet Creek and went on to become world rowing champion in 1884, a title he successfully defended six times.

WONGAWILLI — this coal mine opened here in 1888. It was bought by the Hoskins for the Sixty-works in 1961. A number of fathers of children from our school work there and a number of our school families live in the historic village.

MARSHALL — Sarah and Henry Osborne came to Dapto in 1825 to take up a 2568 acre Grant which they called Marshall Mount (after Sarah's maiden name). At one stage they owned all the land from Mullet Creek to Macquarie Rivulet and from the mountains to the lake.

— by Olivia Mitchell and Tanya Ring, 6Q

Dapto joined the Aussie Sportsperson team this year with the introduction of a 12-week Sportsperson program designed to introduce modified games and rules in junior sport.

Sportsperson aims to improve the children's game skills (eg throwing, catching etc), and develop self-confidence and social interaction skills while providing an understanding of fair sporting behaviour.

Sportsperson games of volleyball, netball, cricket, football, touch football and basketball are coached by Youth Leaders from the Dapto High School.

Environmental care

The environment group drew labels and then pasted the labels on to envelopes so they could be reused.

We have a compost heap and children on a roster system feed it every day. We have planted trees, seedlings and shrubs in both our playground and the roundabout outside the school.

Visitors come to talk about the environment. The children wrote to the Wollongong Council to save the West Dapto Woodland. The children made posters about plastic at school and put it in the school library and the Dapto Mall. Lots of children like to belong to the Environment Group.

— by Louise Berry, 2W



□ Young environmentalists (from left): Louise Berry, Sharon Baxter, Ryan Brophy, Aaron Redman and Hayley Dean tend a young tree in the school grounds.

ILLAWARRA MERCURY SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

□ Today's feature was compiled by students at Dapto Public School, under the guidance of Mrs Margaret Spiers. Next Tuesday: BERKELEY WEST

Student Council

Dapto Public School has a student council with representatives of years 2-6. We meet regularly and talk about ways to improve our school.

We instituted a system called "golden awards". Tickets are handed out for good behaviour in the classrooms and the playground and awards and prizes can be won. We have also made suggestions about playground improvement and school uniforms.

— by Lisa Brighton and Brett Thompson

Aussie of the Month

We have a special award called the Aussie of the Month. Each week the teachers choose one person from each grade who has been a good Aussie. They are kind, helpful and work hard.

— by Trent Koutoukos — 7 years

DAPTO'S EYESORE

HOW IT LOOKS TODAY



Zoning issues stall plans for school site's renewal

By COURTNEY TRENWITH

THE former Dapto Public School will remain an eyesore, with burnt out buildings and boarded up windows.

The school held its last classes in 2003 and students have since moved into their new state-of-the-art facilities in Horsley.

The old Ryamee St site has slowly dilapidated since its closure and three classrooms were burnt out in an arson attack in September last year, raising questions about what is going to happen to the school. The Department of Edu-

cation and Training wants to sell the land but is waiting for Wollongong City Council to decide whether or not it will rezone the area. The site is in a 2B zone, which allows for medium-density residential development or an educational facility.

It is included in the Dapto Town Centre Revitalisation Strategy, which aims to redevelop Dapto as a major suburban centre, and community workshops have been held to hear residents' views on how the site should be used.

Proposals include keeping it for residential, rezon-

ing it for commercial premises, a combination of residential and commercial or using the site for a community facility.

"Because of (the site's) location, any decision made

will be in line with the elements coming out of the west Dapto master plan process," a Wollongong City Council spokesperson said.

"The block is so centrally located (a decision) will

need to take into account the effects any development on the site might have in servicing the area."

A decision on the old school premises is expected to be made later this year.

RAVAGED BY FIRE LAST YEAR

