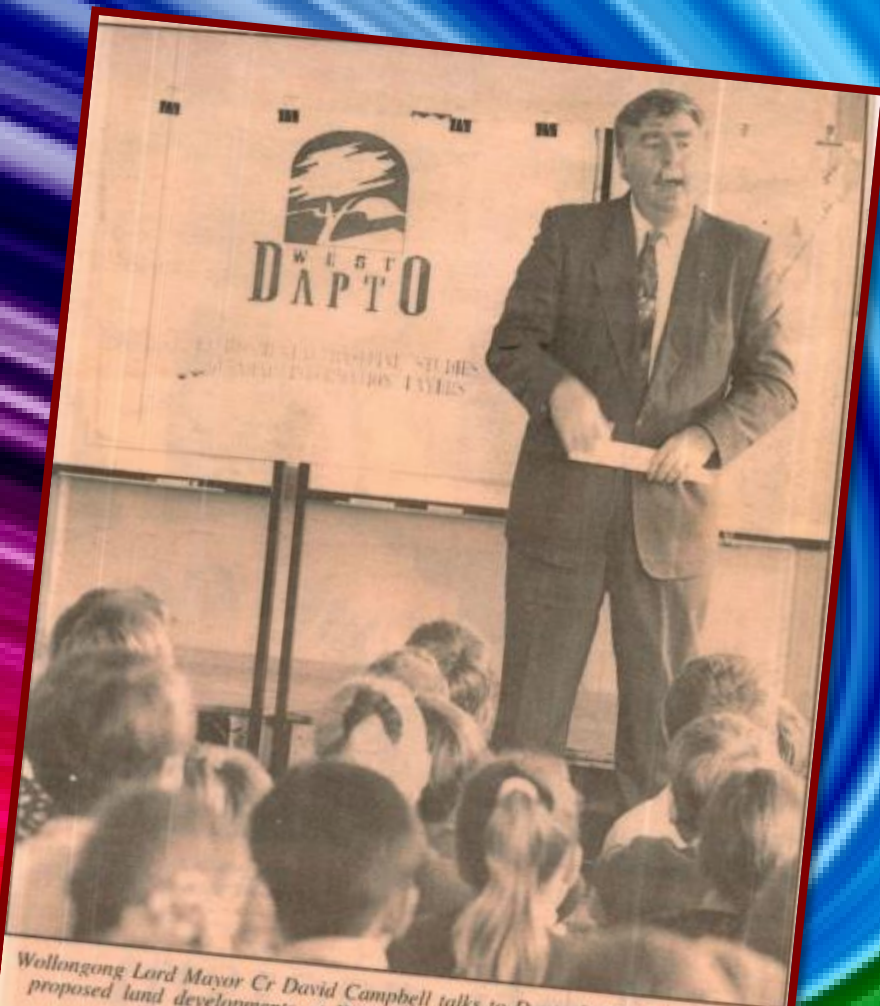




News Articles -Sierra Drive



Wollongong Lord Mayor Cr David Campbell talks to Dapto Public School about proposed land developments at West Dapto. Photo by KEN ROBERTSON.

Students join in town planning

Council asks for suburb development ideas



SUBURB REPORT

By Melissa Woods

PLANNING a new Wollongong suburb has become child's play for students from four Dapto schools.

Wollongong Lord Mayor Councillor David Campbell visited students from Dapto High School and Mt Brown, Dapto and St John's primary schools to discuss their role in the planning of future development at West Dapto.

The schools have been given a series of maps and aerial photographs as well as other town-planning information and, in conjunction with their teachers, will undertake class projects on transportation, environment (including water quality), neighbourhood design, open space and community facilities.

As part of their studies, students from

Dapto Public School will design a town they would want to live in 10 years on.

"The aim of the project is to introduce and explain the planning process for West Dapto to students in the immediate vicinity of the planning project and to encourage involvement of students in framing ideas for the future living environment of West Dapto," Cr Campbell said.

"Council wants to involve young people in the future planning of the area in which they live so that we can forecast community facilities and what children consider important to them."

Cr Campbell said he was surprised by some of the students' questions which showed that employment, environment and the economy were their main concerns rather than leisure activities such as bike tracks or skateboard ramps.

Each school will write a mini report accompanied by plans by the end of June for council's consideration and Cr Campbell assured the students they would be taken seriously.

"The views of these 300 children will play an integral part in the development of a clear and concise overall planning document for West Dapto," he said.

Enrolments at Dapto on the rise

By VERONICA APAP

ENROLMENTS at Dapto Public School are on the way up thanks to a public-private partnership according to relieving principal Justin Quinn.

More parents are becoming involved in the P&C Association as a result of the new school infrastructure too, he said. The school was one of 10 public schools built under a Department of Education public-private partnership deal which was named the country's best infrastructure project by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia on Monday.

"It's a really vibrant new facility and it has resulted in excellent learning conditions for our children," he said. "The kids are really eager to come to school. Parents are more willing to become involved."

In fact, Mr Quinn said the school had increased enrolments by 100 students since the building work - including 18 new classrooms and a library - was finished four years ago.

"A lot of kids were changing from the private system to public because of the facilities we have," he said.

Under the public-private partnership, the State Government contracted out the building and maintenance of the 10 schools.

Once the buildings were complete, the private contractors retained responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings.

The contractors must maintain the grounds and the buildings for 30 years from the completion date.



School spirit: School captains Blake Jurmann and Kelsie Thompson with the old school's foundation stone and bell.

Picture: KEN ROBERTSON

Dapto.

lies to word

ort on West Dapto
ercury, February 21) with NSW
Assistant Planning Minister Diane
Beamer, Minister for the Illawarra
David Campbell said good planning
would make West Dapto a great
place to live.

Well, when Mr Campbell was
Mayor of Wollongong he didn't do a
good job of planning West Dapto.

He has left it to others to fix, and
no-one wants the responsibility.

Even now as minister he hasn't
attended any of the meetings at
Dapto to fix the problem.

Even our MP Marianne Saliba
says no more development in West
Dapto until problems are fixed.

But she also said that about the
closure of Dapto Primary School,
but that is closed now, causing more
traffic on Bong Bong Rd.

It is time the people woke up to
what politicians say and send the
message at election time for not
doing what they say they will do.

- K MUNN,
Dapto.

New Dapto suburb is child's play

Picture: KEN ROBERTSON



Lord Mayor David Campbell shows Dapto Primary School captains Eliza Jenkins and Nicholas Potter plans for the West Dapto project.

Kids plan future homes

By DONNA WALKER
Civic Reporter

Designing a new suburb for Wollongong is children's work.

Yesterday, Dapto Primary School students from Years Five and Six barraged Lord Mayor councillor David Campbell with questions about the future "town" to be developed at West Dapto.

It is the first time Wollongong City Council has so actively involved children to design a town.

Students from Dapto Primary School, one of the schools asked to take part, will design a town in which they believe they would want to live, 10 years from now. A final

detailed sketch will be sent to council and analysed.

Asked if the project was going to be taken seriously by council, Cr Campbell assured it would be.

"Some people might think this is just a public relations exercise, but I can assure you it is not. We want to hear what these young people will have to say because they are the ones who will probably be raising families here and growing up in the area. It is going to be for them so we want to know what it is they are looking for in a new town," he said.

Other schools submitting plans to council include St John's and Mt Brown Primary Schools and Dapto High School. "The views of these

300 children will play an integral part in the development of a clear and concise overall planning document for West Dapto."

After hearing speeches by council officers, the students inundated Cr Campbell with questions.

Issues such as employment, environment and the economy were high on the list of priorities.

Skateboard ramps, parks to play in, basketball courts and bike tracks seemed to take second place.

"I must admit I was surprised by a few of their questions, but even from today I think we have a gauge of what we can expect.

"It's going to be very interesting to see what they come up with."

School move

IN response to Karl Munn (*Mercury*, March 13), it was my view that Dapto Public School should not be relocated to West Dapto and that the new school in West Dapto should be just that.

However, after public consultation, the community view was that it was in the best interests of the children and the history of Dapto Public School that the school be relocated to West Dapto. As the majority was of this opinion, I did not object to the relocation.

As an MP, it is my responsibility to reflect the views of the community I represent, which may not necessarily be my own.

- MARIANNE SALIBA MP,
Member for Illawarra

Minister visits new school



• Minister for Education Dr Andrew Refshauge visited Dapto's brand new but privately owned public school yesterday with Member for Illawarra Marianne Saliba.

MINISTER for Education Dr Andrew Refshauge was in town yesterday to visit the relocated Dapto Public School - one of the first state schools to be built and owned by a private company.

Dr Refshauge praised the PFP or Privately Financed Project as it enabled the \$7 million school to be built much faster.

"This is still a government school," Dr Refshauge said during the visit.

"The only difference is that it was built privately and came into being a lot

earlier.

"New PFP schools will be staffed and students taught in exactly the same way as other government schools," he said.

The new Dapto Public School opens its gates to students for the first time tomorrow (Thursday, January 29).

The 128-year-old school has been relocated to Sierra Drive in Horsley, West Dapto, from Byamée Street in central Dapto.

Contractor Axiom Education is responsible for the maintenance and security of the school for

the next 30 years, then ownership will revert back to the government.

The old site will be sold but the school bell, a concrete cornerstone and other memorabilia have been salvaged and displayed at the new site.

Dr Refshauge said there were 18 classrooms at the new school as well as some demountables.

It is one of nine PFP schools being built across the state.

Member for the Illawarra Marianne Saliba said the school was the result of extensive community consultation, which highlighted

the need for a better facility in a rapidly growing area.

Principal Anne Henniker said children in the Dapto area would find its location easier and safer to access.

"The most magnificent feature is the beautiful hall. It will become a valuable community asset," Mrs Henniker said.

"The library is impressive and the rooms have wonderful natural lighting and ventilation."

Enrolments number 40

more than anticipated for 2004, bringing the total to 680 students.

Some of the facilities at the new Dapto Public School include:

- 18 permanent classrooms
- Library
- Extracurricular program rooms
- Communal hall
- Covered outdoor learning area
- Games court
- Parent drop off and pick up zone
- Out of school hours care centre.

Exciting move ahead for Dapto PS

THE KIDS at Dapto Public School will be the envy of all their mates in neighbouring schools when they move to their new state-of-the-art school next year.

Costing \$7 million, the new school will boast a state-of-the-art computer lab, brand new library

facilities and covered walkways between classrooms.

"We are very excited about moving but because we are relocating we get to take all our resources that parents have worked hard for over many years to buy," said Dapto Public School principal Ann

Henniker. "For instance, our library has 38,000 items and we get to put that collection in a brand new building.

"The existing good team of teachers and support staff will all relocate to the new site."

Dapto Public School is

128 years old next year and has a proud tradition of academic, sporting and cultural achievement.

Former student Bob Dimond, an Australian rugby league representative and 1948-49 Kangaroo tourist, still attends the school's annual presentation each year to hand out awards to the children.

"I think everybody knows about the sporting side of Dapto, but we also have a very strong academic record," Ms Henniker said.

"We have a very large choir and a dance group that perform at various community functions.

"I think we have a very balanced program with a

strong history of big involvement in the community."

Soon to be located in Sierra Drive, Horsley, Dapto Public School caters for children from Kindergarten through to Year 6.

For enrolments and more information contact 4261 2247.



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